

First Quarter Events

Sunday church service is still going strong – in church as well as live streaming on Facebook and YouTube. With the continued spread of the Covid-19 virus Sunday School and Wednesday night services are once again being suspended. Sunday morning service starts at 10:30 am. All services are being held in accordance with current recommendations by the State of Ohio and CDC for churches. Every precaution is being taken to keep everyone safe. Rules for coming back are still in place. Face masks must be worn entering and leaving the church. After being seated the mask can come off until you leave your seat, then it must be put back on. Safe seating is available – every other row only is used, and families may sit together but all others must maintain a safe distance from their neighbor. The church doors are open until service begins so there is no touching of door handles before you find a seat. Hand sanitizer is available. Watch for updates and changes in the church schedule. Pastor Glenn will announce any program changes during the posted videos and during the services at the church. Currently all special concerts, group dinners, care groups, and all holiday events are on hold until further notice.



Merry
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
New Year

More Than Enough

Before you were born, God chose and marked out a specific lane on the track of life for you. It's filled with your unique purpose and destiny. That lane has your name on it, and it's designed for your specific race—a perfect one made just for you to run.

Looking at the gifts and talents of the women around us, it's easy to forget that God made us with such intentionality. By comparison, we can feel inadequate—not smart enough, talented enough, happy enough, good-looking enough, eloquent, artistic, creative, holy enough... the list could go on forever! Those thoughts can cause us to become discouraged and to lose our sense of divine purpose.

But here's the truth: You are enough. More than enough. Because God made you and delights in you (Psalm 139:13-14; Zephaniah 3:17). There's no use striving to be anyone other than who God has specially gifted and purposed you to be. Determine to stay focused on your specific race and to finish well what God has called you to do. As you follow him, you can be confident that the One who brought you this far will surely get you to your destiny.

Christine Caine
Propel Women - Weekly
November 19th, 2020 Issue

Christine Caine is an Australian born, Greek blooded, lover of Jesus, activist, author and international speaker. She and her husband, Nick, founded the global anti-human trafficking organization, [The A21 Campaign](#). They also founded Propel Women, an organization designed to activate women to fulfill their God-given passion, purpose, and potential. Christine is the author of several books including her most recent updated and expanded release: [Undaunted: Daring to Do What God Calls You to Do](#).



Baked Popcorn Crunch

By Bea Wood



2 sticks margarine	1 tsp. baking soda
2 cups light brown sugar	1 tsp. vanilla
½ cup light corn syrup	6 qts. popped corn

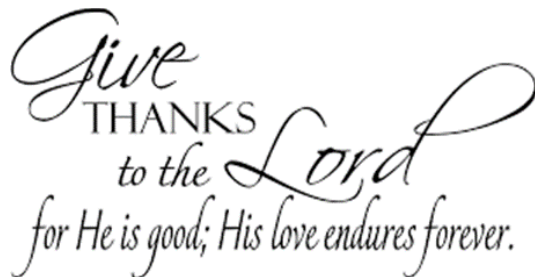
Melt margarine. Add brown sugar and corn syrup. Mix well. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Boil over low heat, exactly 5 minutes, without stirring. Remove from heat, add vanilla and soda. Stir slowly, pour over popped corn, mixing well to coat all of the corn. Spread in a large shallow (jelly roll) pans. Bake at 250 degrees for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes. Remove from oven. Cool; break apart. Store in sealed container. If desired, 1 cup of peanuts may be added.

What Can I Give Him

What can I give Him,
 Poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd
 I would bring a lamb.
 If I were a Wise Man
 I would do my part,
 Yet what can I give Him?
 Give my heart.



Christina Rossetti



-1 Chronicles 16:34

The Lights of Home

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it; for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Revelation 21:23

The sky was black, the moon obscured; no stars shone in the night.
 The path was fearful, long, and dark without a ray of light.
 My little heart was pounding as I closed the kitchen door
 And headed for the distant barn, fulfilling Daddy's chore.
 He'd given me an errand, one I dreaded to obey.
 I'd balked, but he'd insisted that I do it right away.
 It was with trepidation that I left the house behind
 And headed into darkness, terror filling my young mind.

I crashed into the milk-house door and did what I'd been told,
 Then turning quickly, left the barn, returning to the cold.
 But as I gazed back toward the house, I saw the lights of home.
 They shone through every window saying, "Hurry back! Please come!"
 With jubilation, I sprinted forth, no longer bound by fear,
 For I could see those shining lights, and Daddy waited there!
 The apparitions scaring me when first I took that track,
 Were nothing more than trees and posts when later I dashed back!

