



# Abiding's Tidings

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church

Volume 38  
Winter Issue, 2023

## Calendar

**Every Wednesday**  
Online Bible Study

## January

**6<sup>th</sup> Friday**  
*Season of Epiphany begins*

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
*Baptism of our Lord*

**29<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
*Annual Congregational Meeting*

## February

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
*Transfiguration of Our Lord*

**22<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday**  
*Ash Wednesday (Lent Begins)*

## March

**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
*Daylight Saving Time Begins*

## April

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**  
*Passion/Palm Sunday Holy Week Begins*

**6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>**  
*Maundy Thursday & Good Friday.*

**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
*Easter*

## **"Make a Joyful Noise"**

*"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises." (Psalms 98:4)*

Surely, Psalm 98 is right to suggest that the natural and appropriate response to the reign of God, in both memory and anticipation, is to burst into song. In Christian communities, Christmas is that time of year most closely associated with music – carols, cantatas, oratorios – joyful music celebrating the birth of Jesus, incarnation, the beginning of a new chapter in God's reign.

It is precisely here that Christmas presents comfortable, affluent Christians with a peculiar dilemma: How can we welcome the birth of Jesus with joyful singing in the midst of a world marked by violence, exploitation, oppression, and hunger? The reign of God seems impotent; Christmas tidings ring hollow. Perhaps, Karl Marx is right to suggest that Christian joy is a delusion. How is it possible to welcome the joyful singing of Christmas without ignoring the cries of distress all around us?

The birth stories in Matthew and Luke feature opposition between Jesus, on the one hand, and Herod and his Roman benefactors, on the other, marking Christmas as a protest against the violent rule of Herod and the life-crushing taxes of Rome. Even modern dictators know that Christmas songs can be a powerful protest. In 1983, the military junta ruling Argentina prohibited the singing of the *Magnificat* during the Christmas season. Mary's song was just too radical: "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones..." (Luke 1:52)"

Psalm 98 begins with the particular experience of Israel and concludes with a vision of the reign of God encompassing all people and nations, indeed the hills to sing for joy. The cause of all this musical commotion and glorious uproar is the "presence of the Lord." God is coming to be present in the world, to judge it, to rule it, and to bring righteousness and equity to the people. The psalm exuberantly summons the people and the world to joyous expressions of gratitude, love, and praise for the wonders performed by this Just Judge, the King who rules in

righteousness.

It is a call to open our hearts, minds, and eyes to the world around us and to the possibility of a victory so wondrous as to be unthinkable, so unimaginable as to be hidden still from our comprehension. Singing this new song together can increase hope and build among us a new perception of divine presence. It can instill faith, because singing the song creates faith and imprints hope in our souls. The psalm reveals the presence of God in the events of the earth, of relationships among nations, of our own participation in this glorious, cosmic symphony of life over which rules the King of the universe. This is most assuredly one of the meanings of Christmas. Amen.

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## Message from the President

Finding the real joy of Christmas comes not in the hurrying and the scurrying to get things done. We find the real joy of Christmas when we focus on the real reason for Christmas. Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth and life of Jesus Christ with loved ones. At least, that was the original point of this holiday, but it seems that many of us have lost sight of what Christmas is really all about.

Between the decorations, the Christmas lists made each year, finding the perfect present for everyone, and the baking of Christmas cookies, it is easy to see how we have lost sight of the true meaning of Christmas. Sadly, we seem to have lost the real joy of the season as well. I am as guilty of this as anyone. Four days before Christmas I got sick, and my long "things to do list" was put on hold or should I say was never done. This was an eye opener for me, to slow down. Maybe I should make this my new year's resolution, enjoy the season for what it is, but I do not make resolutions because I can never keep them. I hope everyone had a joyous Christmas and remembered to celebrated its real meaning along with the other wonderful traditions that we all love.

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. May the New Year bless you with love, peace, health, wealth, happiness, and many other blessings.

