



Ashford Messenger

December 2018 | Newsletter of Ashford United Methodist Church

(Read the latest **Cross Connection** [here!](#))

Dates to Remember

Thursdays @ 6PM & Sundays @ 10AM during Advent:
Advent Bible Study—The Gift of New Hope

12.1—ACEC Breakfast with Santa

12.2—"I Can" Sunday

12.15—Impact Ministry Community Event

12.24—Candlelight & Communion Service at 7PM

12.25—Christmas Day/Office Closed

1.1—New Year's Day/Office Closed

Announcements (all clickable links)

Advent & Epiphany Sermon Series

Angel Tree/Baskets for Bongo

Citizenship Training Program Tutors Needed

e-Giving with Realm

Fitness @ 4 Holiday Break

Impact Ministry Community Event

Meals on Wheels

Volunteer to Help with Our Youth

Welcoming Ambassadors

His Wondrous Name

by Glenn Pease (based on Isaiah 9:1-7)

Corrie Ten Boom is one of the best-known names in the 20th century. But many do not know that Corrie had more than one name. In 1977, a group of several hundred Christian Indians honored her in Flagstaff, Arizona by giving her an Indian name. Tom Claus, a Mohawk and president of the group, made this presentation. "I want you to know that we accept you as an Indian; you are our blood sister, and you are our spiritual sister in Jesus Christ. When we bestow an Indian name, it is the highest honor we can give. When your name was nominated to our Chief committee, we thought that we would like to pick a name that is really meaningful to you, Corrie. We realize that in the past you have identified with the Jews in their suffering; now you have identified with American Indians in our plight. Even though you have been on the front line of battle and have seen bloodshed and war, you have always been a demonstration of God's love. That is why we give you the name Loma-Si, which is Hopi for "beautiful flower," because you are one of God's beautiful flowers. We do thank God for you..."

Like many of the people of the Bible she received a new name of honor. Because names have always been important to Indians they have left their mark on our culture. Over 20 states have Indian names. The great rivers like the Mississippi and Missouri and 4 out of 5 of the Great Lakes have Indian names. There are hundreds of cities, lakes, and streams all over our nation with Indian names. The poet has rightly said,

Ye say they all have passed away, That noble race and brave That
their light canoes have vanished From off the crested wave. That
mid the forests where they roamed, Their rings no hunter's shout
But their name is on your waters Ye may not wash it out.

Names play a major role in our history and our heritage as Americans. In 1507 a German professor in a French college edited a map of the world. As he read up on the discovery of the new world, he found that much of it was explored by Americus Vespucci. He said, "I do not see what hinders us from calling it America." He did so name it and the name stuck. Professor David Muzzy in his American History writes, "so it came about that this continent was named by a German professor, in a French college, for an Italian navigator in the service of the King of Portugal."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December 2	Debra Chidakwa-Akue
December 5	Barbara Mitchell, Stephen Wines
December 6	Lorraine White
December 7	Louis Willoughby
December 9	Soila Villarroel
December 11	Isville Jackson, Bolaji Okunnu
December 14	Michael Christie, Barbara Gates, DJ Hicks
December 15	Vanessa Squirrell, Jaslin Villarroel
December 16	Leonard Kurriger, Quentin Miller, Riquilla Thompson
December 17	Robin Henry
December 22	Briony Willoughby
December 28	Tricia Avilez-James
December 31	Deen Akinrinsola

Missing from the list? Let us know and we'll recognize you next month!

It is no secret what God can do,
But it is often a mystery why.
Why would He begin anew
With a little baby's cry?

He was the Lord before all time,
Now in a secret guise he lays.
No longer the Lord in His prime,
Yet, the angels sing His praise.

What wondrous things God will do
To show the world His grace.
Revealing that His love is true,

Through the smiling Christ-child's face.

God opened up the secret of His eternal plan,
When He sent His only Son to be a real man.
It's now an open secret that He's the only way,
And that is why we celebrate this joyous Christmas day!

That day God came in secret, known only to a few,
But now the secret's out—God loves the whole world too.
It is no longer a secret what God can do,
But the spreading of this secret is still up to me and you.

