



The Vine & the Branches

December 2014

December – Christmas! And even though we know that Christmas is not really the birthday of Jesus, it is important to celebrate Jesus' birthday. For Jesus's birthday was the start of his important life on earth, leading to his crucifixion, leading to our salvation! Thank you, Jesus, for coming the first time – we so look forward to your coming the second time!

Isaiah 9:6-7 NLT

“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!”

Or sing it with the King James version in the Messiah. :)

Wishing my church family a very Merry Christmas!

Karen Maas
Vine and Branches editor



PRAYING TOGETHER

Every Sabbath morning, 8:45am, join us in the Prayer Room before Sabbath School and church. It provides us with a time to come together in praise and thanksgiving, and present the needs of members in prayer each week. The Prayer Room is the classroom across from the Mothers' Room, in the back of the church foyer. – Donna Schacher

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CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Church service, December 20

Plan to be there, plan to participate!

From the Pastor's Keyboard

Dear Church Family,

We are entering on a time when people get excited about the festivities and exchange of gifts of Christmas. While we know that this is not a Biblical holiday, it does not mean that some good cannot come out of this. First of all, one must cut through all the glamour, glitter, and Santa Claus in order to get to the significance of the festivities. What is that significance? It is the remembrance of Jesus coming to this world, God's greatest gift to mankind, that needs to be the focus. Keep the main thing the main thing.

The second part to keep in mind is that of gifts. I would like to suggest that this year you try to include Jesus in your gift giving. Give a gift to Jesus. In fact, this year we are planning to have a time in our Christmas program for giving a special gift offering to Jesus. This gift is for advancing His work. Mission money for Jesus.

The third thing I would like to suggest, to those who have children, that you give gifts that will help them to grow in Jesus, and as a person. The ABC has lots of children's books. There are stores that sell toys that educate a child. You might even consider having your children give gifts or help with those less fortunate than themselves. Give them the gift of learning or giving in Jesus.

Have a happy holiday with your family and friends, and may the joy of Jesus be in your hearts.

Love and prayers,
Pastor Ballard



Vegan Ginger Cookies from onegreenplanet.org

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup non-dairy butter, room temperature
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp sesame oil
- 1 Tbsp chia seeds + 3 Tbsp water
- 1/4 cup molasses
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp ground cloves
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3 1/2 ounces candied ginger, chopped {optional}

Put it together!

- Combine chia and water; let sit for ~5 minutes. {You can also use flax.}
- Cream together butter and sugars. Add oil, molasses and chia mixture.
- In a separate bowl, combine remaining ingredients, except candied ginger.
- Slowly add flour mixture to butter & sugar, mixing just until combined.
- If using, gently stir in candied ginger chunks.
- Dough will be slightly crumbly. Wrap tightly in plastic wrap and chill for 1 hour.
- Once chilled, roll dough into 1 inch balls.
- Roll in granulated sugar, then place on cookie sheet 2 inches apart.
- Bake 10 minutes at 375F.

Ginger cookies are a fantastic Christmas tradition!



December Birthdays

- 1 Dan Edgerly
- 2 Art Schacher
- 4 Jennifer Ortiz
- 8 Dougy Buck
- 8 Lowell Galambos
- 8 Travis Karkov
- 10 Leslie Alveo
- 10 Kenneth Black
- 12 Vicki Clevenger
- 13 Mary Marjen
- 13 Shawnie O'Neill
- 15 Derrick Kim
- 19 Katie Harford
- 19 Don Matthews
- 20 Penny Ausmus
- 21 Teresa McCart
- 22 Tom Rogers
- 23 Bill Cady
- 23 Scott Marjen
- 25 Bill Mayne
- 27 Barbara Ristine
- 31 Erik Funasaki



December Anniversaries

- 8 Mel & June Krause
- 9 Ted & Ling Saufley
- 15 Melvin & Kay Heath
- 17 Mike & Katie Harford
- 21 Derrick & Sun Kim
- 21 Ryan & Sarah Martin
- 23 Dave & Julie McEwen
- 26 Rodney & Sandra Pekarek
- 31 John & Margaret Kokinos



VALLEY BRASS
Sabbath, December 13
Church service

Invite your friends!

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Pathfinders:

December 7 -- 2:00, Full Dress Uniform
After our regular Pathfinder meeting, we have a special shopping trip to buy some toys for others!

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Communion Service

December 27 -- come worship with us!

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Pathfinders January

Sabbaths, January 3 and 17. January 3, dress uniform. January 17, field uniform.

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JANUARY 24, 2015 -- Plan ahead!

4:00pm -- Vonda Beeman in concert

5:15pm -- Soup/bread supper

6:00pm -- Church Business Meeting

