

He will bring peace

Choral Reading

Reader 1: O little town of Bethlehem

Reader 2: O little clan of Judah

Reader 3: The God of ancient days

Reader 4: Brings forth new birth

Reader 1: Breathe in

Reader 2: Jesus will shepherd us

Reader 3: Breathe out

Reader 4: Jesus will be our peace

Reader 1: Breathe in

Reader 2: The strength of the Lord

Reader 3: Breathe out

Reader 4: And proclaim

Reader 1: To the ends of the earth

Reader 2: He will be our peace

Reader 3: Let us worship

Reader 4: In heavenly peace

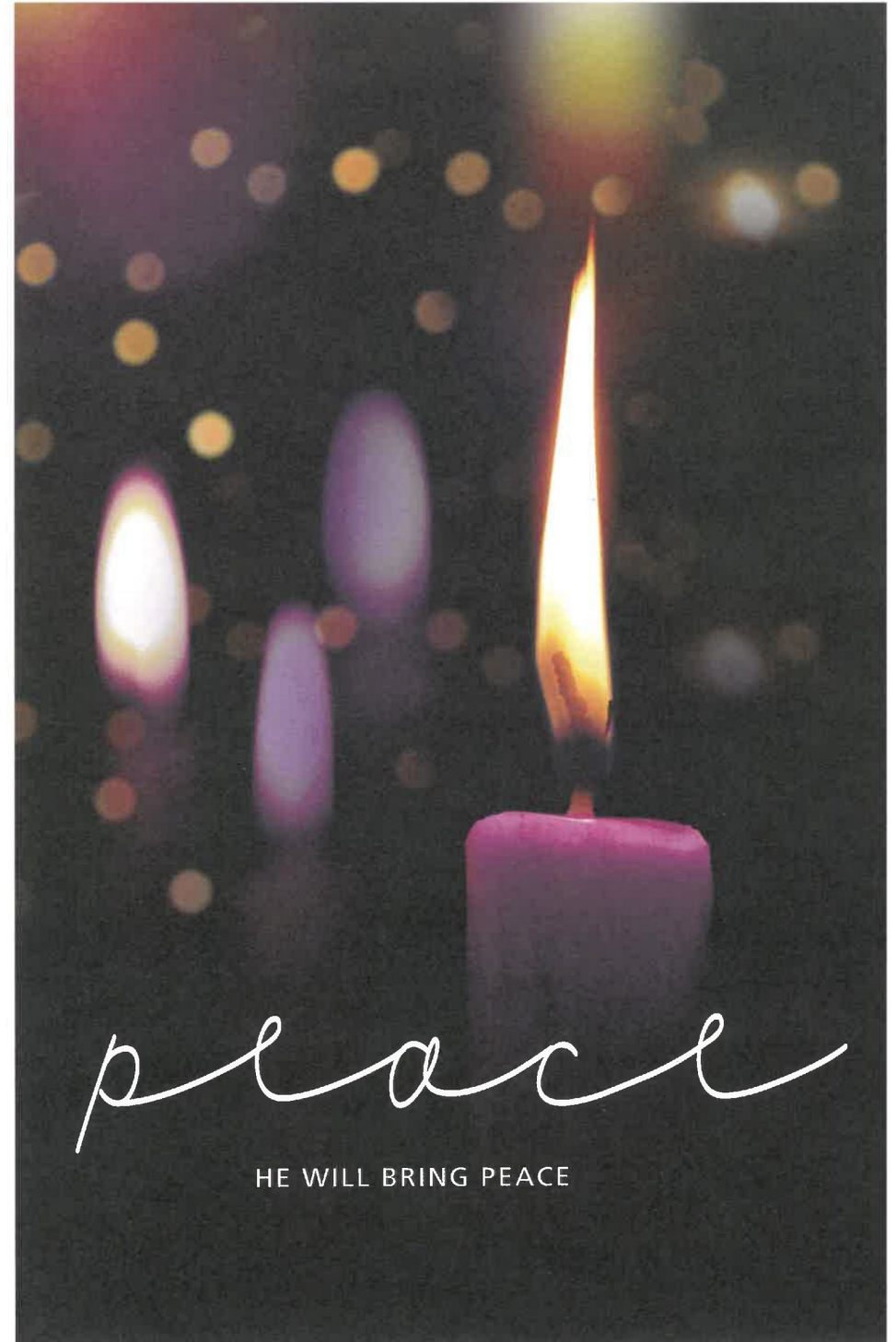
Prayer of Invocation

God who offers peace beyond our understanding,
awaken us to your presence in this Advent season
that we might sense your spirit moving in the very air we breathe.
In the name of the Holy Trinity, we pray.
Amen.