Names have determined so much in our history and our environment but more important yet they determine our destiny. God is a great lover of names and name giving. The book of Revelation says, we will get new names in heaven. The Bible is full of genealogies which are just lists of names. Many of them mean nothing to us but they were important to God and His people. God gave the first man and woman their names and the second as well. The most important child ever born on this planet was named by his true Father in heaven. Gabriel came to Mary and said to her in Luke 1:31, "you will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. Later in a dream the same message came to Joseph in Matt.1:21. The angel of the Lord said to him, "she will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sin." Like the spirit of the child, the name of the child also came from heaven. This name was so important to God He made sure both of His earthly parents received a supernatural message as to what they were to name Jesus.

This name is now the most celebrated name in history. Like the vast majority of babies, Jesus was born without fanfare or fame. There were no reporters and no headlines for though all heaven rang as the angels sang, on earth there was barely a ripple. Everything is different now. There's no other name like that of Jesus. There's none in all the world beside, For there's no other name can give salvation, In His love I will abide.

There are more songs on the name of Jesus than any other name—Jesus Is the Sweetest Name I Know; Take the Name Of Jesus With You; There's Something About That Name and His Name Is Wonderful, just to mention a few that are well known.

The prophet Isaiah predicted that a child would be born in Israel who would acquire a name for himself—a name above every name. If you like to know big names then you will want to get acquainted with this coming child, Isaiah would advise. His name will be the biggest ever. In fact, His name is so big it is a multiple name. There are not enough powerful descriptive adjectives to describe it. Isaiah says He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Wonderful or full of wonder is His name. It inspired Handel's Glorious Messiah with its Hallelujah Chorus that has brought millions to their feet before the bearer of this name. Napoleon was rightly awestruck by this name. He said, "Is it not amazing that whereas the ambitious dreams of Caesar, Alexander, and myself should have vanished into thin air, a Judean peasant should be able to stretch a hand across the centuries and control the destinies of nations and the children of men."

There is no other name like that of Jesus. It is truly a wonder. Emerson said, "His name is not so much written as ploughed into the history of the world."

At one time, the Christians celebrated the birth of Jesus on a pagan holiday. Now the pagan world celebrates on a Christian holiday. Everything connected with the name of Jesus is transformed for His name is wonderful and does wonders. There is no greater wonder in the universe than the wonder of Christmas. This marks the day when our planet was invaded by a superior force from another realm. A power opposed to the sin and folly of human nature and yet it did not invade to destroy but to redeem. This is no minor wonder but rather the greatest wonder of all and that is why His name is Wonderful.

He did not come to judge the world, He did not come to blame, He did not come to seek, it was to save He came, And when we call Him Savior, then we call Him by His name. There are so many names of Jesus in the Bible that He is literally all things to all men. He is the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. He is to the artist [The One Altogether Lovely](#). He is to the architect [The Chief Cornerstone](#). He is to the baker [The Living Bread](#). He is to the biologist [The Life](#). He is to the builder [The Sure Foundation](#). He is to the carpenter [The Door](#). He is to the doctor [The Great Physician](#). He is to the educator [The Truth](#). He is to the farmer [The Lord of the Harvest](#). He is to the florist [The Rose of Sharon](#), [The Lily of the Valley](#). He is to the philosopher

There is debate as to whether there should be a comma between these two words or not. Should it be Wonderful, Counselor as in two different ideas, or just one as in Wonderful Counselor? The NIV leaves the comma out but the Berkley puts it in. Obviously, scholars are not absolutely

The Jews rejected Jesus as their Messiah because they were strict monotheists. What they failed to realize is that Jesus did not change that. There is only one God and He is the One. The Jesus of the New Testament is the Jehovah of the Old Testament. Everything we know about God is known through the Word of God and Jesus is the Word. Jesus said, "He who has seen me has seen the Father." Jesus is the Mighty God, the God of all gods.

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us Christ.

