December 2022/January 2023

The Messenger

Newsletter

Avon United Methodist Church ■ 130 Genesee Street ■ Avon, NY 14414 ■ 585-226-8600 ■ www.avonnyumc.org

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Dates to Remember

Dec. 3	Avon Holiday Spectacular
Dec. 21	Winter Begins
Dec. 24	Family Xmas Service
Dec. 24	Candlelight Service
Dec. 25	Christmas Day
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve
Jan. 1	New Year's Day
Jan. 6	Epiphany
Jan. 16	MLK Jr. Day

A combined December and January newsletter, I like this. I like this because we're highlighting events that tend to get separated by our calendar. In December this happens and in January it also happens.

It's bad enough that in December we think "Christmas," well at least the secular world thinks that way. In the church year we're just entering the season of Advent that is taken from a Latin word: *adventus* which means "coming; arrival." In the church year, in December, we are expecting the coming of Jesus. Now your first thought is more than likely the coming of the celebration of his birth over 2,000 years ago. But Advent is also a time when we look forward; we look towards Jesus' return, what's been called his "second coming." And that was promised by God through his angels who told the disciples who had seen Jesus ascend to heaven: "'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'" (Acts 1:11) During Advent we are preparing for the coming of Jesus; yes, we are preparing for the Celebration of His birth on December 25, and we prepare ourselves for his return when what he started will be completed.

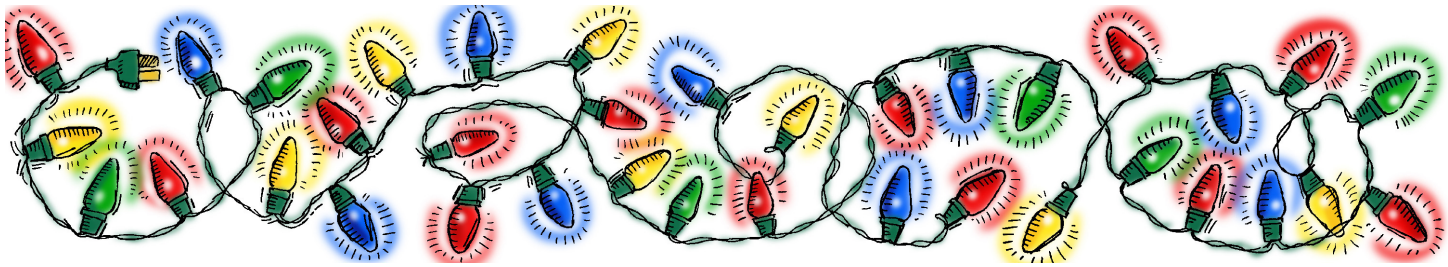
Now, let's consider what we're looking towards on December 25. We're looking to celebrate Jesus' birth and that's when Christmas begins!! Yes, you read that right, Christmas starts on December 25, everything we're going to do up to that day is Advent—waiting for the arrival. Christmas time is those 12 days we sing about, with five gold rings and a partridge in a pear tree. Christmas time is when we celebrate and remember Jesus' birth; the coming of Immanuel—God with us. We find this in Matthew's Gospel, and he refers to the Prophet Isaiah: "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us") [Matthew 1:22-23] In Jesus' birth and his life we celebrate God's coming to us in a special way, in human flesh—the Incarnation.

Then when those 12 days are done, we remember and celebrate the time that the 3 wise men show up, what's called Epiphany. The first Sunday falling between January 2 and January 8 is the traditional day to celebrate Epiphany. The word epiphany comes from a Greek word *epiphainein*, which means "reveal." Within the Christian faith we celebrate the revelation of God to all the world, both Jew and Gentile alike. This is when we highlight the verse in the Prophet Isaiah: "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you …. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn." (Isaiah 60: 1 & 3)

I look forward to the next several weeks as we can gather to celebrate the coming of Immanuel, the living revelation of God's Love for us.

May you have a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas and a Happy Epiphany.

