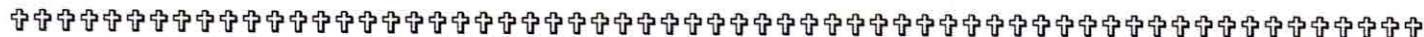


Sermon Series

Sunday Mornings, we will continue our series entitled **“The Mystery of Godliness”**. This is our Christmas Series focusing upon the life of Jesus as set forth in a single verse, 1 Timothy 3:16. We will also continue our **Celebration of Advent** during December.

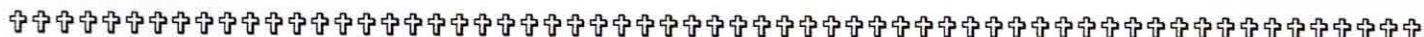
Sunday Evening and Wednesday Evening, we will be continuing our series from the Book of Revelations on focusing on the key players of the book, not just the individual prophesies.

Note: All services are live broadcast, so if you can't be with us in person, please tune in.



Christmas Facts

- ★ It was required by law that eight days after the birth of a son that Mary & Joseph would circumcise their child and name him. They followed the law, circumcised him and named him Jesus, as the angel had instructed, eight days after his birth. (Luke 2:21)
- ★ Chapters one and two in Matthew and Luke both give detailed accounts of when Jesus was born. However, the shortest gospel, Mark, remains silent on this topic.
- ★ The Old Testament book of Isaiah has the most to say about the birth of the Savior.
- ★ There is no mention of either the apostles or the early Christians celebrating the birth of Jesus. There is no trace of Christmas until it was first mentioned by the Roman Church in 336 A.D.
- ★ Though Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, there is no mention of December 25th in the Bible. Most historians believe He was actually born in the spring. It wasn't chosen as the official holiday until the 3rd Century by Pope Julius I, bishop of Rome.
- ★ English Puritan Oliver Cromwell outlawed Christmas celebrations and carols in England from 1649-1660. The only celebrations allowed were sermons and prayers.
- ★ Because they viewed Christmas as a decadent Catholic holiday, the Puritans in America banned all Christmas celebrations from 1659-1681 with a penalty of five shillings for each offense.
- ★ After the Revolutionary War, the new Congress found the day so unimportant that they held their first session on Christmas Day, 1789. It wasn't proclaimed a federal holiday for nearly another century. * Alabama was the first state in the United States to officially recognize Christmas in 1836.
- ★ The Germans are credited with first bringing evergreens into their homes and decorating them as a reminder of spring, a tradition which made it's way to the United States in the 1830s. But it wasn't until Germany's Prince Albert introduced the tree to his new wife, England's Queen Victoria, that the tradition took off. The couple were sketched in front of a Christmas tree in 1848 – and royal mania took off.
- ★ The word "Christianity" was spelled "Xianity" as far back as 1100. X, or Chi, in Greek is the first letter of "Christ" and served as a symbolic stand-in. In 1551, the holiday was "Xtemmas" but eventually shortened to "Xmas," a contradiction of "Christ's Mass."



<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Let us be Faithful Stewards.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Financial Report thru November 14, 2021</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Required</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>Received</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yearly</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$220,887.86</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 207,700.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weekly</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 4,247.84</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 4,401.67 (Wkly Avg.)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A Giving Church is a Living Church!</i></p>		<u>Required</u>	<u>Received</u>	Yearly	\$220,887.86	\$ 207,700.70	Weekly	\$ 4,247.84	\$ 4,401.67 (Wkly Avg.)	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lottie Moon Update</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thru November 14, 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$21,679.83</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Donations Accepted Thru December</p>
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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS
 Steve Strickland 12/2, Marie Harbuck 12/3,
 Betty Davis 12/4, David Laughner 12/6, Suzi Nesbitt 12/7,
 Ron Horton 12/19, Katherine Owens 12/22,
 Lara Kimbrough 12/28,

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
 Regina & Tom Stevens 12/19

Looking Ahead...

WMU - 1st Meeting of the New Year
Monday, Jan. 31, 2022