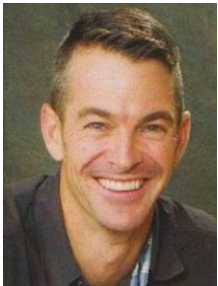




**December 2019**

***“We exalt God above all by evangelizing, equipping  
and embracing all nations.”***



“Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious!”

Psalm 66:1–2

Is it already Christmas? I feel like we just entered fall but by the look of my neighbor’s yard I missed it. Sure, I still have leaves to rake, turkey to eat, and a parade to watch. But he already has a tree in the window, lights on the roof, and a wreath on the door. Where has the season gone? It certainly seems to have followed the old adage about fun. While I have been humming hymns of thanksgiving, the radio has moved on to carols and bells. Warm evenings have succumbed to cold winds, even snow, in November!!

Is it already Christmas? It would seem the season to be jolly has arrived along with its familiar sounds: songs of joy and hope-filled hymns, lively carols and peaceful lullabies. If there is one holiday most clearly defined by music, it would have to be Christmas!

The yuletide tunes we know so well drive and inspire holiday spirit, and this is good. However, I fear that unless we are careful, the power music possesses to stir the emotions may cause us to miss the season’s cause—who is Christ. Kris Kringle’s jingles are little more than empty odes to a spirit who does not save or encourage giving, only being good in order to get something other than coal in your stocking. While the lyrics to many other Christmas classics are equally empty as regards matters of eternal significance.

As with so many things in life, this concern is not new. In fact, in 1543, John Calvin admitted to readers that “we know from experience that song has a great power and strength to move and inflame the hearts of men to invoke and praise God with a heart more vehement and ardent.” Therefore, he warned “One must always watch lest the song be light and frivolous.” For Calvin, “there is a great difference between the music that is made to entertain people at home and at table and the Psalms which are sung in church, in the presence of God and His angels.” For this reason, he concluded that “if any wish rightly to judge the kind of music presented here, we hope he will find it to be holy and pure, seeing that it is simply made in keeping with the edification of which we have spoken, whatever further use it may be put to. For even in our homes and out of doors let it be a spur to us and a means of praising God and lifting up our hearts to Him, so that we may be consoled by meditating on His virtue, His bounty, His wisdom, and His justice. For this is more necessary than one can ever tell.”

As the Psalmist called for joyful shouts to God and the singing of the glory of His name, Immanuel, may we join with Isaac Watts to declare, “Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing

Rejoice!

Pastor Andrew

# GREETERS SCHEDULE

Lyle Jarrett  
Cindy Bennett  
Connie Jones

NOTE: Please alternate door positions weekly.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

There will be a Men's Ministry Breakfast on Saturday, December 21, followed by a discussion on The discipline of Giving. All men are invited.

## WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Dinner will be served at 5:30. Be sure to sign up for the dinner and to take a turn in providing a dessert. The Discipleship class, Youth, RAs, GAs and Mission Friends will begin at 6:15.

Menus for the month are listed below:

- Dec. 4 – Chicken noodle soup, veg. beef soup and sandwiches
- 11 – Spaghetti, garden salad
- 18 – Beef stroganoff, noodles, green beans

There will be no activities at the church on the 24<sup>th</sup> or January 1.



The deadline for submitting items of interest for the **January newsletter** is December 18. Please observe this deadline.

## 2020 BUDGET

The 2020 Budget was discussed at a Business Meeting on November 13 and is being voted on during morning worship, December 1.

## WIDOW/WIDOWER DINNER

Our annual Elder-sponsored dinner in honor of Immanuel's widows and widowers will be held on Tuesday, December 3, at 5:30 p.m. The elders provide the food and transportation to and from the dinner for those who would prefer not to drive. This is Immanuel's way of honoring those who have lost a loved one.



- December 24 – Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m.
- December 28 – No evening activities
- December 25 – January 1 – Office closed
- January 1 – No activities

## THANK YOU

We wish to thank all of you for all the cards and prayers during our recent troubles. You have all been a comfort. No matter what the complications, we always knew you were praying for us.

Ed and Maureen Dohr

## A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS

The Magi Fund is back with an exciting new event. There are forms in the back of the sanctuary with more information.