Peace,

*Congregation President  
Annie Gajadhar*

## ***Annual Meeting Coming Up – Sunday, January 29, 2023***

*Our **ANNUAL MEETING** will be held on Sunday, **January 29th**, following the service.*

*Please plan to attend as annual reports are reviewed, the budget for 2023 is presented,*

*Council members are elected, and other pertinent business is discussed.*

*We need everyone's input so mark the date and join, either in person or on Zoom.*

**In Our Prayers:** Angela, Anna, Betty, Bobbie, Chris, Debra, Gene, Julia, Ken, Linda, Lisa, Martha, Matt, Meghan, Neil, Pat, Ramesh, Wol-Mak Park, Yong-Ho Chun and Zally

**Happy Birthday to:** Jan Kalshoven (1/1), Jongkil Na (1/20), Marlon Gajadhar (2/10), Sherlon Gajadhar (2/10), Josephine Kalshoven (2/25), Stephanie Gajadhar (3/1), Chris Ham (3/18), Joshua Ham (3/19), Pat Thornberg (3/20), Martha McKisson (3/22), Betty Wellborn (4/8), and Ramesh Das (4/20)

## Benevolence News

### Michael's House



Michael's House was founded almost 20 years ago by Father Michael Craig, a friend of APLC's former Pastor, The Rev Doctor Michael Taylor. (Pastor Taylor served on the Michael's House Board.) Michael's House is dedicated to serving the elderly poor in developing world countries, primarily in Ethiopia, but it has also made donations in Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda Uganda, Honduras, etc. APLC records show that we have been supporting this ministry since 2014.

Earlier this December, we were informed that Father Craig, now residing full time in France, and many of their other volunteers can no longer continue the work. Thus, Michael's House will not accept donations after March 31, 2023. So, while we may include Michael's House in our 2023 benevolence giving, it will be the last time we would be able to do so. By notifying everyone involved a head to time, the group hopes that they can arrange funding that will carry on current projects for the better part of a year and provide an orderly transition for recipients.

### Thanksgiving and Christmas Drives



The congregation participated in the Beltsville Women's Club Thanksgiving and Christmas Drives, contributing gift cards and toys to the needy in Beltsville. Also, members donated funds to the Synod's Gifts of Hope Campaign.



As of December 26, contributions to the Maryland Food Bank totaled \$280. (Remember, the site is available until Easter 2023, so can still give.)  
<https://mdfoodbank.fenly.org/drive/abidingpresence>

### Bible Study



In the fall, Bible study turned to the Gospel of Mathew. While Matthew is the first of book in the New Testament, it is generally accepted that the Gospel of Mark was written before Matthew and Luke, which were both written about the same time afterwards.

Matthew begins Chapter 1 by stating the intent of this chapter, to provide an "account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham." Matthew traces ancestors of Jesus back to Abraham, "father of the Jewish Nation," although Abraham himself was not a Jew. Matthew presents the genealogy in three sections, each of which he says covers 14 generations. In fact, these lists do not always include fourteen generations and do not always coincide with other accounts of these generations. As 14 (2x7) is a number used to signify completion or deliverance, Matthew's lists are more apt to be for theological reasons than for an historical record. This perspective undoubtedly applies to much of what Matthew writes.

The descendants of Abraham that Matthew lists include women (a rarity for the time), some non-Jewish people, and some people of dubious character (Just consider the David and Bathsheba saga.). These inclusions are probably meant to reflect Matthew's theological beliefs that the Messiah was for all people not just the Jews and that the works of God become apparent in unusual ways. Flawed humans carry out the works of God.

Writing mainly for a Jewish-Christian audience, Matthew also seems determined to establish Jesus as the Messiah as foretold by the Old Testament prophets. He draws on Old Testament scriptures that give the Messiah's birthplace as Bethlehem, his mother as a young woman, and the lineage that Matthew outlined led to Joseph, who became Jesus's earthly father. Matthew also reports the visit of the Magi (in keeping with some verses in Isaiah 60) and again signaling a Messiah for all.

Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus differs from that found in Luke, likely a reflection of both the author's theology and the audiences for which they originally wrote.

*Anna Graeber*

## **The Loss of a Good Friend**

In September of last year, Abiding Presence lost a good friend and dedicated member – Rich Moore. We knew Rich as our Sunday morning coffee maker, our powerful bass voice in the choir, and one who was eager to talk to us on Sunday morning as he considered himself among friends with us, as he was. A heart condition took his life at the age of 77.