I sometimes fear the dark unknown, the changes of my days,
 And my imagination creates monsters on my way.
 In fear, I've fixed my vision on the shades that lie before.
 Oh, that I'd focus only on the Light at heaven's door!
 For just beyond the threshold is my Father waiting there.
 He's watching every step I take; He '11 keep me in His care.
 The darkness cannot hurt me; He will keep me through the night.
 The Savior guides me safely Home, for JESUS is my Light!

Lilah Lehman Gustafson

Then spake Jesus again unto them saying, I am the Light of the world; he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of life.

John 8:12

Submitted by Dianna Davis

Songs We Love

1992 Amy Grant planned to put in studio time to prepare for her new album, *Home for Christmas* at the end of her tour. A friend and member of her touring band, Christopher “Chris” Neville Eaton who was also a contemporary British Christian song writer as well as a singer, wrote two songs that would appear on her Christmas album – “Breath of Heaven” and “Emmanuel, God With Us.” Chris Eaton wrote other songs for Amy Grant and for other Christian artist like Cliff Richards (“Little Town” and “Saviour’s Day”) and Jaci Velasquez (“On My Knees” and “God so Loved”). When Amy Grant heard the song Breath of Heaven, she immediately identified with the song. At the time she was very pregnant with her third child, and through the experience of having already had a child herself and currently carrying a child, she felt she could use that knowledge as inspiration in trying to imagine Mary’s experience. She was able to convince Chris into allowing her to change the wording in the song before she recorded it. She wanted to rewrite the words to personalize it. She was quoted as saying “she saw the song’s chorus as being universal, but also it could be so specific in light of Mary, the mother of Jesus.” The song is written from Mary’s point of view, a prayer to God to help her in the path she was on, questioning why she was the one he chose for such an important assignment. Remember that she was just a girl. In the eyes of all she those she knew, her story would seem farfetched and false. This song tells of her faith in God for what was to come, asking him to stay close beside her through it all. This song has become a contemporary Christmas classic and has been recorded by numerous artists though Amy Grant is the artist most associated with it.

In 2001 Amy Grant wrote a book titled *Breath of Heaven* and when talking about the song with the same title, she said, “It is a prayer that fits a lot of circumstances because it is a cry for mercy.”

In 2006 the movie *The Nativity Story* was released, and the song Breath of Heaven was used in the soundtrack. The screenwriter was known to use the song each day for inspiration while writing the film’s screenplay.

Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)

I have traveled many moonless nights
Cold and weary with a babe inside
And I wonder what I've done
Holy father, you have come
And chosen me now to carry your son

I am waiting in a silent prayer
I am frightened by the load I bear
In a world as cold as stone
Must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now, be with me now

Breath of heaven, hold me together
Be forever near me, breath of heaven
Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness for you are holy
Breath of heaven

Do you wonder as you watch my face
If a wiser one should have had my place?
But I offer all I am
For the mercy of your plan
Help me be strong, help me be, help me

Breath of heaven, hold me together
Be forever near me, breath of heaven
Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness for you are holy

Breath of heaven, hold me together
Be forever near me, breath of heaven
Breath of heaven, lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness for you are holy
Breath of heaven, breath of heaven
Breath of heaven



Slow Cooker Lasagna Tortellini Soup

A crockpot lasagna soup made with cheese-filled tortellini. This soup is simple to make, tastes just like lasagna in soup form, and is a sure crowd pleaser!
Author Chelsea

Prep Time: 15 minutes Cook Time: 6 hours Servings: 6

Ingredients

1 pound extra lean ground beef
1/2 cup yellow onion chopped
2 cloves garlic minced
1 can (28 ounces) crushed tomatoes
1 can (14.5 ounces) petite diced tomatoes
1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste
1 can (10.75 ounces) tomato condensed soup
1 teaspoon white sugar
1 and 1/2 teaspoons dried basil
1/2 teaspoon fennel seeds optional
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
1/2 tablespoon salt adjust to preference
1/4 teaspoon pepper
3 cups beef broth
1 package (16 ounces) frozen cheese filled tortellini
4 tablespoons fresh parsley optional
Toppings: freshly grated Parmesan cheese, large spoonful of ricotta cheese

Instructions

In a large skillet over medium heat, brown the ground beef until cooked through. Add the onion and garlic in the last few minutes of the cooking. They don't need to cook or get all the way tender; I just like them to have a little bit of that "skillet-cooked" flavor.
While the beef is cooking, pour the crushed tomatoes, petite diced tomatoes, tomato paste, and tomato condensed soup in the slow cooker. No need to drain any of the cans!
Add in the sugar and seasonings - the dried basil, fennel, Italian seasoning, salt, and pepper - adjust these seasonings to your personal preference. You can always start with less seasoning and add more.
Stir in the cooked ground beef with onions and garlic. Add in the beef broth (I dissolved beef bouillon cubes into boiling water).
Cover the slow cooker and cook on high for 3-4 hours or low for 5-7 hours. About 15-20 minutes before you are ready to serve, pour the frozen tortellini into the soup. Turn the slow cooker up to high (or leave it if it was already on high) and let the tortellini cook.

