



# Covington Church of the Brethren Weekly News

December 22, 2023

## The Christmas Coat

by Pastor Dewey Moede  
Rhonda Schmitzer



An old boy is fumbly around one day  
In a women's clothing store.  
He'd found his wife a Christmas coat  
And was headed for the door  
When he bumped into a little boy  
That looked like he was lost  
And he said "Mister can you help me  
Find out how much something costs?"  
"Here it is almost Christmas  
And the nights are gettin' cold.  
Winter time is on us  
And my mom don't have a coat.  
I've been working for the neighbors  
And saving for a time"  
And in his tiny outstretched hand  
Was a dollar and a dime.  
His gaze went from the big eye boy  
To that pretty Christmas coat.  
And he finally cleared away the lump  
That had gathered in his throat.  
He said "Son, that's just what this coat costs  
We're lucky that we found 'er."  
And her turned around and gave a wink  
To the lady at the counter.  
She put it in a pretty box  
And wrapped it up just so,  
And went off in the back  
And found a red Christmas box.  
He said "I thank you for your help sir  
And I kindly thank you ma'am.  
I hope y'all are gonna have a big Christmas  
Cause now I know I am."

(continued)

Well, the old boy walked home busted  
Except for the dollar and a dime.  
Thinkin' he'd just have to buy  
The coat another time,  
He told his wife that Christmas this year  
Wouldn't be much fun,  
And he gently took her in his arms  
And told her what he'd done.  
She said "why you old softie  
I wouldn't trade you for a farm.  
I've got two or three old coats  
And your love to keep me warm."  
She put that money in a matchbox  
And placed it beneath their tree  
And said "that is the grandest gift  
You've ever given me."  
The years went by like years will do  
When people are in love.  
Their marriage was a golden bond  
That was forged by God above.  
Then one day came some bitter news  
That filled his heart with fright.  
The doctor told the old man's wife  
That she was going to lose her sight.  
He said "there's an operation we can do  
But it puts me on the spot  
Cause it's a quite complex procedure  
And it's going to cost a lot."  
The old man said "doctor, I'm a failure.  
I've made no preparation.  
We don't have the money  
For that kind of operation."  
The doctor got the strangest look  
And he sat there for a while  
And then he slowly nodded  
And he broke out in a smile.

(continued)

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## The Christmas Tree (continued)

He said "Why sir you can't fool me  
You're a very wealthy man.  
You long ago invested  
In the world's best savings plan."  
I'll see she gets the best of care.  
She's going to be just fine.  
And the total cost to you old friend  
Is a dollar and a dime."  
The old man stared in disbelief.  
Then he recognized that smile.  
The one he'd seen those years ago  
On a loving thoughtful child.  
He said "What you gave to me that day  
Was more than just a coat.  
You gave me the gift of giving  
And you gave my mother hope.  
My mother'd been mistreated  
Neglected and abused.  
But she gave life just one more chance  
And it was because of you.  
Now every year she takes that coat  
And lays it beneath our tree.  
It represents to us the things  
That Christmas ought to be.  
She says that when we leave this world  
For a better home someday,  
The only things that we'll take with us  
Are the things we gave away."

I hope you all have a  
very Merry Christmas! ❤️

*Shared by  
Jayne Hobbs*



## ANGEL TREE

The Angel tree is adorned with the Angels from last year. Additional Angels and Doves are being added to trees each Sunday through December 24th. More Angels & Doves are available and can be added to the tree during the last hymn of service.

Also during a December Worship Service Advent Devotions Books from "1986" were also given to our church family with memories to share through Advent and beyond.



## Advent Devotions "1986"

If you would like a copy of the Advent Devotions Memory Book, please contact the church office via e-mail: [covingtoncob@gmail.com](mailto:covingtoncob@gmail.com) or contact Cindy at (937) 448-0100.



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## **Covington COB Daily/Extended Prayer List** (updates are appreciated)

**Kelly Alexander** (Mike Alexander's sister) recently fell and has various injuries. She is going through some rough times and is in need of prayers.

**Dave & Linda Berrett** - Dave is currently having some health issues and has had a couple of setbacks. Prayers are needed for the wisdom of the doctors to decide the direction needed to help Dave get stronger, and for his health to improve. Thank you.

♥ **Beverly (Boggs) Heintz** (friend of Kathy Miller) is recovering from Quadruple heart bypass.

**Kim Bridges Broderick** (friend of Sylvia Warner) Kim is having unusual swelling of her tongue and was recently scheduled to see an Oncologist. (She had surgery one year ago where part of her tongue was removed)

**Rhonda & Ted Brumbaugh and family.** Rhonda has been released from the hospital to heal at home. She has to wear neck a brace for 6 weeks and Ted is caring for her at home as she recovers. Rhonda & Ted are thankful for your thought and prayers.

**Terry Finrock** has been admitted to UVMC with a severe virus that has affected her skin. Terry would appreciate prayers for healing and for her doctors to determine the appropriate medication for her.

**Marcy (Wolfe) Hartman** (daughter of Ed & Carolyn Wolfe and wife of Randy Hartman) - Marcy has been undergoing 20 days of radiation. Carolyn & Ed, Marcy, and family are very thankful for your continued prayers.

