

**DECEMBER 2024  
JANUARY 2025**



# whisperings



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## A Word from Pastor Scott

### True And Lasting Peace

Dear friends,

Well, here we are again. The turkey has barely settled, and already the whirlwind of Christmas is upon us. You know the drill—the hustle, the bustle, the crowded stores, the long lines, the frantic search for that *perfect* gift that you're absolutely certain will make someone's life complete. And if you're really getting into the spirit, you'll be elbowing your way through Black Friday or, let's be honest, "Grey Thursday," all to secure that *amazing deal* on something nobody really needs. It's a whole lot of running around, isn't it? The Christmas "frenzy" is real, and the pressure to "do it all" is heavy.

But here's a thought—what if we took a step back from all the chaos and remembered that we already have the best gift there is? No sale, no line, no holiday shopping required. Jesus. That little baby born in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes—*He's* the gift we're really celebrating. Funny how that part sometimes gets lost in all the other "stuff" of Christmas.

Now, don't get me wrong, I love a good tradition as much as anyone. Hanging stockings, decorating the tree, baking cookies, and eating delicious brownies that will inevitably make us all gain five pounds, and yes, driving around looking at the endless string of lights that *everyone* in the neighborhood has put up or watching the Hallmark Christmas Channel on repeat. But, between all the shopping and festivities, I wonder if we've lost track of the actual point of Christmas.

— CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## Hope United Methodist Church

3474 Rothsville Road, Ephrata, PA 17522 (717) 738-3774

[hopeumc@ptd.net](mailto:hopeumc@ptd.net) ■ [www.hopeumcephrata.org](http://www.hopeumcephrata.org) ■

[www.facebook.com/hopeumcephrata](http://www.facebook.com/hopeumcephrata)

Worship 10 a.m. ■ Sunday School 11:15 a.m.

Spoiler alert: It's not about the presents. Or the food. Or the Christmas cards (although those are nice). It's not about the perfectly wrapped gifts, the carols on repeat, or the endless rounds of holiday cocktails. **Christmas is about God sending His Son into the world to save us!**

The baby born to Mary, the one the shepherds couldn't wait to see, and the wise men traveled *forever* to find—that's not just a cute nativity scene. That baby is **Immanuel, God with us** (Matthew 1:23). It's not some sentimental story or a Hallmark moment. God Himself came down to earth, wrapped in human flesh, to show us His love and to save us from our sins. And, let's be honest, if you're going to get excited about anything this Christmas, it's that.

So, as you head out into the madness of shopping for things you *really don't* need, competing for the best parking spot, and scrambling to get everything just right—take a minute to remember: The best gift has already been given. You don't need to fight for it. You don't need to stand in line for it. It's already yours.

My prayer for you this Christmas is simple: that you'd take a deep breath and refocus on the true meaning of the season—Jesus Christ, God with us. Let that truth sink in, not just for today, but for the year ahead. Because, honestly, when all is said and done, that's what Christmas is really about.

From my family to yours—here's wishing you a Merry (and perhaps less frantic) Christmas!

In Christ,



Pastor Scott



PIPER DORN!

## ► Out and About:

Pastor Scott believes, "Opportunity is everywhere for true mission and evangelism." His faith and spirit guides him to get 'out and about' in the community. Each month we highlight some of his recent ministries.

### City Gate - Ephrata - November 19



If you would like to suggest a future 'Out and About' segment for the Whisperings, contact Pastor Scott at (267) 467-4027 or email [hopeumcpastorsscott@gmail.com](mailto:hopeumcpastorsscott@gmail.com).

