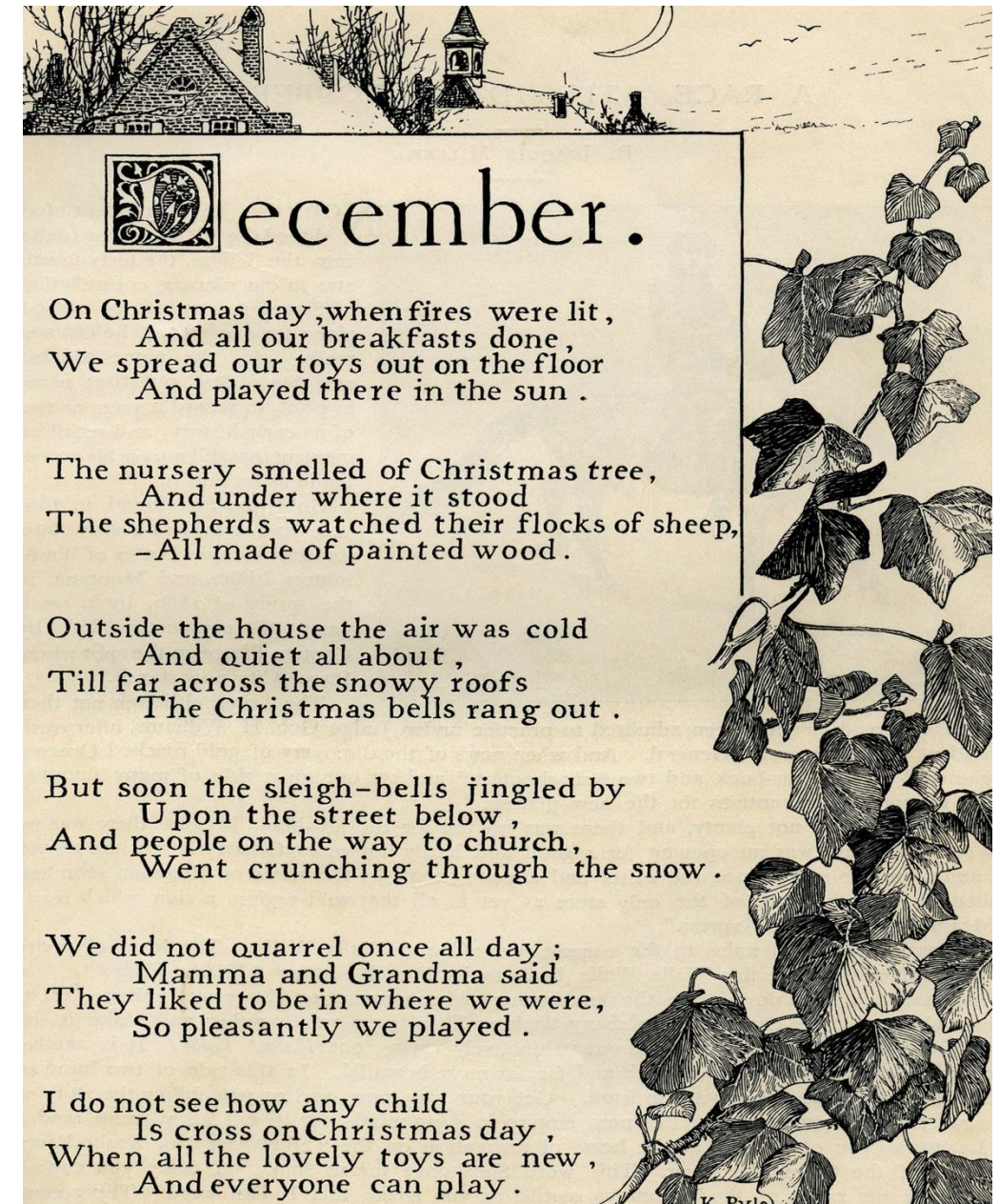


Joyful Noiz

December 9, 2022- January 13, 2023 Newsletter

The wonderful old fashioned Christmas poem written by K. Pyle is from the December 1890 issue of St. Nicholas magazine.



