

9 Roveen Yoder
 9 Ryan Knight
 12 Katrina Dolly
 12 Richard Helmick
 12 Jeremiah Fincham
 14 Kayla Helmick
 15 Savannah Dayton
 20 Maxine Reall
 22 Brenda Liller
 23 Nita Emerick
 28 Dennis Brown
 28 Paula Monnett



DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

5 Eric & Leslie Helmick
 21 Lawrence & Judi Breneman



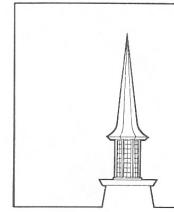
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(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-23-2013

YOU KNOW GUYS, RUMOR HAS IT THE BABY
 SHIVERS IN THE COLD ... MAYBE INSTEAD
 OF GOLD AND PERFUME HE WOULD ENJOY A
 BLANKET?



CONNECTION

DECEMBER 2015
 Vol. 5 No. 12

PINTO MENNONITE CHURCH

"In Christ's body we're all connected to each other..."
 Eph 4:25 , *The Message*



FREEDOM
 BOUND

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 2 *Freedom Bound: The Path of Mercy*

Scripture: Philippians 1:3-14

Prelude: Jan Livengood

Message: Pastor Merle

6 pm Singing of **Christmas Cantata** music

December 13 *Freedom Bound: The Path of Trust*

Scripture: Luke 3:7-18

Music: *Celebration*

Message: Pastor Merle

5 pm **Children's Christmas Program**

December 20 *Freedom Bound: The Path of Love*

Scripture: Luke 1:39-56

Gathering Music: Jan Livengood

Message: Pastor Merle

3 pm to 7 pm **Christmas Open House** at the home of Pastor Merle and Evie. Everyone Welcome!

December 25 **Celebrate Christmas!**

December 27 *Freedom Bound: The Path of Service*

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52

Prelude: Carla Brown

Jr. Worship: Homebuilders Class

Message: Pastor Merle



At Cherry Glade Mennonite Church **Information**

Fri, Dec 11, 2015 at 7:00 pm

Doors at 6:00 pm

\$13 per person

\$11 pp (group of 10+)

Tickets

Email: tickets@cherryglade.org

Call 301-616-8554, 301-616-6454, or 301-245-4340

Buy Online

itickets.com (Additional iticket fees may apply)

LOCAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Comfort Keepers provides non-medical in-home care such as companionship, outings, transportation to and from appointments as well as to church and anything else that continues to keep our families safe independent and healthy in their homes. According to Ashley Ewing, Community Liaison, "Not only are our services beneficial to the faith community but our most valued caregivers come from the spiritual communities."

If you are interested in these services or in providing care, please contact Ashley Ewing, Community Liaison,
Comfort Keepers of Western Maryland
11602 Bedford Road NE, Cumberland, MD 21502.
Phone: [240-362-7074](tel:240-362-7074)

Information is also available at <http://www.cumberland-747.com/comfortkeepers.com/>
or <http://cumberland-747.com/comfortkeepers.com/Assets/CKDigitalBrochureCumberland.pdf>

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVENTS SCHEDULED

It has been 8 years since the **Christmas Cantata** has been performed here at Pinto. A number of persons have suggested they would like to sing through or listen to the music of the cantata again. **Sunday, December 6 at 6:00 pm** will be your opportunity to do that. Come, reminisce and enjoy this music.



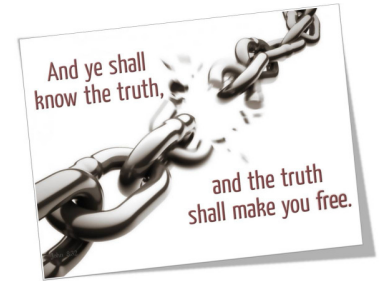
December 13, 5:00 pm will be the annual **Children's Christmas program**. You can support the children, their Sunday School teachers, and Liz Morgan, director, by volunteering to assist in some way and/or attending this special annual program.

Pastor Merle and Evie invite the Pinto Church Family to a **Christmas Open House** in their home at 15420 Shamrock Rd SW on Sunday **December 20 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm**. Come when you can and stay as long as you want. We would be blessed by your presence.



FREEDOM BOUND!

Freedom is coming! The restless prophets of old, John the Baptist, Elizabeth and John, Mary and Joseph, and Jesus himself sing this same song of God's longing for mercy and justice for all. Will we join them singing on the paths of justice, mercy, trust, love, service, and inclusion? Will we confront the parts of ourselves that keep us from hearing the clarion call to freedom?



"Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved" (Psalm 80:7). Our Scripture texts shine a light on the sins that bind us; they point the spotlight on those on the margins and call us to the gospel way of freedom,



"There is more love somewhere", an African American spiritual, is the suggested theme song. It captures the resilience and hope of slaves struggling for freedom. It is full of lament for what is not yet. It encourages us to look and work for what God is yet going to do. "I'm gonna keep on 'til I find it."

