

A **Publication** of the Trumbull Church of Christ, 2 Drew Circle, Trumbull, CT. 06611 203-261-5201 Volume CXLIX 149 Issue 5, Dec.11, 2022

## The Gospel told by an Angel

One of my favorite television Christmas specials is the Peanuts classic, "A Charlie Brown Christmas." In the show, Charlie Brown wants to find the true meaning of Christmas. "Can't anyone tell me the meaning of Christmas?" Charlie brown cries out in desperation. "I can Charlie Brown," replies Linus and then proceeds to quote from Luke 2:8-14. It reads, "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." In this well-known passage from the Bible, we learn a lot about the meaning of Christmas from the words of one of God's angels. The angel first says, "Do not be afraid." Of course, this is a lot easier said than done considering the reactions most people had upon seeing angels in the Bible. However, maybe there was more to those words than, "Do not be afraid I'm not going to hurt you." Maybe the implication also meant something like, "Do not be afraid because God just showed up in person" or "Do not be afraid because Satan's hold on you has come to an end." There are a lot of things that people are afraid of in this world, but the one that probably tops them all is the fear of death. Jesus coming in the flesh should alleviate our fear of death because it was through His resurrection of the dead that death would no longer have a hold on anyone in Christ Jesus. 1 Corinthians 15:54 says that because of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, "death has been swallowed up in victory!" What a comforting thing to know. This is why the angel then said to the shepherds, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people." The birth of Jesus was a glorious day! Think of your best day ever, multiply it by a billion, and even then your experience will fall short compared to this day.

The announcement is not a complicated one to the shepherds. The angel simply states, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." There is a lot that comes with that title, "Christ the Lord." It means that this baby born in Bethlehem to a virgin is both God and Savior. A Savior has been born! Ever since Adam and Eve, Satan thought he was running the show. He scoffed at sacrifices, laughed at the weaknesses of man, and sneered at attempts by man to overcome him. Yet, now things have changed, "A Savior has been born!" Hebrews 2:14-15 says Jesus became human "so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-that is, the devil- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." God has sent His own Son to tip the scales; no longer will sin have its hold. "A Savior has been born!" This is the Gospel, told to shepherds and told to us, by an angel. Praise

~ ~Ron Saracino

## **NEWS & NOTES**

Wed. Night Bible Study via zoom -7pm

Ladies Bible Study-Sat. Jan. 21st-10am at the building

Dan Cooper is heading up a 12 day inspirational trip to Israel and Greece May 23-June 3,2023. Fliers will be on the table in the auditorium. See Nadine if you have interest in going.

**Spooner House** has specific needs for towels, washcloths, pillow cases, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Toiletries for 4 women without families. If you would like to bring a meal or sandwiches Contact Liz Holcomb at (203)2250455X105

To Our visitors: We welcome you to the worship service of the church of Christ that meets in Trumbull. Please fill out a visitor's card and place it in the collection plate when it is passed so that we may have a record of your attendance. If you have any questions concerning why we worship the way we do or what we believe, please feel free to ask. We would be happy to set aside time to study the Bible with you. Please let us know if we can be of service