We know a little of Rich's history; for example, he was in the US Air Force for 16 years and then worked in the Department of Defense until he retired. Unfortunately, he was estranged from his wife and two children and contacting them has so far been unsuccessful. Rich's house and its contents have been sold with the proceeds being held by the state until further notice.

Since Rich was a veteran, Jan Kalshoven has been kind enough to try and see if Arlington National Cemetery could be his final resting place. More news on that will follow, as will plans for a memorial service.

## **Where did that phrase come from?**

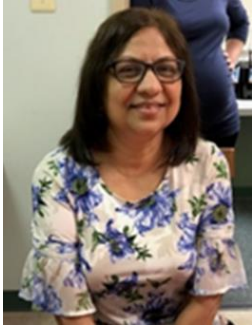
You've all heard it..."it ain't over 'til the fat lady sings"...and it's probably an American expression. (Students - the grammar is incorrect - do not use the word, "ain't.") Some credit it's origin to a German opera when a well-upholstered soprano renders a long aria at the end of the show. Others credit Yogi Berra, known for his colorful turn of phrase, for inventing it. Early printed versions of the phrase come from American sportswriters, and some credit Kate Smith who sang "God Bless America" for sporting events, although she sang before, not after, the event. The most likely basis though comes from an expression known in the deep South where the phrase, "Church ain't out 'til the fat lady sings" is used. So, now you know the story behind that one.

Another expression commonly heard is "cold shoulder" meaning to display an attitude of indifference. It could possibly have originated in the 1500's with the habit of giving a hot meal to welcome visitors, and cold mutton to those who were not so welcome. Others credit Sir Walter Scott with saying it, as he also coined the phrase "lock, stock and barrel" in his writings. Dickens used it in his writings and it became popular in the 1800's in this country.

*Jean Opeka*

## Birthdays

We usually sing Happy Birthday to members who show up at church on a Sunday near their birthday. Each honoree blows out a candle in whatever dessert is available that Sunday. We could not celebrate all of them this fall because the church was still not fully open, or some were away. Here are the members who celebrated birthdays between August and December. We enjoy these special celebrations and look forward to the time when we can do them all again in person. Happy birthday, everyone!



Annie Gajadhar  
September 3



Gene Lehr  
September 11



Julia Kalshoven  
October 2



Murzeena Gajadhar  
October 18



Seonhee Ham  
November 7



Jean Opeka  
November 17



Jason Kalshoven  
December 13



Keisun Na  
December 16

## Christ the King Sunday



Christ the King Sunday is a feast day that focuses on the authority of Christ. The feast is celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church on the last Sunday of the liturgical year. It celebrates Christ's messianic kingship and sovereign rule over all creation.

It is always celebrated on the last Sunday after Pentecost before the beginning of Advent that starts the new Church Year. This year that special Sunday fell on November 20th.

As the last Sunday of the Christian Church Year, Christ the King Sunday is the climax and conclusion of the Church's liturgical journey through the life of Christ and the Gospel message. Celebrating on this special Sunday also provides a bridge to the new Church Year that begins on the first Sunday of Advent.



As a bridge between the completed year and the beginning of a new year, worship services often use Scripture and song to provide both an overview of the journey through the life of Christ and the Gospel message that the Seasons of the Church Year provides. The liturgical color for Christ the King Sunday is white, the color of light, gladness, and joy. The altar and pulpit paraments and the pastor's stole change from green to white.

**Christmas Decorating** – On December 4<sup>th</sup> after our worship service and refreshments provided by Bette Deller, we greened the church. Here are some photos of the results along with other decorations done earlier. Steve McKisson and Lydia Kalshoven sang a beautiful duet on December 11<sup>th</sup>.



**Christmas Event** – On December 18<sup>th</sup> we had a special duet during the worship service sung by Josephine Kalshoven and Steve McKisson.

Following the service, we had a Christmas potluck and a white elephant gift exchange that was lots of fun. The food included many tasty dishes including chicken salad, a scrambled egg and turkey sausage casserole, delicious chicken salad, tasty cornbread pudding, a scrumptious Korean noodle and shrimp dish, meatballs, a green bean casserole, Brazil nut bread, and a Christmas tree shaped Funfetti cake with green icing and colored candies.



