

Solstice Service to be held Sunday in Delphi

Comet staff report

A Solstice Service will be held Sunday evening at 5:30 at the Wabash & Erie Canal Center, Delphi.

Beverly Seese, Unitarian Universalist seminary student at Meadville Lombard Theological School, will

lead a Spiral of Lights service in celebration of the Winter Solstice. The service is intergenerational and participatory.

Attendees of all ages are invited to walk along the spiral of greenery to light a candle and place it in the spiral one by one

symbolizing both the return of the light that comes at the Winter Solstice and what a community can do when it works together. The ritual is also a reminder of the spiritual journey that an individual takes as he/she walks throughout the seasons of their life.

Everyone is welcome to attend and participate to the degree that they are comfortable. There will be a variety of music offered by all who wish to bring instruments. If interested in helping with music, contact Seese at bseese@meadville.edu.

Lessons from the Heart

“Silent night, Holy night”

By Pastor Sam Davenport

When . . . Mary had been betrothed to Joseph . . . she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 1:18-20)

Soon we will be singing “Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother and child!” This carol paints a picture that

the birth of Christ was a quiet and peaceful event. However, the Christmas season is often anything but quiet and peaceful. There’s often too much to do in too packed of a schedule and therefore we’re ready to drop in exhaustion.

Perhaps we feel this way because we have not made time each day to listen. Our lives need rest that comes from silence, away from the noise and busyness of the world. To most of us silence is the absence of sound. Silence also makes room for a presence - our presence in God’s presence. In silence we are able to



Davenport

listen in a way we can’t when we are surrounded by noise and distractions. As a friend puts it, “Prayer happens when we first ‘shut up and listen’ to God.”

Joseph was able to carry out God’s will because he was willing to listen. When Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant, the scriptures tell us “he considered this.” Then an angel approached him and told him that Mary’s was not a typical pregnancy and that this baby would be Emmanuel (“God with us”).

To “consider” something, one has to be willing to listen and prayerfully examine all the

angles. If Joseph had reacted abruptly and made his decision “off-the-cuff,” he would probably never have heard the angel’s message and not carried out the grander plan God had for him and the world.

Let each of us be challenged to find a few moments during this next week to be alone with God. With the strength that comes from “quiet rest” with God, we can truly approach “the manger” and worship the Prince of Peace with the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts and on our minds.

“Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalms 46:10)
(Sam Davenport is the transitional pastor at Flora First Christian Church.)

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

Set boundaries before leaving for family holidays

QUESTION: How can parents preserve their own peace of mind and maintain harmony during car trips and family holidays?

DR. DOBSON: Sometimes it helps to redefine the boundaries at the beginning of your time together. Let the children know exactly what you’re doing and what’s expected of them. If they still misbehave, respond with good, loving discipline right from the start.

No parent wants to be an ogre on vacation, but it helps to show a little firmness at the outset that can make the rest of the time together fun for the entire family.

QUESTION: We have always laughed a lot in our family, sometimes at each other. Is that good or bad?

DR. DOBSON: It is healthy to be able to laugh together in a family. We ought to be able to tease and joke with each other without having to worry about getting an angry overreaction in response. But when the laughter is always at the expense of the most vulnerable member of the family, it can be destructive.

Even innocent humor is painful when it’s the same child who is the object of ridicule. Unfortunately, that’s the way it often happens. When one youngster has an

embarrassing characteristic, such as bed-wetting, or thumb sucking, or stuttering, the other members of the family should be encouraged to tread very softly on the exposed nerves thereabouts. And a child should never be ridiculed for his or her size, whether he’s a small boy or a large girl.

This is the guiding principle: It’s wise not to tease a child about the features that he or she is also defending outside the home. If that youngster is hearing about some obvious flaw all day long, he or she certainly doesn’t need more flak from the family. And when that child asks for a joke to end, the request should be honored.

Being the butt of everyone’s ridicule is a formula for life-long resentment, and there’s just nothing funny about that happening.

QUESTION: My children love to do things for themselves, but they make such messes that it’s easier for me to do things for them. I just don’t have the patience to see them fumble with stuff. Do you think I’m wrong to step in and do things for them?

DR. DOBSON: I think you are wrong, even though I un-

derstand how you feel. I heard a story about a mother who was sick in bed with the flu. Her darling daughter wanted so much to be a good nurse. She fluffed the pillows and brought a magazine to read. And then she even showed up with a surprise cup of tea.

“Why, you’re such a sweet heart,” the mother said as she drank the tea. “I didn’t know you even knew how to make tea.”

“Oh, yes,” the little girl replied. “I learned by watching you. I put the tealeaves in the pan and then I put in the water, and I boiled it and then I strained it into a cup. But I couldn’t find a strainer, so I used the fly swatter instead.”

“You what?” the mother screamed. And the little girl said, “Oh, don’t worry, Mom, I didn’t use the new fly swatter. I used the old one.”

Well, when kids try their hardest and they get it all

Pray for our nation to seek God

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalms 119:105 Pd. Adv.

wrong in spite of themselves, what’s a parent to do? What mothers and fathers often do is prevent their children from carrying any responsibility that could result in a mess or a mistake. It’s just easier to do everything for them than to clean up afterwards. But, I urge parents not to fall into that trap.

Your child needs her mistakes. That’s how she learns. So, go along with the game every now and then — even if the tea you drink tastes a little strange.

