

What Does It Take To Celebrate?

by *Pastor Doug*

I came across this devotional recently and thought it would be a great opening for this month's newsletter. Please read Luke 1 for the devotional background and reflect on what it means to celebrate Christmas. Just like Mary, we too can believe that with God all things are possible. *"I am the Lord's servant,"* Mary answered. *"May your word to me be fulfilled."* Luke 1:38

Some years ago, a Christmas musical included Mary saying, *"If the Lord has spoken, I must do as he commands. I will put my life into his hands. I will trust him with my life."*

That was Mary's response to the surprise announcement that she would be the mother of the Son of God. Whatever the consequences, she was able to say, *"May your word to me be fulfilled."*

Mary was ready to surrender her life to the Lord, even if it meant that she might be disgraced in the eyes of everyone who knew her. And because she trusted the Lord with her life, she became the mother of Jesus and could celebrate the coming of the Savior. Mary took God at his word, accepted God's will for her life, and placed herself in God's hands.

That's what it takes to truly celebrate Christmas: to believe what is completely unbelievable to many people, to accept God's will for our lives, and to place ourselves in God's service, trusting that our lives are in his hands. Only then will we be able to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Ask the Holy Spirit today to help you trust God with your life and to turn the controls of your life over to him. When you do, your life will never be the same. *Lord, our God, please give us faith to believe that the child we celebrate on Christmas is your Son, our Savior. Help us to acknowledge him as Lord and to trust him with our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR —Rev. Art Schoonveld is a retired minister in the Christian Reformed Church. Before retiring in 2001, he served churches in California, Illinois, and Michigan. Since his retirement he has worked part-time for the denomination and has served as an interim pastor. Art and his wife, Anita, have four children and nine grandchildren.

Worship Schedule

Sundays • 9:30 & 11:00 am

Medina Community Church exists to help people begin and grow in their relationship with God. Our relaxed, contemporary style provides an enjoyable atmosphere where you can investigate the claims of Christ, deepen your faith and meet some great friends along the way.

SERIES: THE CHOSEN

- December 1 —
Nothing Is Impossible With God
- December 8 —
For All The People (part 1)
- December 15 —
Great Joy
- December 22 —
For All The People (part 2)
- December 24 — Christmas Eve
- December 29 —
This Is My Year! 9:30 service only
Brunch to Follow

Contact Us

Medina Community Church
416 South Broadway
Medina, Ohio 44256
(330) 723-5155

mccoffice@zoominternet.net
www.medinacommunitychurch.org

Doug Davidson — Sr. Pastor
Donna Spitzer — Family Ministry
Henna Hulme—Children's Director



Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24

3:00 & 5:00 p.m.



Children's Choir

MCC's Children's Choir for the Christmas season holds weekly practices on Wednesdays (December 4, 11, & 18) before Kids Blast. The choir will sing on Sunday, December 22 and again Christmas Eve at the 3 p.m. service. If your child likes to sing, it's not too late to join! There is a sign up sheet at the information table.

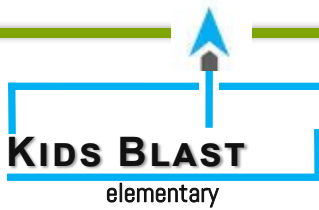
Christmas Poinsettias

Please place your order by December 15th.
Red or White / \$10 each

Order forms are available at the information table.



Thank you to all those who packed a shoebox for this year's Operation Christmas Child. You gave 24 boxes to children in need.



December 4 & 11
6-7:30 p.m.
(Christmas party on the 11th)

December 8 & 15
5-6:30 p.m.
(Christmas Party with white elephant
gift exchange on the 15th)

December 8 & 15
6-8:00 p.m.
(Christmas Party with white elephant
gift exchange on the 15th)



•*Men's Breakfast*— Saturday, December 14 at the church (8:30 a.m.).

Women's Ministry Update

It's the busy time of year for all of MCC and especially the women's ministry. Please watch your email for messages and details on our upcoming activities.

- Bible Study*— We're done until Spring with an official study, but we'll do some random Saturday get togethers to keep in touch.
- First Saturday Breakfast*— Winter is here so we're switching to our first Saturday breakfast. We'll be going to Waffle O Waffle (799 North Court Street, Unit 25, Medina) on Saturday, December 7 at 9:30 a.m. Please let Kathy know if you can make it so she can arrange seating.



•**DATE CHANGE . . . DECEMBER 8th** is this year's ladies Christmas luncheon at 12:30 p.m. following second service. Lunch will be provided. Please bring one of your favorite holiday desserts to share. We'll have lunch, a gift exchange, and have a great time laughing and getting to know each other better. For the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped pair of Christmas socks. Also, to be entered into the raffle for a special gift basket, bring a new pair of kid's gloves, mittens, or winter hat to be donated.

•*Jail Ministry*— We have some money left over from last year's donations. With that we are going to purchase some \$50 Walmart cards for Sue Jarvis to give to inmates as they are leaving the jail so they have something to start with. We will also be providing muffins for the gift bags that Sue does (we've done this for several years). Sue does a lunch for the women inmates two Saturdays before Christmas and we're going to provide that for her this year as well. Still working on the exact plan, but if you'd like to be involved let Kathy know.

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact Kathy Summers at kathyksummers@gmail.com or (330) 461-1081. If you're not receiving regular emails from Kathy please let her know and she'll get you on the list.



We are pleased to announce that MCC will be hosting drive-thru Community meals on **Saturday, December 21st** from 6-7 pm for those in need. Meals will be handed out in a drive-thru lane. Volunteers will help guide guests to the meal pickup area. (All guests will be asked to remain in their vehicles.) We can always use drivers for meal deliveries at 5:00 pm and others to help with the drive through. Please consider how you could serve in this ministry. For more information or to sign up please call or text Emily Winans at (240)405-4003.



BUILDING CAMPAIGN FOR OUR PICNIC PAVILION

We are looking to raise \$30,000 for construction of a picnic pavilion on MCC property. As of today, we've raised \$17,000 toward that goal. The hope is that we can build next spring.

Please pray about a one time gift or a regular gift over and above your tithe for the building fund. Thanks for considering this project.

Please mark your checks or envelope—"Building Fund."

Peanut Butter—Chocolate Fudge

5 cups sugar	1 7½-oz. jar marshmallow cream
1 cup margarine or butter	¾ cup smooth peanut butter
1 12-oz. can evaporated milk	1 tsp. vanilla
1 12-oz. package semi-sweet chocolate chips	

Place sugar, margarine, and evaporated milk in large sauce pan. Stir together and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture comes to a boil. Continue to boil stirring constantly, 7-10 minutes until it reaches the soft-ball stage . . .234-240 degrees on a candy thermometer. (If you don't have a candy thermometer, drop a half teaspoon of the mixture into cold water. If it clings together, it is done.)

Turn off the heat. Stir in chocolate chips, marshmallow cream, peanut butter, and vanilla. Beat with a wooden spoon until it loses some gloss. Pour into a 9 x 13 inch pan lined with parchment paper. Cool at room temperature. Cut into 1½ inch squares and refrigerate. Makes about 48 pieces.