— *Audri Svay*
North Manchester, Indiana

"Like a shepherd taking care of his sheep, this ruler will lead and care for his people by the power and glorious name of the Lord his God. His people will live securely, and the whole earth will know his true greatness, because *he will bring peace.*" (Micah 5:4-5a, *CEV*). **Today's Bible readings from the lectionary:** Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55).

December 22, 2024, Fourth Sunday of Advent. Cover design by Paul Stocksdale © Brethren Press. Living Word Bulletin Series © 2024 Brethren Press. Printed in the USA.



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:39-45

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Jack Finniff, Worship Leader

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE “Away in a Manger” (arr. Mallory)
Brethren Bells

***CHORAL READING** (on the back of the bulletin)

Reader 1 – Pastor Twyla
Reader 2 – Choir
Reader 3 – Worship Leader
Reader 4 – Congregation

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God who offers peace beyond our understanding, awaken us to your presence in this Advent season that we might sense your spirit moving in the very air we breathe. In the name of the Holy Trinity, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #189** “To us a Child of hope is born”
[Verse 1]

*To us a Child of hope is born, to us a Son is giv’n. Him shall the tribes of earth obey,
him all the hosts of heav’n, him shall the tribes of earth obey,
him all the hosts of heav’n.*
[Verse 2]

His name shall be the Prince of peace, forevermore adored, the Wonderful, the Counselor, the great and mighty Lord, the Wonderful, the Counselor, the great and mighty Lord.
[Verse 3]

His pow’r, increasing, still shall spread, his reign no end shall know. Justice shall guard his throne above, and peace abound below, justice shall guard his throne above, and peace abound below.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

All pray: Dear God, we have much to do and we are not sure we will be ready for the day of your coming. In Advent’s light, help us to see what is important: to be who you want us to be, and to do what you would have us do. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING RESPONSE “We are a People of Peace”

*We are a people of peace;
we are a people of peace.
Lighting a candle, we work for the dawn;
we are a people of peace.*

SPECIAL MUSIC BY THE CHILDREN “For All Eternity”

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

HYMN #201 “Hark! The herald angels sing”
[Verse 1]

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies, with th’angelic host proclaim “Christ is born in Bethlehem.” Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

[Verse 2]

*Christ, by highest heav’n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb. Veil’d in flesh the Godhead see, hail th’incarnate deity; pleas’d with us in flesh to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”*

[Verse 3]

*Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of peace! Hail, the Son of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark!
The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.”*

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

We come now to worship God with the giving of our offerings. In response to the news that she would bear God’s Son, Mary offered herself as God’s servant, and then sang a song celebrating her selection to help bring God’s realm on earth. We have been chosen to continue to build up the kingdom of God, so we, too, have reason to celebrate. Let us

now offer our tangible signs of gratitude, confident that God's promises will be fulfilled through the ministries supported by our gifts.

As we pass the offering plate here in the sanctuary, we also pass a virtual offering plate to those worshiping with us on Facebook Live. We invite you to give by mailing your offering to the church or dropping it off at the church during the week, or by going to the Hagerstowncob webpage and using Paypal."

Offertory "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
(Professor John Barr, Bridgewater College)

***Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. Dear God, you blessed Mary by making her the mother of your only Son, Jesus Christ. You have blessed us, as well, with the gift of your Son, and indeed, with the gift of life itself. Out of all these blessings, we give you back these offerings this day. Knowing that your promises will be fulfilled, we pledge our lives to you in anticipation of the coming of the one who brings us peace. Amen.

BRETHREN RINGERS "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" & "Infant Holy"
(arr. Kimball)

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.

Please do not share any personal information you do not want to be made public.

An usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

TEMPLE CHOIR "The Promise of Advent" (Besig)

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:39-45 NT 57

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

MESSAGE "Peace" Pastor Twyla Rowe

***HYMN #195** "It came upon a midnight clear"

[Verse 1]

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all from heaven's all gracious king!" The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

[Verse 2]

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world. Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

[Verse 3]

Yet with the woes of sin and strife, the world hath suffered long; beneath the heav'ly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong, and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring. O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing.

[Verse 4]

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow: Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing. O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

[Verse 5]

For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophets bards foretold, when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

***BENEDICTION**

After the Benediction, you may be seated.

Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.

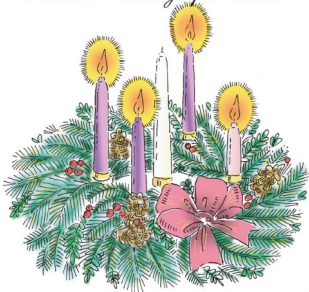
***POSTLUDE** "Tell the Good News" (Smith)

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\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.

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Fourth Sunday of Advent



Hagerstown
Church of the Brethren
15 S. Mulberry Street,
Hagerstown, Maryland
21740
301-733-3565

Office: Tuesday—Friday
Flexible hours
(appointments welcome/
call ahead)

Morning Praise Worship
at 8:30 AM
Sunday School at 9:30 AM
Worship and Facebook Live at
10:45 AM

www.hagerstowncob.org

[www.facebook.com/
hagerstowncob](http://www.facebook.com/hagerstowncob)

Twyla Rowe
Pastor

Allyson McPeak
Administrative Assistant

Burton Young
Director of
Music Ministries

Don Rowe
Interior Esthetics
Technician

*We welcome you to our church and
Rejoice in your participation with us in
worship. It is our prayer that you will
experience the presence of God's Spirit and
that it will equip you for service and ministry
in the week ahead. Our Pastor, Deacons, and
Cluster Leaders are available after worship
and during the week to listen and assist you in
your Christian pilgrimage.*

THE ANNOUNCER December 22, 2024

If you placed someone on the prayer list and they are now celebrating a recovery and would like their name taken off the list, please contact the church office.

If you or a loved one has surgery scheduled, is hospitalized, or would like a visit from the pastor, please notify the church.

"Take a Moment" Let this be our daily "Take a Moment" prayer beginning Sunday December 22 - As I anticipate the celebration of the birth of our Savior, my heart sings with the angels: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all!" It is my personal heartfelt prayer today, for peace to prevail over all the earth. May nations put down their weapons. I pray for an end to mass shootings and all violence in our cities; and bring healing to those who are victims of this evil. I pray for reconciliation where family and friend relationships are broken. I pray you will hold those suffering with illness, grief and unforeseen circumstances. Fill their hearts with your gift of assurance and peace. I pray I will share the gift of peace...even when it is hard. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, whom I seek to help me with this effort. Come Prince of Peace and fill my heart. Amen.

Our thanks to Jack Finniff for being our worship leader today, to the Temple Choir and the Brethren Bells for special music this morning. Thanks also to the Children's Ministry Teachers and Helpers, Brenda Shane, Tina Mills, Robin Davies, and Kathy Kelsey for lighting the advent candle.

A special thanks to the children for special music this morning.

Attendance. Please sign the attendance rosters found at the end of your pew, or possibly in the hymnal rack, and pass it down the row so everyone can sign.

The church office will be closed December 25th through January 1st for the Christmas holiday and New Year. Pastor Twyla will be on vacation December 25th through January 1st. If you are in need of regular pastoral care, please contact your Deacon.

The Community Breakfast Team and the Service & Outreach Team would like to thank all of our church members and friends who have helped us make the breakfasts so wonderful for our neighborhood folks. If you came to make food, help serve, set up, clean up, donated gifts and clothing, made crafts for the children, we cannot say enough to thank you. We must also acknowledge Martin's Food Market, chick-fil-a and Sanders Cookie Jar for their continued support. We recently served our last breakfast for 2024. We are not serving again until March. Again, thank you so much we could not have done this without you!!!

- Community Breakfast Team & S&O

Junior Church will be held today for children ages Kindergarten through the sixth grade. **We will gather in the Rainbow Room (Room #205).** (Parents may, of course, opt to keep their child in worship with them especially if the child is uncertain about going.) Parents/grandparents should pick up their children afterward at the stair/elevator area outside the sanctuary in the west entrance. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Brenda Shane. **Junior Church is held the second and fourth Sunday of each month.**

Christmas Eve Service—Everyone is invited to the Christmas Eve celebration service of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Come and worship the newborn King through a traditional service of singing carols, listening to the angelic voices of the choir and the heavenly tones of the bell choir and the organ, and hearing the Christmas story, and we will also celebrate communion. Symbolizing the Light that came to the world on that holy night long ago, we will hold light high as we recommit our faithfulness to carry the light into the world. The Christmas Eve offering will be going to the Good Samaritan Fund and the service will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come...let us adore Him...Christ the Lord!