### Hope UMC Staff and Office Hours

Pastor: Rev. Scott Dorn

Administrative Assistant: Laura Luciano

Director of Music: Lisa Helock ■ Organist: Dave Luck ■ Sexton: Doreen Deamer

Tuesday - Friday ■ 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## ► **SERMON SERIES: “THE WORDS OF ADVENT**

- December 1..... Part 1 - First Sunday of Advent - **Hope**  
..... Hope is Eternal (Luke 21:25-36; Jeremiah 33:14-16)
- December 8..... Part 2 - Second Sunday of Advent - **Peace**  
..... Peace in the Presence (Luke 3:1-6; Malachi 3:1-4)
- December 15..... Part 3 - Third Sunday of Advent - **Joy**  
..... Joy, Joy, Joy (Luke 3:7-18; Zephaniah 3:14-20)
- December 22..... Part 4 - Fourth Sunday of Advent - **Love**  
..... A Love Story (Luke 1:39-45; Micah 5:2-5a)
- December 24..... Part 5 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - **Christ**  
..... No More Darkness (Luke 2:1-14; Isaiah 9:2-7)
- December 29..... Part 6 - First Sunday After Christmas  
..... Growing Up Well (Luke 2:41-52; 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26)
- January 5..... Part 7 - Second Sunday After Christmas/Epiphany Sunday  
..... Wesley’s Covenant Renewal Service (No Sermon) God Is Here  
..... (John 1:10-18)

### **Remembered with Love**

**October 30**

Marg Martin - Sister-in-Law of Judy Hachkowski

**October 31**

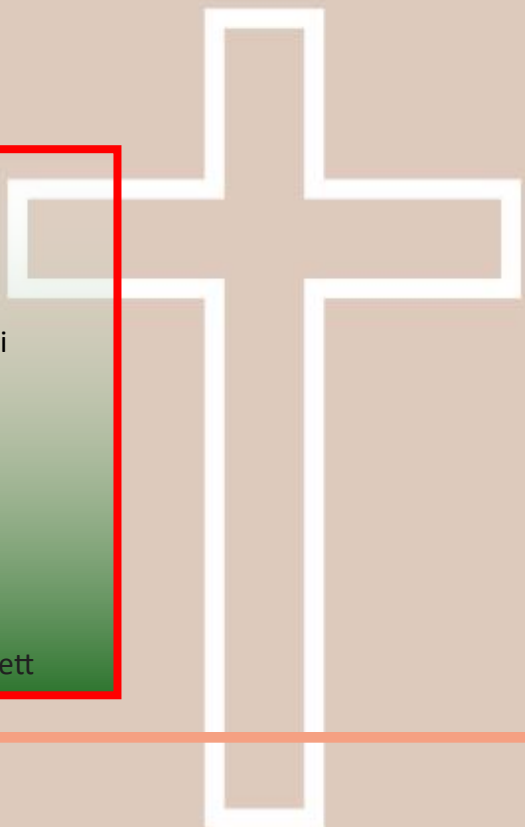
**Eli Lapp - Member**

**November 5**

Roseanne Cousin of Paul Trella

**November 8**

Shirley Burkett - Wife of Reverend Harold E. Burkett



# Office Notes

***Office Closed - December 25 and January 1***  
***Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***

## ***FOR A USEFUL CALENDAR***

Please fill out the yellow forms on the Administrative Assistant's desk to schedule meetings.

## ***UPDATES***

Please inform the church office whenever you set your next meeting date or select your next book or topic for your Sunday school or study. Thank you!

## ***DEADLINES***

Please submit all items for the bulletin by **12 p.m. Thursdays** and by the **15th of the month** for the next Whisperings.

## ***FLOWERS & BULLETINS***

*Contact Sandy Muckle if you want to sponsor altar flowers less than a week in advance.*  
You may share an altar flower order with a friend, so that each person keeps one bouquet of flowers after the service and the total price still equals \$50. Two dedications may go in the bulletin.

**Sponsor Flowers - \$50.00**

Available: December 1, 8, 15 and 29

Available: January 12, 19 and 26

**Sponsor Bulletins - \$10.00**

Available: December 1, 8 and 22

Available: January 5, 12 and 19

## ***CAN WE HELP?***

For financial assistance, please contact Don Miller at (610) 858-9958

## **Updates to the Directory**

**Mary Peachey & Bill Peters** (New address and number)

Keystone Villa at Ephrata

100 North State Street, Apt. 105

Ephrata, PA 17522

717-738-5955

**Dick Erisman** (new email address)

arsje110@gmail.com

**Joyce Fasnacht** (new number)

717-799-2892

Please notify the office of any changes to your contact information.