## THANK YOU

Thank you so much for all the love, prayers, and support you have showered on us since Jay passed away. We deeply appreciate all of that, as well as the cards and the delicious meals you provided. I found an index card in my Bible with a note that Jay had written. It said: "Christmas means never having to ask God if He loves us." May that truth be a joy and a comfort to us all in this holiday season and the year ahead.

Love, Cheryl and James Moore

## \*\*\*IMMANUEL ON MISSION\*\*\*

What a joy to have the church come together in the Thanksgiving season for times of testimony and fellowship to encourage one another. It was a great Sunday afternoon with children, youth and adults listening to our missionaries, Laurel and Paul Morgan talk about the many projects translating God's Word into local languages in Congo and the impact of those Bibles in churches and among villagers in their own community. The highlight was when everyone gathered around Paul and Laurel in prayer. As we celebrate with family and friends this Christmas season, let us encourage one

another to humbly express the Gospel on each occasion and speak boldly of Jesus our Savior at every opportunity.

God bless you, Heather

## WMU

### Mali People Group

The Mali people are our church adopted unreached people. Please pray for them to come to salvation through Jesus Christ!!

### Christmas Cards

If you would like to send Christmas cards to those who attend services regularly, you can put them in the church mailboxes at the back of the sanctuary. There will be a basket provided for cards if you would like help putting them in the boxes. If you wish, you may put the postage money saved in the offering plate and designate it to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

### Christmas Angel Tree for International Missions

This Christmas season our Angel Tree will be a reflection of our church's Lottie Moon International Mission Offering with the goal of \$7,800. Each angel will represent \$150 towards the goal. Rev. 7:19 "I saw a great multitude from every nation and all tribes."

### Ladies Luncheon

#### SAVE THE DATE

There will be a Ladies Luncheon on Saturday, January 25, from 11:00 – 2:00. Paula Law will present "Women in the Word."

(Hosted by WMU)

### Operation Christmas Child



Pictured are those (plus Jim Aurelio) who packed shoeboxes for children ages 2-4. A total of 34 boxes were taken to a central place for further distribution. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way in bringing some cheer to those less fortunate.

### Our Mission Partners

#### **James and Sarah Morgan (IMB)**

Thank you all so much for your prayers! It's been a blessing to partner with you in His Kingdom work. Our team has helped train over 1,100 people this year in how to go, share, disciple and develop new leaders. Over 600 a month are hearing the Good News. A huge request this year was to get into Cousin communities. We have seen new Cousin believers as the result of God bringing us a teammate to work solely on this. This is a quick glimpse of some of the things God has been doing here Praise and thanks to God for His love and for His Son, our Lord!

#### **Paul and Laurel Morgan (Wycliffe)**

**As we have prayed together, please continue to ask God . . .**

For the family:

- A new, bigger house closer to town
- Clear direction for next steps in Congo
- Resilience and perseverance in difficulties
- Kids' homeschool to continue well

For Congolese society:

- Transformation in lives by God's Word
- Eradication of Ebola; better health system
- Political stability
- Better roads and reopening of airport

For the Church:

- Live in freedom and not legalism
- Gospel centered, Old Testament teaching
- Communities receiving completed New Testaments; Fuliiru complete Bible
- Strategic media distribution

#### **Free English Salisbury**

A surprisingly active fall semester is winding down. The Tuesday class at the YMCA, though small, has been a joy and it's great to help those who can't meet at other scheduled times. The Ladies Bible Study is informal with the unique

opportunity for other cultures to come together and study God's Word. Thursday classes have been the biggest challenge with students and children totaling 100 on most evenings.

Please pray for the ESL Christmas Party on December 5. All students and their families are invited for the meal, and Pastor Andrew will share the Word. Pray that the Lord will open their hearts to the truth of the Gospel. The ESL leadership is carefully thinking through how we can accommodate everyone for our Spring Semester. This ministry is unique and we could use more help in every area; teaching, helping in the classroom, and childcare. We will need snacks, books, and much more. BUT, our Lord has no limit on His resources!

### **East Salisbury School**

We have the opportunity again this year to help with the school's Christmas Store. We help the children buy gifts for parents and siblings with their good behavior bucks.

You can help in these ways:

First, we will collect new or slightly used items for children or adults. The school has about 460 students; many who come from low-income areas.

