



THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

Years ago I began re-reading Richard Bauckham's "Jesus. A Very Short Introduction" (2011). It's a striking book based on affirming the eyewitness accounts of Jesus that fill the four Gospels, enriched by what we know otherwise of the first century AD. I still find Buckram's opening pages stirring and want to share part of them, touching on the Lord's pervasive presence and influence today:

"Jesus of Nazareth, or Jesus Christ (as Christians know him), is undoubtedly the best known and most influential human person in human history. Two billion people today identify themselves as Christians, with the implication that Jesus is the focus of their relationship with God and of their way of living in the world. Such followers of Jesus are now more numerous and make up a greater proportion of the world's population than ever before. It is estimated that they are increasing by some 70,000 persons every day. This growth of Christianity is taking place despite its decline in the West Jesus is plainly no longer an icon purely of Western culture, but in fact he never was Christianity was a world religion long before it was a European one

"No figure has so extensively crossed the cultural divisions of humanity and found a place in so many diverse cultural contexts

"No other individual has inspired so much art, literature, music, and even film Despite the profound forgetfulness of Jesus in the popular culture of contemporary Europe, people still connect with his story when it is told"

Hearing or reading the Christmas story each year — celebrating the Lord's birth on earth and His presence with us today, capturing or strengthening anew the spirit of "glory to God in the highest" and of "on earth peace, good will toward men!" — provides us an opportunity to wake up and see that what is good and true in life are "something higher" ("Secrets of Heaven" AC 20) and commit ourselves to that. We'll easily see and recognize the Lord is with us, and with even every member of the human family (whether He is clearly, truly and fully "known" or not).

He's the one living God ever-present with the whole human family, daily trying to teach and lead each of us, working to provide us with truth, goodness and happiness that lasts forever. He is "the Savior of the world" [John 4:42 and AC 14] - our only ongoing salvation.

We are fortunate!

— Rev. Chris Bown



The Country Courier

THE SOWER'S CHAPEL

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THE SOWER'S CHAPEL



CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

WE BEGIN WITH CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Christmas is fast upon us! As we do annually to prepare for the season, we want to decorate the church. This year we are planning a musical evening with Freeport College Club that will be open to the public. Sally and Michelle along with Al and Trish are developing musical plans for the event.

We would like to have decorations that are unique. To that end we are asking that you come and help the Saturday after Thanksgiving (November 29th at 9am). You may say you don't know what you can do to help but, trust us, there will be lots to do for everyone. All ages are encouraged to come.

The time spent with friends decorating followed by a nice lunch (we ask you to bring something to share) is always special. We're usually done decorating by 1:00 pm, followed by cleanup and then lunch.

Please come and help decorate the church.

— *Bill and Carol*



ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree will display the angel gift tags for local children on Sunday November 30. Please mark your angel selection by signing the numbered sheet provided. And we ask that you return your gift to the church by **Monday, December 15** to be delivered for distribution to the families. Thanks to all who generously support this effort to bring joy to needy children at Christmas.

FREEPORT COLLEGE CLUB COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Sower's Chapel will be hosting The Freeport College Club (FCC) for "A Musical Christmas in the Country," with music and refreshments, on **Saturday, December 13 at 7 PM**. The FCC will welcome musicians and choral groups to perform. Please come to join us at this community event! A PDF "poster" to share with friends and families is included in this email month's email, as well.

LIFE OF THE LORD BIBLE STUDY

The Kids' Life of the Lord Bible Study will meet on **December 11 at 4 PM** at Trish Lindsay's home. The kids are asked to bring their Bibles and their copy of *The Life of the Lord* to the meeting. Please call if you have any questions. Trish Lindsay (724-584-6515)

SUNDAY TABLEAUX SERVICE

This year we will be offering our **Christmas Tableaux Service** on **Sunday, December 21 at 11 AM**. Kaitlyn Lindsay and Makenna Lindsay have agreed to direct the children's performance of the Nativity Story in our traditional Tableau presentation.

