

# THE PARK BENCH

**Dear Franklin Park Baptist Church Friends,**

The impact of Jesus' birth is more far reaching than you may realize. Here are :

## Six Ways Jesus' Birth Changed the World

**Children.** In the ancient world children were routinely left to die of exposure, particularly if they were girls. Jesus' treatment of and teachings about children led to the forbidding of such practices, as well as orphanages.

**Education.** The ancient world loved education but tended to reserve it for the elite; the notion that every child bore God's image helped fuel the move for universal literacy. Love of learning led to monasteries. Universities such as Cambridge, Oxford and Harvard all began as Jesus-inspired efforts to love God with all one's mind.

**Compassion.** Jesus' compassion for the poor and the sick led to institutions for lepers, the beginning of modern-day hospitals. That's why even today, hospitals have names like "Good Samaritan." They were the world's first voluntary, charitable institutions.

**Humility.** The ancient world did not value the virtue of humility. Jesus' life as a foot-washing servant would eventually lead to the adoption of humility as a widely admired virtue. Historian John Dickson writes, "...it is unlikely that any of us would aspire to this virtue were it not for the historic impact of his crucifixion."

**Forgiveness.** In the ancient world, virtue meant rewarding your friends and punishing your enemies. An alternative idea came from Galilee: what is best in life is to love your enemies, and see them reconciled to you.

**Humanitarian Reform.** Jesus consistently championed the excluded. His inclusion of women led to a community to which women flocked in disproportionate numbers. Slaves-- up to a third of ancient populations—might wander into a church fellowship and have a slave-owner wash their feet rather than beat them.

In addition to these is the impact His coming has on each of us personally. Because of him we are guided by the light of his love to become the people God calls us to be.

In His service, Rev. Paul Aiello  
Interim minister



### Sermons and Texts

Dec. 4 – “Where Is Bethlehem “ Luke 2 : 1 – 20

**COMMUNION Sunday**

Dec. 11 – “Our Savior, Our Salvation “

Luke 2 : 1 – 5 ; 1 Timothy 1 : 12 – 17

Dec. 18 – “ The Grinch Is Back “

Matthew 2 : 13 – 23

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service led by

George Palombo RMMO Offering

Dec. 25 – Ceremony of Lessons and Carols

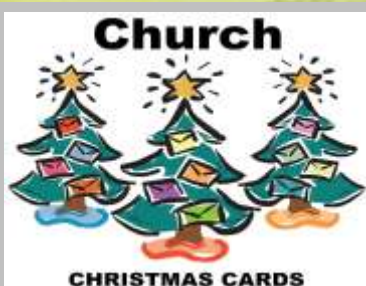
(Scripture readings from Genesis, The Prophets and Gospels that reveal our need of a Savior, God's plan and the Gospel accounts of His coming.)

Jan. 1, 2017 – “Words of Hope “:

Deuteronomy 31 : 1 – 8

**COMMUNION SUNDAY**

*The family and friends of Marcia Barnhart have purchased an outside nativity on display at the entrance to our church. Christmas and the church were very important to Marcia and her family and they dedicate this nativity in her memory.*



Sharing Christmas greetings with those in our church family is a special event. A basket is provided in the narthex for your cards. We ask that they are in alphabetical order and secured with rubber bands or string. They will be ready for pick up on Sunday, December 18.



### **Christmas caroling – December 16.**

Meet at the church at 6 p.m. After caroling we will meet at the Myers' home for fellowship and appetizers. (Please bring one to share.) If you would like for us to come to your home to sing please let Ralph know [ 412-719-9307 ] or call the church office [ 724-935-3950 ].

### **Christmas Worship Service Schedule**

**December 18** – Christmas Choir performance during the 10:30 a.m. worship service

**Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m.**  
George Palombo – will lead the service

We will receive the RMMO offering  
**Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering**  
**“ Faith Through Gratitude ”**



The roots of RMMO go back to the mid-1930's when American Baptist congregations received a Communion Fellowship Offering on the first Sunday of each month to support retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches. In 1977, American Baptist Churches USA launched the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO) to continue this appreciation of God's service.

**Our goal this year is \$1200.00**

**Sunday, December 25, 2016**  
Christmas Day Service  
“ Ceremony of Lessons and Carols ”



# YOUTH NEWS

- **Youth Group – Winter Jam January 20<sup>th</sup>**. 10 bands for \$10.00. Let Ralph know if you plan to go.
- **Winter Blast at Camp Judson** – last week of January and first 2 weekends of February, 2017. Let Ralph know if you want to go so we can choose a weekend before they fill up.