Pastor Kent



Holiday Happenings
Avon United Methodist Church

11/27 10:00am Advent Worship Service - Chancel Choir

12/3 Avon Holiday Spectacular - Avon United Methodist Church will sponsor the Legend of the Candy Cane with free macaroni and cheese and a gift. Served from 3:00-6:00 pm

12/4 10:00am Advent Worship Service - Chancel Choir, Piano/ Organ duet

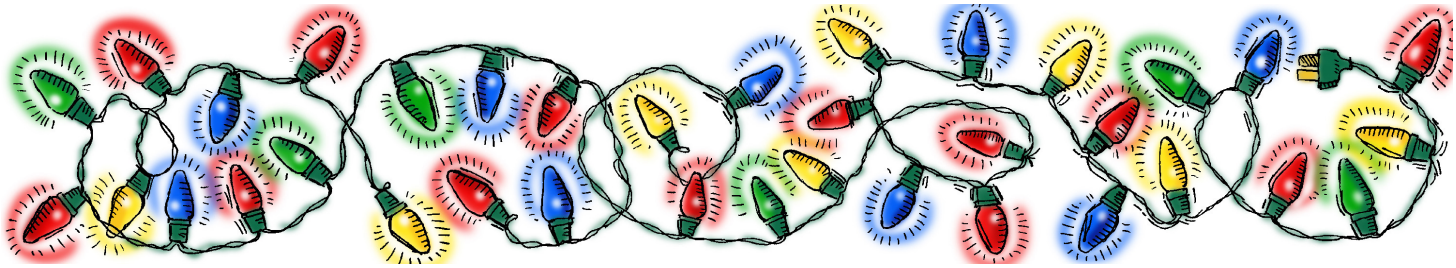
12/11 10:00am Advent Worship Service - Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells, Piano duet

12/17 7:30pm - Genesee Valley Children's Choir Concert

12/18 10:00am Advent Worship Service - Special Music - Genesee Valley Children's Choir

12/24 7:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service - Featuring special music (Chancel Choir, Chancel Bells, vocal solos/duets, piano solos, Piano/ organ duet), Silent Night in candlelight.

11:00 pm - Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols



DECEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Anniversaries
Dec 18 Brokaw, Dan & Julie
Dec 31 Beman, Larry & Barbara Bruce

December Birthdays
Dec 1 Jolene (Barrett) Rugg
Dec 2 Jackie Tickner
Dec 2 Audree Carpenter
Dec 3 Micki Stephenson
Dec 5 Mary Primm
Dec 6 Kenneth Furman
Dec 7 Bob French
Dec 10 Lorraine Southern
Dec 10 Benjamin Amey
Dec 15 Ralph Duryea
Dec 16 Jeff Cousins
Dec 18 Gary Davis
Dec 19 LuAnn Lottes
Dec 21 Lill Johnson
Dec 27 Bob Keenan
Dec 31 Donna House

JANUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

January Anniversaries
Jan 5 Sullivan, George & Nancy
Jan 19 Davis, Brian & Karen

January Birthdays
Jan 4 Brandon Moses
Jan 6 Mark McKeown
Jan 6 Barb Montesano
Jan 8 Tasha Hairston
Jan 10 Josh Deragon
Jan 11 Jodi Rowcliffe
Jan 15 Garry Henderson
Jan 16 Richard House
Jan 16 Bob House
Jan 19 Roy Moses
Jan 19 Sue Moses
Jan 19 Martha Cousins
Jan 20 Judson Gage
Jan 27 Mark Brennan
Jan 29 Jonah Cousins
Jan 29 Michelle Macierowski
Jan 31 Krista Moses

Avon Interfaith

I just wanted to include some items that were discussed at our October 20th Interfaith meeting.

A guest speaker from Avon Holiday Spectacular spoke. The event runs on Saturday December 3rd from 3-6 pm. There will be a family concert at the theater from 6:30-8 pm.

Our church is responsible for the 0-2 year old children that will be receiving gifts this year. Gift cards are always welcome. Items are being collected at the Central Presbyterian Church through December 14th. Someone is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am until noon. Pastor Karen can be reached on her cell phone # 585 738-3274 if you need to leave your gifts off at a different time. Distribution of gifts will be on December 17th from 9 am until noon. A special table is set up to accept any items that you no longer need but is too good to throw away. It is a free table for the families to take items if they have a use/need for them.