Serve in bowls with freshly grated Parmesan cheese, a large spoonful of ricotta cheese (I love stirring these cheeses in - SO good), any extra seasonings you want, and some freshly chopped parsley.

Light of the World

Light of the world so clear and bright,
Enter our homes this Christmas night;
Relight our souls so tenderly,
That we may grow to be like Thee.

Author Unknown



Try To Remember

When the Israelites needed to relieve themselves, they had to go outside the camp and dig a hole. Deuteronomy 23:12-13

The Exodus probably took place in 1446 B.C.

Psalms 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible with 176 verses.

Abraham had two nephews named Uz and Buz. Genesis 22:21

Peter paid taxes for Jesus and himself with money he found in a fish's mouth. Not so trivial, but pretty strange. Matthew 17:27

Everybody always says "Jesus fed five thousand," but that didn't include women and children. How about "Jesus fed the whole bunch." Matthew 14:21

The Philistine rulers each offered Delilah 1100 shekels of silver for telling them the secret of Samson's strength. Judges 16:5

After the Resurrection, when Jesus told the disciples to put their fishing nets on the right side of the boat, they caught 153 fish. John 21:11

Fun Facts About the Bible You Never Knew
Robyn Martins

Giving the best Christmas with Jesus as the main focus.

1.) Invite Your Kids into the Christmas story..

Let kids participate in the story of Santa by leaving out empty stockings, and putting out cookies & milk for him or carrots for the reindeer. All this stuff is SO fun, because it speaks to kids in their language...fun, imagination & play. The problem is, then we oftentimes make the REAL story of Christmas rather...boring.

And yet there is nothing boring about it! Jesus is the ULTIMATE kind man and GOD who gives good gifts to his children all over the world. And there's nothing more exciting than inviting him into your life and living the lifelong adventure that is Emanuel...God with us. So, instead of reducing Jesus to a special church service this Christmas, invite your kids to participate in and enjoy the story of Christmas in their own language of play all season long. Here are some ideas:

On Christmas Eve, leave out an empty "manger." Then have a baby doll wrapped in a blanket in there for your kids to discover on Christmas morning.

Read the Christmas story together and let your kids act out the parts. (Luke 2:1-20 is a great place to read – consider using a version like the NIV that has language your kids will understand.) Let them create their own costumes!

Get a nativity set that your kids can play with. Let them "play" the story of Christmas over and over.

Have a family movie night, pop some popcorn, make hot cocoa and watch a Christmas movie about the story of Jesus. The Star that came out in 2017. Or if your kids are older, try The Nativity Story from 2006. Open dialogue with your kids during or after the movie.

Visit a live nativity together. Search online to find one in your area. The kids will love seeing the live animals and imagining what it was like to be in the stable the night Jesus was born.

Read books about the story of Christmas that will help them envision what you've been talking about. If you don't have any, the library has a ton!

Celebrate advent as a family. Advent literally means "coming". Another great way to do this is to purchase an advent calendar. You can get ones with chocolates or toys in it and help your kids build their excitement of the coming of Christ as they count down the days!

2.) Make Giving as Exciting as Getting.

Look for ways to give to others as a FAMILY this Christmas season – and talk about it with your kids.

3. Give Something to Jesus for Christmas.

Since Christmas truly is all about Jesus, why not give something to him as a family?

Presents: If they're little, they could draw a picture or make something for him. They can even wrap it up and put it under the tree! For older kids, they can "give" their gift leading up to Christmas. They can choose to give a gift like volunteering at a homeless shelter or making cookies for a neighbor in the name of Jesus.

Worship: Whether before or after presents, on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, take some time to gather as a family and have a time of worship.

Gratitude: Take turns having each person share 3 things they're thankful to God for. That is a beautiful gift.

Prayer: You can also give God the gift of prayer! Psalm 141:2a says, "May my prayer be set before you like incense." Our prayers are a gift to God. Take some time as a family surrounding Christmas to pray together.