## January 2017 dates to remember :

**George Palombo’s first Sunday as our pastor will be January 15, 2017 (officially his pastorate begins January 9, 2017)**

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**Our Annual Church Business meeting  
January 29, 2017**

^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^ ^^

*You are Invited :*

**Rev. Paul’s Barbershop Group –**

**The Greater Cranberry Men’s Chorus**

will present “ Christmas Songs We Love To Sing ! ”

on Wednesday, December 7 at 7 p.m. at Mars

Alliance Church on Route 228 in Mars, PA. A free

will offering will benefit the Lighthouse Ministries’

Food Bank. Come out for a time of great Christmas

season music.

## Special dates

- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 4, 2016*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 11, 2016*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 18, 2016*
- First day of winter, *December 21, 2016*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2016*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2016*
- New Year’s Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2016*



*If ANY of your information has changed since we did the last pictorial directory that we may not have please let the church office know so that we can be up to date in giving George Palombo the correct information.*

*[ Email, telephone, address etc. ]*



- 1 Heather Ott
- 17 Mike Jones
- 17 Tim Timchak
- 18 Luke Merriman ( his 8<sup>th</sup> ! )
- 19 Erik Frankenstein
- 24 Justin Worst
- 26 Ruth Cunningham
- 26 Dan Douglass
- 28 Tom McNaughton
- 28 Nathan O’Leary ( his 9<sup>th</sup> ! )
- 29 Jenny McGahee
- 29 Richard Worst

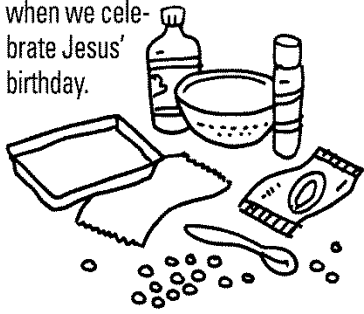
Address: 2470 Nicholson RD. Sewickley, PA 15143 [View On Google Maps](#)

Phone: 724-935-3950

Follow

# birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

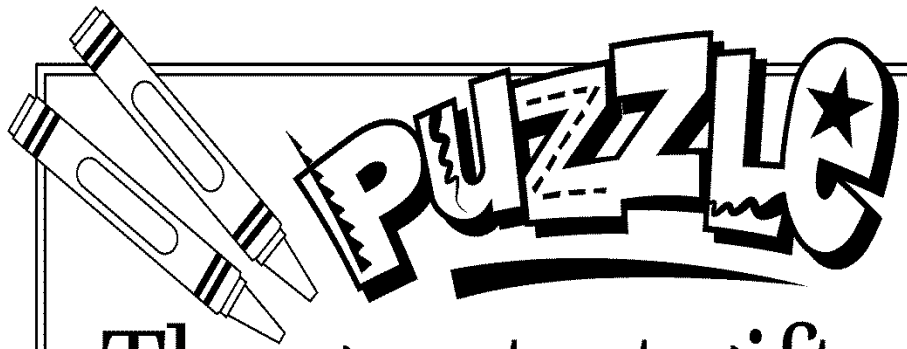


## What you need:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

## What you do:

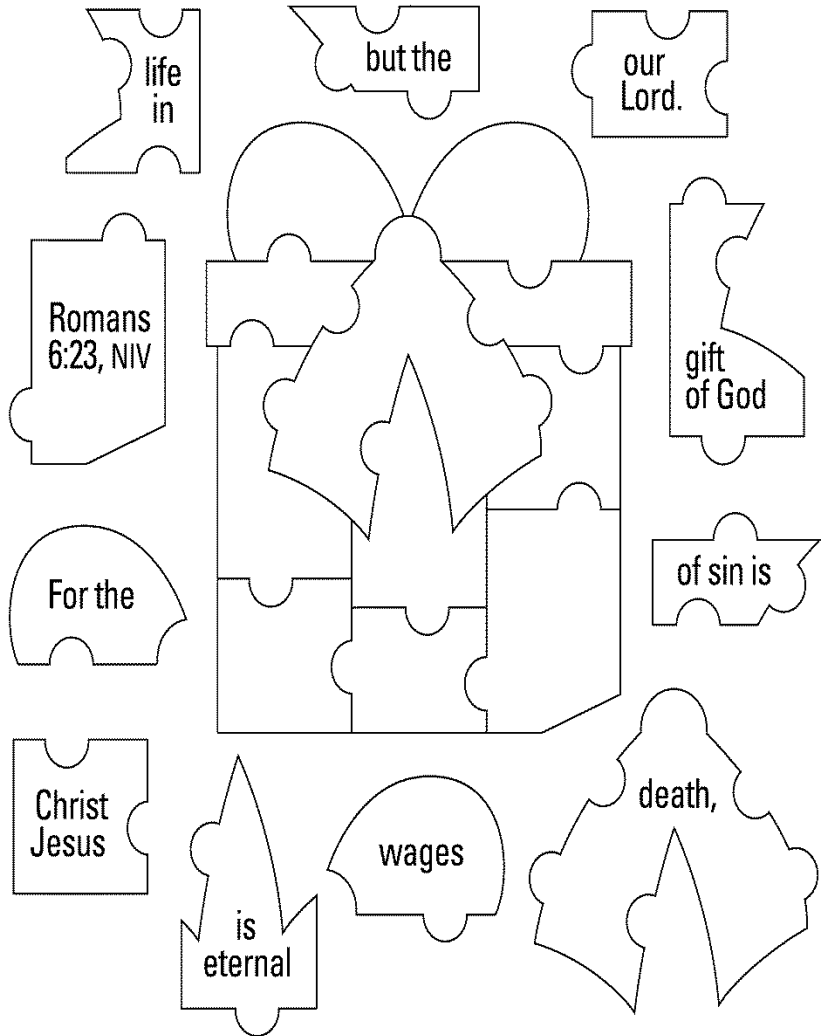
1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.