Zion church is going to start up a Repair Cafe. What is a repair cafe? Repair cafes are free meeting places and they are all about repairing things (together). In the place where the Repair Cafe is located, you will find tools and materials to help you make any repairs you need. On clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, appliances, toys, etc. You will find expert volunteers, with repair skills in all kinds of fields.

Why a Repair Cafe? We throw away a vast amount of stuff. Even things with almost nothing wrong and which could get a new lease on life after a simple repair. The trouble is, lots of people have forgotten that they can repair things themselves. Knowing how to make repairs is a skill quickly lost. This is a threat to a sustainable future and to the circular economy, in which raw materials can be used again and again.

Zion's vision is to start up in a few months. They currently have 3 volunteers who are handy men and a sewer. More volunteers are needed to make this work properly. If you have a skill you are willing to share, please contact the pastor at Zion at 585 683-2448 or e-mail at mamazzarelle@gmail.com. The Cafe would be open once a month for 2-3 hours. Light snacks will be provided and an area to just sit and chat with others.

The East Presbyterian Church will be hosting a one day Vacation Bible School event in December.. Details to follow.

Submitted by Jackie Potter

Avon Interfaith Liaison

CHRISTMAS BANNERS 1987

Mary on a Donkey, Joseph walking on
the way to pay taxes.....Sue Mastin

Bethlehem, a view.....Jean Rozler

The Stable (cave),
two animals (donkey, cow or ox).....Janet Brown

Three Wisemen,
with gifts for the new born king.....Linda Krieger

Shepherd and Three Sheep,
shepherd looking up to the sky.....Margie Houck

Baby Jesus in a Manger.....Jean Perrin

BANNERS MADE IN 1986

Mary, Joseph, and the baby, Jesus.....Jean Perrin

Two Angels.....Lill Johnson

BANNERS IN THE APSE
(behind the wooden cross)

The Star on Dark Blue
(left side looking in).....Sarah Mathias

Scriptures: "They will call Him Emmanuel
God-is-with-us" Matthew 1:23

"But you, who do you say I am?"
Matthew 16:15..Robert & Lucia Kerr

Banner designs by Lucia Kerr 1986,1987

Please note: There will be no worship services on Sunday, December 25th!

Submitted by: Deb Gage

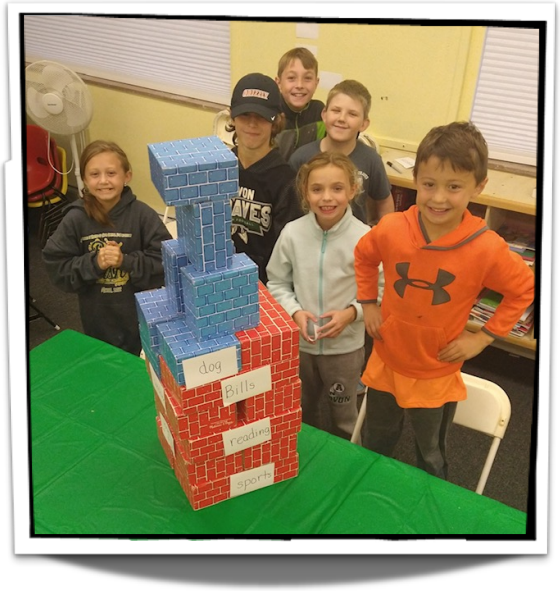
Current needs are paper products: toilet paper, paper towels & tissues.

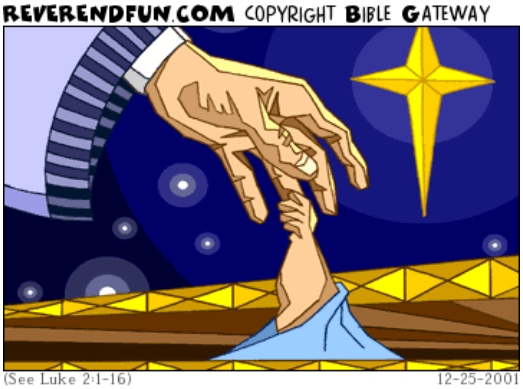
CHILDREN'S Sunday School

Exciting news! The children's ministry is thrilled to announce that our AUMC Sunday School is alive and well and meeting in person after two and a half years of remote learning.