## **Prayer Requests**

- \*Pray for the family of Mel Skiegen who passed away this past week.
- \*Pray for **Nadine** who will be having a bone biopsy 12/20.
- \*Pray for Debbie Christy's brothers- **Frank** recently diagnosed with multiple myeloma and **Clarence** recently lost his son
- \*Pray for **Emily and Jose** (friends of Kristen Wilson) who are going through IVF treatment.
- \*Pray for **our students** as they study for their exams.
- \*Pray for Michelle's brothers- **Al and Tony** who are both dealing with health issues.
- \*Pray for **Nancy (Roldan) Johnston** and family, her husband passed away Wednesday a few weeks after she lost her son.
- \*Prayers for **Karen Ohrenberger's parents** who are going through a difficult time, and for the family as they care for them.
- \*Prayers for **Mike Ross** that his pain will subside.
- \*Prayers for Marie Preteska, JoAnne, Toni and Greg's sister.
- \*Prayers for **Kristin Hubbell** who is starting a new teaching program which has some challenges.
- \*Prayers for **Darwin**'s job search. She recently interviewed at Yale and is waiting to hear from them.
- \*Prayers for Gus & Nancy Roldan, and Mike & Ginny Lichac (former members), lost their son, Christopher Roldan.
- \*Randy Springer is at home recovering from a spinal infection,
- \*Pray for **Toni Bonadio**, she had an angiogram this week which discovered a 50% blockage.
- \*Pray for **Maria Walsh** (a friend of Toni & Joann) who recently suffered a stroke.
- \* Continued prayers for **Flo** who is recovering at home and her daughter **Lauren** who is having many health issues and awaiting medical test results.

- \*Pray for those dealing with cancer and chemo treatments- **Judith Gomez, David Fritzinger, Cohen** (Ron's friend), **Sarah** (Angela's niece), **Teri** (Ray's S-I-L)
- \*Prayers for all those who have lost loved ones this past year.
- \*Pray for our country & our leaders in government, first responders and health care workers.
- \*Pray for families, relatives, friends and people we are reaching out to, that they may turn to the Lord.

Special prayers for our church leaders.

Prayers for all families caring for their elderly or sick loved ones: Allie Saracino-Cherie,

- \*Pray for those suffering from long term illnesses:Jeremy Sazone,Flo Repecko, Pat Yaglowski. Meegan and Irene, Sylvia Sandoval, Nuris Gomezl, Mildred,Gladys Howley, Karen O, Angela's mom Connie Scalzo, Anthony Katz., Jasmyn Malagutti,Daniel Ruiz., Zak Pappas Fernandes., Jim Walkup's brother (Sam), Cyrus (Zach's friend) dad who has brain cancer, Lance Flood, Zach Saracino, Joshua Ruiz, Brody Streety & all children with diabetes.
- \*Anyone interested in helping with **World Bible School** contact Ron
- \*Opportunities to serve: any men willing to participate in worship service in other capacities for the church, please contact Bruce Post. Anyone interested in leading and/or helping with the building or church house maintenance please contact Bruce Pancoast.

Mildred is celebrating her 95th birthday. Her address: 115 Kaye Vue Drive Hamden, CT 06514

Please bring nonperishable food items for the **Spooner House** - a list of all items needed is on back table: Jelly/Jam/Peanut Butter, Cereal/Oatmeal, Canned Meats: Chicken, Tuna, Corned Beef Hash, Canned Ravioli/Tomatoes, Pasta Sauce, Canned Fruit/Applesauce, Crackers/Snacks, Pancake Mix/Syrup, Ramen, Hamburger/Tuna Helper, Baked beans/Pork and Beans, Canned/Dried Beans (i.e. Black, Chick Pea, Cannellini, Kidney, Pinto), Rice/Rice-A-Roni, Soup/Stew/Chili, Instant/Canned Potatoes/Yams. Bring these food items to the building to be delivered to the Spooner House. Please make sure that items do not have expired dates. Thank you

Sunday Bible Class 10 am @ church building Wednesday Bible Classes: 7:00 p.m canceled til further notice, participate online via Zoom

Worship Service @ 11 am

Elders: Bruce Pancoast 203-452- 0426 Ron Saracino 203-913-8345

Minister: Ron Saracino 203-913-8345 Spanish Ministry: Elmer Sandavol

914-914-486-9146

**Deacons: Ray Fernandes** 203-459- 0284 **Luis Ruiz** 203-610-2396

Online bible study and worship service Go to Trumbull Church of Christ website: trumbull churchofchrist.org

Week of 12/11/22 Song Leader: Bruce Pancoast Lord's Table:Steve Froehlich Closing Prayer:Luis Ruiz