If Jesus was not this, we would have to agree with Judaism that it would be idolatry to worship Jesus. But at His birth this baby was worshiped by angels, shepherds, and wise men. He was, is, and ever will be Mighty God. Jesus said, "All power in heaven and on earth is given unto me." This was His clear claim to be the one Isaiah pointed to. Nobody else has ever claimed such power. Christmas is the celebration that it is because it is the birthday of the Mighty God in the flesh. This infant is the Mighty God, Come to be suckled and adored, the Eternal Father, Prince of Peace, the Son of David and His Lord.

III. EVERLASTING FATHER

Isaiah is saying this baby is the father of eternity. He who was born gave birth to all that is. He is the father of all. Jesus said He and the Father are one and so He takes on the very name of the Father. He is Immanuel, God with us; not anyone else with us, but God with us. You cannot separate the Father and the Son for they are one.

Isaiah anticipates John's saying, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." The Old Testament and the New Testament are united in this, the Messiah who would be born as a baby was God for all eternity. The pre-existence of Jesus is clearly revealed in both testaments.

Jesus is the Father of eternity in the sense that everything that will last forever is His doing. So much of reality is only temporary and it will pass away. But that which Jesus creates will be forever for He is the Father of forever. If there is eternal life, it is because He fathered it. If there is eternal song and joy, it is because he fathered it. He only stayed a baby for months but He is a father forever. His birthday and childhood are only celebrated because of what he fathered. Adam is the father of the fallen race of men but Jesus is the father of the risen race of men. Jesus never had a child in His manhood but He has fathered the one and only race of men who will live forever. He is the Everlasting Father.

IV. PRINCE OF PEACE

Many Christians hate the war-torn pages of the Old Testament. God's people were constantly in battle and death was ever lurking near even if they won. Well, they hated it too and longed for one who would bring a lasting peace and set them free from a life of strife. This was the messianic hope. G. Campbell Morgan, the prince of expositors, writes, "If I could write one word across the prophecy of Isaiah, a word that catches the underlying motive, what would it be? Peace, God's great purpose of peace. He is the Prince of Peace."

There can be no greater kingdom than a kingdom where there is perpetual peace. This will be the ultimate goal of the Messiah. Even now, this is the goal for the inner life for the believer Paul writes in II Thessalonians 3:16, "Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way." This is a prayer for peace to the Prince of Peace because even in this battle-scarred world, the goal is to have peace and live peaceably with all men.

Jesus had such a complex name that it would be terrible if He had to sign His name as we often do today. An Indian petitioned a judge of an Arizona court to give him a shorter name. His name was Chief Switching Train Whistle. "What do you wish to change your name to?" the judge asked. The Indian folded his arms and said, "Toot." This reveals that a short name can convey what is involved in a long one.

Jesus is the simple name that conveys all that is involved in His many other names. Frans Delitzsch, the Old Testament scholar wrote, "The name Jesus is the combination of all the Old Testament titles used to designate the coming One according to His nature and His works." It is not only the goal of Christmas but the very goal of life to know God by His first name—JESUS.

Source: Faithwriters.com

A Merry Balance

In Luke 10:38-42, Martha gets a bad rap. After all, we need Marthas to get things done and to show hospitality. (Note that Martha is the one who opens up her home to Jesus in the first place!)

Marthas are needed in December, but holiday preparations shouldn't shift our focus from the reason for the season. When we become "worried and distracted" as Martha did (v. 41, NRSV), we're tempted to trade God's "one thing" (v. 42) for the world's many worthless things. Yet if we're only like Mary, we may forget to let the world know who we're celebrating!

So this Christmas, keep a proper balance between your inner Mary and your inner Martha. Take time to "be Mary," kneeling at the manger, so that all the merry things you do as Martha have meaning and serve the newborn king.

Angel Tree Reminder

If you took one of the "Angel tags" off of the Angel tree and did not leave your name, please contact Kendra Keahey (KDKeahey@gmail.com) to make sure she has your information.

Also, please be reminded that ALL items for both the Angel Tree program and Baskets for Congo are due back by December 15.

Poinsettia Sponsoring

If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas in honor or in memory of a loved one, they are \$10/plant. Forms are available in the bulletin or the church office and are due back with payment by December 14. Plants can be taken home after the service on Christmas Eve.