Our students have been faithful and patient as the teachers did their best to provide faith-filled, meaningful, fun activities to share together through Zoom. Now we're back together and it's great to see each other and be able to interact in person. The children have grown so much, both physically and spiritually.

We are meeting once a month in the Sunday School room to share Bible stories, crafts, games and activities. New this year is a simple meal that we're sharing together. We hope to feed each heart soul and tummy. If you know anyone in grades K - 7 that would be interested, we'd love to have them join us. Talk to Sue Moses, Lori Combs, Cathy Dickinson or Rachel Giso or email Rachel at gisorachel@charter.net.





A CHILD IS BORN

I VOW TO MAKE MORE RESOLUTIONS NEXT YEAR

“Clearly, Dearly, Nearly”

By Alex Albany

In the movie 'Godspell,' I found three goals to try to live by day by day. O dear Lord, three things I pray: to see you more clearly, to love you more dearly, follow you more nearly.

Quite some time ago, Heather Arnold's daughter sang 'Jesus, Take the Wheel.' I found it very inspiring, and Brittanie did a good job with her awesome voice. Praise the Lord for God-given talents!

Holiday Bazaar

Featuring a variety of high-quality, unique, hand-made crafts!

DECEMBER 3, 2022

9 AM — 2 PM

Relax at our Café, featuring homemade soups and desserts.

GENESEO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4520 Genesee Street
(Route 63 and Court Street)

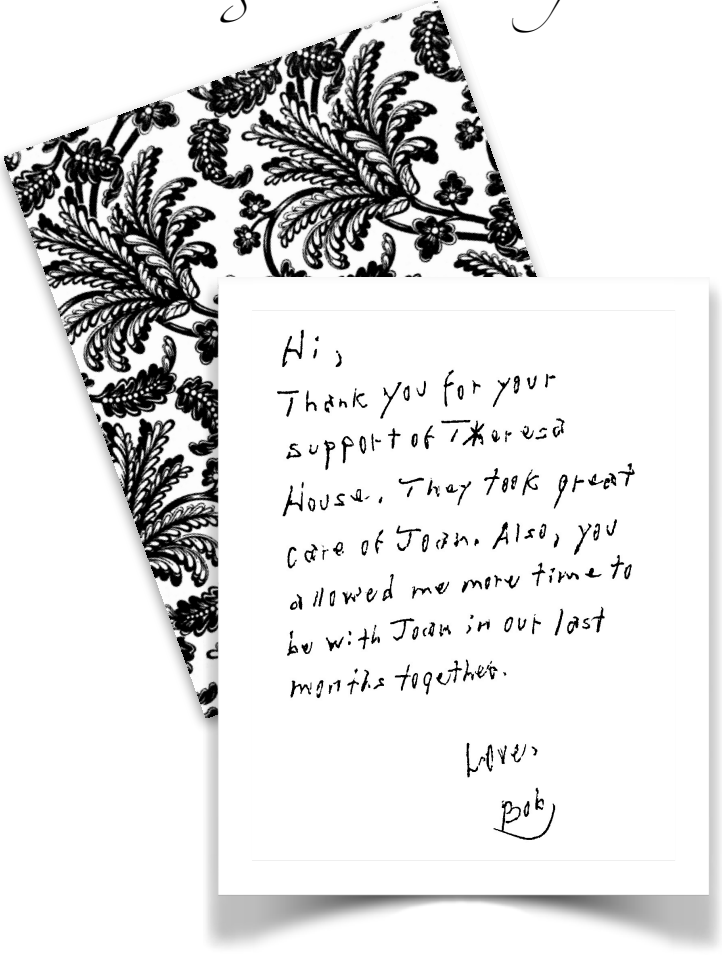
DEBIT and CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

"I Feel Truly Blessed"

By Alex Albany

On 10/9/22, I turned 69. I did not feel too old. I did have more wrinkles than last year. This year, I got a kidney. Praise the Lord for His mercy. I received many 'Get Well' cards. Thank you for your prayers. I can go out to libraries, restaurants, and church again. I am dealing with some side effects from some of my meds. As Amy Grant sings, "If there's anything good that happens in life, it's from Jesus." All I can say is, "Thank You, Jesus!"

