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# Family Matters

NEWS AND REMINDERS FOR THE TEHACHAPI CHURCH OF CHRIST FAMILY

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December 20, 2020

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If it seems like this pandemic is some kind of test, that's because it is. Of course, so is everything else bad that happens in our lives. Peter reminds us, however, that this is actually a good thing:

*<sup>6</sup>In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

I Peter 1

We can rejoice in any grief we suffer, and we can rejoice in the blessings God provides in the form of luxuries and relief that come through various means. Joy to the World, indeed! Have a very Merry Christmas!

-Mark

Today's lesson:

# O Holy Night

## **Remember in Prayer:**

**Kirk Stewart** is suffering from Covid, and since he is very limited in movement, pneumonia is a concern. **Pat's** facility now has heavy restrictions as well, due to a staff member's positive test. Bill's brother, **David Willingham**, in Dothan, Alabama, has been suffering mightily with Covid and a reaction to a steroid treatment.

**Betty** tested positive for Covid, and **Derek** seems to have it as well. They're better, but keep praying!

**Cliff and Debbie Lowerre** have both suffered from Covid, but Cliff has recovered and is back at work, and Debbie says she feels as good as new!

**Elizabeth Sheley** had her second brain surgery, and was resting at home at last report. They do believe they removed all of the tumor, but there may be further treatments needed.

**Norman Atchison** is home from the hospital at Manuelito after fighting Covid for many days, but he is still struggling. They ask for continued prayers.

It is believed that the **Navajo Nation** will suffer a 500% increase in cases of Covid, and they are not equipped to treat any severe cases.

**Pablo Blanco did not pass away**, as we mistakenly reported. He is hopeful that this round of therapy is working.

**Tony Monterroza** (from Cindy's work) went home from the hospital last week, but is very weak. His wife, **Norma**, to whom he previously donated a kidney, was admitted to the hospital as Covid was affecting that kidney..

**April Mathis's parents** have both tested positive for the Covid, and are in high-risk categories. Pray that their symptoms do not become severe!

April Wiley's friend, **Linda Nunez**, has now received an amazingly good report at a recent check-up. She is thankful for our prayers and asks that we keep praying.

Pray that **Kirk Stewart** will gain strength in his legs and that he might soon be able to have visits from Pat (and others).

**Bob Hanna** has been having more bad days recently.

Remember **Robert Rivera** and **Donna Ricker's** health issues as well.

**Pray for the many people who are distressed, anxious, and ill** due to the Corona virus, with a special prayer for healthcare workers, and first responders.

**Remember the homeless**, and pray for **Blair** as he works to minister to them!

### **Always remember:**

Men and women of our military.

Families serving in the mission field

The children and staff at Manuelito Navajo Children's Home

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## Worship online:

We may or may not be meeting in person in the near future, but either way, we will still have worship online. Go to our website (tehachapicofc.org) and use the link that Mike provides in order to get to the worship playlist for the week.

In addition to a prayer for the bread and cup at the end of the lessons, there are also some chosen acapella songs and hymns with various singers.!

**Just click on this link or copy and paste it into your browser for this week's worship playlist:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2bAmdPnK-s&list=PLwrNL2yL9V\\_ZIMRbPqQM0tZvDMuUOvbKY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2bAmdPnK-s&list=PLwrNL2yL9V_ZIMRbPqQM0tZvDMuUOvbKY)

(or click on "Lessons", on our website and choose the date)



**ZOOM** meetings are still taking place on Wednesdays at 4:30 and 7:00 We have started a new study from Jonathan Stortment, using his book and video series, *How to Start a Riot*.

If you would like to be included, contact Brenda: **email:** [brendabixler106@gmail.com](mailto:brendabixler106@gmail.com) **call or text:** 661-803-5444 to join by *phone or computer*.

**We also have a meeting each Sunday at 6:00pm!**



## Christmas gifts for Manuelito kids!

Due to your generosity, four kids at Manuelito will have a Merry Christmas! Well over \$1200 dollars have gone to provide many of the items on their wish lists. Most of them are already on their way to the home, but you can always ask Brenda what items might still be needed. We are also providing some needed items for the kitchen in one of the cottages. A full report will be provided soon.

## **Tehachapi Church of Christ**

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### **Mark Bixler's office** **hours by appointment**

Call or text: 818/470-5793

Email: [marklbixler@yahoo.com](mailto:marklbixler@yahoo.com)

### **Schedule of Weekly Services**

#### **Sunday**

AM Bible Class – 9:30am (**Temporarily suspended**)

AM Assembly – 10:30am (**Temporarily suspended**)

PM Bible Study – 6:00 **ZOOM Meeting online**

#### **Monday**

Alanon\* will resume when possible

#### **Wednesday**

Women's Bible Study-10:30 AM (**Temporarily suspended**)

PM Bible Study – 4:30 & 7:00 PM **ZOOM Meeting online**

#### **Friday**

Alcoholics Anonymous\* will resume when possible

\*Alanon and Alcoholics Anonymous are not direct ministries of the church, but their purposes are supported by the church, and they meet in our Fellowship Room

Elder of the Month:

***Bill Willingham***

**Minister:** Mark Bixler

**Elders:** Derek Demus & Bill Willingham

### **What plans might God have for your life?**

Jesus personally intervened in the life of Saul on the road to Damascus. Saul had made it his mission to persecute followers of Jesus. A man named Ananias was sent to Saul to tell him that God had very different plans for his life. Ananias said to Saul, "...what are you waiting for?

Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:3-16)

*If you might be on the wrong path, it would be our privilege to help you discover God's plans for your life! Ask for a personal Bible study on the Welcome Card, or contact Mark Bixler.*