# Meetings and News

## December/January Dates

- 1 First Sunday of Advent - Hope  
Giving Tree and Christmas Cards/Lobby  
Nativity Display Deadline
- 7 Savor the Season's Dinner
- 8 Second Sunday of Advent - Peace
- 15 Third Sunday of Advent - Joy  
Giving Tree and Christmas Cards Deadline  
Staff Christmas Gift Deadline
- 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love
- 24 Christmas Eve Service - Christ
- 25 Merry Christmas**
- 29 First Sunday after Christmas  
Fifth Sunday Giving for Hurricane Relief
- 31 New Year's Eve**
- 1 Happy New Year**
- 5 Epiphany Sunday
- 6 Epiphany of the Lord
- 12 Baptism of the Lord Sunday
- 19 Second Sunday after the Epiphany
- 26 Third Sunday after the Epiphany

## Weekly Events

### Bells of Hope

Wednesdays at 6 p.m.  
Sanctuary

### Senior Choir

Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.  
Choir Room

### Monday Night Bible Study

Mondays at 7 p.m.  
Conference Room  
(Room 226)

### Women's Book & Bible Study

Thursdays at 10 a.m.  
Wide Awake (Room 221)

### Men of Hope

Fellowship Hall  
(First Friday of each month is  
at Gus's restaurant.)

## Fellowship Sunday

(the 3rd Sunday each month)

Please donate snacks/drinks to  
share with your fellow worshippers.

**December 15**

**January 19**

## Church Administration Meetings

All meetings are at 6:30 p.m. unless specified.

WPCM Meeting, Monday, December 9

SPRC Meeting - Tuesday, December 17

Trustees Meeting - Monday, January 13

Finance Meeting - Tuesday, January 14 at 7 p.m.



## **Hurricane Relief Collection**

### **November 3 through January 31**

As of November 24, we have collected **\$252.00**. Thank you.

### **Fifth Collection Sunday**

We will collect for Hurricane Relief on December 29. Thank you.

### **Assistance Fund**

Due to needs within our congregation and in our community, the Assistance Fund is nearly depleted. Please consider a donation to the fund so that we can continue to help those in need. You can donate by placing your donation in the collection plate. Please remember to mark your envelopes accordingly. Thank you. Any questions, see Don Miller

### **Offering Envelopes**

Envelopes will only be available in the basket in the Sanctuary. Please remember to identify your giving by **writing your name on the envelope**.

Using envelopes is a big help for our Financial Secretary, Amy Trella.

Thank You!


### **Praise and Prayer Cards**

Praise and prayer cards are now back in the pews.

Thank you!

### **Attendance Registration**

Hope has reintroduced attendance registration. Please register your attendance in the booklet placed on a table in the lobby. This will be made available every Sunday. Thank you.



The **Giving Tree** is up. We will be sponsoring 3 families. Food and gifts will be due on Sunday, **December 15** and expected to be delivered by Wednesday, **December 15**. Thank you!

**Poinsettia Orders** - are due on **December**

1. Make checks payable to *Hope United Methodist Church*. Please complete the order form and place it, along with your payment, in Carol Peters' mailbox or in the offering plate during the worship service.

Questions? Please contact Carol at 717-572-3460. Thank you!



**Christmas Card Recipients** - bags will be in

the lobby on Sunday, **December 1** to collect your cards for our church family who are or may be homebound at times. All cards are due on **Sunday, December 15**. Thank you!

**Christmas Staff Gifts** - We will be showing our deep appreciation to our church staff again this year with monetary gifts. If you would like to share in this giving, please see Melissa Readman or Paul Trella. Last day to donate will be Sunday, **December 15**. Thank you!

**Nativity Displays** - If you have a nativity display you would like to share, please bring it in and place it on a sanctuary window sill or in the lobby for the Advent/Christmas season. All displays will need to be up for the first Sunday of Advent on **December 1**. Thank you!



# Crafts and Baked Goods Sale - November 16





# Adult Sunday Schools & Studies

## **Seekers** - Bruce Tucker

Sundays 11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

*The Marvel and Miracle of Christmas by Christine Caine and Lisa Harper*

God meets us in the most profound and personal way. This miracle of God-with-us is the message of Christmas.