♥ -Notes New or Updated  
Prayer Messages

♥ **Dollie Hurley** (sister of Sylvia Warner) - After being hospitalized last Sunday and receiving an IV for dehydration Dollie was eventually released. She was taken back to the hospital 12/20 due to struggles with breathing. The doctors feel that her shortness of breath today is due to being given the wrong prescription. They are working to flush the medication from her body to ease her breathing issues.'

**Gary Lentz** (Dave Lentz's brother) is currently taking radiation and chemo treatments for esophageal cancer. He will eventually be undergoing surgery.

**Wayne & Sharon Marshall and family.** Wayne's recent procedure went quickly. The doctor was unable to safely take the biopsy sample. Wayne recovered quickly and is feeling fine. He will need more tests later. We thank you so much for your prayers. -Wayne & Sharon and family

**Kathy Miller** underwent a PET scan December 11th that was not favorable. Fervent prayers would be appreciated. She had an Oncologist appointment scheduled for December 22nd to discuss the next step. Thank you!

♥ **Larry Minnich** (Carol & Terry Minnich) is in the hospital and needs prayers for healing. Larry is Terry Minnich's brother.

**Brandon Moyer** (Kathy Miller's nephew) is aboard the USS Gerald Ford in the Mediterranean Sea following the Hamas attacks in southern Israel. Please keep his health and safety in your prayers.

**Mark Must** (Ron Hyden's stepson) Needs prayers for strength to fight alcohol addiction. He is trying to quit. He is living with Ron for support in his journey.

**Rick & Sherry Lavy** - Rick recently fell and is also losing weight.

(continued)



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**Rick & DeAnn Rhoades** (son-in-law of Terry Finfrock) has been undergoing several shoulder surgeries and is currently dealing with infection as a result of the surgery. Continued prayers for healing would be appreciated.

**Ralph Mutzner** has been released from the hospital to continue healing at home from his recent knee replacements. Ralph and his family are thankful for your continued prayers for healing.

**Gary Pitts** (friend of Norman Wolfe) cancer has returned. Prayers would be appreciated.

**Irene Reynolds** (Nancy Thompson's mother) is having health and mobility issues.

**Brooks Smith & family** - Brooks is making progress with his life challenges. He continues to need prayers for guidance and life direction as he moves forward in taking the next steps in his life. Brooks' step-mother is Angie Smith (Wayne and Sharon Marshall's daughter). Brooks' father is Angie's husband, John Smith. The Smiths and the Marshalls' greatly appreciate your prayers.

♥ **Patty Stover** (sister of Terry Finfrock) will be undergoing hand surgery.

♥ **Gregory Swob** (Esther Field's 5-year-old great-grandson) underwent emergency surgery Thursday (12/14) for a twisted bowl. He has been moved from the ICU into a regular room. Parents are Dillon & Briana Swob, Great Grandmother is Teresa Swob.

**Virginia & Norman Wolfe** - Virginia is currently undergoing Cardiac Rehab. Norman and Virginia are very thankful for thoughts, cards and prayers.

♥ **Mark Yantis** (Carol & Terry Minnich) Mark is in the hospital and needs prayers for recovery. Mark is Carol Minnich's brother-in-law.

**Crystal Yingst** (16 year-old grand-daughter of Pastor Mike & Belinda Yingst) recently fell and dislocated her elbow at the bowling center. She has a long recovery with possible surgery ahead of her. Pastor Mike & Belinda are thankful for your prayers.

### **People of Israel & Palestine**

Prayers are needed for all the people of Israel & Palestine involved in the fighting that is happening in Israel.

### **The people effected by the tornadoes in Tennessee**

Sylvia Warner's great niece and her husband are stationed in Clarksville, Tennessee. Their home and car were damaged and they will be staying with friends on base. Also, her niece is in an area that lost power.

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### **Ongoing Prayer List**

*Prayer updates would be appreciated*

**Roberta Brock** (relative of Pastor Mike & Belinda)

**Linda Dearth** (sister of Lea Ann Stevens)

**Curt and Monica (Batdorf) Goubeaux**

**Tyler Lambert** (in the military) (Grandson of Wayne & Sharon Marshall)

**Jane & Terry Lavy**

**Carol Minnich**

**Linda Newman** (best friend of Carol Minnich)

**People of Ukraine**

**Robin Reck**

**Brenda & Reverend David Rusk** - Brenda has liver failure and is in need of a transplant.

**Mike & Carol Sawyer** (relative of Nancy Mack)

**Ron Schultz and Family**

**Angie (Shroyer) Smith** (Patsy Weyant's daughter)

**Sheron Zimmer** (Peggy Zimmer's sister-in-law)

**The Southern Ohio District Office** encourages us to be in prayer this week for the District Brethrening Process.

### **To Share Prayer Updates:**

Please contact Cindy at (937) 448-0100 or e-mail [covingtoncob@gmail.com](mailto:covingtoncob@gmail.com). Thank you.



