



# The Cross and The Flame

December 2009



Pastor John and  
Kathleen McFarland

## Who Started Christmas anyway?

I heard a story of a woman who was Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking for toys and everything else imaginable, and after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids. She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year: overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, getting that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, making sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally the elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and stated: *"Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot."*

From the back of the car everyone heard a quiet calm voice respond: "Don't worry lady, we already crucified him." For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

What can you do to bring more PEACE in your family this Christmas? In the McFarland home we have been sending Easter cards, reducing our December load. What practical choices have you made that create space for Jesus during Christmas? Let's pray about it and share our ideas with each other so the Prince of Peace will find room in our hearts this season.

Peace on Earth Good Will to all humanity!



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Listen!  
I am standing at  
the door,  
knocking; if  
you hear my  
voice and open  
the door, I will  
come in to you  
and eat with  
you, and you  
with me."

—Revelation 3:20,  
NRSV

# Worship This Month!

DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

8:30 Family Focused worship

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Children's Christmas Musical!

6:00 Children's Christmas Musical!

"Miracle on Main Street"

DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup> ,20<sup>th</sup> ,27<sup>th</sup>

NEW WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

9:00 United Service

10:15-11:10 Sunday School for all ages

10:30 *Traditional Worship Service at Huntington Beach UMC*

11:15 Connection Lighting of the advent wreath. The music of Christmas at all service

## CHRISTMAS REDS, GREENS... and BLUES?

We love to think of Christmas as wonderful festive season. But for many it is not. The holidays may be BLUE for you. Filled with loneliness or sadness.

How does something beautiful like Christmas become a burden?

For many the pressure to buy gifts, send cards and attend more events creates a lot of pressure. The crass commercialism can become offensive. The celebration of Christ's birth becomes an excuse for merchants to make money. The commercial pressure to spend beyond our means is real.

Christmas can also lead to memories of Christmas's past. These may be sad things, past hurts or loss of loved ones. Because Christmas is an intense time of expected warmth, we may feel especially vulnerable when we're hurting. It may seem like everyone else except us is merry. We may even feel more lonely.

Let this be a great time of healing for you. The Christmas story in Matthew 2 includes the death of innocent children by King Herod. It is no Holly Jolly event. Jesus bursts into a world of sin. comes to bring us calmness and peace. Be extra sensitive to those who are Blue.

*"Cast out our sin and enter in be born in us today."*

*Savage Chickens*

by Doug Savage



www.savagechickens.com

# New Worship Experience!

By bringing together the 8:30 am Family and 11 am Traditional services, we feel we can better connect the church body, in a worship service that is attractive to families and faithful to our traditional roots. This also allows us to focus our music resources on one blended worship time at FV, while allowing the generations to join together at least weekly and to love and greet one another.

This also gives our outreach to Huntington Beach the attention it needs. People who want this later hour (10:30) can attend the services there with Pastor John preaching. He will be able to give pastor care as he greets folks after the service.

To meet the growing needs of our contemporary style worshippers, the 11:15 am Connection service will soon be moving from the East Chapel to the main sanctuary. This will afford them the opportunity to grow beyond the limits of the East Chapel and to attract new people from the community to our church.

In the future, we plan for our Hispanic service to meet in the East Chapel, in the 11:15 am time slot currently used by the Connection service. This will have these 2 bodies worshipping at the same time on our campus and allow all our children to attend Sunday School together.

Our worship is directed toward God, and not the congregation. (Exodus 34:14 – “How Great Thou Art” God is the audience...it's not about us, but us finally coming to the recognition that it's all about Him. Our worship is a celebration of our Love for God and for Neighbor. It helps us to connect in ministry and sends us out to Go to those who don't know. Worship at our church is motivated by a desire to draw people into the presence and knowledge of God and move them to an active response to the person and work of God (Isaiah 6:1-8). Worship is filled with all the emotions of life! It is our life! God designed us to be in relationship with Him. May our corporate worship take wings!