Please call **Maureen Rodgers (724-882-4679)** to **volunteer** to help set up or have your child take a role in the Tableau performance. And please call **Kate Kronen (814-229-4329)** if you know of a visiting family with children attending, to be included in the gifts presented during the service.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

There will be a **Special Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** on **December 24 at 5:00 PM** at the church. Join us for a Christmas message and carol singing with family and friends. *Come all ye Faithful!*



The theme of this year's Christmas Readings is **Our Part: the role each of us plays in the Lord's plan**. God is always working to save, but He asks for our cooperation. Each person in the Christmas story had a part to play. So do we.

Every day from December 1–26, receive an email with a reading from the Christmas story, paired with passages from the Heavenly Doctrines and a reflection to help you live with purpose.

Subscribe at newchurch.org/christmasreadings or scan the barcode to the right. Already subscribed? No need to sign up again.



Join a Christmas Readings Discussion Group. Grow together through weekly group discussions—online or in person. Talk with others about how the Lord is speaking to you through His Word this season. Ask your pastor about a local group, scan the barcode to the right, or visit newchurch.org/christmasgroups to learn more.



Please keep reading, there's so much more...



DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS & VISITING MINISTERS

- Tue, Dec 2: 1:00 PM - Bible Study @ TBD
- Sun, Dec 7: Rev. Jon Lee
- Tue, Dec 9: 1:00 PM - Bible Study @ TBD
7:00 PM - Board of Trustees
- Thu, Dec 11: 4 PM - Kids' Life of the Lord Study @
Trish Lindsay's
- Sat, Dec 13: 7 PM - A Musical Christmas in the Country
- Sun, Dec 14: Rev. Chris Bown
- Mon, Dec 15: Angel Tree Gifts due today!
- Tue, Dec 16: 1:00 PM Bible Study @ TBD
- Sun, Dec 21: 11 AM - Christmas Tableaux & Gifts
w/Rev. Dan Calvo
- Wed, Dec 24: 5 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight service
w/Rev. Lou Synnestvedt
- Sun Dec 28: Rev. Nathan Cole
- Sun, Jan 4: Rev. Mike Gladish - *Holy Supper Service*



GOLF SCRAMBLE WRAP-UP

A net of \$4,428.59 collected from the golf scramble plus an additional \$71.41 approved by the Board netted \$4,500.00. With these proceeds The Sower's Chapel has donated \$1,500.00 each to Freeport Meals on Wheels, Cabot Food Bank, and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) in Butler PA.

The day was spectacular; 32 "hackers" golfed like professionals. I think a good time was had by all.

Travis and Michelle orchestrated a successful event. The awards party following was fun with lots of beautiful baskets raffled with the children pulling tickets and delivering the prizes.

Make plans for Saturday, Labor Day Weekend 2026 to come to Freeport for good golf fellowship with old and new friends. Participation was a tad lower this year. Perhaps if we work together next year to promote the event and enlist more golfers, we'll be able to support our beneficiaries of the event even more!

—*Bill Kronen, Treasurer*

MANSE REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

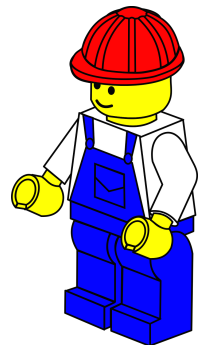
The Board approved significant repairs/maintenance to the manse this year. The downstairs apartment has been painted, two broken windows replaced and the suspended bathroom ceiling was rehabilitated. The hot water tank failed and was replaced. Safety railings were installed at the outside entrance and the shower was sealed. All window blinds were replaced (several were broken) and the entire apartment was cleaned top to bottom. The driveway was topped with asphalt with improved drainage and maintenance in mind.

Bill Kronen and Glenn Heilman were integral in getting all the work done. Bill made arrangements with contractors and let them in and out of the building as needed. Glenn also dealt with contractors as well as working inside and out. Glenn and Miriam installed safety treads on the back deck stairs. A landscaping service keeps the grass in check and plows the drive as needed.

MANSE PROPERTY MANAGER NEEDED

Before renting the downstairs on a month-to-month basis, the Board is searching for someone to assume the position of Property Supervisor. Glenn Heilman is willing to take care of outdoor issues at the manse, but would like someone else to be responsible for the interior. This is a very important corner in our operations.

Please let one of the Board of Trustees know if you feel you are willing to take on this important role. Maybe more than one person can share the responsibility.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025-26

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Miriam Heilman, Chair

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