



The Challenger

Glyndon United Methodist Church

December 2023

Inside This Issue

Pastor's Article	1
Announcements/Events	3
Women's Lunch	6
Visitation List	7
Stay Connected	7
Cookies w/ Santa Flyer	8
December Calendar	9

Where Love Is, There God Is Also

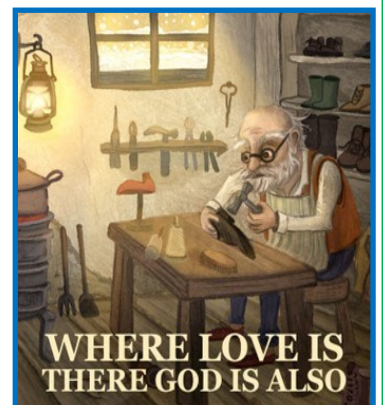
Every year, around this time, as we prepare for the upcoming Christmas and reflect on the past year, there are novels I want to revisit. One of them is *Where Love Is, There God Is Also* by Leo Tolstoy. This is a classic novel written by a great author in our human history. This is a summary of the story.

There is a shoemaker named Martin. He was a fine cobbler as he did his work well and never promised to do anything that he could not do. He stayed busy with his work in his basement which had only one window. Through this window he could see only the feet of people. He was still able to recognize most people by their shoes. He had a wife, but she passed away, and all their children had died in their infancy except a three-year-old son.

Martin, however, was not destined to have a child as his son died a few years later with a fever. In grief, he denied God, wondering how He could allow such a thing to happen to him. One day a missionary visited Martin and Martin told him of his hardships. This missionary told Martin that he should live his life for God and not deny Him. The missionary's words sank deep into Martin. After this encounter Martin went out and bought a large -print Testament. After his day of work, he would sit down with a lamp and read.

One night as Martin slept, he thought he heard the voice of God telling him "Put your house in order, for tomorrow I shall visit thee."

The next morning Martin skeptically watched out his window for God. While he was searching for God, he saw Semyonich shoveling away snow. Martin invited him in for a warm drink and they talked for a while. Semyonich later left and thanked Martin for the food, both for the soul and body.



Martin later saw a young woman outside with a baby not properly dressed for the cold. He invited her in for some food and gave her warmer clothes and money. Martin also told her about Jesus, and she thanked him and left.

Then he saw a young boy stealing from an older lady. He went outside and settled their argument as he extended love and compassion towards the both of them.

That night while Martin wondered why God had not visited him, the three figures appeared in his home, who he had shown hospitality to that day. They said that when he helped them, he did to God. Martin then realized that God had indeed visited him.

Martin realized that what had happened that day was written in Matthew 25.

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’

38 And when did we see you as a stranger and welcome you as a guest or naked and clothe you?

39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and come to you?’

*40 And the king will answer and say to them, **‘Truly I say to you, in as much as you did it to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.’**”*

As we prepare and await the upcoming Christmas, the birth of Jesus, I hope that you take the time to deeply contemplate the message of the coming of baby Jesus, who came to show us what God’s love is. I hope and pray that we can see God’s surprising visit through our neighbors or anyone we encounter. What message is the Lord giving you this Christmas?

Blessings,

Dong Eun Lee

Announcements/Events

GUMC's Christmas Vespers Program: Preparations for Glyndon Church's Christmas Vespers Program are already underway! This special event will be here before you know it. Please put **Sunday, December 3rd** on your calendar. The Vespers program will take place beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary and will be followed by a luncheon in Dew Hall. This program is a Glyndon Church tradition and a meaningful way to begin the Christmas season. **We kindly request that you provide a food item for our fellowship gathering** after the Vespers program. **Please use the sign-up link below** to let us know what you'll be bringing. Thank you.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D4EACAF2DA6F85-46028559-vespers>

Poinsettia Orders and Crisis Center Donations for Christmas: It is time to order poinsettias to decorate the altar for Christmas in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Printed order forms are available in the church lobby for you to complete and return with your payment to the church. **Forms are also available on the church website and attached to this email.** This year the poinsettias will cost \$12.00 per plant, in red or white. **The order deadline is Tuesday, December 5th.** We are also offering the alternative option of donating to the Community Crisis Center to honor or memorialize loved ones at Christmas. Your donation amount will be forwarded to the Community Crisis Center. A separate form for this donation is also available in the church lobby, and on the church website.

2023 Advent “Holy Jolly” Gatherings: It's a holy and joyful time of the year; Advent is approaching. During Advent, we will have three “Holy Jolly” gathering sessions on Thursdays for three weeks: **12/7, 12/14, and 12/21** at 3:00pm in Dew Hall. I hope we can share a meaningful, joyous, and holy Advent time together. Please join us if you are able.