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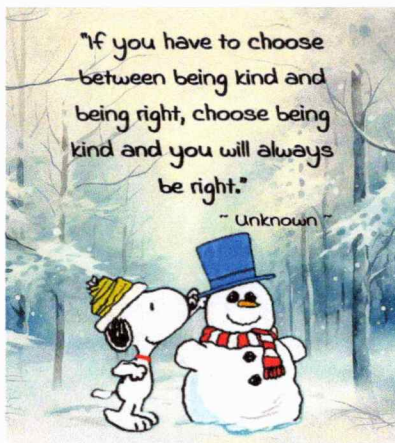
## CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Covington Church of the Brethren will hold a Candlelight Christmas Eve and Communion Service on December 24th at 7:00 p.m. Please join us for this beautiful service!



### "Pet Friendly Prayer Chain"

Please call:  
Office# (937) 473-2415  
Cindy's Cell# (937) 448-0100  
E-mail covingtoncob@gmail.com



## UPCOMING EVENTS!

**12/24/2023**

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve  
Communion Service

**12/25/2023**

Church Office Closed in  
Observance of Christmas

**12/25-31/2023**

Pastor Mike on Vacation

**1/01/2023**

Church Offices Closed in  
Observance of New Year's Day

**1/05/2023**

No Seniors Alive!

**1/17/2023**

8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast

**1/17/2023**

4:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting  
5:00 p.m. Church Board Meeting

**2/02/2023**

11:00 a.m. Seniors Alive!  
Church Lower Level

## Upcoming Birthdays

12/22 Denise Boyer  
12/22 Kara Milligan  
12/23 Ed Ingle  
12/24 Merry Unger  
12/27 Sharon Root  
12/28 Bob Boyer  
12/28 Heather Thompson



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## Looking Ahead

In December, we move through the season of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior. The fifth line of the Christmas hymn "O Holy Night" proclaims that "a weary world rejoices." The theme for each Advent Sunday this year offers an answer to the question, "How does a weary world rejoice?" As we follow the Gospel of Luke this Advent, we are reminded that our joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God. We are invited to tether ourselves to that deep truth and remember that we deserve to feel joy—fully. In fact, the world needs our joy, even if we are weary; perhaps, especially if we are weary. And of course, our joy is better when it is shared. "O night divine, O night when Christ was born!"

12/24 – Luke 1:46-55

"Sing Stories of Hope"

12/24 – 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve

Candlelight & Communion Service

12/31 – Our guest preacher will be Dwayne Wilson.

Pastor Mike will be on vacation.



## Helping Those In Need!

During the holiday season, The Bethany Center would very much appreciate your help in providing

\*Non-perishable Foods for those who in need during the holiday season.

\*Sheets and blankets are also in short supply.

Our Witness Commission has collection boxes at entrances to our church building for food, as well as sheet & blanket donations that will taken to Bethany periodically.

Bethany also accepts clothing donations throughout the year.

If you would like to also donate clothes, please drop them off at the their service location:

339 South Street, Piqua, OH 45356.

For more information, please contact Dean Nevin at (937) 615-6650 or Esther Fields (937) 216-3293.

Bethany supports all Miami County residents (*including Covington*)



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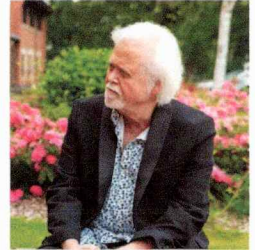
## It's time to register for Winter Blast.

Winter Blast for K-5th grade with an accompanying adult is January 12 and 13.

Winter Blast for 6-12th grades is January 19 and 20.

The cost is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available if needed. Registration forms are due December 31.

If you are interested in signing up, please contact Ann Stackhouse @ (937) 570-7796.



As the holiday season arrives, I pray that God will grant each of you a rich supply of goodness and grace. A blessing of peace to know your worth and a light to constantly show you the way. May you have true friends that will hold you up and protect you when you're tired.

May there be a roof over your head and enough food to fill your stomach, and finally, to know that God loves you and will walk with you throughout all of your trials and sorrows.

Merry Christmas!  
You're loved. Merrill



*Cindy*

**News Articles Coming Soon!  
Don't Miss Them!!**

- \*Pandora the Therapy Dog!
- \*List of People Wishing You Merry Christmas from our Card Tree
- \*Seniors Alive! Update -Dec. 5th Event

# Family

N	C	O	U	S	I	N	A	M	D	N	A	R	G
I	E	R	M	S	B	E	A	N	I	M	A	L	S
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A	P	D	N	A	R	G	A	L	D	E	R	E	E
E	S	L	B	S	A	L	I	C	E	E	U	W	M
M	T	M	O	M	M	M	A	E	S	N	L	G	O
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MEAL  
 ANIMALS  
 MOM  
 LAUGH  
 HUG  
 SISTER  
 BROTHER  
 GRANDPA  
 SNACKS  
 BABY  
 DAD  
 DESSERT  
 FAMILY  
 COUSIN  
 DAUGHTER  
 PICTURES  
 MEMORIES  
 TALK  
 NEPHEW  
 NIECE  
 LOVE  
 AUNT  
 FUN  
 GRANDMA

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6502674/>