

Dear Parents,

Christmas is a time of year when many families take part in traditions that have been handed down for generations. One of my family's traditions is using an advent wreath. When we are together for an evening meal we read scripture, light a candle on the wreath, and say a special prayer.



Gathering together with family and friends for Christmas is a wonderful opportunity to give testimony to the most important relationship of all, our relationship with Jesus. Take opportunities to celebrate with your children this Christmas season and create memories that will last forever.

At the WEE Center, our focus is on the wonderful gift God gave us through the birth of Christ. We celebrate His birth and ways we can give to others. Celebrating the birth of Christ during our Christmas program on December 15<sup>th</sup> is one way to teach the children the story behind Christmas. It is an opportunity to bring all the WEE Center families together in celebration of this joyous occasion.

The staff and teachers at the WEE Center wish you a Merry Christmas. We pray that your holiday is filled with the celebration of family and the blessings God has given you. If there is anything that we can do to help make your holidays more meaningful, please let us know.

The last page of this newsletter includes an Advent Calendar of activities for your family. Enjoy this time together!

Peace Be With You,  
Ann Lipton  
Director

***For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,  
which is Christ the Lord! Luke 2:11***

## At-A-Glance Calendar



**Saturday & Sunday,  
December 10 & 11; 3:00 – 7:00 pm**  
Bethlehem Walk

**Wednesday, December 14**  
Last Regular school day before  
Christmas Vacation

**Thursday, December 15**  
**10:15 – 11:30 AM**  
Christmas Program in the Sanctuary followed  
by Birthday Party for Jesus in the Fellowship  
Hall

**Thursday, December 15 – Monday, January 2**  
Christmas Vacation – No School

**Tuesday, January 3**  
Classes Resume

**Tuesday, January 10**  
After School Session 3 Begins

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**It's Snowing,  
Is The WEE Center  
Closed?**



**If FCPS is:**  
Closed  
1 Hour Late  
2 Hours Late  
Early Closing

**The WEE Center is:**  
Closed  
Opens at 11 AM  
Opens at 12 NOON  
Closes at 12 NOON

# Just Ahead

## Bethlehem Walk

Saturday & Sunday,  
December 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 – 7:00 PM



Parkwood transforms into the town of Bethlehem on the night Jesus was born. Stroll back in time as you enjoy a personal tour of Bethlehem. The evening features beautiful Christmas music, costumed characters, and even a stable with live animals! It is all free, fun, and uplifting. For more information, check out the Church website, [www.parkwood.org](http://www.parkwood.org).

## WEE Center Christmas Program

Thursday, December 15, 10:15 AM  
Parkwood Sanctuary



The WEE Center students will perform songs and present the Nativity Story for family and friends. Please bring your child to their classroom at 10:00 then go

directly to the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to attend.

- \*\*Use the WEE Center Entrance and walk your child directly to their class at 10:00 am
- \*\*Have a seat in the Sanctuary
- \*\*After the program, enjoy a brief birthday celebration with your child in the Fellowship Hall

### PLEASE NOTE:

**\*\*\*This is not a school day. We will not have Kiss & Ride and students do not need their school bags or lunch. The students will be dismissed to you immediately following the program. \*\*\***

*God loved us and sent His son.*

I John 4:10

# News & Notes

## Here are some reading recommendations for Christmas:

**The Christmas Star** by Paloma Wensell

**Itsy Bitsy Christmas: You're Never Too Little for His Love!** By Max Lucado

**The Christmas Story for Children** By Max Lucado



**God Gave Us Christmas** by Lisa Tawn Bergren & David Hohn

**Room for a Little One: a Christmas Tale** by Martin Waddell



## After-School Classes Session 3 Tuesday 1/10/17 to Thursday 2/16/2017

Register your child for one class to three classes a week. For first time participants, remember to include the enrollment form and the one-time \$25 enrollment fee.

**1 day a week = \$50**

**2 days a week = \$95**

**3 days a week = \$135**

### Tuesday: One Letter Day

Using different letters each week, this class will give the children an introduction to reading concepts. With an emphasis on letter sound and pronunciation, this class will help children understand that symbols have meaning while they gain a love for literacy.

### Wednesday: Moving & Grooving

With an emphasis on body movement and self-awareness, this class will let the children work off any excess energy they may still have after a busy school day. Using a combination of fine and gross motor skills in a variety of activities is a sure way to get the children to learn while having fun.

### Thursday: Magical Math

Numbers are everywhere. Young children love to explore and learn math concepts. This class will encourage a love of arithmetic while engaging the children in exciting math games and activities.