Weave the story of his love for them through all your festivities and traditions. In the midst of all your holiday preparations, make time to connect with God. He loves you so much and wants to experience the joy of the season with you and your children.

Submitted by Christina Shreffler



Christmas Crock

- 16 – 24 oz. salted pecans or peanuts
- 12 oz. semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 12 oz. milk chocolate chips
- 12 oz. peanut butter chips
- 1 lb. white almond bark

- 1.Layer in crock pot. Set on low for 2 hours.
- 2.Stir and mix well. Let cook another 30 minutes.
- 3.Spoon onto parchment or wax paper. Cool and enjoy!

Submitted by Brenda Angelo

Sherry's Book Corner/Adult Column

Hello ladies! Ah...here we are in the month of December. When I read the introduction to our book, I couldn't help but share this with you. It is written by Victoria Duerstock. "My heart's desire is for each of us to be able to grab a few moments in these crazy days to ponder the depth of the meaning of Christmas to us personally. To view with awe the wonder of the miracle of Christ's birth, his life, and his death & resurrection and to celebrate the joy that truth brings to each of us."

This book includes 100 short devotions that celebrate the joy Christmas brings to our hearts and into our homes. The practical seasonal tips combined with spiritual reflections remind us to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Each idea shown is featured with a Seasonal Tip or a Seasonal Decor Tip. The photography is warm and heartfelt. When I think about it, this book has a calming effect on its readers. It did me. The way our world is today, books like these are a welcomed delight to have around!

December 7 is Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. May we always remember those who gave their lives so we could live ours. Soon it will be the end of this year and we will move on to 2021. Let us right now, together, think of a bright new year filled with promise. "Follow peace with all men..." Hebrews 12:14 (KJV).

Until next time, enjoy decorating and baking! Merry Christmas!

In Him,
Sherry Kline Bolitho

Adult Book:

Title: Heart & Home For Christmas

Celebrating Joy in Your Living Space

Written by: Victoria Duerstock

Publisher: Abingdon Press

Price: \$19.99

Victoria Duerstock has more than twenty years' experience in the furniture and home-design industry. She is also a writer, blogger, teacher, and speaker. She enjoys an active speaking ministry to woman and a teaching schedule where she shares essential elements to building an author platform through social media. Read more at VictoriaDuerstock.com.

Sherry's Book Corner/Children

Hi kids! I must say, I think this story is going to be one of my favorite Christmas stories. It seems that Christmas is all about giving and receiving presents. Not that there is anything wrong with that, but there could be much more to it. You'll see in our story Rob wants to get his father something special for Christmas. Funny thing is, he doesn't have much money to spend. Rob is fifteen years old and he doesn't have a job. He still lives on his parents' farm

Originally our story was published in 1955 by author Pearl S. Buck. She has written nearly a hundred books for children and adults. She is also a winner of both the Pulitzer and Nobel prizes. Both prizes are an honor of achievement. I think you'll agree, once you have read our story, one of the true meanings of Christmas was captured. Giving of ones' self is a gift to be shared. The fun part is, we can do it year round! One night Rob went to bed. He lay on his side, his head supported by his elbow, and looked out of his bedroom window. Slowly a thought came to his mind as he watched the stars above his head. What do you think he was thinking?

Until next time, have a Merry Christmas!

In Him,
Sherry Kline Bolitho

Children's Book:

Title: Christmas Day in the Morning

By: Pearl S. Buck

Publisher: Harper Collins Publishers

Price: \$18.99

Age group: All ages

Christmas Day at this house is a very special day. More so than we could ever imagine. More so than we could have ever dreamed. Beautiful illustrations invite you to stay within this story. To stay and feel the love that is being given. And as time passes, a love story you can pass on to others.

It Couldn't Hurt

Random Acts of Kindness – huh!	It couldn't hurt.
I told my husband I love him.	It couldn't hurt.
I packed a note in my son's lunch box telling him how special he is.	It couldn't hurt.
I opened the door for a lady in a wheelchair at Walgreens.	It couldn't hurt.
I left a box of cookies for the mailman.	It couldn't hurt.
I let someone go in front of me in the grocery line.	It didn't hurt.
I called my brother to tell him I miss him.	He misses me too!
I sent the Mayor a note saying what a good job he is doing.	It couldn't hurt.
I took flowers to the nursing home.	It couldn't hurt.
I cooked some chicken soup for a friend who is sick.	It couldn't hurt.
I played Candy Land with my daughter.	It was fun.
I thanked the person who bagged my groceries.	He beamed.
I gave my assistant the day off with pay.	It only hurt a little.
I played ball with my dog.	It felt good.
I invited a woman who doesn't drive to lunch and a movie.	I enjoyed myself.
Random Acts of Kindness-hmmm, maybe I'll live this way all year.	It couldn't hurt.

