

# JOY AND HOPE

## *for the future*

The Advent of the Messiah and the Good News of Emmanuel should shape our perspective and outlook for the future. To believe in the Good News now and ahead should give us great joy regardless of our circumstances. Our Joy is to know that God loves us and that He is with us and for us. This is also our hope. As we step into 2024, we will joyfully follow Jesus and look forward with expectation to How God will work through us to bless those around us.

*~ Pastor Tom*



## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2023

Over 50 kids and adults were involved in this year's Christmas program. We enjoyed several "acts" introduced by Bethany Miles and Katelyn Vestal, who portrayed the roles of co-directors of program "auditions." The acts included a kids choir directed by Zeke Goodrick, a beautiful solo by Jean-Mikael Tshibanda, an adult bell choir directed by Jane Merhar, a humorous medley from "baby dancers," directed by Connie Crandall and Jennie Johnston, a surprise visit from Mike Reman as Santa, and a powerful adult choir directed by Zeke Goodrick.

The photo above shows the impressive number of kids telling

the story of Jesus' birth through readings and acting in "The Nativity Story."

The program also included a serious dramatic reading directed by Jewell Joslen. Readers Ethan Fast, Tanner Wright, Abi Fast and Aaron Hallman did an excellent job of relaying a story of how God can work even through very difficult circumstances.

Special thanks to Katie Wardle and Jennifer Miles, who provided lunch for all the kids every Sunday before rehearsals. Jennifer was invaluable as costume director and backstage director. Thanks to Vera Hallman for all her help with kids and communication with parents, to Dave Cone and David Hallman for sound and lights, and to Zeke for co-directing and doing so many things behind the scenes (far too many to mention!).

*~ Connie Crandall*



# COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER



The Wood Village community has begun a new tradition to host a dinner each year to celebrate the Birth of Jesus. The event is organized and sponsored by families in our local community. This year brought over 200 people from our community together to enjoy tamales and posole and the message of Christmas. Thanks to everyone who served and cooked for this event.

~ Pastor Tom

## new members



Lena Morrison  
Dec 3, 2023



Leana Reed  
Dec 3, 2023

## home to heaven



Bob Martin  
December 23, 2023

# TOY GIVEAWAY

Our first community toy drive on December 9th was a huge success. With the partnership of the sheriffs, cities of Wood Village, Fairview and Troutdale and many retail stores, we provided gifts for 263 families, which equaled 885 children in our community receiving presents this Christmas! It was exciting to see a time where we as a church worked right alongside so many community members. Participants included city councilors, sheriffs, high schoolers, and over 50 WVBC volunteers. It was a wonderful time being able to meet the needs of our community in a very tangible way and making our church feel very approachable and a safe place to be. There were tears of gratitude and overall appreciation that we were there to help during this Christmas season. I will be praying we see fruit from this event as well. Most that were involved are ready for next year's event already!

~ Vera Hallman



# LAS POSADAS

WVBC hosted this year's Posadas event outdoors. The event is a celebration of the community and the culture, planned and organized by Los Lideres Naturales. This year it was filled with lots of food, music, pinatas, and joy!



# SILENT AUCTION

A whopping \$5600 was raised to support Women's Ministries on December 2. This event is much more than a fundraiser, though. It is a wonderful time of visiting with the church family, enjoying a sausage and pancake breakfast together and allowing people the opportunity to purchase really nice gifts at very affordable prices. Huge thanks to Jane Merhar and Darcy Schunke for their tireless work for months, preparing for the event, and for all of those who helped with setup, cleanup and food prep!

Noah Fast was super excited when his name was drawn as the raffle winner for the gift card bundle! We had five raffles, each worth over \$200.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

~~BLOCKED FOR  
PRIVACY~~

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES