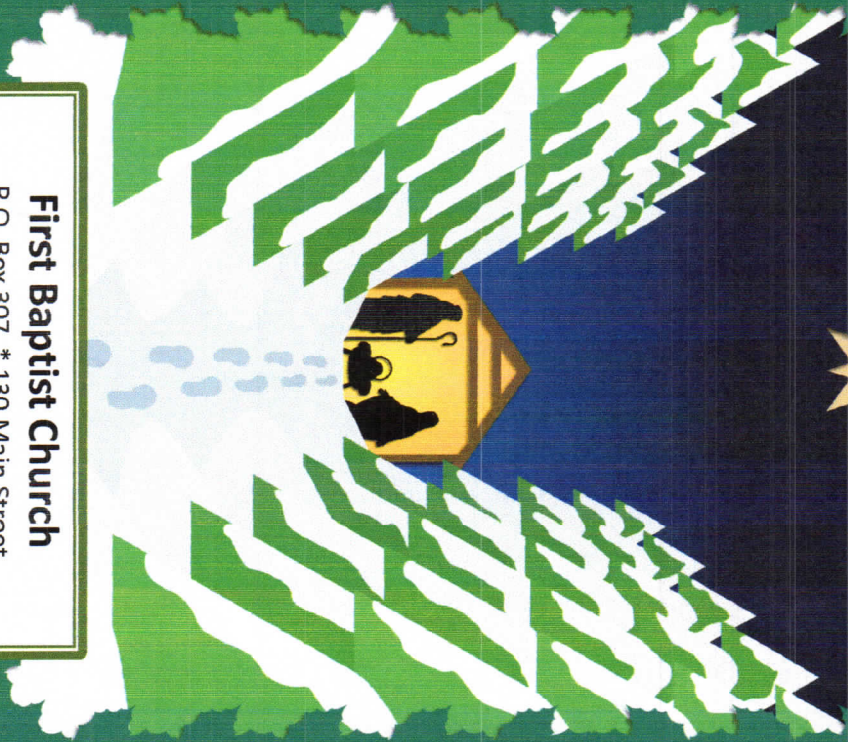
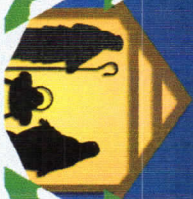
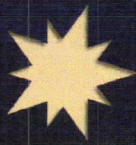


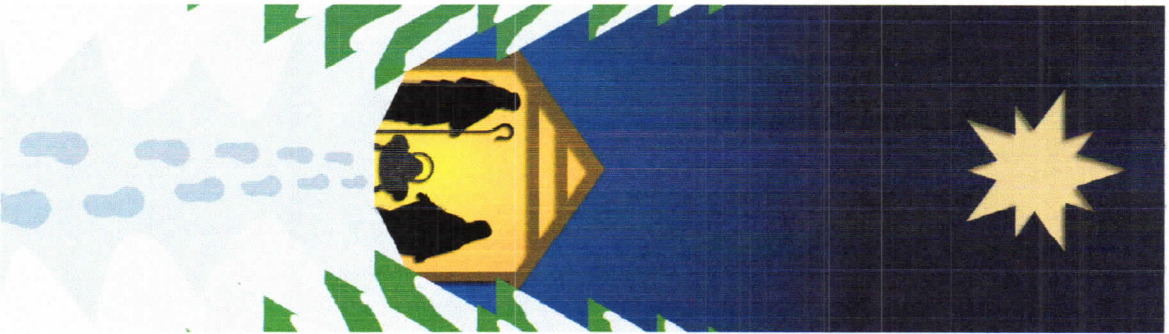
*Journey to
Christmas*



First Baptist Church

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South Berwick, Maine 03908

www.fbcsouthberwick.org



Thank you for Journeying with us this Christmas!

We all have traditions that we love, activities we delight in and stories that we tell – especially during the Christmas Season.