Announcements

A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be held at 10 p.m. on Dec. 24 at Hickory Grove Church. The service will last approximately 35 minutes and will conclude with a candle lighting service and singing of Silent Night. Hickory Grove Church is located five miles south of Idaville on Carroll County Road 700W.

Send your questions to Dr. Dobson, c/o Focus on the Family, PO Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO 80903, or to his Web site at www.lofi.org. These questions and answers are excerpted from books authored by Dr. James Dobson and published by Tyndale House Publishers. Dr. Dobson is the founder and chairman of the board of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home and Judeo-Christian values. Copyright 1997 James Dobson, Inc. All rights reserved. International copy secured.

Longest Night Service
Sunday, December 21st
7:00 p.m.

Holidays stressful?
Lost a loved one?
Suffered a loss?
Christmas less than merry?

This special service is designed to help us deal with the pain of loss and to remind us there is hope in the midst of darkness.

Please join us in the sanctuary for this quiet, meditative service.

Delphi United Methodist Church
118 N. Union Street, Delphi
765-564-3791
www.delphiiumc.org

You are invited to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

December 24th
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

7:00 p.m.
or
9:00 p.m.

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DIRECTORY OF AREA CHURCHES

SS=Sunday School	SW=Sunday Worship
AMERICAN UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Larry Williams, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.	FLORA FIRST BAPTIST: 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST: Rex Charles, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	FLORA FIRST BRETHREN: 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Herendeen, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.	FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ) S. Center Street, Flora. Sam Davenport, interim pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST: 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Dwight Monical, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.	FLORA GRACE BRETHREN: 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.
BURLINGTON FIRST BRETHREN: 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Roussakis, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.	FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 211 S. Center St., Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m.
BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: Dave Osborne, Interim Pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., Bible Study (Thur): 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.	FLORA UNITED METHODIST: 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Rex Charles, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.
BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST: Bonnie Shoaf, pastor. SS: 11:00 a.m., SW 9:30 a.m.	FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST: Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BURNETTSTOWN FIRST BAPTIST: Second & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.	GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: 1101 Dreifers Ave., Delphi. Joe Whitehead, pastor. SS: 10 a.m. SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BURNETTSTOWN CHRISTIAN: Sixth & Washington, Burnettsville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.	HICKORY GROVE CHURCH: CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
BURNETTSTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: First & Main, Burnettsville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.	HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 11:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD: 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Chris Murphy, pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.
CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY: Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center, Delphi. Eric Haley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.	JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP: CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gamel, pastor. SS: 9:00 a.m., SW: 10:00 a.m.
CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST: Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9 - 9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.	LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 310N 250W. Jeff Tomson, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.	LIVING STONE CHURCH: 54 Main St., Rossville. Sunday Services: 8:50-9:20 Coffee and Fellowship, 9:30 worship. Children's church available
COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST: Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.	LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH: East of Patton. Nord Zootman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
COLBURN UNITED METHODIST: Kasey Schnepf, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.	LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: CR 300 N, SE of Camden. Guy Studebaker, pastor. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN: 3570 E 200S, Bringhurst, Dan C. Butcher, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. SS: 10:30 a.m. Youth group 6:30 p.m., Bible study Wed. 6:30 p.m.	OAK GAGE CHRISTIAN: 11810 N 900W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Rev. Ashli Cartwright-Peak. SW: 10 a.m.
CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN: Jeff Brown and Ann Bingaman, lay pastors. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. Justin Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN: Highway 29 in Deer Creek. Dave Herron, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. SS: Adult 8:45a.m. & Children 10:00 a.m.	PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST: John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m.; SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Bible Study: Thurs. 6:30 p.m.
DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH: 315 E. Main St, Delphi. Rev. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.	PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.
DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST: 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 5 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.	PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DELPHI: Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Bill McLean. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD: 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: Pastor. Howard Hendrickson. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
DELPHI PENTECOSTAL: Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. Thurs. night Bible Study: 7:30p.m., SS: 12:45 p.m., SW: 2 p.m.	RADNOR CHURCH: Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
DELPHI UNITED METHODIST: Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor; Micah Hudson, youth pastor.	ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN: Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
DELPHI WESLEYAN: North Union Street, Delphi. Dan Fisher, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN: SW: 9:30 a.m.
EASTLAWN UNITED METHODIST: SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Mark Gaylor, pastor. SS: 9 a.m.	ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: 16 Cason St., Judd Dickey, pastor. Sunday Corporate Prayer: 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship 9:30 a.m.; SW 10:00 a.m.
FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST: SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. a.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.	ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Floyd Smith, pastor. SS: 9a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
FAITH LUTHERAN: CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.	ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. John Evertt, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., Fellowship: 9:45 a.m. SW: 10:15 a.m.
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST: Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH: U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Township. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.	SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST: St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. James Lund, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD: US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., Wed. Family Night: 6:30pm, Adult & Youth Services Sun. Evenings 6pm.	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC: 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN: Paul Marcellino, pastor. Tue. 9:30 a.m. Women's study, SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Monthly Youth Group	ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST: Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN: Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR218 and SR75. SW: 8:30 a.m., SS: Same as Worship.
	WHIRLWIND MINISTRIES: 869 N. 90 E., Burrows, Greg Britt, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. (574) 652-2280
	YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST: Carl Davis, pastor, SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

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