Remember when your eyes used to well up with tears whenever you sang, Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king that first Sunday after Thanksgiving? What happened to the starry eyes we used to have only for Jesus?

Join Lisa Harper and Christine Caine in this four-week Bible study and marvel together at the truth: the supernatural scaffolding of our belief system isn't a human construct but is instead a divine love story wherein the King of all kings willingly sets aside His scepter in Glory, takes on our like form, and condescends to be born in a trough in order to capture our distracted human hearts.

This is a wake-up call to wonder and to a fresh experience of the gospel and the miracle of Immanuel-God with us.

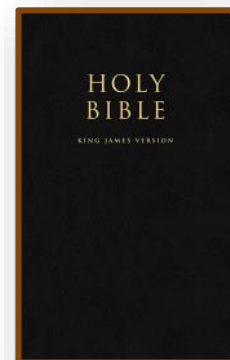


## **The Way** (*a name given to the earliest followers/disciples of Jesus*) - Rev. Kevin Readman

Sundays 11:15 a.m. in the Conference Room (Room 226)

*Bible Study methodology or "how-to". Our resource will be "Learning to Study The Bible" by LJ Zimmerman.*

Questions and request for a book should go to Kevin Readman at kevin\_readman@yahoo.com or 717-203-8452 or in person. All are invited and welcome for whatever weeks you are able to participate. Let us grow in spirit and knowledge together.



**The Books of 1 and 2 Thessalonians**

**January 5 to February 23**

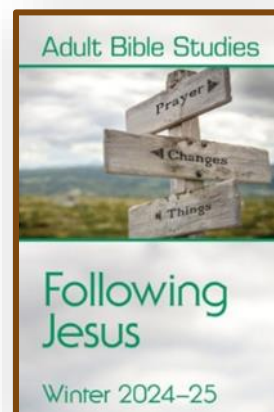
## Wide Awake - Melissa Readman

Sundays 11:15 a.m. in Room 221

### **Winter Adult Bible Studies - Following Jesus** by Laura Wittman

Cultivate a deeper relationship with God through *Adult Bible Studies*. This resource, endorsed by the Curriculum Resources Committee of The United Methodist Church, offers a year-round, weekly Bible study plan for Sunday school classes and other small groups.

Each weekly lesson offers background and focal Scriptures, key verses, and doctrinally sound and relevant biblical interpretation and application in a readable font size. Annual plans provide comprehensive coverage of the Bible, special lessons during the church seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter, and suggestions for developing spiritual practices such as prayer, worship, community, and service, among many others. *Adult Bible Studies* is a reliable companion and guide for learning and growing in Christian faith.



## Monday Night Bible Study - Bruce Tucker

Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room (Room 226)

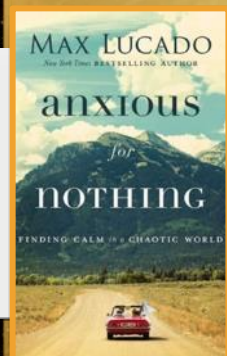
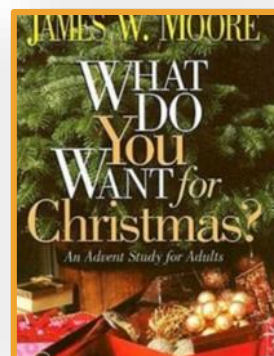
*The Marvel and Miracle of Christmas* by Christine Caine and Lisa Harper

## Women's Book & Bible Study - Sandy Schmid

Thursdays at 10 a.m. in Room 221

*What Do You Want for Christmas?* by James W. Moore

This four-week study, for group or individual use, provides an introduction and an informative lesson for use through each successive week of Advent. Each lesson includes a reference to a key passage of Scripture, a personal reflection, study or discussion questions, a brief prayer, and a focus for the coming week. Take this opportunity to gain a clearer picture of the salvific work of Christ this Advent!