Zion United Church of Christ

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Rev. Walter Coy, Pastor

E-mail: church.zionucc@gmail.com
Web address: www.zionuccsteubenville.com

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

12 Christmas PRAYERS

LIGHT

May the light of Christ shine from within us.
Isaiah 9:2

PROMISE

Thank you for the promise of eternal life through Jesus. John 3:16

OBEDIENCE

Help us to be obedient to You even when we don't fully understand.
Luke 1:38

GRATITUDE

Thank you for all of our blessings, not just the gifts under the tree.
Luke 1:49

SIMPLICITY

You came as a baby in a manger, help us find value in the simple things.
Luke 2:7

Joy

May the joy of Christ be felt through us. Luke 1:44

LOVE

Help us see ways to turn love into action this Christmas.
Matthew 25:40

FAITH

Increase our faith so we fully trust in Your promises. Matthew 1:24

PEACE

May the peace of Christ cover the busyness of this season.
Isaiah 9:6

GENEROSITY

Show us what gifts we have to offer and help us give them generously.
Matthew 2:11

HOPEFULNESS

Fill us with hope for the coming of our savior, Jesus Christ.
Daniel 2:44

TOGETHERNESS

Thank you that the gift of Jesus makes us one family together in Christ. John 1:12

WHAT'S GOING ON AT ZION?

www.zionuccsteubenville.com



IN OUR CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Bill Bertram, Dakota Miller, Marlene Rhueff, Elaine Panyi, Tim Maloney, Steve Panyi

➤If you would like to be remembered in prayer or know of someone who would appreciate being included in this list, please contact the church office.



December 1
December 2
December 15
December 21

Happy Birthday!

Elaine Painting
Promise Hunt
Dawn Moody
McKenna Conaway



PASTOR COY

If you would like to meet with Pastor Coy, please make an appointment with the church office at **740-282-1793**. If you would like to get a hold of Pastor Coy directly, his cell number is **330-301-0551**.

CHRISTMAS EVE

This year we will be having a Christmas Eve service at **Noon on Saturday December 24, 2022. We will be closed on Christmas Day.**

Christmas Blessings to you and yours!!

**Bless us Lord this Christmas with
Peace that surpasses all understanding,
Joy that is beyond material possessions,
Love that knows no boundaries, and
Strength that emanates from faith in You.**

**When life's perils thick confound you,
Put His arms unflinching round you,
God be with you till we meet again!**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pastor's Pen

From Christmas to Easter

Looking at the Christ child this Christmas Eve, we find ourselves beckoned to Easter, called to travel not to Bethlehem first but rather to Calvary, where God's redemptive presence is most fully revealed. At the cross we see a birth like no other, as the death of Jesus leads ultimately to the resurrection of Christ. Christmas, traveling to Calvary, we find Christ in magnificent form. Christmas is a time to receive God's gift of salvation. We all know the story, but moving through the centuries, the Christmas story carries on, offering you and me the chance to participate in God's radical plan. Christ comes to earth in humble and human form, welcoming each of us to participate in the miraculous unfolding of God's loving and just realm.

Of course, God's vision is always unfolding. The scene at the manger is never complete; even this Christmas eve as we gather it testifies to the miraculous way the Christian story carries on. God draws us together in unity and love despite our differences and diversity. Jesus Christ, the humble child, the radiant Savior, celebrating the one who comes to bring justice and peace to this broken world.

The story of the fir tree. At the time when the Christ Child was born all the people, the animals, and the trees and plants were very happy. The Child was born to bring peace and happiness to the whole world. People came daily to see the little One, and they always brought gifts with them. There were three trees standing near the crypt which saw the people, and they wished that they, too, might give presents to the Christ child. The Palm said: "I will choose my most beautiful leaf and place it as a fan over the Child." The Olive said, "I will sprinkle sweet-smelling oil upon His head." The Fir asked, "what can I give to the Child?" "You!" cried the others. "You have nothing to offer Him. Your needles would prick Him, and your tears are sticky." So the poor little Fir tree was very unhappy, and it said: "Yes, you are right, I have nothing to offer the Christ Child."

Now, quite near the trees stood the Christmas Angel, who had heard all that the trees had said. The Angel was sorry for the Fir tree who was so lowly without envy of the other trees. So, when it was dark, and the stars came out, the Angel begged a few of the little stars to come down and rest upon the branches of the Fir tree. They did as the Christmas Angel asked, and the Fir tree shone suddenly with a beautiful light. At that very moment, the Christ Child opened His eyes-for He had been asleep- and as the lovely light fell upon Him He smiled.

Every year people keep the dear Christmas Child's birthday by giving gifts to each other, and every year, in remembrance of His first birthday, the Christmas Angel places in every house a Fir tree. Covered with starry candles it shines for the children as the stars shone for the Christ Child. The Fir tree was rewarded for its meekness, for to no other tree is it given to shine upon so many happy faces.

We call his name Immanuel, which means "God with us". God coming to reconcile all creation to his love. "All creation" means everyone. Rich and poor, old and young, sick and well, every skin color- all of them were there, all of them present, all of them included as the ones to whom Jesus had come. That includes you and me, even though we weren't in the crowd that night, around Him in the stable. Thanks be to God who has come to be with us, a crowd.

Merry Christmas,

Rev. Coy and Joyce

