



the spirit of

Heart O' the Lakes Church

United Brethren in Christ

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Brooklyn, MI 49230
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January 2010
website www.hearttothelakes.org



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Feature Stories

What's Happening
At HOTL
page 4

Youth News
page 5



It is with great joy and maybe even a little touch of embarrassment that I write about my love for scripture today. As many of those reading this know, I was blessed to grow up in a Christian home with loving parents who stressed the importance of consistently reading the Word of God. Sadly, like many teens, I took our Lord's love letter to His children for granted and treated it much like an old work of art. Reading it felt like a chore, and failing to read it simply resulted in antagonizing guilt. I felt like I was missing something. If this book is really as amazing as all these older people are telling me, shouldn't I desire or even yearn for it in some way? As I worked through college on a ministry degree, I spent many hours looking at scripture and studying both the Old and New Testaments. My knowledge of God's Word grew by leaps and bounds, but in many ways it was an academic, logical knowledge. I still struggled to consistently meet with God in a personal way, and I don't remember ever yearning to find solace in His words. Over the past six years since graduating, my spiritual journey has been interesting, well at least it seems interesting to me. I fully understand that I may be boring you to tears.

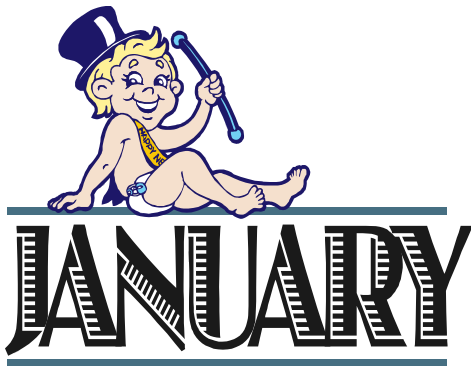
My beautiful wife and I moved back to Brooklyn, Michigan

where I worked as a short order cook, and she as a waitress for eight months. God taught me humility, patience, and to trust that He has a divine plan that I need to get out of the way of. You see, I thought that I was something pretty special. I thought I had all this knowledge, ability, and training that was being wasted over a greasy stove. However, God simply said, "*Work hard and love readily, wherever I lead you.*" In my simple-minded pride, I struggled to see the bigger picture outside of myself. Sadly, I still sought not the comfort of scripture, but rather immersed myself in things that had little redeeming value.

We soon moved to Colorado Springs to work with juvenile felons, and began the most challenging year of our marriage yet. We were lied to incessantly, cussed out, attacked, and used by the very kids that we sought to actively love. Our Lord shaped us in so many ways and continued to cement our marriage as we faced some daunting situations. Through an amazing, truly selfless, Orthodox Priest, God once again addressed the issue of my pride in all kinds of new ways in my life. I began to appreciate scripture and the ways that it revealed my true self to me. However, it was still a guilt motivated responsibility in many ways.

When we finished our one year commitment in Colorado, much to my surprise, we returned to

(Continued on page 2)



Without **GOD**, our
week would be: **Sinday,**
Mournday,
Tearsday
Wasteday
Thirstday
Fightday
Shatterday

Remember seven days
without God makes one
WEAK!!!

the spirit of

Heart O' the Lakes

A publication of
Heart O' the Lakes
United Brethren Church
7031 Jefferson Road
Brooklyn, MI 49230

Published monthly to keep mem-
bers and friends informed of
programs at the Church and to
report news about the Heart O'
the Lakes people.

We welcome your articles to
include in our Church newsletter.

Editor: Kathy Hurst

**PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for
copy is the 20th of each month.**

(Continued from page 1)

Michigan to serve in a pastoral position. The last three and a half years have been a riot of emotions, and have challenged me in many ways. There have been several things that have changed in me lately, and as I look back, God's hand is evident. For the sake of sparing you the long version, I will just say that my relationship with my Lord has become one of emotion and passion rather than limited to intellect. The emotional connection coupled with the ever present stark reality that I can do nothing of my own power, have inclined me to seek Him in His Word. For probably the first time in my life, I feel like the Bible is truly like daily food. As I look at the last six years, it just seems like one long process of opening my eyes to my own insignificance and the reality that I have neither the answers nor the ability to move forward without depending on the Holy Spirit. I now move forward one step at a time relying on the humbling Word of God to illuminate only as much as He needs me to see in order to take the next step. It feels strange to say this, but I am already looking forward to finding comfort in the words that He has for me this evening. Praise the Lord who is able to work a sad lump of clay into something that will bring Him glory.

May we all continue to seek
and find Christ,

Pastor Nate

The Amazing Power of Prayer

Please pray for:

Our Church & Pastors

Ministry Teams

Our Missionaries

Sunday School Teachers

President Obama and his cabi-
net

Our Military Services

The lost in our community

Unity in the Body of Christ

Our Elders

Each month we list individuals
and families who attend Heart O'
the Lakes Church and ask that
you pray for their good health,
work, spiritual growth and
strength.

John & Bertha Hills

Dave & Marsha Horner

Roger & Janet Howe

Norma Hudson

Dennis & Kathy Hurst

Chuck & Linda Hunt

Ray, Patty & Ashley Hyatt

Bill & Cheryl Innes

Andy & Joan Jenness

Kevin & Kathy Jenness

& Family

Dave, Debbie & Adam Jester

June Joannette

Kelvin & Karen Kilbourn

Jerry & Carroll King

Kurt & Nancy Knaup

& Family

Charlene Knickerbocker

Jessica Kreider

Ken & Diane Lowry

& Family

Kent & Tahny Lowry

& Family



- 4 **Tom & Michelle Haeussler Anniv.**
 6 Cheryl Fosgate
 12 Doug Shepard
 15 Tom Barto
 20 Laurie Carl
 21 Brandon Fosgate
 23 Linda Grajek
 Charles Burkholder
 26 Amy VanZandt
 27 Debi Hale
 Marv Zimmerman
 28 Norma Hudson
 29 Al Szenas

volunteer schedule

NURSERY

Sunday School

- 3 Debbie Jester
 10 Cori Baumann
 17 Joann Carpenter
 24 Debi Hale
 31 Sherry Hamann

Worship:

- 3 Janet Howe & Kathy Maybee
 10 Amy VanZandt & Sherry Hamann
 17 Linda Grajek & Cheryl Fosgate
 24 Linda Schatz & Tabby Marshall
 31 Ashley Hyatt & Michelle Rankin

JUNIOR CHURCH

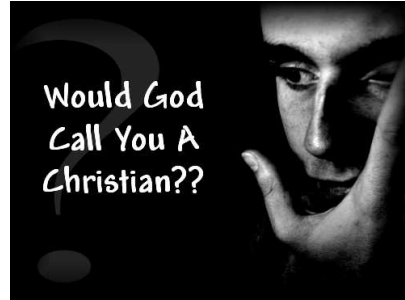
- 3 Lori Scouten
 10 Lori Scouten
 17 Tami Willard
 24 Tami Willard
 31 Debi Hale

GREETERS

- 3 Scott & Cindy Weaver
 10 Tom & Char Barto
 17 Dave & Marsha Horner
 24 Dennis & Kathy Hurst
 31 Kevin & Sherry Hamann

A Christian Is . .

A Christian is one who makes it easier for other people to believe in God.



January Memory Verse

Psalm 119:37

“Turn my eyes away
from worthless things;
Renew my life
according to Your
Word.”

Psalm 119:37

20 Things the Psalmist Did With God's Word (Psalm 119)

Posted by [sheepfodder](#)

1. He walked in it (v. 1, 3)
2. He kept it (v. 2, 4, 5, 8, 17, 22, 33, 34, 44, 55, 56, 57, 60, 67, 69, 88, 100, 101, 106, 115, 129, 134, 145, 158, 167, 168).
3. He fixed his eyes on it (v. 6, 15).
4. He learned it (v. 7, 71, 73).
5. He stored it in his heart. (v. 11).
6. He declared it/spoke of it (v. 13, 46).
7. He meditated on it (v. 15, 23, 27, 48, 78, 97, 99, 148).
8. He set it before him (v. 30).
9. He clung to it (v. 31).
10. He ran in it (v. 32).
11. He observed it (v. 34, 146).
12. He trusted in it (v. 42, 66).
13. He hoped in it (v. 43, 49, 74, 81, 114, 147).
14. He sought it (v. 45, 94).
15. He lifted his hands toward it (v. 48).
16. He sang it (v. 54, 172).
17. He turned his feet to it (v. 95).
18. He considered it (v. 95).
19. He did it (v. 166).
20. He chose it (v. 173).

What's Happening at Heart O the Lakes

Why is your blood needed?

The blood supply needs to be continually replenished. Only 38% of Americans are eligible to donate blood and out of those only 8% actually do. That amounts to only about 3 out of every 100 people.

Your donations make a difference!

Monday, Jan. 18
1:00 - 6:45 PM
HOTL Church

Calendar of Events for 2010



Everyone is invited to the Potluck Planning Meeting on **Sunday, January 24** after the morning worship service. The plan is to grab your calendars and schedule social activities for the new year. If you have an idea for a new event you'd like to see happen or just want to make sure your favorite event is on the calendar, come, bring a dish or two to pass and let's plan together!!



Open

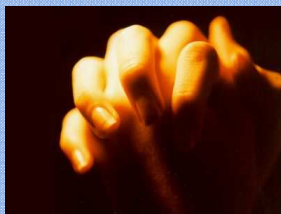
Walking

There will be open walking in the gym on the following dates:

prayer gathering

Sunday, Jan. 3

at 7:00 pm



Pastor Noe to speak at HOTL

Pastor Noe, together with his wife, Haydee, and daughter, Sinai, will travel to Michigan and speak at our morning worship service on February 7th. He will be sharing his testimony with us and the history of Casa de Abuelos, a mission outreach we support. You won't want to miss this special event!

Beth Moore



Beth Moore founded Living Proof Ministries in 1994

with the express purpose of teaching women how to love and live on God's Word. Beth's mission is to guide women everywhere into a richer, more fulfilling relationship with the Father. She is a woman of purpose, preparation, prayer and passion. It's apparent in everything she does, from teaching Sunday School at her home church to sharing her biblical insights and observations in her Bible studies and books.

Beth will be in Grand Rapids at the VanAndel Arena on Friday, May 21 at 6:00 pm until Saturday, May 22nd at 12:00 pm. Michelle Rankin is getting a group of women together to attend this very special event. General admission is \$60.00. If this is something you would like to attend, sign up on the sheet located at the Welcome Table. Michelle is also reserving a block of rooms at a nearby hotel. For more information, call Michelle at 536-0682 or 734-385-5102.



HOTL YOUTH MINISTRY

We offer weekly gatherings for students grades 6th-12th

Sunday morning junior and senior high classes – 9:15 to 10:15

Sunday evenings 6th through 12th grade will be meeting from 6-8 pm

Jr. High Winter Retreat!!!

When: February 19-21

Cost: \$75 per person which includes a \$20 deposit

What To Do??

- Be sure to sign up on the bulletin board by the youth room door.
- Turn in your \$20 deposit to Pastor Nate by Sunday, January 24th.



Yup, you guessed it!!! These are two animals that we won't be seeing on this retreat. I'm holding out for a black squirrel or maybe just a cute muskrat.



MISSIONS

Yes, we are going to serve in Mexico again this summer!!! (June 21-28) It's been almost two years since we have been

there, and I can't wait to see all of our Mexican brothers and sisters in June. If you are in senior high and are interested in joining the youth group on this trip, please contact me (Pastor Nate) as soon as you can. We have a set limit of spots available, and many of them are claimed, but we may be able to snap up some more tickets if there is a need.



Small Groups

You are invited!!

The purpose for these groups is to grow closer to Christ and each other. They provide an opportunity for us to challenge and be challenged in an environment of love and encouragement. Please feel free to contact Pastor Nate if you have any questions about these groups or if you would like to get involved.

Sisterhood (Sr. High Girls)

1st & 3rd Saturday of every month at 7:00pm at the Baumann's house.

Brotherhood (Sr. High Guys)

Every Wednesday night in the youth room from 6:00 till 7:00pm.

Our junior high small groups meet at 5:15 on Sunday night prior to youth group.

Spiritual Checkup

Given a choice, I'd probably not voluntarily visit my doctor for a physical exam. I'm inclined to assume that everything is okay and not bother my doctor about it. But since my wife is a nurse, I don't have a choice. I go in for regular exams.

And given a choice, many of us are a little afraid of spiritual checkups as well. After all, if we check our spirit too closely, we might have to change a habit or two. We might need something like an "attitude-ectomy."

I suggest that we get over our reluctance. With God's guidance, let's undergo a spiritual checkup, using Proverbs 4:20-27 as a checklist.

Ears (v.20): Are we hearing God's Word clearly and with understanding? Are we doing what those words tell us?

Eyes (v. 21, 25): Are we keeping our eyes on the teachings that will guide us toward righteousness?

Heart (v. 23): Are we protecting our heart from evil?

Tongue (v. 24): Is our mouth clean and pure?