Sandy Ezrine
Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.

~2 Peter 1:2

By January 7, Christmas seemed a dim memory. My husband Alex had left for a conference overseas. I dreaded the lonely week ahead and the dark months of winter. But it's a family tradition to join our friends Bill and Melanie, Siberian Orthodox Christians who observe Christmas today, so I bundled up the children and headed to their Victorian farmhouse in rural Williamston, Michigan.

Driving there, I remembered our evening together last year. Alex, as the first male guest to arrive, represented the Christ Child and scattered wheat, nuts, and coins in the four corners of the room, wishing the family good health and prosperity. Late we talked by the fire, sipping hot apple cider.

This year the house bustled with people I didn't know – farmer neighbors and university students from former Yugoslavia. After helping in the kitchen, supervising the kids sliding down the banister of the grand staircase, and catching snatches of conversations, I felt frazzled by the time dinner was served.

As we gathered around the “manger” – the long mahogany dining room table with straw scattered underneath – quiet descended. Melanie lit a candle, symbolizing the coming of the light of the world. We sang a beautiful old hymn, first in Serbian, then in English, proclaiming the glory of Christ's Nativity. Listening to the young man next to me heartily singing, I no longer heard a thick-accented immigrant, but my brother in Christ.

Passing around a common cup, each person said to the next, “Peace from God. Christ is born.” As we gently spoke those words, the Prince of Peace Himself seemed present with us.

Later, as I drove home, I no longer dreaded the days ahead. The message echoed in my heart: “Peace from God. Christ is born.”

O Lord, how quickly I forget you! Please help me continue to rejoice in Your coming, to see You among us and find Your peace within me each day of this year.

Mary Brown
Daily Guideposts
365 Spirit-Lifting Devotions for Women

Fathers

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.
~1 John 5:14, 15

As with other forms of media, and from the beginning of television, the prime source of funding has been through ads and commercials. The commercials promote the sale of everything from chewing gum, to cars and insurance, or to your favorite breakfast cereal. The older commercials were very obvious in what they were pushing but some of the newer ones are slightly vague and may leave you not knowing exactly what their product was. Music was often a big part of a commercial leaving the observer with an “ear worm” for the rest of the day, and just hearing the jingle even years later will bring back the memory of the commercial and the product. Commercials are a second’s long story that is meant to capture your attention and make you want to run right out and purchase whatever their product is. Some are extraordinary like the Budweiser (You don’t have to be a beer drinker to enjoy the Clydesdale horses.) or Hallmark cards (They always made me cry.) commercials.

There was one such commercial that has stayed with me for years. It wasn’t loud or had a great musical jingle but was a simple and sweet moment between a child and his father. It was a Life Savers commercial featuring a cherry flavored candy released in 1975. It was a simple scene of a father and son on a hilltop sitting on the ground under a tree watching a sunset. As the sun slowly sinks below the horizon, the father quietly states “going...going.... gone” as it disappears. As soon as it’s out of sight, the child turns to the father and says in an awestruck little voice, “Do it again, Daddy!”

Young children like to think their fathers can do anything. That they are like superheroes who can perform marvelous acts of wonder and of great courage. It isn’t always just young children who ask their fathers to perform wonderous acts. In the Bible in Joshua 10:12-14, Joshua asked the Lord to perform just such an act and the Lord complied.

“Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel.”

We like little children can come to our heavenly Father at any time and for any reason. A true father is one who protects, guides, sets an example for living, and teaches how to love and be loved. Children look to their earthly father for these things but so can all of us look for these and much more from our heavenly Father. Through His word passed down in the Bible, we are given a set of instructions on how to live a fulfilling and Godly life. Throughout the Bible it is repeated in word and deeds that God is love and it tells us to receive His love ourselves and to in turn love others. When frightened or hurt, a child will run to their father for protection and safety and healing. We can feel free to go to our heavenly Father in the same manner. Instead of falling into the arms of our father as a child can we need only fall on our knees and go boldly to the Lord in pray. He hears and will always answer in a way that is even more than we asked for. A God-fearing father is a force to be reckoned with when his child is in trouble. Miracles happen when a child of God is in trouble.

LeuAnna Taylor

Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law., My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life...Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

~Proverbs 4:1-2,20-23,26

