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Are we paying attention? This is one of the biggest questions that I come back to over and over again when reading and thinking about the story of Jesus' birth. For so many, that night in Bethlehem when Heaven came down to Earth, when the Son of God came as a human baby, when God put into motion His plan for ultimately redeeming humanity it was just like any other night. They missed it. You might have even missed the impact of that last sentence if you read over it too quickly.

The Creator of the universe left His heavenly throne, descended to Earth as a BABY, and began to live a perfect life only to be the sacrifice needed for us to get back in right relationship with God! Are we paying attention? I believe God does and is doing things around us all the time, and quite a bit of us "seeing" it really depends on if we are looking for it or not.

The Magi or "Wise Men" in the story of Christ's birth were paying attention. We see this in Matthew chapter 2, *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? **For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.**"* They were paying attention to the signs that were around them. They knew that Christ had been born based on a star.

*And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.* If the Magi had not been paying attention they would have missed out on the greatest thing that happened in their lives. Are we paying attention to the things going on around us, more specifically, the things that Jesus is doing around us?

It could be something as simple as an online job posting that changes our lives forever. That's the case in how God has aligned our two paths, the Ross family and the people of MFCC. If I wouldn't have been paying attention and praying about what God wanted next for us, I would have missed out on His calling here in this place. Something so simple as a mouse click and BOOM look what God does!

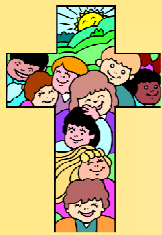
Think about the moment you accepted Christ, you were paying attention to the fact that something bigger was happening inside and outside of you. You were feeling the Holy Spirit draw you in, helping you realize that there was something missing in your life, that you had a hole that could only be filled by the One who created you. A moment that changed your life for eternity.

Some people don't pay attention to God because they are blind, zoned out, or disconnected to the ways of God. Others see and/or have seen God do things in their lives and choose to look the other way when God is trying to get their attention because they want to be the master of their own lives. Let me encourage you to say that God knows so much more than we do and is a much better master of our lives than we are. It pays to pay attention to Him.

My prayer for myself and for you during this Christmas season is to be able to pay attention to God in the midst of the flurry of activities and events happening. May we not get distracted, zoned out, or numb to the ways that God is directing us and guiding us. May we be in tune with Jesus Christ and what He is doing inside and outside of us in the present moment.

Merry Christmas!

- Pastor Jadon



## Ramblings of The Minister of Children's Programming The Gift

The first gift I remember from my childhood is an American Flyer train set. I spent hours putting the track together and watching the locomotive puffing smoke go around and around that track. I was in high school when I finally put the train away. After all it wasn't cool for a teenage boy to play with trains. I later made the decision to give it to a poor family that needed a toy for Christmas, I still think about and miss that train.

Gifts can be like that, some you cherish and keep, some you outgrow and still others you say thank you and put on a shelf. I am sure we all think about giving of gifts and if we are honest with our selves we think about what we might receive as a gift.

The GIFT: There is a GIFT that once we receive it we can't wait to unwrap it and know more about it. There is a GIFT that no matter how old we are we will never outgrow it. But it's a GIFT that if we give it to someone who doesn't have it we still have the GIFT!

The GIFT as it says in Romans 6:23, "**For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**"

This is a GIFT for the naughty and the nice. This is a GIFT that anyone can ask for. It's a gift to be opened, appreciated, never put on the shelf but cherished daily. It is a GIFT that we can offer to others and, yet we still have the GIFT.

This Christmas open the GIFT you have received and cherish it and appreciate it. Let others know about the GIFT Christ Jesus our Lord has given you that they too might receive God's GIFT of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord and not receive what we, they deserve and the wages they have earned; **For the wages of sin is death.** God's GIFT of his son, the GIFT we celebrate this Christmas, is available to all. Have a very Merry Christmas!

Dayton Durley



### Christmas Sock Exchange Party!

December 15, from 6pm - 8pm

Where: The home of Terry Macy

Who: All Ladies and Daughters are welcome as well!

How It Works: Bring a new pair of socks stuffed with goodies and wrapped. Bring your favorite Christmas food/treat to share also!

Questions: Contact Audrey Ross



December 17th, at 5:30pm, we will have our annual Caroling Party! Come dressed warm and bring your favorite Christmas treats to share after the caroling with hot chocolate.



### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6:00pm.

Invite your friends and family!

"Bed, Bethlehem, and Beyond"

Please join us for a special  
Christmas Program

Sunday, December 24 at 10:45am



1st - Evan Powell  
Loretta Swanson

2nd - James Macy

4th - Fawn Farrester

6th - Suzanne Harding  
Julia Brandon

7th - Elaine Henderson  
Norma Bergstrom

10th - Juanita Hawkins  
Gamin Snyder

12th - Gordon Wood

14th - Cindy Struck

15th - McKailah Davis

16th - Gene Smith

17th - Tegan Macy

18th - Ray Fretheim

20th - Richard Macy  
Jon Powell

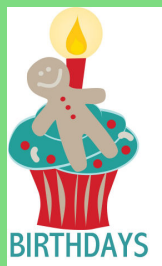
22nd - Lori Moore

24th - Hanne Davis

25th - Ruth Landreth

27th - Brittany Phillips

31st - Carol Anderson  
Betty Fretheim



11th - Bob & Judy Bozarth

27th - Harvey & Janet Rose

29th - Malcolm & Katy Meredith










# December 2017



The earth has grown old with its burden of care,  
but at Christmas it always is young,  
the heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair,  
and its soul full of music breaks the air,  
when the song of angels is sung.

—Phillips Brooks

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> <b>4:30 pm Brown Bag Delivery</b> 5:00 pm AA Meeting @ the Church	<b>2</b> 3:30 pm Visioning Meeting at Clackamas Church
<b>3</b> 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship <b>5:00 pm Youth Group At Macy's</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Mom's Group @ the Church 6:00 pm FIT Class 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Drahns	<b>6</b> <b>6:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ the Church</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship @ the Church 6:00 pm Community Kitchen	<b>8</b> 5:00 pm AA Meeting @ the Church	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship <b>5:30 pm Youth Group</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Mom's Group @ the Church 6:00 pm FIT Class 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Drahns	<b>13</b> <b>5:15 pm Elder Ministry Team Meeting</b> <b>6:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ the Church</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship @ the Church 6:00 pm Community Kitchen	<b>15</b> 5:00 pm AA Meeting @ the Church <b>6:00 pm Sock Exchange Party at Macy's</b> 	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:45 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship <b>5:30 pm Caroling and Cookie Fellowship</b> 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Mom's Group @ the Church 6:00 pm FIT Class 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Drahns	<b>20</b> <b>6:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ the Church</b> <b>7:00 pm Steward Ministry Team Meeting</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship @ the Church 6:00 pm Community Kitchen	<b>22</b> 5:00 pm AA Meeting @ the Church	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>10:45 am Christmas Program</b>  <b>6:00 pm Candlelight Service</b> 	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Mom's Group @ the Church 6:00 pm FIT Class 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Drahns	<b>27</b> <b>6:30 pm Women's Bible Study @ the Church</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship @ the Church 6:00 pm Community Kitchen	<b>29</b> 5:00 pm AA Meeting @ the Church	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>  <b>New Year's Eve</b> No Sunday School 10:45 am Worship <b>5:30 pm Youth Group</b>	