

# New Covenant UMC Newsletter

December 2021

## Message from Pastor Althea V Jackson

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Dear friends and family

I can't wait for Christmas! How many times did we say that when we were children? The anticipation built and December 25<sup>th</sup> felt like it was taking forever. Because there were customs to celebrate Jesus' birth. There would be presents! When we were children there would be toys in our excitement the greatest of the gifts seems to get pushed aside.



It is easy to forget there was a thirteen-year girl who found herself chosen to be the mother of the promised one. It's easy to push aside the miles long journey she and her betrothed had to make from Nazareth to Jerusalem because a wanna-be king pretended he was a god who wanted to raise taxes for an empire in a money crunch. We glorify the child born in a stable when the truth is the stable was a hollowed-out cave with other four-legged furry occupants. How about the young mother who looks up at a night sky and sees a star hovering and pointing to baby. Remember the young Child visited by the magi from another nation looking for the Promised One? At least they came with gifts. And the pretender on a throne he bought with his people's blood sweat and tears?

But in spite of all those dubious beginnings there is great news to celebrate! The Child was born! And His life death and burial will change the world!

We celebrate because this Child will transform us!

I still like Christmas presents. I have a list. Nothing on that wish list compares with the gift God gave us. The Promised One came! He is the best gift of all!

So, while we celebrate the Child's arrival with gift to loved ones, remember to honor the One who makes it all possible.

When we say Merry Christmas, this year don't forget the Child his mother and earthly father and the night the stars pointed to Emmanuel.



[This Photo](#) by

*Merry Christmas Beloved!*

*Pastor Althea*



Join us

**Friday, December 24, 2021 at 7 PM**

**In the Sanctuary**

**to celebrate the birth of Jesus**