Christmas Cards. Please remember to use the mailboxes outside the church office to distribute Christmas cards to your church family. If you wish to give a card to someone without a mailbox, kindly hand it to them personally or mail it directly. Any cards leftover will not be delivered by the church office or Spiritual Nurture Team. Please check your mailbox often. You never know what might be in there. Blessings and Have a Merry Christmas! - *Your Spiritual Nurture Team*

Inclement Weather Policy—If inclement weather is forecasted, be sure to:



* Check your email—we will send out a group email as quickly as possible if the decision to cancel in-person worship is made.

* Check our Facebook page—Hagerstown Church of the Brethren (facebook.com/hagerstowncob) we will post updates there as well.

If we do hold in-person worship, and if you are uncomfortable driving in bad weather, please join us on Facebook Live. Be safe first and check your email!

Our new website is live! You can go to hagerstowncob.org to check it out. If you find any information incorrect or missing, contact Mary Early at her email listed below. Also, if you have photos that you think could improve any of the pages, you may send them to Mary as well—webmaster@hagerstowncob.org

Because winter weather is here, we'd like to pass along a gentle reminder to drive slowly in our parking lot, especially when it's snow-covered or icy. Always be on alert for children, pedestrians, dogs, cats, and those less mindful than you are of the pavement surface conditions.

The last Offering Count for the 2024 year will be for Sunday, December 29th's collection. **However, additional contributions for the 2024 year will be accepted until December 31st.** If dropping off or mailing your contribution, please clearly mark your contribution as "2024 Contribution" or "2024 Offering" to ensure your contribution is not counted towards the 2025 year. The Administrative Assistant will not be available in the office on December 31st, but you may use the offering drop-off box located in the west entrance. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Heather Kees, Financial Secretary.

Year-end Giving Guidelines

The Internal Revenue Service states under the heading of Timing of Contributions: *Contributions must actually be paid in cash or other property before the close of your tax year to be deductible, whether you use the cash or accrual method.*

This means all contributions for any given year must be physically at the church no later than December 31st to be applied to the year's contribution statement.

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/charitable-contribution-deductions>

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent/Junior Church

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Monday, December 23

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 24

Admin. Assistant/Work from home

Christmas Eve

7:00 pm Christmas Eve worship, Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day/Church office closed for Christmas Holiday

Pastor Vacation/Admin. Assistant/Vacation

Thursday, December 26

Pastor Vacation/Admin. Assistant/Vacation

Friday, December 27

Pastor Vacation/Admin. Assistant/Vacation

1:00 pm Islamic Center/Use of Parking Lot (1-3pm)

Saturday, December 28

Pastor Vacation/Admin. Assistant/Vacation

Sunday, December 29

Pastor Vacation/Admin. Assistant/Vacation

Pastor Eddie Edmonds, Guest Preacher

8:30 am Morning Praise Worship/Fellowship Hall

9:30 am Sunday School, individual classrooms

10:45 am Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Remember our weekday schedule is subject to rapid change.

You may mail your offering to
15 S. Mulberry Street,
Hagerstown MD 21740
OR
you can make a secure offering
donation on our website using
PayPal www.hagerstowncob.org

The church calendar is online at
www.hagerstowncob.org.
Click the calendar tab.

Given In Loving Memory Of



Poinsettias

2024

- * D. Harold Winger & Helen Winger Huffer from Pamela Frusher (1 red)
- * Charles Mullinex from Nancy Mullinex (1 white)
- * My “heavenly” family from Candice Summers (1 white)
- * Lois J. DeNobrega and Donald C. Graham, Sr., from Diane & Kirk Graham (1 red)
- * Ellis & Peggy Duffey; Robert & Elise Wolfe Sr.; Kay Wolfe; and Joel Duffey from Bob & Suzie Wolfe (1 marble)
- * John— Pastor Twyla’s father from Annetta King (1 red)
- * Edward & Susan Hultsch from Brian & Cinnamon Shay (2 red)
- * David Nycum, given by Debbie Nycum (1 red)
- * My parents, Robert & Pauline Wetzel, given by Debbie Nycum (1 marble)
- * Robert N. Dahlhamer from Judy Dahlhamer (1 white)
- * Lawrence, Hazel and Gerald Long from Rebecca Jackson (1 marble)
- * My parents, Harold & Hilda Brumbaugh from Christine Ellis (1 marble)
- * Terry Moore (1 marble)
- * Steve McConnaughey for Beverly McConnaughey given by Jenny & John Ferguson (1 white)
- * Our parents: James & Beulah Adams and George & Beulah Winner from Ray & Wanda Winner (1 red)
- * My husband, Glenn Young. Forever in my heart and missed dearly given by Jan (1 white)
- * Lawrence & Hazel Long from David & Brenda Shane (1 red)
- * Gerald Long from David & Brenda Shane (1 marble)
- * My devoted husband, Gregory E. Snyder given by Rose Marie Snyder (1 red)
- * My parents, Harry & Rosalie Shockey from Rose Marie Snyder (1 white)
- * My father, Greg Snyder given by Tina Mills (1 marble)
- * Parents Roy & Geraldine Crilly and Gene Hardy with love from the Hardys (1 red)
- * Grandparents Clyde & Oredia Clark and Uncle Willis Clark with love from the Hardys (1 red)
- * Our parents from Dave & Doris Fisher (1 marble)
- * Ed Brewer from Donna Brewer (1 red)
- * My parents Rev. Robert Moales & Norma Jean Moales and my sister Susan Norris from Kathy Kelsey (1 red)
- * Donovan Beachley, husband of Mary Ellen Beachley from Emma Lyles (1 marble)
- * Ellis & Peggy Duffey, parents of Suzie Wolfe from Emma Lyles (1 marble)
- * Gloria Clem, wife of Richard Clem from Emma Lyles (1 marble)

(continued)

POINSETTIAS



- * Dean Miller, husband of Karen Miller from Emma Lyles (1 marble)
- * Roy & Geraldine Crilly, parents of Amy Hardy from Emma Lyles (1 marble)
- * Janice Frye, wife of John Frye from Emma Lyles (1 marble)
- * Bobby Lyles, my loving husband from Emma Lyles (1 marble)
- * Sherry Craig, wife of Joe Craig from Emma Lyles (1 marble)
- * Ed Brewer, husband of Donna Brewer from Emma Lyles (1 marble)

Given in Tribute To

- * Maelynn Shay's First Christmas from Brian & Cinnamon Shay (2 marble)
- * Janet Ernst from Becky & Bob Ernst (1 red)
- * Charles & Lois Lumm from Becky & Bob Ernst (1 red)
- * Linda from Clair Baker (1 red)
- * Jonathan, Helen, & Addy from Clair Baker (1 red)
- * Emma Lyles, Merry Christmas with love to our year round caregiver from Jan Young (1 red)
- * Alice Edmonds from Eddie Edmonds (1 marble)
- * Great Granddaughters 1st Christmas, Blair True from Donna Brewer (1 red)
- * Esther Boleyn from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Eileen Smith from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Liz Ashby from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Retta Fralin from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Diana Shepherd from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Carol Miller from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Karen Lowry from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Sue Vanderveer from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Doris Smith from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Bucky Stockslager from Emma Lyles (1 red)

(continued)

- * Sandy Clipp from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Barbara Starliper from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Judy Dahlhamer from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Kay Ogilvie from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Diane Graham from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Alice Edmonds from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Judy Long from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Robin Davies from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Nancy Gingrich from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Heather Kees from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Deb Long from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Wanda Winner from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Jan Young from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Helen Caron from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Julie Herman from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Pastor Twyla from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Allyson McPeak from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Mary Means from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Burt Young from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Christine Ellis from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Carolyn Motz from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Eunice Plank from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Lisa Bussard from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Roberta Maas from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Ann Parker from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Ann Platou from Emma Lyles (1 red)
- * Jenny Ferguson from Emma Lyles (1 red)

Given with Thanks To

- * Wanda Winner from Christine Ellis (1 marble)
- * Larry & Heather Kees; Larry for remodeling our beautiful kitchen, and being chair of Property & Finance (1 white)
- * Pastor Twyla for all the love she has shown me and our church family. With love, Jan Young (1 marble)
- * Thanks to my family. John, Kalli, Kamryn, & Jodi for their love and support every day of the year. Merry Christmas! From Jan Young (1 marble)
- * My children & grandchildren for all you do for me from Donna Brewer (1 marble)
- * Jackie, friend & neighbor, for all the help she has been to me from Pamela Frusher (1 marble)