A Message From Bob Wright



DECEMBER

2022

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				5:00 PM Brownie Scouts–FH **7:00 PM** SPPRC Via ZOOM		**3:00 PM** Avon Holiday Spectacular
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00 AM Coffee Hour **10:00 AM** Worship Service	**3:00 PM** Food Addicts	**9:00 AM** Bulletin Deadline **1:30 PM** TOPS –FH **7:00 PM** Advent Study Group	**6:00 PM** Cub Scouts-FH			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:08 AM Men's Breakfast **9:00 AM** Coffee Hour **10:00 AM** Worship Service **5:00 PM** Sunday School	**3:00 PM** Food Addicts **7:00 PM** UMW	**9:00 AM** Bulletin Deadline **1:30 PM** TOPS –FH **6:00 PM** Cub Scout Team Mtg. - SSR **7:00 PM** Advent Study Group		**5:00 PM** Brownie Scouts–FH **7:00 PM** Interfaith Meeting		**7:30 PM** Sanctuary Reserved
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 AM Coffee Hour **10:00 AM** Worship Service **1:00 PM** Sanctuary Reserved	**3:00 PM** Food Addicts **6:00 PM** Girl Scouts-FH	**9:00 AM** Bulletin Deadline **1:30 PM** TOPS –FH **7:00 PM** Advent Study Group				**7:30 PM** Family Xmas Eve Worship **11:00 PM** Candlelight Xmas Eve Worship *Christmas Eve*
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
NO WORSHIP SERVICE *Christmas Day*	**3:00 PM** Food Addicts	**9:00 AM** Bulletin Deadline **1:30 PM** TOPS –FH				**New Year's Eve**

JANUARY

2023

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Avon, NY 14414
585-226-8600 www.avonnyumc.org

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00 AM Coffee Hour **10:00 AM** Worship Service New Year's Day	**3:00 PM** Food Addicts	**9:00 AM** Bulletin Deadline **1:30 PM** TOPS –FH				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:08 AM Men's Breakfast **9:00 AM** Coffee Hour **10:00 AM** Worship Service	**3:00 PM** Food Addicts	**9:00 AM** Bulletin Deadline **1:30 PM** TOPS –FH **6:00 PM** Cub Scout Team Mtg. - SSR		**5:00 PM** Brownie Scouts–FH		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 AM Coffee Hour **9:00 AM** Newsletter Deadline **10:00 AM** Worship Service	**3:00 PM** Food Addicts **6:00 PM** Girl Scouts-FH MLK DAY	**9:00 AM** Bulletin Deadline **1:30 PM** TOPS –FH		**7:00 PM** Interfaith Meeting		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 AM Coffee Hour **10:00 AM** Worship Service	**3:00 PM** Food Addicts	**9:00 AM** Bulletin Deadline **1:30 PM** TOPS –FH		**5:00 PM** Brownie Scouts–FH		
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
9:00 AM Coffee Hour **10:00 AM** Worship Service	**3:00 PM** Food Addicts	**9:00 AM** Bulletin Deadline **1:30 PM** TOPS –FH				

World AIDS Day (December 1)

December 1 is the date set aside for United Methodist World AIDS Day observances. Be encouraged to pray for those infected with HIV/AIDS throughout the Advent season and throughout the year.

Praying the Prayer Jesus Taught
(Inspired by the Lord's Prayer)

Our Father…
You know me … You know about my HIV/AIDS.
Holy is your name …
Prince of Peace in the storms of rejection
Mighty God in the times of my weakness
Wonderful Counselor in the times of confusion
Everlasting Father in the times of initial and eventual death.

May Your Beloved Community come…
Where poverty will be no more
Where disease will be no more
Where discrimination will be abolished
Where justice will abound.