## **At FVUMC (Sunday Services)**

8:45am-9:00am Awakening  
(Worship Warm-Up & Hymn Sing)

**9:00am-10:00am United**  
(Blended Worship)

**10:15am-11:10am Sunday School**  
(for all ages)

**11:15am-12:15pm The Connection**  
(Contemporary Worship)

**1:30pm-3:00pm Hispanic**  
(en español)

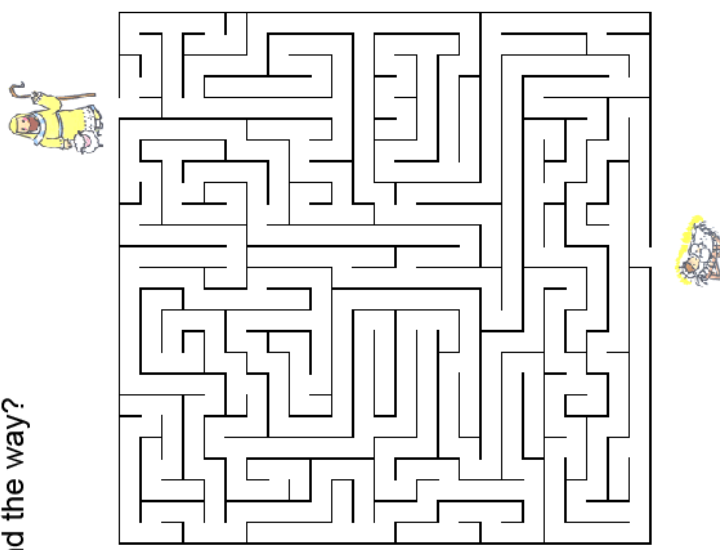
**At HBUMC (Sunday Services)**  
**9:00am-10:00am Sunday School**  
**10:30am-11:45am Traditional Worship**



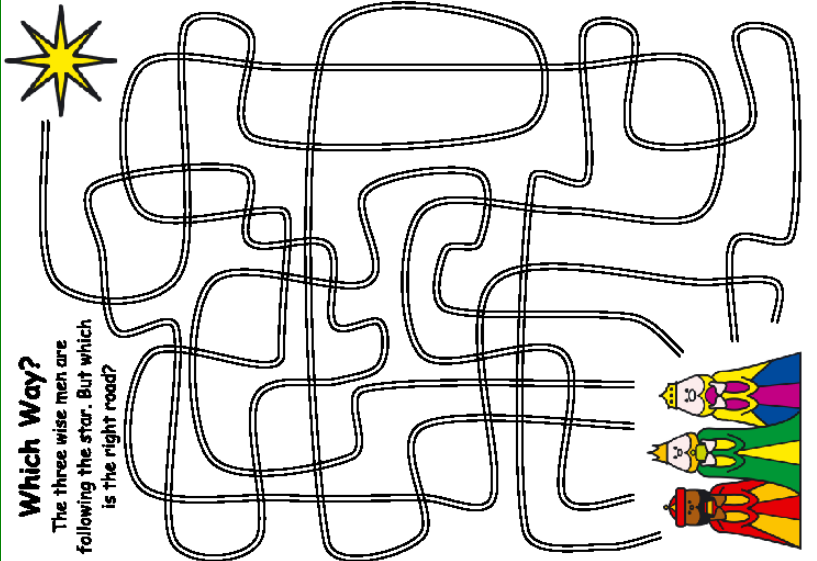
# Worship

# WISDOMS OF THE EAST

The shepherd is looking for the Baby Jesus. Can you help him find the way?