## Men of Hope Book & Bible Study

Fridays at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

*Anxious for Nothing* by Max Lucado

(First Friday of each month is at Gus's restaurant)



## ► Hope Preschool Prattle

November was an exciting month with fire drills, a nocturnal animal presented by Lancaster County Parks and so many Thanksgiving activities in each class. Turkeys were displayed everywhere throughout the school. However, now it is over and we are moving into the beautiful season of Christmas! December is a short month for our students but it will be packed full of celebrations and festivities.

First, our Sub Sale was a HUGE success and we raised over \$2400! We were able to purchase more mulch for the playground and a light & activity table that the teachers have been wanting for a long time. It will be shared school wide. Thank you so much to everyone that ordered subs!

The teachers have so many fun activities planned for December, including each class handcrafting a gift for their families and cookie tasting parties. We are also planning a Christmas Rotation where the classes will rotate through a series of 4 parent run centers. They will make a craft, have a snack, play a game and enjoy a Christmas story. Our theme this year is "Gingerbread".

Our staff and students will be working on a Community Service Project this year that will benefit a local family going through a difficult time. There will be a "Giving Tree" placed outside of the preschool office that families can choose a tag with an item to purchase. Donations will be accepted until Friday, December 20th.

Merry Christmas from the students and staff of Hope Preschool!

# Preschool Pictures



# Preschool Pictures



## December Birthdays ■■■

2 Donna Fetzer	12 Evie Kline	27 Harper Leigh Gorsuch
3 Terry Seidel	Kyle Lindberg	Brynn Voshell
6 Clyde McMillan-Gamber	13 Brad Frisbie	29 Rebecca Luciano
7 Eric Trella	14 Lauren Overly	30 Sissy Vierling
11 Jill Curley	18 Jennifer Jefferson	
	Rachel Weidman	

## January Birthdays ■■■

3 Tony Luciano	Karl Heiser	Leona Luciano
6 Eleanor Drybread	18 Debbie Kanuck	30 Kara Plastino
7 Meghan Beamesderfer	19 Cindy Landes	Jean Styer <span>Card Shower</span>
8 Ryan Trella	23 Kathy Weinhold	31 Brooke Overly
13 Barry Garner	26 Janice Book	
15 Joan Strosser	29 Derek Hachkowski	
17 Amy Chebib	Tony Hachkowski	

## December Anniversaries ■■■

**Bruce & Barbara Tucker** will celebrate their **55th** anniversary on **December 20**.

Card Shower

*We apologize for ANY errors with your important dates! Please let us know so we can correct them.*



## Thank you notes ...

- ❖ **Thank you** - to all who volunteered, donated, packaged and served 165 lunches at City Gate on Saturday, October 26 - Sandy Muckle
- ❖ **Thank you** - I want to sincerely thank you for the thoughtful gifts and gestures of appreciation during Pastor Appreciation Month. Your kindness and generosity truly touched my heart. Each gift reflects the love and support we share in our ministry, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside you. Thank you for making me feel so valued and loved. Blessings, Pastor Scott.
- ❖ **Special Thanks** - to all who donated to Harvest Home. Goods were delivered to EASS on Tuesday, October 29 and an extended thank you to Laura Luciano and Barbara Tucker for their assistance in the organizing and delivering of the goods.
- ❖ **Thank you** - I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Pastor Scott for the beautiful birthday flowers. Your thoughtfulness brightened my day and made me feel so loved by our church family. Thank you for your kindness and for making my special day even more memorable - Laura Luciano
- ❖ **Thank you** - we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for all the prayers and support. Jason Luciano is now home and recovering well. Your care and kindness have meant so much to us during this time. Thank you for being there for Jason and our family – Tony & Leona Luciano
- ❖ **Thank you** - to all who participated in Hope's Crafts, Homemade/ Handmade and Baked Goods Sale on November 16. We collected a total of **\$435.00**. All proceeds went towards Hope 's general fund- Fellowship Events Planning Committee
- ❖ **Thank you** - to all who volunteered and bought the Pennsylvania Dutch Chicken Pot Pie. We sold **66** quarts and collected a total of **\$660.00**. All proceeds went towards Hope's general fund - Fellowship Events Planning Committee
- ❖ **A Big Thank you** - to Sandy Muckle for donating all the ingredients and her time for the Pennsylvania Dutch Chicken Pot Pie Sale– Fellowship Events Planning Committee
- ❖ **Thank you** - we collected **9** Christmas Child Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse - Sandy Schmid