Each week, your attention will be directed toward one of the many symbols of Christmas. You will see a few activities, memories and traditions of Christmas. There are recipes to experience, perhaps you will find a new favorite! And, each week there is a portion of the story of the birth of Jesus Christ – the Christmas Story.

There are more resources and places for interaction too. The church's website (www.fbcsouthberwick.org/journey) has additional memories, and resources for you. There will also be further thoughts about the Story of Christmas for further understanding. Look for **2020 Journey to Christmas** on Facebook. This is interactive as we encourage you to post your thoughts, photos, traditions or greetings.

We will have weekly Children's Stories read by church friends – watch for these details on Facebook and the website. What a great chance to hear Christmas stories we all can enjoy.

Enjoy the journey! Appreciate the interactions of others and set aside time to join us for a worship service of **Carols and Candlelight** on Christmas Eve. There will be two opportunities, 4:30 PM or 6:00 PM.

May this Christmas be a part of your life's journey.

Journey to Christmas 2020

Stars, Lights and Candles * Week 2



Lighting candles is a custom of many religions for several different reasons:

Candles signify love, prayer, passion and hope.

Lighting of candles on Christmas Eve comes from the Jewish "Feast of Lights" or Hanukkah.

Candle light represents Jesus who is the light of the world and who guides us from all the darkness of the world.

The four weeks before Christmas are called the Season of Advent. This is a time when Christians anticipate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve. One tradition is to light a candle of the Advent wreath, adding a light each week. The candles symbolize the Hope, Love, Joy and Peace that is felt as Christians anticipate Jesus' coming. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve.

Stars top many Christmas trees symbolizing the Star of Bethlehem, more commonly called the Christmas star. It is mentioned in the Bible as the star which led the three wise men to the small town of Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.



The Story of Christmas continues... 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 that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;

he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you:

You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. (Luke 2:8-12 NIV)

Christmas Activities

Activity 1: NIGHT WALK ... gather your family / friends and get bundled up; be sure to wear a head lamp or take a flashlight along. Stay together and explore a neighborhood at night ... look at the night sky to see God's handiwork. Look at all the lights that are strung on houses, can you see Christmas trees all lit up?

Activity 2: OH MY STARS!!!

Materials needed: white, yellow and gold, paper; scissors; a STAR template to trace; pencils; glitter and glue.

Trace different size stars and cut them out. You can use some of the stars to write messages to your family / friends. Tell them what you like about them or how they make you feel: (I like how you show kindness to others; you make me laugh; you are fun to be with, etc.). The other stars can be decorated with just a "hint" of glitter!



Activity 3: Lunch Bag Luminaries

Materials: brown lunch bags, white lunch bags, colored lunch bags, pencils, scissors.

Draw a simple shape on your bag and carefully cut out your shapes. Cut shape to see it from both sides of bag. Gently fill the bottom of bag with loose dirt / sand and place a battery operated tea light inside. Place your bag on your porch or line your walkway.



Additional resources can be found on our church website, www.fbcsouthberwick.org.

There is also a Facebook page

"**2020 Journey to Christmas**"; please feel free to post your thoughts, photos and more on the Facebook page

Journey to Christmas 2020

Stars, Lights and Candles

A Christmas Recipe:

This recipe is one that has been passed down through the years. It's a simple recipe. I have always felt that food is a way to make people feel good and brings comfort.

Apple Squares

- 3 cups chopped apples
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp nutmeg
- 3 cups flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cups of raisins
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 eggs beaten
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2 tsp vanilla

Put apples, sugar, spices together. Add flour, soda and salt to small bowl. Combine eggs, oil and vanilla to mixture. Add flour mixture; 9x13, 350 degrees, 40 minutes.

Dawn LaPierre



A Sensory thought:

The sights of Christmas

What do we "see" this time of year that we may not see at other times of the year? SNOW – white and clean; LIGHTS – white lights & multi-colored lights; CANDLES in windows; FIREPLACES aglow; CHRISTMAS TREES; FAMILIES and FRIENDS. Talk about things that you see this season.

