

December 2022



Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat

4 Ladies Christmas Breakfast 9am Deacons' Mtg. 4pm Christmas Play 4 pm Bible Drill 5 pm	5	6	7 CARE Night Caroling 6:00 pm No Meal AWANA 6:30 pm	8 JOY Bible Study 11 am JOY Classroom	9 Young Adult Out- ing "The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon" 7 pm	10 JOY Annual Christmas Lunch 11:00 am
11 Ch. Council 8:30am / Children's Play Practice 4 pm Bible Drill 5 pm Choir 5 pm	12	13 Embrace Event @ Crystal Alley's 6pm Meal & Activity	14 Adult Bible Study Youth & AWANA Christmas Parties 6:30 pm	15 JOY Bible Study 11 am JOY Classroom	16	17 Men's Mtg. 7 am Children's Play Practice 10 am BD Party for Jesus 12-1:30 pm
18 Christmas Programs am & pm	19	20	21 Winter Conf. Parent/guardian Mtg. 5:45 pm Candlelight Communion 6:30	22	23 Church Office Closed	24
25 Christmas! No Sunday School Worship @ 11am	26 Church Office Closed	27	28 No activities at MBC	29	30	31
						
						
Phone: (704) 735-3287 www.macedonianow.org						

Macedonian Call December 2022



In 1965, when I was just a little dude, a Christmas made-for-TV special aired on CBS which became a mainstay in my life for many years to follow. It was titled "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Many of you reading this article have probably watched it almost every Christmas season too. Charles Schulz created the Christmas classic on a shoestring budget following a suggestion from Coca-Cola executives asking if he'd ever considered doing a Christmas show with the Peanuts characters. The 30-minute program almost didn't air though because Schulz had some ideas that didn't sit well with CBS executives. First, there was no laugh track (doesn't that fake laughter irritate you to no end?). Schulz thought that the show would be more enjoyable if the at home watching audience wasn't cued to laugh. Second, the CBS executives weren't pleased when Schulz's team hired only children to do the voiceovers. Third, the jazz soundtrack was thought to be "too old" for a children's program. Fourth, and not surprisingly, the TV executives didn't want Linus reciting Luke's account of Jesus' birth. They believed viewers wouldn't want to sit through the 51 seconds scene. Their voiced displeasure with the reading of Scripture however didn't deter Charles Schulz. He knew that this scene was "the heart and soul of the story." Just a refresher if you've forgotten the passage (as it was read from the KJV):⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.¹³ And suddenly there was with

the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. ". . . And that's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown," Linus concluded. The executives at CBS were horrified when they viewed the final product. They thought it was going to flop big-time. But when "A Charlie Brown Christmas" aired on December 9, 1965 (when I was just a little dude), 50% of the TVs in the US tuned in to watch. The story of Jesus' birth is a timeless message—whether anyone wants to hear or view it or not. It's a message that can't be cancelled or changed. It is, as Charles Schulz said, "the heart and soul of the story." Merry Christmas ~ Pastor Randy

¹ Lee Habeeb, "How 'A Charlie Brown Christmas' Almost Didn't Happen" 12/01/15, www.nationalreview.com, accessed 11/28/22.

Candlelight Communion

Wednesday,
December
21st
6:30 pm

Merry Christmas

Christmas Day
Worship 11 am
No Sunday School
No activities Wed.
Dec. 28th



All Adults & Youth are invited to go Christmas Caroling Wednesday, December 7th @ 6:00 pm

Embrace Christmas Event
Dinner @ Crystal Alley's Home
 (1531 Triangle Cir., Denver)

Tuesday, December 13th @ 6:30 pm
 Transportation will be provided



Men's Monthly Meeting
Saturday, Dec. 17th
@ 7:00 am in the Fellowship Hall



Winter Youth Conference
7th—12th Grades
December 28th—30th

Macedonia Baptist Church presents...
THE "MANDY IN THE MORNING" SHOW
Sunday, December 18th at 6 pm
Refreshments to follow