To his listeners in the Gospel of John who heed his teaching, Jesus says, *"You will know the truth and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32).* What truth are we being asked to see more clearly? What obstacles in God's path to freedom are we being asked to put aside so that we may abound in love?

Then, alive in the Spirit, we too may become communities of joy and peace sharing God's song of grace with the world.

Freedom is coming!

LOVE IS A VERB!

Love is a verb.

Action.

For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son.



And that Son walked, talked, healed, preached, befriended, and touched the greatest and the least of these. Jesus was born to show all of creation that we are truly beloved of God. We measly little humans, in all our chaos and clutter, are deeply loved and adored by our Creator God. Every one of us.

And isn't it pure miracle that we are born with the innate ability to love? When we express that love as action, that's when heaven and earth meet. That's when we experience true worship and friendship and the love that can only be called that Great Big Jesus Love that fills us up to full brim.

Be mindful of ways you can literally act out the love of Jesus.

- ♦ Who needs a text reminding them that they are beautiful?
- ♦ What stirs your soul to action? What are you passionate about today?
- ♦ Who needs a favor in your family?
- ♦ Whose load will you make a little lighter today?

Start your list of how to get involved. Write it down.

So go.

Be.

Love is a verb!

*(Reprinted with permission
Tonya Keim Bartel)*



Work available for all ages and skill levels!

Breakfast and lunch provided on Saturdays made fellowship enjoyable.

SPREADING JOY WITH A SHOEBOX GIFT



Many thanks to all who worked together to join in Operation Christmas Child. Some packed individual boxes including handmade gifts and handwritten notes. Some contributed money to buy gifts while others did the shopping.

The Men's Sunday School class contributed the \$7 per box shipping costs! By combining our efforts, 107 boxes were collected to be distributed to children in many countries such as the Dominican Republic pictured above. Thank you for helping to show the love of Jesus!



NOVEMBER WORKDAYS SPUR PROGRESS ON PINTO COMMUNITY CENTER

Four Saturday workdays plus innumerable hours contributed on weekdays are resulting in visible progress on the community center. The goal is to have an occupancy permit by the end of the year, so more work still remains. Contact Kurt if you want to be involved. He says there is work for everyone!



New Upper Level entrance with landscape plantings.

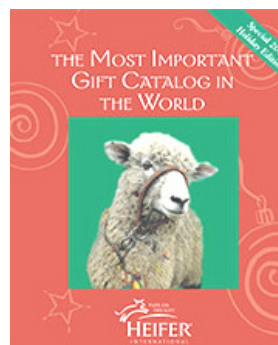
THIS CHRISTMAS, GIVE A GIFT THAT CHANGES LIVES AROUND THE WORLD.



Want a way to support food and education, to meet urgent needs and to build peace? Give a gift of hope, which supports MCC where needed most.

MEDA GIFTS MULTIPLY!

MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Association) invites you to share the joyful anticipation of Christmas by reaching out to your neighbors in developing countries around the world. Each gift is multiplied in impact up to **seven** times, on average, through funding from government and organizational donors. Celebrate the season... because every person has the right to an opportunity to earn a livelihood!



HEIFER INTERNATIONAL-CREATE A LASTING CHANGE

Choose a meaningful gift to give a loved one and help children and families around the world receive training and animal gifts that help them become self-reliant. Honor your loved ones with a free card from Heifer with every donation.

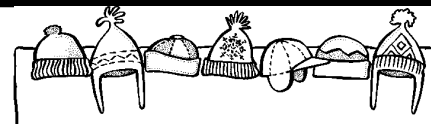
SEE THESE AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD!

Pinto Mennonite Church

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13822 Pinto Rd SW
Cumberland, MD 21502

Phone: 301-729-2714
E-mail: pintochurch@atlanticbb.net
www.pintochurch.org

DECEMBER



2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:30 pm Bible Study	3 2 pm Elders 7 pm <i>Celebration</i> practice	4	5 7 am Men's Bible Study
6 Advent 2-Mercy Message: Pastor Merle Prelude: Jan Livengood My Coins Count offering 6 pm Singing Music from the Cantata	7 6 pm Game Night	8 6:30 pm Coun- cil	9 6:30 pm Bible Study	10 7 pm <i>Celebration</i> practice	11	12 7 am Men's Bible Study
13 Advent 3-Trust Message: Pastor Merle Gathering Music: <i>Celebration</i> 5 pm Children's Program	14 6 pm Game Night	15	16 6:30 pm Bible Study	17 2 pm Elders	18	19 7 am Men's Bible Study
20 Advent 4-Love Message: Pastor Merle Gathering Music: Jan Livengood 3-7 pm Open House at Christners	21 6 pm Game Night	22	23 6:30 pm Bible Study	24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 7 am Men's Bible Study
27 Advent 5-Service NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 am WORSHIP Message: Pastor Merle Prelude: Carla Brown Jr. Worship- Homebuilders No evening service	28 8 am World's Attic Work Day 6 pm Game Night	29	30 6:30 pm Bible Study	31 2 pm Elders		