May Your Will become transparent in our culture…
A culture of intolerance and indifference
A culture of ignorance and fear
A culture of exploitation and destruction
A culture of xenophobia and homophobia.

Set us free to experience Your forgiveness…
For actions taken and not taken
For words said and not said
For limiting your possibility within
For not forgiving self or others.

Lead us from temptation to transformation
The temptation of war
The temptation of haughtiness
The temptation of ethnocentrism
The temptation of supremacy.

Provide us with the bounty of health
The food pyramid, not the politics of food
Acceptance, accessibility, and equality
Love, hope and, faith
Compassion, justice, and peace.

You deserve glory and honor
For loving me with my HIV/AIDS
For making medications possible through research and science
For the experience of comfort from friends, family, and caregivers
For having prepared a place for me in Abba Father's house.

AMEN for the breath I breathe.
AMEN for Your eternal breath.

-https://www.umcdiscipleship.org

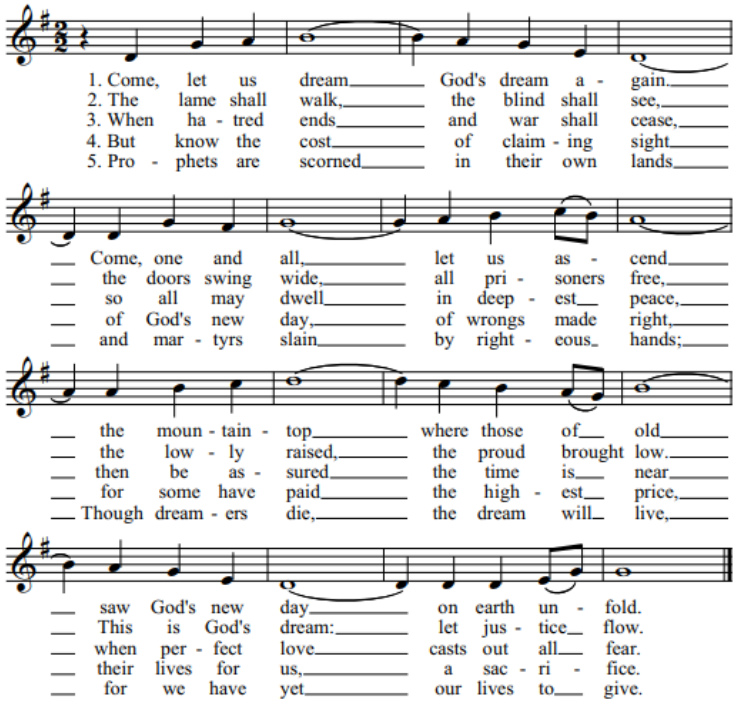
Come, Let Us Dream

This is the second hymn text by retired United Methodist pastor John Middleton. It came as an extension of his first hymn, Beloved Child, Beloved Community, which was an exploration of personal and corporate experiences of belovedness in the writings of Henry Nouwen and Martin Luther King, Jr. The fifth stanza of that first hymn was inspired by the writings of Martin Luther King on the subject. Come, Let Us Dream, explores that idea more fully.

-umcdiscipleship.org

Come, Let Us Dream

(Harmonization may be found in *The United Methodist Hymnal,* no. 408.)



WORDS: John Middleton, 2004 — GIFT OF LOVE
MUSIC: Trad. English melody — LM

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This is the second hymn text by retired United Methodist pastor, John Middleton. It came as an extension of his first hymn, "Beloved Child, Beloved Community" (http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=10514) which was an exploration of personal and corporate experiences of belovedness in the writings of Henry Nouwen and Martin Luther King, Jr . The fifth stanza of that first hymn was inspired by the writings of Martin Luther King on the subject, and "Come, Let Us Dream" explores that idea more fully. John Middleton now resides at 41 Pine Tree St., Lexington TN 38351, telephone 731-968-0578, email address pinetreealmanac@yahoo.com.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

January 16, 2023

The Messenger

Avon United Methodist Church

130 Genesee St.

Avon, NY 14414

(585) 226-8600

www.avonnyumc.org

December 2022/January 2023

Visit our website today or scan the code with a smartphone to go now...

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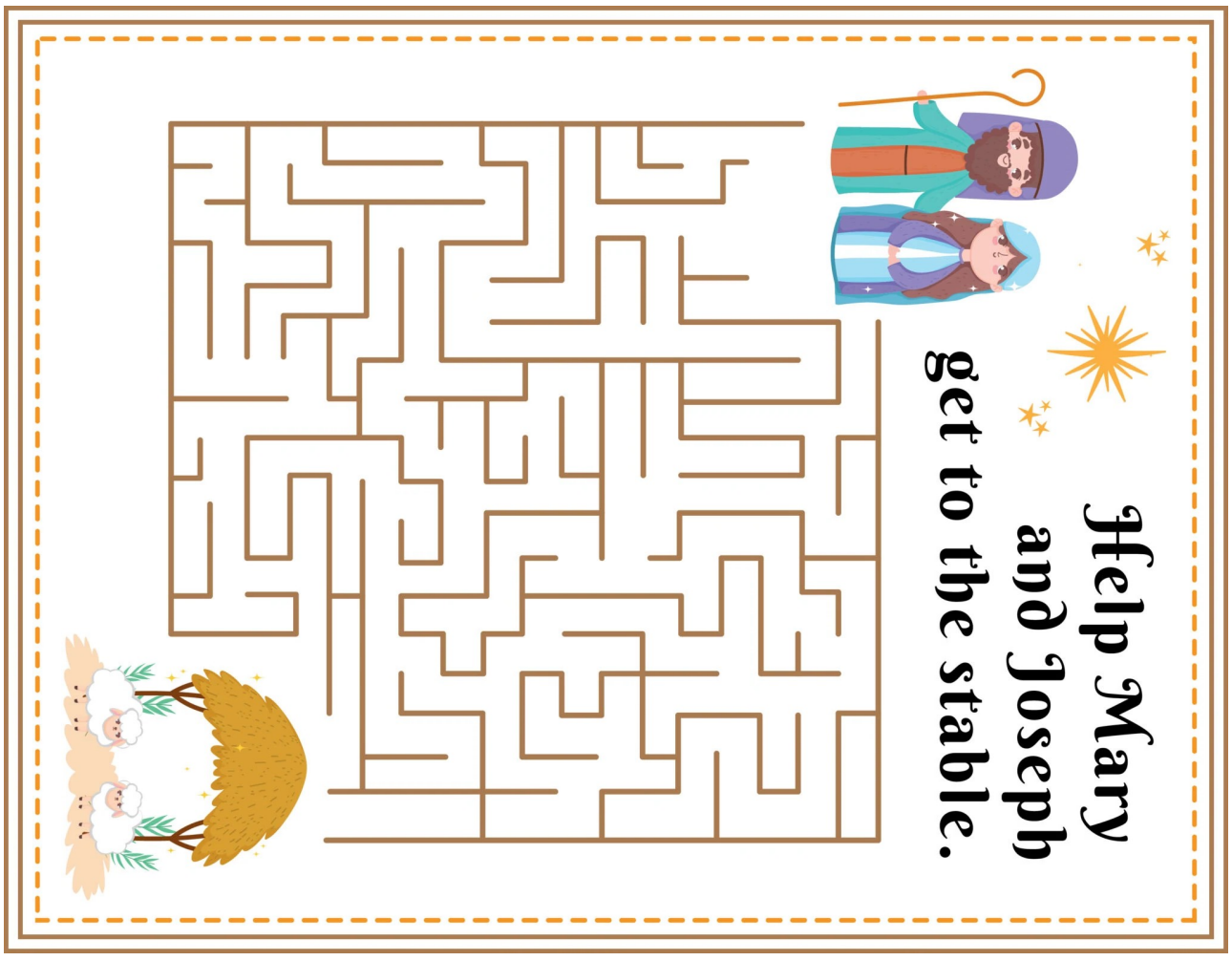
Please recycle.

Postmaster:
Time-Dated Material.
Please deliver promptly.
Return Service Requested