A Note From Ashley

FAMILY MINISTRY As we continue into the holiday season, I know gifts are most likely on the forefront of our minds. We decide on what to give to our loved ones and check our budgets/checkbooks to see what we can afford. I hope that charitable giving is also on our minds. Matthew 6:3-4 states, "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." There are 2 major points in these verses to consider. The first is that we are expected to give to the needy. Notice it says "when" you give to the needy not "if". Christ is reminding us that giving to the needy is an expectation not an option. The way in which we give is also important. We are called to give humbly. But why are we asked to give "in secret"? Simply put the purpose of our giving is to glorify God, not ourselves. Our giving whether it is monetary, physical labor or the offering of our time is a sacrifice to God. It is a full surrender of our trust to Him. We trust that our time, money, and/or efforts are being well utilized for the kingdom of God. So will you have confidence in God and place your resources in His hands this month? ~ Ashley

Awana Clubs
 Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm
 for 3 yrs-6th graders

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE:
 THE "MANDY IN THE MORNING" SHOW
K-6TH GRADE DEC. 4TH & 11TH @ 4 PM,
DEC. 17TH @ 10 AM

Happy Birthday Jesus Party
 • Sat., December 17th from 12-1:30 pm
 • All Children are invited!
 • Pre-K-6th grade
 • Gospel, Games, Fellowship & Food!
 • Location: Fellowship Hall



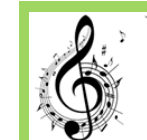
A Note From Susan

What Child is This

Of the many carols we sing specifically at Christmas, "What Child is This" happens to be one of my favorites. William Chatterton Dix wrote the lyrics in 1865 when he was an insurance company manager and had been struck by a severe illness. After a spiritual renewal in his life, he wrote a number of hymns. This one was set to the tune of the traditional English folk song, "Greensleeves." Each stanza is a progression – the words start by asking about the divinity of baby Jesus and finish by praising his name.

What Child is this who, laid to rest On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?	This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing; Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary.
Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians, fear, for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.	Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you. Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son of Mary.
So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, Come peasant, king to own Him; The King of Kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone	Raise, raise a song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby Joy, joy for Christ is born, The babe, the Son of Mary.

As you celebrate the Christmas season, take time as you sing carols, to fully reflect upon the lyrics. We can truly answer the question "What Child Is This" by having confidence in the fact that Christ came to be our joy and our salvation to those who have placed their trust in Him. Merry Christmas to you all! ~ Susan



Special Choir Program Rehearsal
Saturday, Dec. 17th @ 2:00 pm

A Note From Pastor Joe



Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night! – Whoa wait a minute, not yet!! I need a chance to say a few things before we pass a cup of cheer (non-alcoholic of course) and welcome in 2023. Now we are still in the Christmas season of 2022 with all its activities. We're buying, giving and receiving gifts. That is the reason for Christmas right? We all know what a foolish question that is, even if the culture surrounding us may disagree. For years our family has had a tradition of having a "Birthday Party for Jesus." We celebrate his birth by having fun, reliving memories and making new ones. Each of us, young kids included, decides on a gift we want to give Jesus for the following year. We choose an item or write a letter, poem or card, or find a picture that represents our gift. Each person opens their wrapped gift and publicly explains to the family what it represents as a commitment to Jesus for the following year. It is a night of laughter and tears. The end result is that our thoughts and hearts are on the real reason we have Christmas, which is God's gift to us. We are always amazed at the fulfillment of John 3:16 through the birth of a precious little baby, God's Son, Emmanuel! (Luke 2:7-20) Merry Christmas & we love you!! ~ Pastor Joe



Weekly Bible study Thursday Dec. 8th & 15th at 11 am in the JOY classroom.

JOY Ministry Annual Christmas Lunch
By His Blood Quartet
@ 11 am
Lunch following @ Noon



MBC Choir Presents "O Night Divine"
Sunday December 18th
During morning worship service