**Which Way?**  
The three wise men are following the star. But which is the right road?

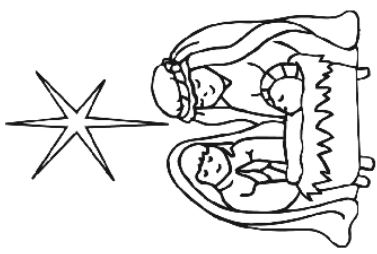
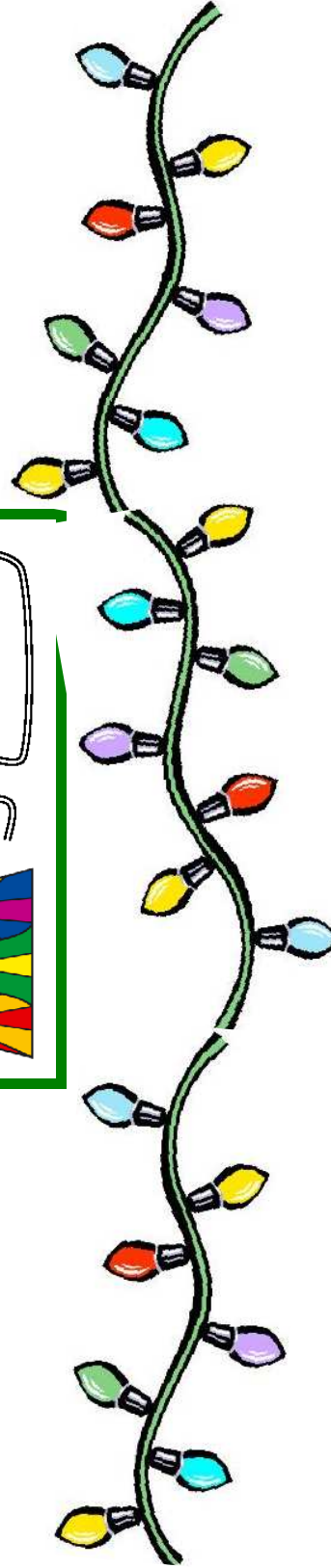


**Nativity Word Scramble**

All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?

1. STRA
2. MAGREN
3. MYAR
4. SEPHE
5. DOEYKN
6. AEGLN
7. JPHOES
8. JSSEU
9. KISSN
10. STBALE

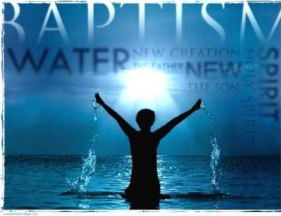
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# December 2009

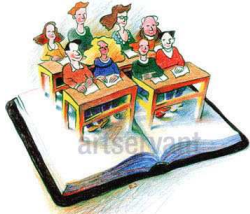
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 Without a Doubt 7:00 Trustees	2 9:30 Women's B. Study 3:30 Musical Theater 5:30 Jr High Bible Study 6:00 Prayer 6:00 Revelation Study 7:00 High School Youth 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Breaking Free	3 11:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Youth Choir 7:00 Connection Bbl Sdy 7:00 Women's Bible Sdy 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Fishers of Men	4	5 7:30 UMM @ Carrows 7:30 Men's Bible Study 8:00 Welcome Home  11:00 Musical Theater Rehearsal
6 6:00 p.m. Musical Theater "Miracle on Main Street"	7 11:00 Moms In Touch	8 10:30 am UMW 7:00 Without a Doubt 7:00 Ad Board	9 9:30 Women's B. Study 5:30 Jr High Bible Sdy 6:00 Prayer 6:00 Revelation Study 6:30 MASH 4077 7:00 High School Youth 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Breaking Free	10 11:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Connection Bbl Sdy 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Fishers of Men	11	12 "Last Pair of Shoes" Tijuana Trip 7:30 Men's Bible Study 7:30 Finance Committee 8:00 Welcome Home 10:00 UMM Exec Board
13 Service Change Starts Today! 9:00 am United Service 10:30 am HBUMC 11:00 am Connection	14 11:00 Moms In Touch	15 7:00 Without a Doubt	16 9:30 Women's B. Study 3:30 Musical Theater 6:00 Youth Family Night 6:00 Prayer 6:00 Revelation Study 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Breaking Free	17 11:30 Staff Meeting 3:45 Youth Choir 7:00 Connection Bbl Sdy 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Fishers of Men	18	19 7:30 Men's Bible Study 8:00 Welcome Home
20 5:30p Stewardship Dinner	21 Preschool Closed till January 4th 11:00 Moms In Touch	22 7:00 Without a Doubt	23 9:30 Women's B. Study 3:30 Musical Theater 5:30 Jr High Bible Study 6:00 Prayer 6:00 Revelation Study 7:00 High School Youth 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Breaking Free	24 5:00 pm Family Candlelight Service 7:00 pm HBUMC Family Candlelight Service 11:00 pm Midnight Candlelight Service	25 Office Closed	26 7:30 Men's Bible Study 8:00 Welcome Home
27	28 11:00 Moms In Touch	29 7 pm Without a Doubt	30 9:30 Women's B. Study 3:30 Musical Theater 5:30 Jr High Bible Study 6:00 Revelation Study 7:00 High School Youth 7:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Breaking Free	31		

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BAPTISMS (Renewal and 1<sup>st</sup> time commitment)  
IN THE WARM WATERS OF GOD'S LOVE  
DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> CONTACT PASTOR JOHN..