Feet (v. 26): Are we walking straight toward God's truth without wavering?

How did you do on your examination? Are there areas where you need to take action? Regular checkups will help to restore your spiritual vitality.

- Dave Branon
Our Daily Bread

imagine this

It has been about two years now since the Lead Team set out to help plant "imagine this" UB Church in Grand Ledge, Michigan. We are happy to report that despite the odds, the church is alive and doing well! Over one hundred people have come to know the Lord in this short time, and many have been baptized! The church currently has an average of 150 in attendance and average offerings of over \$2,000 per week!

Roy Atherton is the new interim pastor. He was on staff at Sunfield UB Church and transitioned here about a year ago. Roy is in the process of becoming the permanent pastor.

Along with this good news, we want to thank you for your support for "imagine this." Without you "imagine this" would not be the vibrant and fruitful ministry that it is. Thank you for investing in kingdom work!

We are currently in the beginning process of planting another new church in Michigan and would love to have your financial support. We are searching for a church planter now.

The Lead Team Members:

Howard Matthews, Tom Blaylock, Scott Hergert, Roy Atherton,

"Our lives can be radically impacted beyond our present thinking through a growing relationship with God. If you can imagine it, God has already seen it!"

"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

1 Timothy 4:8

for the funny bone

One Sunday morning, the Pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The seven year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning, pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?" he asked. The pastor said, "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the

large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked, "Which service, the 9:00 or the 11:00?"



A winning pattern for the New Year

Some anonymous wise person penned the following directions for living without bringing pain to others or oneself:

“You will never be sorry —
 for thinking before acting,
 for hearing before judging,
 for forgiving your enemies,
 for being candid and frank,
 for helping a fallen brother,
 for being honest in business,
 for thinking before speaking,
 for being loyal to God and the church,
 for standing by your principles,
 for refusing to participate in gossip,
 for holding your words when tempted to demean another,
 for not entertaining impure or hateful thoughts,
 for sympathizing with the afflicted,
 for being courteous and kind to all.”

Prayer for entering the new year



We know, O Lord, that our times are in your hands. While we live on Earth, enable us to please you in all things. Especially now, as we enter a new year, we pray for strengthened spirits that we may praise you properly by our thoughts, words and deeds.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past — have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time.

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is life leaving the oil out of the salad dressing — don't do it), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

“So there is hope for your future,” declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 31:17

Cell Phone vs. Bible

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

- WHAT IF: we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- WHAT IF: we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
- WHAT IF: we flipped through it several times a day?
- WHAT IF: we used it to receive messages from the text?
- WHAT IF: we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- WHAT IF: we gave it to kids as gifts?
- WHAT IF: we used it as we traveled?
- WHAT IF: we used it in case of an emergency?
- WHAT IF: we upgraded it to get the latest version?
- WHAT IF: we shared the plan with our friends & family?



This is something to make you go hmmmmmmmm.. where is my Bible? Oh, and one more thing. Unlike your cell phone, we don't ever have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill!

DISSECTING THE BIBLE

OLD TESTAMENT

BOOKS OF MOSES

The first five books are known as the Books of Moses, mainly because their writing traditionally has been attributed to Moses. These books, also called the Pentateuch, describe Creation and humankind's early history. They record how the people of Israel were chosen, saved from slavery, and instructed in God's Law. [Genesis; Exodus; Leviticus; Numbers; Deuteronomy]

BOOKS OF HISTORY

The next 12 books record the conquest of the land of Canaan, the period of the Judges, the formation of a united kingdom, and the division of that kingdom into the North (Israel) and the South (Judah). [Joshua; Judges; Ruth; 1 & 2 Samuel; 1 & 2 Kings; 1 & 2 Chronicles; Ezra; Nehemiah; Esther]

BOOKS OF POETRY

These books do not advance the story of the nation Israel, but delve deeply into crucial questions about pain, God, wisdom, life, and love. [Job; Psalms; Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Song of Solomon]

BOOKS OF PROPHECY

The 17 Books of Prophecy have a two-pronged message of condemnation and consolation. Often at great personal cost, the prophets refuse to dilute God's strong words. They emphasize four chronological points: the time when they live, the Captivity and return, the first coming of Christ, and the messianic Kingdom. [Isaiah; Jeremiah; Lamentations; Ezekiel; Daniel; Hosea; Joel; Amos; Obadiah; Jonah; Micah; Nahum; Habakkuk; Zephaniah; Haggai; Zechariah; Malachi]