After lunch, we enjoyed drawing numbers to select a white elephant gift. Two people had gifts stolen from them. Pastor Na had his first present taken by Jan Kalshoven, and then Pastor Na then chose another gift. Annie Gajadhar also had her first gift taken and got to choose another present. We all had a good time and enjoyed some great food.







## Christmas Eve Service



We had a beautiful Christmas Eve worship service at 7:00 pm at the church and also on Zoom for those who were unable to attend in person. Attendees in the darkened Sanctuary had their candles lit: first Pastor lit the first person's candle and that one went on to light the next, and so on while singing "Silent Night, Holy Night," accompanied by our music director, Laura Kalshoven.



Steve McKisson read a verse entitled “Welcoming the Light of the World,” to open the worship service. Bette Deller served as Assisting Minister. Jean Opeka served as the Lector and read two lessons. The first lesson was from Isaiah chapter 9 telling of how Christ’s birth shined light on the people who walked in darkness and were oppressed at that time, and how Christ’s authority will grow bringing peace to the throne of David and his kingdom and that Jesus shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. The second lesson was from Titus chapter 2 proclaiming that the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all and training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and to live a godly life.

The Gospel lesson was from Luke chapter 2. It told the story of how a decree came out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered and how Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem where the Christ Child was born. It was the beautiful and amazing story we hear every Christmas telling of the angels, the shepherds following the star, the babe in the manger, and the shepherds leaving glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

However, I’m old fashioned and still prefer the traditional translation from the King James version of the Bible using words and phrases like *betrothed, a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God, the glory of the Lord shone all around them, and they were sore afraid, tidings of great joy, peace and good will toward men, swaddling clothes, Mary pondered these things in her heart...* rather than the wording used in the more modern translations.

Pastor Na’s sermon, followed the Gospel, and was entitled “Heavenly Peace in Our Midst.” After the sermon, we recited the Nicene Creed, and Bette Deller led the reading of the Prayers of Intercession. Then we wished one another peace, and the choir sang a pretty arrangement of “O Little Town” arranged by John Costes, Jr. The choir had more singers on

Christmas Eve because Lydia, Jason, and Josephine Kalshoven along with Julia and Nick Hajek joined Steve McKisson to sing for us that night. It was a wonderful treat to have such a full sound on this special evening. Thank you all!

After the Great Thanksgiving and prior to communion, we sang an arrangement of the Lord’s Prayer written by Frank Akers, a former member of our church who is now deceased. At the end of the service, Pastor Na blessed us all and we sang “Angels We Have Heard on High” as the recessional hymn. It was a very lovely and inspiring Christmas Eve Service.





– Bette Deller

## COUNCIL REPORT



**September** – Pastor Na welcomed everyone back. It had been three months since our last meeting. He did not have much to report since we were on Zoom and had no in-person events during that time. He reported that Billy Clark is concerned about our HVAC system. We will have an annual inspection later this month. Pastor thanked Chris Ham for replacing the light bulbs in the church with LED bulbs last month. The fall newsletter went out last week, and Pastor Na thanked the congregation for all of the wonderful articles that went into it. The

fellowship has resumed our custom of volunteers bringing in refreshments for coffee hour and placed a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for those who wish to do so. Pastor Na still feels cautious about having social events at church this fall and winter due to the Covid virus. Laura Kalshoven is in California helping her daughter, Julia, with her new baby and will prepare recorded music for our church service while she is away. Chris Ham will provide us with a new computer so, Laura can work remotely. Pastor Na announced Reformation Sunday on October 30, 2022.

**October** – Pastor Na welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said he is still cautious about Covid, but the church is open for us if we want to come in person. He thanked everyone for bringing refreshments for our coffee hours and Bette Deller for changing the décor monthly. Pastor expressed his sadness at the passing of Rich Moore and thanked Jan Kalshoven for handling the arrangement following his death. We will hold a memorial service in Rich's honor when everything is settled, and it becomes appropriate. Pastor Na announced All Saints Day on November 6<sup>th</sup> and the end of Pentecost on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Anna Graeber reported that she had spoken to Karen Coakley about the Beltsville Women's Group Fundraiser. The group is seeking gift cards for food for Thanksgiving by November 8<sup>th</sup> and children's toys, clothes, or gift cards for Christmas by December 12<sup>th</sup>. Bette Deller will have the Maryland Food Bank's virtual food drive link reactivated. Anna Graeber will write announcements for these charity drives to go in the weekly church bulletin and make verbal announcements in church each Sunday as a reminder. The council voted to resume live floral arrangements in church, and Pastor Na will call about pricing and order the flowers for us. The price for each arrangement has gone up to \$33.00 this year. The council will reconsider this action in January. Annie Gajadhar and Bette Deller will ring a handbell after each name is read aloud on All Saints' Sunday, November 6, 2022. Christ the King Sunday will be observed on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