# Committees

## Church Council

Chair	Bruce Tucker
SPRC Chair	Melissa Readman
Trustee Chair	Cammy Freed
Finance/Budget/Stewardship	Rodger Landes
Memorial Committee Chair	Judy Hachkowski
Hospitality and Care Ministry	Sandy Muckle
Spiritual Formation	TBD
Missions and Outreach	Sandy Schmid
Recording Secretary	Carol Peters
Treasurer	Donna Fetzer
Lay Leader	Jill Curley
Lay Delegate	Carol Cammauf
Annual Conference Delegate	Ilene Bartlett
Pastor	Rev. Scott Dorn
At-Large	Barbara Griffith
	Laura Luciano
	Melissa Readman
	Dave Schmid

## Trustees

Chair	Cammy Freed
Vice Chair	TBD
Secretary	TBD
Treasurer	Rodger Landes
Class of 2026	Rodger Landes
Class of 2026	Steve Smith
Class of 2026	Dave Schmid
Class of 2027	Cammy Freed
Class of 2027	Tony Hachkowski
Class of 2027	Laura Luciano
Class of 2027	Tony Luciano
Class of 2027	Don Miller

## Nominations & Leadership Dev.

Chair	Rev. Scott Dorn
Lay Leader	Jill Curley
Class of 2025	Bruce Tucker
Class of 2025	Ivy Texter
Class of 2026	Leonard Fake
Class of 2026	TBD
Class of 2027	Cindy Landes

# Committees

## Finance

Chair	Rodger Landes
Pastor	Pastor Scott
Lay Leader	Jill Curley
Lay Delegate	Carol Cammauf
Church Council Chair	Bruce Tucker
SPRC Chair	Melissa Readman
Trustee Rep	Cammy Freed
Financial Sec.	Amy Trella
Treasurer	Donna Fetzer
Memorial Fund Chair	Judy Hachkowski
Stewardship Chair	TBD
Stewardship Rep	TBD

## Stewardship

Chair	TBD
Pastor	Pastor Scott
Lay Leader	Jill Curley
Finance Rep	TBD
Finance Sec.	Amy Trella
At-Large	TBD

## SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee)

Chair	Melissa Readman
Pastor	Rev. Scott Dorn
Lay Leader	Jill Curley
Lay Delegate	Carol Cammauf
Class of 2025	Sandy Muckle
Class of 2025	Diane Hornberger
Class of 2025	Barbara Griffith
Class of 2027	Paul Trella

## WPCM (Weekday Preschool Children's Ministries)

Chair	Tony Hachkowski
Pastor	Pastor Scott
Cindy Landes	Tom Texter
Martha Smith	Bruce Tucker
Tim Sumner	

# Feathered Suburban Characters

by Clyde McMillan-Gamber

Carolina wrens, blue jays and northern mockingbirds are permanent resident, often flamboyant, birds on many older suburban lawns in Lancaster County, and elsewhere across much of the eastern United States. All these feisty, interesting birds, created by God, have characteristics in common, though they are not related to each other. They all consume invertebrates during warmer months, and go to bird feeders in winter. They are all attractive, and the genders of each kind are similar. And they offer cheer and inspiration through their bold, lively actions and boisterous songs and calling on lawns, including ours, through each year, but especially in winter. These feathered characters are a joy to have as neighbors.

Carolina wrens are sparrow-sized, brown and darker-streaked, which camouflages them among shrubbery and on the ground where they search for food. The tail of each wren is usually cocked upright, which plainly demonstrates its spritely personality and constant activities.

Male Carolina wrens loudly sing "tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle ....." through the year to proclaim living and nesting territory for himself and his mate. Their ringing songs are a joy to hear, particularly in winter when we hear little bird song.

Some pairs of Carolina wrens raise young in odd places, including in garages, under decks and porches and in outdoor grills, in older suburbs. Other pairs of them, however, hatch offspring in brush piles and other, natural, sheltering places in bottomland woods, and older suburban areas. Young wrens, in their sheltering, grass nurseries, are fed invertebrates.