A Place for your thoughts and doodles

Christmas Memory:

As a child and as a parent, I hold wonderful memories and traditions. Now as a grandmother to two young boys, I am carrying on the same traditions. On Christmas Eve day, Mini and Pa arrive early afternoon to visit with the boys. We bring one present for them to open which is always a new pair of PJ's, a small trinket, and a special treat made by Mimi. If there is snow, we build a snowman, go sledding, and have hot cocoa and cookies that they baked for Santa. Recently, I have introduced the Christmas Story (Luke 2) to them. It is such a joy to see the excitement in their little faces and I hope they will always carry these memories in their hearts!

Karen Gordon

Growing up with 12 siblings and not having a lot, my parents made sure that Christmases were special. My mother sold baked goods prior to Christmas day to make sure that my siblings and I had a toy and a Christmas stocking. My father was a woodworker and every year my sisters and I always got a new cradle for our baby dolls. Little did we know, it was the original cradle that he made (he painted it a different color and decorated it to look different from the previous year). How excited we were when we saw the new cradles! We always had a stocking with an orange and cookies made by my mother. These are the memories I will hold onto forever.

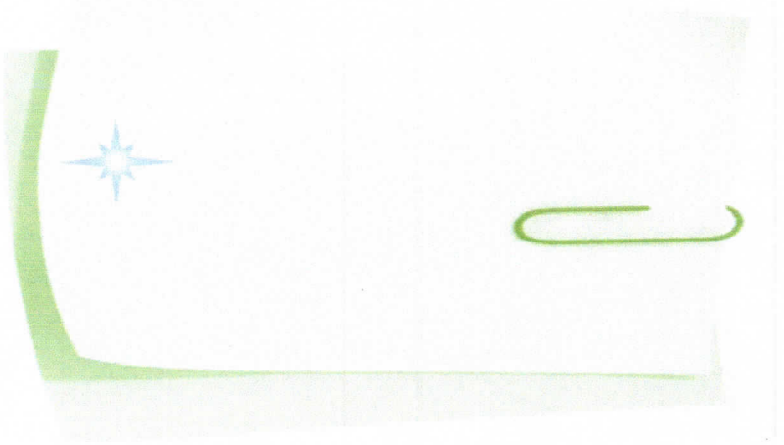
Norma Toussaint

First Baptist Church invites you to join us as we celebrate

Christmas Eve together with a service of **Carols and Candlelight.**

December 14 at 4:30 or 6:00 PM

(Please RSVP by email or on our website.)



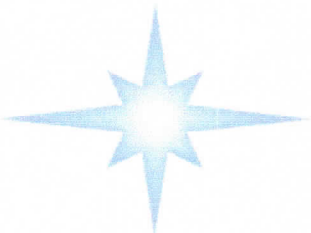




This **Journey to Christmas** is the combined efforts of the First Baptist Church. We hope that you will enjoy four weeks of activities that will lead you toward Christmas.

- 🌿 See the symbols that are a part of the Christmas season
- 🌿 Take time for the activities with family and friends
- 🌿 Enjoy the Christmas recipes that others share
- 🌿 Use your senses to experience Christmas in fresh new ways
- 🌿 Read the memories and traditions that are a part of the stories others tell
- 🌿 Pause to look into the story of the first Christmas – that night God's Son, Jesus Christ was born in a manger.

In addition to this printed booklet, additional resources are available on the church's website www.fbcsouthberwick.org/Journey. Be sure to find **2020 Journey to Christmas** on Facebook; interact with others who are journeying with you - leave your comments, photos, recipes, crafts, and traditions.



Thank you to all who contributed and compiled this Christmas

Betty Jo Blaisdell

Collection:

Judy Morgridge

Rich & Lynn Cooke

Gina Phillips

Matt Cooke

Laura Pike

Judy Felix

Marcia Pike

Bev Frasier

Nikki Stetson

Janet Gaudette

John & Sharon

Karen Gordon

Stuart

Sonny & Gail Knowles

Jessie Stuart

Dawn LaPierre

Norrna Toussaint