NEW TESTAMENT

THE GOSPELS

The first four books of the New Testament are the Gospel, biographies of Jesus told from different perspectives. [Matthew; Mark; Luke; John]

BOOK OF HISTORY

The book of Acts tells the history of the early church and the spread of Christianity. [Acts]

PAUL'S EPISTLES TO CHURCHES

These nine books are letters written by the apostle Paul to encourage and instruct new congregations of believers. [Romans; 1 & 2 Corinthians; Galatians; Ephesians; Philippians; Colossians; 1 & 2 Thessalonians]

PAUL'S EPISTLES TO PASTORS

These four books, also written by Paul, exhort church leaders to faithfulness and diligence. [1 & 2 Timothy; Titus; Philemon]

GENERAL EPISTLES

These eight books were originally written to persecuted Jewish believers and contain practical help for maturing Christians. [Hebrews; James; 1 & 2 Peter; 1, 2, & 3 John; Jude]

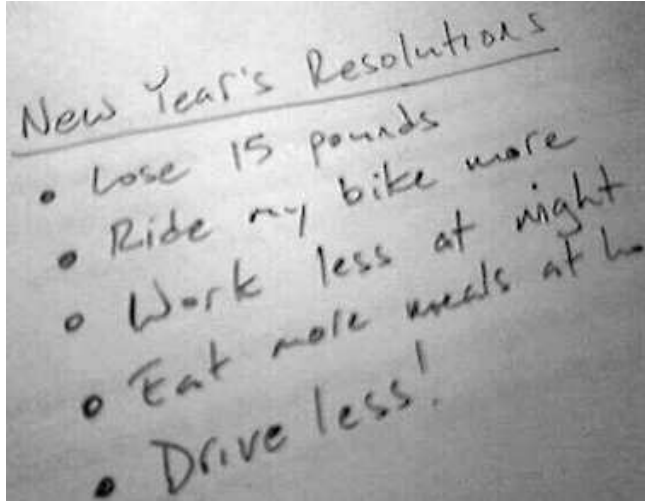
BOOK OF PROPHECY

The book of Revelation tells the story of the end times and the return of Jesus.

Just a Thought

(From the Person in the Next Pew)

Greetings in the name of our new born Savior! Have you developed your New Year's resolutions yet? Whether we write them out, or just think about them, most of us can't help but consider the fresh beginning a new year brings. Here are some thoughts to consider as you prepare for this New Year:



Don't look back. God

knows the fruitless efforts, the wasted hours, the sinning and regrets. Leave them with Him who

forgives and forgets.

Don't look forward. Only God knows the future. He will be with you at it's every trial and every joy.

Do look up

keeping heaven in your sights, where your heart can rest and your fears are stilled. Look up for joy, love, light and perfect peace, and find your every hope fulfilled. Enjoy the knowledge that all

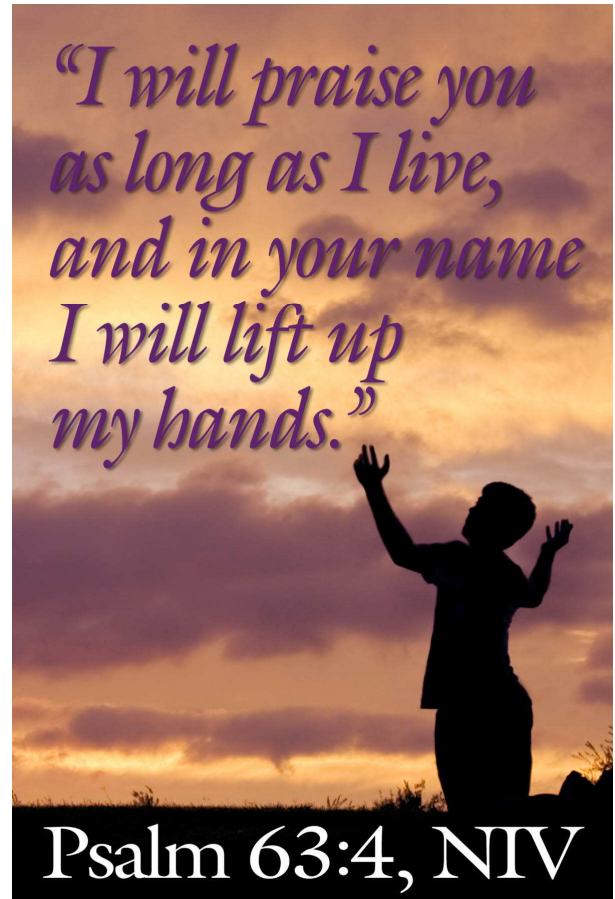
things are in the hands of your loving Lord.