WANT TO BE CONNECTED AS A MEMBER of FVUMC?  
CONTACT PASTOR John McFarland  
RECEPTION OF MEMBERS DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>



Get Ready!  
*Revival of the Academy for Christian Growth starting in mid-January!*

**JESUS OUR LORD AND SAVIOR**

*(Written by Lambert with the help of Pastor John and sung to the tune of Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer)*

You know Adam & Noah & Joseph & Moses  
prophets by whom  
God's Salvation discloses  
But do you recall  
The most famous Savior of All?  
Jesus our Lord and Savior  
Lived with God above we know  
And when he saw his people  
Love went out to those below  
All of the other nations  
used to laugh and call God names  
They never prayed or worshipped  
But just joined in selfish games  
Then one foggy Christmas Eve  
Jesus Christ was born  
All the Shepherds came to see  
The Christmas Child that morn  
Then how the nations loved him  
And they shouted out with glee  
Jesus our Lord and Savior  
You're the Joy of History!



**December 5th!**

Come join the fun at  
HBUMC's annual  
progressive dinner.

Cost is \$12 per person.

This is a wonderful opportunity  
to meet and fellowship with  
those at our HB campus.





# United Methodist Women

## December Birthdays!

- 2 Huff, Anthony
- 3 Donley, Brian  
Harakas, Tammie
- 4 Hollenbeck, Mark  
Woodward, Kenda
- 6 Nehrbass, Micah
- 7 Reed, Ruth  
McFarland, Forrest
- 8 Bonthius, Chris  
Kempf, Jamie
- 10 Stambol, Sylvia
- 11 Alves, Kathy
- 12 Clendenin, Ashley  
Scott, Santana
- 13 Wallace, Eleanor
- 14 Marbut, Molly
- 15 Woodward, Jenae
- 17 Jennings, Shirley
- 19 Woodward, Caylin
- 20 Traphofner, Tom
- 23 Matheny, Kathryn
- 27 King, Jessamine  
McFarland, Mikaela  
Nehrbass, Natasha
- 28 Nehrbass, Kristina
- 31 Yamashiro, Grace

*If your name has accidentally been left off the birthday list, please call the church office and let us know! Thank you!*

### SAVE THE DATE

December 8th  
is the  
Annual Potluck and program  
which will be held at 10:30 a.m.  
The preschool children will sing  
and  
Leslie Ashcraft will be speaking.  
We will have our meal at 12:00 noon.  
Please come join us for a time  
of learning, sharing, and fellowship.  
You will be blessed.

### ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree will be in the Narthex starting  
Sunday, November 22, 2009.  
You may take an angel and bring the gifts back by  
December 6, 2009.  
BCIS (Beach City Interfaith Services)  
will begin serving families December 7, 2009.  
Each child received a gift and  
the family will be given food for a meal.



Thank you to the October office angels and newsletter helpers! You are special to me, and I appreciate your helpfulness! Cheryl Best, Bonnie DiFiore, Joy Metcalf, Dennis Olson, Meredith Williams.

If you would like to join this team, please call Belinda in the front office.

Thank you!  
Belinda Allan—Administrative Assistant

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# CHRISTMAS EVE DEC. 24th

## CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

### 5:00 pm Family candle light service

Lambert brings the story Memories of the Manger told for all ages.  
Special performance by our Bells, Adult and Children's Choir.

### 7:00 pm Family candle light service (at Huntington Beach UMC 2721 Delaware)

Lambert brings the story Memories of the Manger told for all ages.  
Joyful Music of the season

### 11:00 pm Midnight Candlelight service

Connection Praise Band



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[FountainValleyUMC.org](http://FountainValleyUMC.org)

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