# Parkwood Happenings

## New Sunday Schedule

### Prayer Service

8:30 am Fellowship hall

We are providing a new opportunity for the Parkwood family to gather to pray. This will be a creative and contemplative time of prayer designed to connect our hearts to our Heavenly Father. Each Sunday all are invited to begin the morning with this 45 minute quiet time.

### Contemporary Service

9:30 am in the Sanctuary

### Coffee & Fellowship

10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

### Traditional Service

11:00 am in the Sanctuary

**Adult and Children Sunday School during both church services**

**Childcare during all three times.**

## Celebrate Christmas With Us!

### Christmas Eve Services

4:30, 6:00 & 7:30 pm



# Thoughts from Pastor Mike

*“Ready or Not...”*

A favorite game for children in any generation is “Hide and Seek”. One person is chosen to be “IT” and they close their eyes and count to 100 while everyone else scrambles about to hide somewhere in the designated area. Once they reach 100 the person who is “IT” shouts the words...*“ready or not, here I come”*. This is the fair warning that the “seeker” is now coming whether you are hidden or not. That’s when the game gets exciting.

It’s kind of like Christmas. It comes each year whether you are ready for it or not. The music starts playing on the radio...the shops and neighborhoods are getting decorated...*“ready or not, here it comes!”* It isn’t that Christmas is a surprise. After all, it is the same day every year! It isn’t that we are hiding from it. Most of us welcome the season. Maybe, in the busyness of our lives we just feel like we’re not quite ready. The first Christmas was similar.

The Bible tells us that the “coming” (Advent) of Jesus was something that had been prophesied and foretold from the very beginning. Not a surprise. In fact, the Old Testament is a lot like the count to 100 and as the birth of Jesus approached God was saying, “Ready or not, here I come”. The Scripture also says that the Messiah was something people longed for and needed. Not hiding from it. But maybe, in the busyness of their lives people just didn’t feel ready. When Jesus showed up it changed everything. But not everybody made the room in their lives to celebrate it. They knew it was coming...they wanted it to come...but...





Christmas is coming...*“ready or not”*. It is the annual reminder that Jesus came to “seek” and save those He has created and loves. It is no accident that one of the clearest set of stories Jesus told to tell us about God’s love was about a Shepherd searching for a lost sheep, a woman looking for a lost coin, and a Father waiting for a lost son. In each story the seeker never stopped searching and watching until it was found.

Jesus loves you and Christmas is when we celebrate the truth that God came to us...seeking us out. He is still seeking those who are lost and hiding. **Christmas is “coming”...“ready or not”!**

# December 2016

## Family Advent Calendar

from Parkwood WEE Center

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	27 Read about the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary in <b>Luke 1:26-38</b>	28 Share your good news! Surprise someone with a visit, a call or a letter.	29 	30 Have an indoor picnic	1 Mary was a servant of the LORD. How can you be a servant & help someone you know?	2 Mary did God's will. Say a prayer asking God for the courage to do His will.	3 Find out how your grandparents celebrated Christmas as children
4 Read about the birth of Jesus in <b>Luke 2:1-7</b>	5 Show do you think Mary & Joseph felt when there was no room for them in the inn?	6 Start today with a prayer & make room for Jesus in your life	7 Sing songs about the birth of Jesus 	8 Look on a map and find Bethlehem	9 Remember to smile today & say "Merry Christmas!"	10 Make a thank you card for your mail carrier	
11 Read about the Angels & Shepherds in <b>Luke 2:8-20</b>	12 	13 Pretend you are a shepherd & share the good news about the birth of Jesus	14 Donate food to your local food pantry	15 Make a Christmas picture & write the words from Luke 2:14 on it	16 Share Candy Canes with your neighbors	17 Cut the word "JOY" out of construction paper and decorate it	
18 Read about the visit of the Magi in <b>Matthew 2:1-12</b>	19 Tonight, go outside and look up at the stars & Sing "Joy to the World"	20 Help someone in your family today with an act of kindness	21 Make star shaped cookies to share	22 Thank God for sending us His son	23 Sing "Silent Night"	24 "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" <b>2 Cor. 9:15</b>	
25 	26 "God loved us & sent His Son" <b>1 John 4:10</b>	27 Think of ten things you can thank God for this season	28 Feed the birds	29 Read <b>John 3:16-17</b>	30 Find two twigs & tie them together with a red ribbon. Celebrate Jesus' gift to us	31 Count the blessings God has sent your way this year	