# The greatest gift

Gift-giving is a fun Christmas tradition. What very special gift has God given to you?

**Directions:** Write the words from each puzzle piece on the matching blank piece of the gift-shaped puzzle.



Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV

Boucek's Battalion ~ ~ Never Forgotten Forever Grateful ~ ~

Now is the time to be looking at our **COOKIE COLLECTION!!!!** What better way to get into the Holiday Spirit than baking those yummy treats!! If you know anyone who loves to bake, please forward our information along. We appreciate all the help we can get.

Our collection weekend is December 9th, 10th and 11th. Bake now and freeze until it's time to drop them off! On those dates, you can bring them to Sts. John and Paul Catholic Church. Remember, we are requesting specific cookies for our shipments --- Chocolate Chip ~ Oatmeal ~ Peanut Butter ~ Snickerdoodles.

Go to <http://bouceksbattalion.org/cookies> for more details and packaging specifics. Last year we collected over 22,000 delicious, homemade cookies, we'd like to repeat that number again this year! As always, these projects could not be successful without your help and continued support.

Thank you all. Peace, Kim Boucek



You are invited to Christmas Dinner on **Sunday, December 11 at 5:00 p.m.** at Fairmount Presbyterian Church. A roast beef dinner will be enjoyed followed by a Christmas carol sing. Cost is \$6.00 per person and reservations must be in by Tuesday, December 6, 2016. Please call 412-364-7880 or email [fairmountarpc@gmail.com](mailto:fairmountarpc@gmail.com) with the number of persons planning to attend and your phone number. Gluten free options will be available.

#### **Gift-giving solutions**

Trying to find gifts for certain people — or letting others know what you want — can be quite challenging. After all, most of us don't need anything. Realizing that the best gifts aren't material items offers a new perspective on giving and receiving. Consider these insights from author Charles Swindoll:

“Some gifts you can give this Christmas are beyond monetary value: Mend a quarrel, dismiss suspicion, tell someone ‘I love you.’ Give something away — anonymously. Forgive someone who has treated you wrong. Turn away wrath with a soft answer. Visit someone in a nursing home. Apologize if you were wrong. Be especially kind to someone with whom you work. Give as God gave to you in Christ, without obligation, or announcement, or reservation, or hypocrisy.”