Blue jays are blue, with black and white trim, making them striking to see. Quiet and secretive in summer when raising young, blue jays are boisterous and noticeable in fall when nesting is finished for the year and the beautifully-feathered jays are flying into the red and brown foliage of pin oak trees in October to gather those trees' acorns. The jays stash those nuts in tree hollows, or poke them into the ground, to eat in winter.

I have seen blue jays courting in May by emitting sweet notes and offering tidbits of food to each other. They build twig and grass, open-cup nurseries in evergreen trees and feed invertebrates to their chicks.

Mockingbirds are mostly gray, with white banners in their wings and tails that we see when they fly and raise their wings while perched as a signal to other mockers. Male mockers are famous for their ability to imitate the songs of other kinds of birds. But they have their own delightful songs they sing, including on moonlit, summer nights.

Mockingbirds raise young in open-cup, twig and grass cradles in sheltering, dense shrubbery. And in autumn, each mocker "stakes a claim" at a patch of berries it will use as winter food. It will attempt to defend those berries from other mockingbirds, and flocks of American robins, starlings, cedar waxwings and other kinds of birds.

Carolina wrens, blue jays and northern mockingbirds are feathered, boisterous characters in the suburbs. They are especially noticeable in fall and winter when they are less cautious in their search for food, even showing up at feeders. Enjoy these attractive, lively birds if you have them on your lawns.

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**Check out Clyde's nature blog: [NaturesWondersByClyde.blogspot.com](http://NaturesWondersByClyde.blogspot.com).  
Each short story is like taking a walk with your very own park naturalist!**

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# Christmas Word Search



Find the words below in the word search.

A	S	S	L	E	I	G	H	B	C	C	O
U	A	T	R	P	J	I	H	F	O	D	R
S	N	O	W	M	A	N	N	G	O	E	N
T	T	C	Q	A	O	N	M	L	K	C	A
V	A	K	D	B	C	G	I	W	I	A	M
R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	R	E	N	E
G	I	N	G	E	R	B	R	E	A	D	N
W	Y	G	A	E	F	H	J	A	L	Y	T
X	Z	M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	E	Q
C	H	I	M	N	E	Y	K	H	M	N	P

SANTA  
REINDEER  
SNOWMAN  
STOCKING

CHIMNEY  
GINGERBREAD  
ORNAMENT  
WREATH

SLEIGH  
MISTLETOE  
CANDY  
COOKIE



# CHRISTMAS MAD LIBS

## *A Christmas Story*

It was Christmas Eve, and \_\_\_\_\_ *name* \_\_\_\_\_ was feeling \_\_\_\_\_ *adjective* \_\_\_\_\_ .

They had been waiting for this day all year long, and now it was finally here. They had spent the day \_\_\_\_\_ [*verb ending in -ing*] \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ [*verb ending in -ing*] \_\_\_\_\_ with their family, but now it was time for bed.

As they lay in bed, they heard a noise outside. They jumped out of bed and ran to the window to see what was going on. To their surprise, they saw \_\_\_\_\_ *noun* \_\_\_\_\_ flying through the sky.

It was Santa Claus and his \_\_\_\_\_ *adjective* \_\_\_\_\_ reindeer!

\_\_\_\_\_ *name* \_\_\_\_\_ was so excited that they ran to the living room to see if Santa had left any presents. To their delight, there were \_\_\_\_\_ *number* \_\_\_\_\_ presents under the tree. They tore open the wrapping paper to reveal \_\_\_\_\_ *adjective* \_\_\_\_\_ gifts. After opening presents, \_\_\_\_\_ *name* \_\_\_\_\_

and their family sat down to a delicious meal of \_\_\_\_\_ *noun* \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ *noun* \_\_\_\_\_ . They laughed and talked and enjoyed each other's

company. As the night wore on, \_\_\_\_\_ *name* \_\_\_\_\_ started to feel \_\_\_\_\_ *adjective* \_\_\_\_\_ . They knew it was time to go to bed, but they didn't

want the night to end. They closed their eyes and drifted off to sleep, dreaming of all the wonderful things that Christmas had brought.