Announcements/Events continued

Community Men's Communion Breakfast: Invite your male friends to a Community Men's Communion Breakfast at Glyndon UMC on **Sunday, December 10, 2023 from 6:45 to 8:30 a.m.** This event is being organized by the men of Glyndon UMC in conjunction with the Reisterstown Kiwanis Club. Pastor Michael Reese Ritt of Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church will speak at the breakfast and give the communion. There will be a free will offering. Please RSVP to Gary Beck at 443-250-1243 or garybeck@glbconcrete.com to help us get a head count.

Christmas Eve Services: Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. We will have **our usual 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 24th.** That evening, we will have **one service at 7:00 p.m.** There **will not** be a Christmas Eve service at 11:00 p.m. this year.

First Sunday Fellowship for Winter and Spring 2023: Hello Glyndon Church Family - We have upcoming dates for First Sunday Fellowship this winter and spring and are seeking volunteers to host this special time for our congregation following the service. Please consider volunteering on one of the following dates: **January 7th, February 4th, March 3rd, April 7th, May 5th.**

Hosts provide snacks and beverages and handle set-up and clean-up in Dew Hall. It is a simple way to offer hospitality for the congregation. Team up with a friend to volunteer. (It's fun!) Help is available for training if you are new to hosting. Thank you to our faithful volunteers who continue to make First Sunday Fellowship a wonderful tradition for our church!! Please use the link below to select a date and sign up. If you have questions or need assistance, please email Julie Romeo at romeo586@comcast.net.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E49AAAB28AB9-first#/>

One More Announcement ...



First Fruits Farm invites you to join us in **Journey to Joy**, a Drive Thru Live Nativity, here at the farm on **December 15th, 16th and 17th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** The farm campus will come alive with the sights and sounds of Judea, over 2000 years ago, when God entered time as a baby – the baby Jesus who would grow up to help us know God, and to show the depth of God’s love for you and me. This is the source of our joy here at First Fruits Farm and – the reason why we do what we do. Participants will experience this from the comfort of their car, with a link to the audio recording which will escort visitors through the **Journey to Joy**.

We also need over 100 volunteers each night, as actors and behind the scene helpers, to make this happen! Please join us if you are available. We need you and your families or your friends and their families. This is a good kid friendly serving opportunity. Please come and support the farm.

If interested in volunteering go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoD4EA5AF23A4F5C52-journey1> to sign up.

Women's Lunch

Topic: Gratitude

Debbie Chatham led a reflection as the Women's Fellowship Lunch, November 12th on gratitude. She stated a friend is part of a Facebook group called Gratitude Chasers with other Christian friends. They post and celebrate moments of gratitude experienced during their day. Gratitude is powerful, but in today's fast-paced world, it's easy to forget to be thankful. That's where the Gratitude comes in!

Here are some examples: I'm grateful for unexpected surprises like when my wife looks out our family room window and finds a friendly deer face looking right back in! Or when a 7-year-old trick-or-treater offers my neighbor her candy when he explains that he has run out. Or today I am thankful for blankets and books!

Seven Glyndon women gathered for the fellowship lunch and shared what they are grateful for: I'm grateful my newly adopted cats came out to visit with a recent dinner party when I was sure they would hide! That the words just flowed when writing my self-evaluation at work. I'm grateful for a dear friend who lives with me. That the process of writing/preparing documents for the church conference went smoothly and quickly this year.

How about you, friends? Have you had any pleasant, unexpected surprises lately which you are grateful for? Gratitude can be in the little things or the big things, it's all around us!



GLYNDON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Cookies WITH Santa



TAKE PHOTOS WITH SANTA

LEARN PROFESSIONAL COOKIE DECORATING
TIPS FROM "THE WHISKED BAKER"

CREATE CHRISTMAS CRAFTS
AND WRITE YOUR LETTER TO SANTA

ENJOY A HOT COCOA BAR AND DELICIOUS TREATS!

December 9th

PRICING: \$10 PER PERSON (TWO AND UP)



SESSION ONE 9:00-11:00

SESSION TWO 11:30-1:30



4713 BUTLER ROAD GLYNDON, MD 21071

December 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2 8a Men's Breakfast
3 9a Choir Practice 10a Vespers 11:15a Luncheon	4 7p Finance	5 Poinsettia Orders due	6 5:15p Pickleball	7 3p Holy Jolly Gathering	8	9 9a-1:30p GCS Cookies w/ Santa
10 6:45a Comm. Men's Breakfast 9a Choir Practice 10a Worship 11:15a Women's Lunch	11 7p Trustees	12	13 9:15 am Chapel 5:15p Pickleball	14 3p Holy Jolly Gathering	15	16
17 9a Choir Practice 10a Worship 11a Steering Comm.	18 7p Missions	19	20 5:15p Pickleball	21 3p Holy Jolly Gathering	22	23
24 9a Choir Practice 10a Worship 7p Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas	26	27 5:15p Pickleball	28	29	30
31 9a Choir Practice 10a Hymn Sing Sunday						