



January 8, 2015

Dear Friends,

As I was preparing for the Christmas Eve Services about a month ago, I decided to write new prayers for Christmas Eve, ones used in the lighting of the Advent Candles at the 8:00 PM service. One of the five printed prayers came out of my agony for a world so fractured with sin, another out of the endless delights of God's blessings.

As we enter this New Year, may these prayers be our prayers – glimpses of hope and joy for others, all in the name of the One who is the hope and joy of the world.

#### **A PRAYER FOR HOPE**

Dearest God,

In this world so darkened by anger and suspicion, violence and division, we yearn for glimpses of hope: the embracing of black and white, rich and poor, Christian, Jew and Muslim, parent and child, brother and sister.

Help us to see such glimpses of hope.

Help us to **be** those glimpses of hope.

Above all, thank you for your only Son, Jesus Christ, hope of the world. May we see in him not merely a glimpse, but the blazing glory of your presence and transforming power. Amen.

#### **A PRAYER FOR JOY**

God of joy and delight,

Thank you for the waddle of a duck and the wiggle of a daschund... the brilliance of a sunset and the twinkle of a star... the thunderous crash of an ocean wave and the soft coo of a mourning dove.

Thank you for a child's simple prayer and a room bursting with laughter... the big grin of a friend and the sweet purr of a kitten... a dog's wagging tail and a hawk's soaring flight.

Thank you, above all, for the deep, unspeakable joy that still ripples through all creation with the birth of your son.

Help us to catch the joy, to sing with the angels, run with the shepherds, give with the wiseman, and treasure it all with Mary.

Glory to God in the highest! Amen!

See you on Sunday,

Pastor John G. Hamilton

#### Upcoming Sermons:

January 18 – "A Whole New U"

January 25 – "Investing in Hope"

February 1 – "How's Your PH Factor?"

# January 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>December 28</b>	<b>December 29</b>	<b>December 30</b>	<b>December 31</b>	<b>1</b> OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 PM Family Promise	<b>2</b> No Preschool 6:00 PM Family Promise	<b>3</b> 6:00 PM Family Promise
<b>4</b> Ordination & Installation of Elders and Deacons 8:15 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship	<b>5</b> 9:30 AM Preschool 7:00 PM Dartball Captains Meeting 7:00 PM Deacon Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:30 AM Preschool 10:00 AM Fellowship of Prayer 7:00 PM Upward Coaches Training	<b>8</b> 9:15 AM MOPS - CANCELLED 9:15 AM Quilting 12:00 PM Thursday Knitters 7:00 PM Dart Ball 7:00 PM Upward Referee Training	<b>9</b> 9:30 AM Preschool 12:00 PM Men's Friday Lunch at Kings Restaurant	<b>10</b> 9:00 AM PW Bible study - CANCELLED 10:00 AM Saturday Knitters 10:00 AM Upward Cheer Clinic
<b>11</b> COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:15 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 6:00 PM Jr. High Youth Group 7:30 PM Sr. High Youth Group	<b>12</b> 9:30 AM Preschool 5:30 PM Upward Basketball Practice 6:00 PM Upward Cheerleading Practice 7:00 PM Session Teams	<b>13</b> 5:00 PM LOGOS 7:00 PM Bethany Youth Ringers 7:00 PM Upward Basketball Practice 7:00 PM Upward Cheerleading Practice 7:15 PM PW CT Meeting	<b>14</b> 9:30 AM Preschool 5:30 PM Upward Basketball Practice 6:00 PM Upward Cheerleading Practice 7:00 PM Bethany Choir Practice 8:30 PM Bell Ringers	<b>15</b> 9:15 AM Quilting 12:00 PM Golden Oldies Luncheon 12:00 PM Thursday Knitters 5:30 PM Upward Basketball Practice 6:30 PM Upward Cheerleading Practice 7:00 PM Dart Ball	<b>16</b> No Preschool 9:30 AM Preschool 7:00 PM Sr High Youth Group Lock In 7:00 PM Upward Basketball Practice	<b>17</b> 7:00 AM Sr High Youth Group Lock In 7:30 AM Food Bank 12:00 PM Fisher Court of Honor
<b>18</b> Upward Commissioning 8:15 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 6:00 PM Jr. High Youth Group	<b>19</b> No Preschool 5:30 PM Upward Basketball Practice 6:00 PM Upward Cheerleading Practice 6:30 PM Denominational Concerns Team Meeting	<b>20</b> 5:00 PM LOGOS 7:00 PM Bethany Youth Ringers 7:00 PM Stewardship Meeting 7:00 PM Upward Basketball Practice 7:00 PM Upward Cheerleading Practice	<b>21</b> 9:30 AM Preschool 5:30 PM Upward Basketball Practice 6:00 PM Upward Cheerleading Practice 7:00 PM Bethany Choir Practice 8:30 PM Bell Ringers	<b>22</b> 9:15 AM MOPS 9:15 AM Quilting 12:00 PM Thursday Knitters 5:30 PM Upward Basketball Practice 6:30 PM Upward Cheerleading Practice 7:00 PM Dart Ball	<b>23</b> 9:30 AM Preschool 12:00 PM Men's Friday Lunch at Kings Restaurant 7:00 PM Upward Basketball Practice	<b>24</b> 9:00 AM PW Bible study 9:00 AM Upward Basketball Games 1st day 10:00 AM Saturday Knitters
<b>25</b> BAPTISM SUNDAY Haiti Mission Trip Commissioning 8:15 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 12:00 PM Conversation on Bible, Marriage & Sexuality 6:00 PM Jr. High Youth Group 7:30 PM Sr. High Youth Group	<b>26</b> 9:30 AM Preschool 5:30 PM Upward Basketball Practice 6:00 PM Upward Cheerleading Practice 7:00 PM Session Meeting	<b>27</b> 5:00 PM LOGOS 7:00 PM Bethany Youth Ringers 7:00 PM Upward Basketball Practice 7:00 PM Upward Cheerleading Practice	<b>28</b> 9:30 AM Preschool 5:30 PM Upward Basketball Practice 6:00 PM Upward Cheerleading Practice 7:00 PM Bethany Choir Practice 8:30 PM Bell Ringers	<b>29</b> 9:15 AM Quilting 12:00 PM Thursday Knitters 5:30 PM Upward Basketball Practice 6:30 PM Upward Cheerleading Practice 7:00 PM Dart Ball	<b>30</b> 9:30 AM Preschool 7:00 PM Upward Basketball Practice	<b>31</b> 9:00 AM PW Bible study 9:00 AM Upward Basketball Games