Have a Happy and Blessed New Year!

etc.

Ponder This...

- † “Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves!”
— J.M. Barrie
- † “In darkness there is no choice. It is light that enables us to see the differences between things; and it is Christ who gives us light.”
— Augustus Hare
- † “If you live right each day, you will be neither afraid of tomorrow nor ashamed of yesterday.”
— E.C. McKenzie
- † “Love talked about is easily turned aside, but love demonstrated is irresistible.”
— W. Stanley Mooneyham



JINGLE BELL TAMBOURINE

To ring in 2010, make a joyful noise with this musical instrument.

What you need:

- 2 plastic plates
- Hole punch
- Pen
- Beads or beans (or other small items that will make noise when shaken)
- Tacky craft glue
- 6 pieces of ribbon (each about 5" long and 1/4" wide)
- 6 jingle bells
- Stickers
- Markers



What you do:

1. On the bottom of each plate, write, "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth" (Psalm 100:1, NIV).
2. Punch six evenly spaced holes around the rim of one plate. Mark the holes with a pen and then punch six matching holes in the second plate.
3. Pour the beads or beans into one plate and then squeeze glue around the rim of that plate.
4. Place the other plate on top, aligning the holes. (Make sure the Bible verses are on the outside.) Let it dry.
5. Thread one ribbon through one hole and through one bell, and then tie the ribbon. Repeat five more times, once for each hole.
6. Decorate the instrument with stickers or markers.
7. Play your tambourine when you sing your favorite songs.

kIDS' PAGE



Make a joyful noise

people often gather with noisemakers to celebrate the promise of a new year. be thankful and joyful for the many blessings in your life.

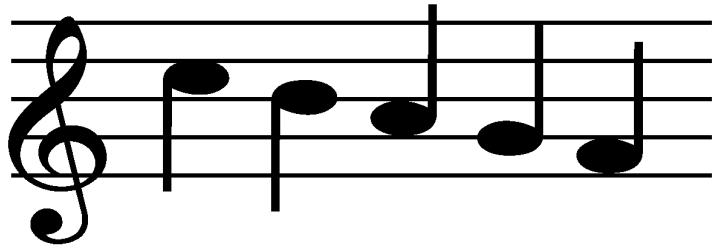
Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship

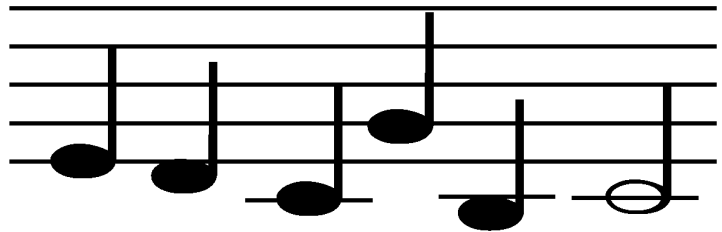


* * * * *

_____ the _____ ;



_____ .



Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.



January

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday School - 9:15 am

Worship Service - 10:30 am

Wednesday Bible

Study/Prayer - 7:00 pm

Sunday, **Jan. 3** - Monthly Prayer Gathering

Monday, **Jan. 4** - HOTL II vs. Grace II and HOTL III vs. Fellowship II

Tuesday, **Jan. 5** - Women's Evening Bible Study

Thursday, **Jan. 7** - Elder Board Meeting

Thursday, **Jan. 14** - Spiritual Care

Friday, **Jan. 15** - Gym rental

Saturday, **Jan. 16** - Sr. High Winter Retreat

Sunday, **Jan. 17** - Friendship Sunday

Monday, **Jan. 18** - Blood Drive

Tuesday, **Jan. 19** - Friends for Fitness Resumes

Tuesday, **Jan. 19** - Women's Evening Bible Study

Thursday, **Jan. 21** - Gym rental

Friday, **Jan. 22** - Gym rental

Sunday, **Jan. 24** - Potluck Planning Meeting for 2010

Thursday, **Jan. 28** - Gym rental

Friday, **Jan. 29** - Gym rental

Saturday, **Jan. 30** - Emmaus Meeting



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*"Jesus is the man God intended
all humans to be.*

~ D.I. Dykes