

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Today, December 30<sup>th</sup>

Sunday School - 8:45am (All Ages)  
Worship - 10:00am (Led by Youth)

## Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

Sunday School - 8:45am (All Ages)  
Worship - 10:00am

Take down Christmas decorations after worship, then Epiphany Party at the Lawrence Home.

## Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

Bible Study - 6:30pm

## Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

PAMA Meeting at Noon  
Youth Group - 7:00pm  
Choir Practice - 7:00pm

## Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

Sunday School - 8:45am (All Ages)  
Worship - 10:00am

## December

Birthdays & Anniversaries



1st - Nancy Taylor



15th - Storm Smith

22nd - Ivan & Priscilla Andreae

28th - Brock Johnson

Greeters Liturgists Ushers Elders

## January

Doug & Deana Niewold

Jackie Roy

*Lord, We ask thanksgiving, comfort, healing and faith for these friends and family members*

Laura Adkins, Mike-Active 101st Airborne, 

Janet Goudy, Alan Turner, Bill Cofel,

Jeff & Barb Legener, and Marcella Woodworth

*Homebound or in Nursing Homes*

Sue Moore, Donald Rhodes

Jani Fraim, Wanda Larson, Marcella Woodworth

For the month of December, please bring *pickles, syrup, flour, white/brown sugar & peanut butter* for the Food Pantry. *As always, all non-perishable food items are welcomed.*

Pastor Colleen Lawrence, Minister

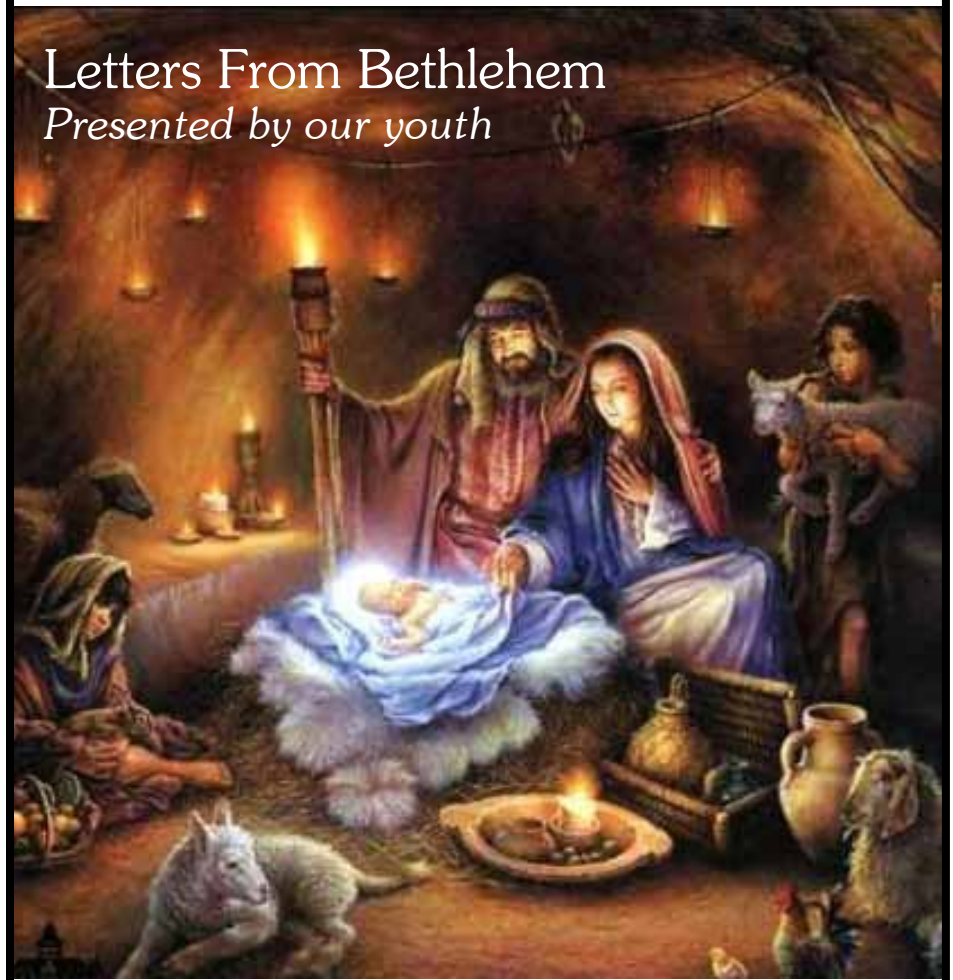
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Organist - Priscilla Andreae

December 30th, 2012  
First Sunday After Christmas

Letters From Bethlehem  
Presented by our youth



The Federated Church of Paxton  
8:45 a.m. Sunday School • 10:00 a.m. Worship



# Welcome to our guests!

Please take a minute to sign our guest book located at the back of the sanctuary.

## Sharing of Joys, News, Concerns

### Prayer

### Letter from an Angel

**\*Opening Hymn** *"Joy to the World"* PH, #40

**\*Offering**

**\*"Doxology"**

**\*Prayer**

**ONE:** Thank you God, for giving yourself to the world, not in the powerful & extraordinary, but in weakness & the familiar: a baby.

**ALL:** Thank you for offering, at journey's end, a new beginning; for setting; in the poverty of a stable, the richest jewel of your love; for revealing, in a particular place, your light for all nations.

**ONE:** Thank you for bringing us to Bethlehem, House of Bread, where the empty are filled, & the filled are emptied; where the poor find riches, & the rich recognize their poverty; where all who kneel & hold out their hands are unstintingly fed.

**ONE:** We ask your blessings upon these gifts for those in need. Amen.

### Letter from a Shepherd

**Prayer** (*unison*)

**Blessed thou art, O Christmas Christ, that thy cradle was so low that shepherds, poorest & simplest of earthly folk, could yet kneel beside it, & look level-eyed into the face of God. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *"Silent Night"* PH, #60

### Letter from a Wise Man

### Prayer of Confession

We thought we knew where to find you; we hardly needed a star to guide the way, just perseverance & common sense; why do you hide yourself away from the powerful & join the refugees & outcasts, calling us to follow you there?

### Wise God, give us wisdom.

We thought we had laid you safe in the manger; we wrapped you in the thickest sentiment we could find, & stressed how long ago you came to us; why do you break upon us in our daily life with messages of peace & goodwill, demanding that we do something about it?

### Just & righteous God, grant us justice & righteousness.

So where else would we expect to find you but in the ordinary places with faithful folk, turning the world into your purpose through them. Bring us, too, to that manger, to that true rejoicing, which will make wisdom, justice & righteousness alive in us. Amen.

**\*Hymn** *"We Three Kings"* PH, #66

### Letter from Mary

**\*Hymn** *"What Child is This?"* PH, #53

### Letter from Christ

**\*Hymn** *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"* PH, #88

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*God's richest BLESSINGS on our youth,  
as they have brought us this morning's service.*