**November** – Pastor Na complimented everyone for their commitment to benevolence. This month we donated to the Beltsville Women's Club for Thanksgiving and Christmas, to Gifts of Hope, and to the Maryland Food Bank. He also thanked everyone who donated refreshments to our coffee hours and Bette Deller for decorating the table each month in that room. Pastor gave us a brief update on Rich Moore's passing and our efforts to get his ashes or have them buried at a military cemetery. He announced a Publications Committee meeting, Christ the King Sunday on November 20<sup>th</sup>, the greening of the church on December 4<sup>th</sup>, and a potluck and gift exchange on December 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Christmas Eve service at 7:00, but no service on December 25, Christmas Day. Three members volunteered to serve on the budget committee for 2023: Anna Graeber, Laura Kalshoven (Treasurer), and Annie Gajadhar (President). All of the current council members agreed to serve in their present offices again next year. Pastor Na will invite others who are interested in joining during his Sunday morning announcements.

**December** – Pastor Na thanked the members who helped decorate the church for Christmas and Bette Deller for decorating the coffee room table with different seasonal themes every month. He announced the special event on December 18 with a potluck and gift exchange. He also announced the Christmas Eve service at 7:00 on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> with no worship service on Christmas Day. Other announcements included the newsletter publication of January 8<sup>th</sup>, the approval by the council of the new budget for 2023 on January 15<sup>th</sup>, and the annual congregational meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

The financial secretarial graphs for November were discussed. We had two large donations this year, so the year-to-date total is larger than both the 2019 and 2020 amounts. The Treasurer reported that we were not able to invest in a CD at Capital One Bank for our organization. The CD's seem to be designed for individuals and require a Social Security Number. Laura and Jan Kalshoven will go in person to inquire if one can be opened for our church and determine how to do that. We received a letter from Michael's House indicating that they will be closing down in 2023. This is one of the charity organizations to which we have donated as part of our benevolence program. They will continue to receive donations until March of 2023. The Xerox machine is currently out of toner. Anna will try to buy some with the church charge card.

We discussed the progress on the matter of Rich Moore's passing. Jan Kalshoven learned that a lawyer from Prince George's County was assigned to handle the case. A lawyer is needed in order for the church to obtain Rich's ashes. Jan is also looking into whether or not they could be given to a military cemetery since Rich was in the military. If there is no family to whom to give them, it is more complicated. Jan also discovered that the death certificate had the wrong birth date on it so that is being addressed. There are still some ongoing issues, and Jan is in touch with those in charge. The meeting closed at 12:10, and the next meeting is scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Bette Deller, Council Secretary*



## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- **Gene Lehr** – My friends from square dancing and church enjoyed my holiday gathering for delicious food & drinks & great conversations on numerous topics. They also enjoyed all the birds on my Christmas tree & my newest bird which is a replica of the owl that was found in the New York Christmas tree several years ago. Hope to see more folks from church next year.



- **New Babies Last Year** – We welcomed two new babies last year, born to members in our congregation. **First to arrive** to Stephanie and Marlon Gajadhar was **Oliver Jerry Gajadhar**,



**Oliver Jerry Gajadhar**

born on August 16. Dad says he's a happy baby, doesn't cry a lot, already sleeping through the night, and a joy to his big sister (sometimes) who tries to help with his care.

**Next to arrive** was **James Orion Hajek** on September 13. Julia (Kalshoven) and her husband were the proud parents; Grandpa advises that James is a very good, happy baby who is already well traveled. He's racking up frequent flyer miles with his mom, or at least he would be if the military allowed it as they have been back and forth across the country



**James Orion Hajek**

already. We pray for blessings to both families as a new adventure begins for them!