- ^ **Katlyn Francis**, 15 year old great-granddaughter of Millie and John Flinchum had a tumor removed and praise God the biopsy came back and there is no cancer. She will have no further treatment. At 8 years old, Katlyn had a kidney removed. She had tumors in her lung and has gone through many series of chemotherapy. THANK YOU for your prayers !
- ^ **Bill McGahee**, son of Jenny McGahee and grandson of Robert and Ruth Cunningham, is undergoing treatment for Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. His address is 271 Broadstone Drive, Mars, PA. 16046.
- ^ **Darlene Dennis** had a second back surgery on November 29 and reportedly it has gone very well. Darlene is doing much better after this surgery and is not experiencing the pain she did before. She thanks everyone for their prayers and is confident that this has been successful and her recovery will be quick and complete.
- ^ **Edward Kolodziej**, father of Erik Kolodziej our church musician, will be having open heart surgery on December 28. Prayers are asked for and needed for the family.
- ^ **Edith Yockel**, 80, friend of Sandy Hughey, fell and broke her shoulder in six places and her tailbone. They are keeping her in the hospital because her insurance will not pay for a rehab place. They seem to think stabilizing her shoulder will allow it to heal without surgery. She does not know how long they will keep her, but is thinking at least a month.
- ^ **Kathy Geibel**, Paul and Dee Aiello's friend, is recovering from a hip replacement.
- ^ **Prayer is asked for Jeremy** whose parents have moved here to the area to help him deal with his illness.
- ^ **Prayer for all** the policeman and first responders who are in danger as they are out there doing their job. Especially Shawn McNaughton who is a member of this church family.
- ❖ **Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones : Rachel Collins**, aunt of Sandy Bonham whom we have been praying for, passed away on November 17. We ask for prayers for comfort and strength for the family of this dear lady.
- ❖ **Continued Concern For:** John Moeller, Matt Rivers, Joey Meade, Patty Koen, Bob Waldron, Bill Hicks;, Marilyn Sitts, Christians around the world who are being persecuted.
- ❖ **Those With Cancer:** Kate Fetterman, Sue Snyder, Matt O'Leary, Robert Stinebiser.
- ❖ **Missionaries :** **Becky and Larry Stanton** ( Hungary); **Peter and Sarah McCurdy** (Dominican Republic / Cuba); **Carol Sydnor** (Nepal); **Nora and Pieter Kalkman** (Prague, Czech Republic), **Brian & Lynette Smith & their boys** (Haiti).
- ❖ **In Service of Our Country :** **Major Doug Bauer**, his wife Hope and children, Walker & Mackenzie who are in Guam.
- ❖ **Those In Assisted Living and Homebound :**

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Gene Worst</b><br>Concordia of Franklin Park<br>1600 Georgetown Dr.<br>Sewickley, PA. 15143                            | <b>Dorothy McKinney</b><br>Creek Meadows Personal Care<br>1630 Ellwood City Road<br>Zellenople, PA. 16063 | <b>Albert (Buck ) Bucklew</b><br>Chicora Medical Center<br>160 Medical Center Road<br>Chicora, PA. 16052-2612 | <b>Peggy Bucklew</b><br>Chicora Medical Center<br>160 Medical Center Road<br>Chicora, PA. 16025-2612                                       |
| <b>Janet Tehois</b><br>Broadmore Senior Living<br>3275 Washington Pike Apt. 221<br>Bridgeville, PA. 15017<br>412-559-2813 |                                                                                                           | <b>George Green</b><br>Cranberry Place<br>5 St. Francis Way Room 122<br>Cranberry Township, PA.<br>16066      | <b>Mrs. Shirley Wright</b><br>Passavant Retirement Community<br>Trillium House Room 215<br>Zellenople, PA. 16063<br>Telephone 724-452-5400 |
| <b>Homebound - Jane Nagel &amp; Dale, Jr.</b><br>4015 Wick Place<br>Wexford, PA. 15090                                    | <b>Gloria Meinert</b><br>2915 Salisbury Court<br>Wexford, PA. 15090                                       | <b>Jean Downing</b><br>2245 Montgomery Road<br>Sewickley, PA. 15143                                           | <b>Bill and Eleanor Mooney</b><br>221 Chickasaw Avenue<br>Pittsburgh, PA. 15237                                                            |

## Christmas Reminders

- **Angel tree gifts** are due on December 11 wrapped with the angel tag attached.
- **Christmas cards for church members** are due on December 11 secured with string or rubber bands and in alphabetical order. They will be distributed on December on December 18.
- **December 12 at 7:30 p.m.** all ladies are invited to the Guiding Lights Christmas party to be held here at the church. You are asked to bring a \$5.00 grab bag gift.
- **December 18 – Christmas Choir Performance** during our worship service.

## December Stewardship Thought

### **“ God Has Given You A Gift “ 2 Corinthians 8 : 9**

“Do we need to buy her a present ? Him, too ?

“You don’t need to get him / her a real expensive gift.”

“ Well, they gave me a gift last year.”

Have you heard any of those comments during the Christmas season? Our motives for buying some gifts may be based on courtesy, duty, or tradition – all of which may or may not be bad but certainly fall short of motives such as love or “because I want to.” Sometimes we may not be sure what our motives are; we just think we have to give a gift.

The Bible makes clear that Christ’s motive for giving Himself to and for us was that we “might become rich.” The gift has been given – verified in history, recorded clearly by all the Gospel writers, and experienced by multitudes of believers. God gave His Son, who willingly gave Himself for us. His motive: that we might become rich – rich in faith, rich in Christ, rich in hope, rich in eternal life, and rich in love. There is only one explanation for such giving: grace, unearned and undeserved love of God for us. What a gift !

[WWW.franklinparkchurch.org](http://WWW.franklinparkchurch.org)

