



## Pastor Mark's Minute:

Merry Christmas! Why do we celebrate Christmas?

It's such a busy time and there is always so much to do. And it seems that each holiday activity creates so many questions that just have to be answered. Shopping: What do they want? What do they need? What size, what color, what brand?

Baking: What do they like? What won't they eat? Is anyone allergic, vegan or gluten free? Travel: Where do we have to be? When do we have to be there? How long does it take to get there? When can we come home? And the question that influences all the other questions is; how much is it going to cost and when will I ever be able to pay it off?

This Christmas, I want you to know that I love you; it is truly a blessing to be your pastor and your friend. And because of that, I'd like to point you in the direction of the real reason for the season: Jesus. "Today in the town of David *a Savior has been born to you*; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

In preparation for Christmas, during the four weeks of the Advent Season, I hope you'll allow me to encourage you with what Jesus brings to our lives, the gifts Jesus has for you: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. And honestly, in this crazy world, who doesn't need a little more of these?

Join us at BWC and invite your neighbor or co-worker, family member or friend to celebrate Jesus with us too.

I'm excited to see you this Sunday!

A **Christmas Prayer**: Lord, be with us this Christmas.

In this world of disappointment, **You** are **Wonderful**.

In a time of anxiety, **You** are our **Counselor**.

In a season of instability, **You** are our **Mighty God**.

In a culture of great uncertainty, **You** are our **Everlasting Father**.

In a world of chaos, **You** are our **Prince of Peace**.

Be who You are, **Immanuel**, God with us, this Christmas. Amen



"Christmas is about giving from the heart more than giving from the store." --Toni Sorenson



How to accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior:

“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

Pray this prayer from your heart:

Dear Jesus, I am a sinner. I believe you died and rose from the dead to save me from my sins. I want to be with you in heaven forever. Please forgive me of all of my sins. I open my heart to you and now ask you to come into my life as my personal Lord and Savior. Please fill me and with your Holy Spirit. Guide me to live for you from this day forward and forever more. Amen.

“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.” John 1:14

## Fred’s Challenge 2025

The Bible is filled with promises on how God can change your life when you study His Word—*“Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.”* Joshua 1:8

It’s never too late to start regularly reading Scripture, and we have a simple plan that can help you spend time in God’s Word every day in the New Year.

When you decide to use the simple Fred’s Challenge Bible reading plan, it will help you grow closer to Jesus Christ this year. This Challenge Guide contains suggested readings for every day of the year.

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to do all I can to read through the New Testament of the Bible in 2025.**

Read one chapter per day, Monday-Friday with Saturday and Sunday used as catch-up days in case you missed one. Read or listen to 5 New Testament chapters per week x 52 weeks = 260 chapters. Invest time every day in Bible reading and prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you are reading. Check off each chapter as you read it. On the next page, there is a reading schedule for you to keep.

Fred's New Testament Challenge 2025																
Matthew	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
Mark	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Luke	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24								
John	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21											
Acts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
Romans	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1 Corinthians	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2 Corinthians	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
Galatians	1	2	3	4	5	6										
Ephesians	1	2	3	4	5	6										
Philippians	1	2	3	4												
Colossians	1	2	3	4												
1 Thessalonians	1	2	3	4	5											
2 Thessalonians	1	2	3													
1 Timothy	1	2	3	4	5	6										
2 Timothy	1	2	3	4												
Titus	1	2	3													
Philemon	1															
Hebrews	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
James	1	2	3	4	5											
1 Peter	1	2	3	4	5											
2 Peter	1	2	3													
1 John	1	2	3	4	5											
2 John	1															
3 John	1															
Jude	1															
Revelation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22										

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## **The Giving Tree**

Our Missionary Giving Tree is how we are able to encourage our missionaries at the Christmas Season. Here is how it works: The Giving Tree is in the foyer. On it are cards with each missionary's name, the gift idea, and the price. Pick out a card, take the 1<sup>st</sup> copy with you, put your name on the 2<sup>nd</sup> copy of that card and leave it on the tree. Then bring your financial gift to the church on or before December 17<sup>th</sup> and we'll collect them and send them off to each missionary for Christmas. Because shipping is so expensive, we'll collect the money you give, and send it to each missionary and they will do the shopping, wrapping, etc.

## **Devotional Reading for December**

To be able to better understand and embrace the reason for the season, you are invited to read one chapter of the Gospel of Luke each day through the month of December. Read it to your kids, your spouse, your dog or cat.

## **Advent** Our theme for this Christian Season is: "The Gifts of Jesus"

Each week we will feature a different gift that Jesus delivers to us that will lead us step by step right up to the manger on Christmas morn. Join us each Sunday at 10:30am.

\*If you would like to be part of our Advent Reading and Candle Lighting one Sunday during the Christmas Season, contact Pastor Mark to sign up.

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**

Our traditional Christmas Eve Service with communion will be on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00pm.

**Baptism** We are so thankful and excited for Shannon Gieber who was recently baptized! Please reach out and encourage Shannon for her step of faith. If you are interested in learning more about baptism, talk to Pastor Mark or Pam today.

## **Men's Group**

**Our Men's Group meets each Sunday evening at 6:30pm in the upstairs classroom. We are studying the book of Romans. All men are encouraged to join us!**

**Awana** Our Kid's group will be meeting on Wednesdays, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm-7:30pm. We'll have a three week break for Christmas and New Years and return on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you, Awana Leaders: Mabel, Angie, Gary, Linda, Hannah & Pastor Mark!



## Youth Group



Our Youth and Leaders will be off to The Xtreme Christian Conference in Branson, MO on December 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. Remember them in your prayers for safe travels and for God’s Holy Spirit to move in their hearts.

The High School Youth Group meets Sunday nights @ 7:00pm and the Junior High Youth Group meets on Wednesday nights @ 6:00pm.

**Thank you to everyone who purchased donuts!**

**You helped the kids raise \$1,335.00.**

Our Youth Group is selling 2025 Christian Calendars for \$10.00 each.

Each calendar has beautiful scenery for each month and scripture verses

to keep you encouraged. You can pick one up in the foyer or see a youth. They make

great stocking stuffers and are a super-gifts for that hard to shop for person on your list.



## The Exercise Class

“Wesleyan Church Family,

Straight from our hearts, we just wanted to say a very special thanks for allowing us to use the church for our exercise classes, it is so very much appreciated from all of us. And it works great to be able to hold the classes in the basement.

Thanks so much from all of us. 😊 It is a great blessing.

Kathleen, Jamie, Jana, Kayleen, Leora, Lela, Kathy, Carol, Marsha, Jewelda, Judy, Sharon, Gail, Lynda, Jennifer, Al, Vicki, Barb, Sandy, Susan, Rose, Sally, Melissa, Joyce, Doris, Mona, Jimella, Susan, Laurie, Clayton, Betsy, Judy, Marcia, Susan, Janet, Becky, Elaine, Joyce, Emma, Don, Kathy, Clay, Debbie, Sharon, Michael and Pam.”



Because we care...about you!