Second, we need wrapping paper, bows, tags, etc.

Third, come be a part of the "shopping day," Monday, December 18. It is a great time of fellowship with the children and the staff. We do morning and afternoon shifts and times will be provided soon. If you have any questions, see Sara Baranowski or Wanda Ferrier.

### **Our Members on Mission**

Mike Law visits friends and family members as a chaplain at PRMC. Pray for our ministry teams visiting local facilities and our many homebound members this Christmas season.

Pray for Emely Martin, serving as a CRU student leader at SU. Exam time is very hectic for our music major.

### **Mission Opportunities**

East Salisbury Christmas Shop  
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering supporting IMB missionaries.

### **Mission Team**

International Missions emphasis in December, January and February

Our next meeting will include plans for a day of prayer for unengaged and unreached people groups.

### **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

#### **Medical Needs**

Bounds, Amy  
Baker, Penny (Walt's sister)  
Bratten, Bill  
Dohr, Maureen  
Jordan, Kevin – (Judy's b.-in-law)  
Jordan, Maryanne – (Judy's sister)  
Simpson, Joyce  
Stimson, Marlyn

#### **Long-Term Needs**

Cheek, Virginia – Genesis  
Muenster, Cindy  
Powell, Missy  
Straub, Marge – Wicomico N. H.

### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

3 Hyung Kim  
8 Judy Harris  
8 Rehema Nyoni  
8 Gavin Shockley  
8 Susie Walters  
9 Liz Rosenberg  
11 Maureen Dohr  
15 Jay Moore  
21 Melody Hitch  
23 Noah Morgan



The office staff would like to thank you for your cooperation and support this year. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By Confession of Faith and Baptism



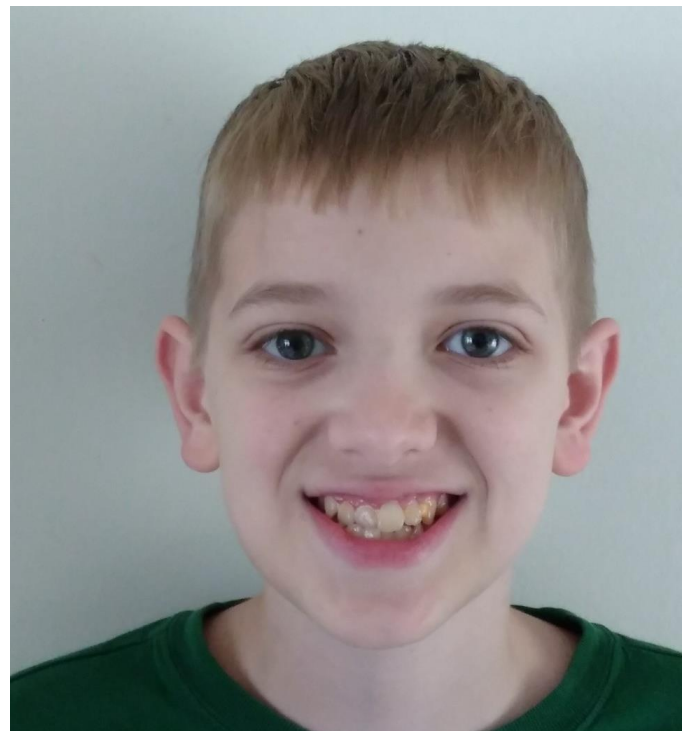
Josiah Morgan was born in Birmingham, Alabama, to our pastor Andrew and his wife Melinda on November 26. His favorite class in school is history, and his favorite Bible stories are The Resurrection and King Josiah. He enjoys spending his spare time playing soccer, Legos, hanging out with friends and reading the Bible. Ask him about his favorite soccer team—Liverpool F.C. Josiah is one of the stars on a local team, The Shooting Stars.



Aida Terry was born in Puerto Rico. We are happy to welcome her into our church family.



Madelyn Shockley was born in Salisbury. Her favorite classes in school are drama and choir, and she enjoys singing and reading in her spare time. Her favorite Bible story is Esther, and her future may include acting or becoming a Veterinary assistant.



Owen Shockley was born in Easton, MD. His favorite class is Choir and he enjoys Lego building and baking. His favorite Bible story is Jacob and Esau. His future may include acting.