- **Bette Deller** – My family had a few nice celebrations during the past 4 months of 2022. My granddaughter, Brooke, turned 18 in October, and some of her family celebrated with her at the restaurant she chose, which was Maggiano's Italian restaurant in Columbia. She also went to her Senior Prom with a group of friends that month. In November, I attended my daughter-in-law's family Thanksgiving gathering at her cousin's house in Damascus again, enjoying some delicious food and a large crowd of her extended family. I took an appetizer and pumpkin bread to the Thanksgiving feast and made extra loaves for the hostess, my son, and my daughter-in-law's parents. In December, I took my son to the Olive Garden for his birthday and then came back to my house for cake, ice cream, and presents. In December this year, I celebrated Christmas at my son's house, so I got a break from hosting it myself. My son, Steve, picked me up after the Christmas Eve worship service at church, and I spent that night and Christmas Day with them in Ashburn, VA. It was a really beautiful holiday with less work for me this year. Annie Gajadhar and I got a break from playing handbells at church Christmas Eve this year, but as it turned out, we both missed doing that so we may play them at Easter to make up for it. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone!



Brooke on the Left  
Before the Prom



Brooke Celebrates 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Some of Brooke's Family on Her Birthday



Thanksgiving In Damascus



Son and Family on His Birthday



Bette and Son on His Birthday

- **Ramesh Das – Boyhood days:** I was not blessed with the technology the kids have these days but my boyhood days were memorable. I had more face-to-face interaction with everyone and a closer-knit group of friends that stood the test of time.

My earliest recollection was when I visited my grandparents (on my mother's side). Imagine my delight on waking up one morning to find hundreds of buck crabs marching under the house. These houses in my country are built on stilts so there is height and lots of space below the house. Our meal came to us. This crab march continued for several days in the neighborhood. Crab soup galore.

Had some scary moments too at my grandparents. My grandfather's cow was grazing in the yard and it had given birth recently. I went up to the calf wanting to hold it - wrong move. The mom came rushing got its horn in my armpit and flung me into the air. I had to be rushed to the doctor bleeding all over. I still have the scars as a reminder to keep my distance from protective mothers.

School days were fun days, and we did crazy things. Imagine all dressed up for school only to disrobe minutes later to plunge into the inviting waters of a trench that ran next to the school. Then we had to face our teacher who had a game plan of his own. All he had to do was pull a ruler across our arm to know whether we went swimming, and then it was whipping time. However, that was not enough of a deterrent to stop us from our odyssey. Every day after school I had to bring the cows home from the fields. I was about eight at the time. I weighed my options of getting the cows or playing cricket (the English game) with my friends. My decision got me into trouble many times. Don't get me wrong. I loved to get the cows and it was fun calling out their names and watching them respond. In the morning it was my job to milk them and shoo them off to the fields, and to keep the calves at home.

My father owned some rice lands and my brothers and I had to help plant the land by hand in knee deep water. It was not easy but we enjoyed the task especially when we were allowed to raid the fruit trees growing next to the field. We especially loved the jamoon fruit. It was during my primary school days (grade 1 to grade 8) that my mom taught me to cook. She needed the help because she was a seamstress and needed the time to complete her orders. She worked from home of course and also trained potential student seamstresses. It was during this time that I also learned to sew. My mom taught me to stitch parts of dresses, attach buttons and zippers and hemmed dresses. It was more a labor of love.

What I loved more was going to the farm with my grandparents (on my father's side). They owned a huge farm and we had to travel by my grandfather's boat to get there. The farm had bananas, plantains, oranges, tangerines, grapefruits, pears, mangoes, cherries, lemons, limes, jackfruit you name it they had it in the farm.

My grandparents were in their seventies at the time but they were very active. My grandfather could climb the highest tree to harvest fruits when necessary and he could carry loads that would put a young man to shame. We used to spend weeks at a time cleaning the farm and harvesting crops for the market. It was tough work but totally worth it to see the pride in my grandparent's faces.

My grandfather was adept at piloting his launch through rough waters to get to the market to sell his produce. I loved to watch my grandmother skillfully negotiate prices with the buyers ensuring she got the best from them. My grandfather was no good at that. The best part of it all is what I collected at the end of the sale. Then straight to the movies. Cost of a movie ticket at that time was 25 cents.

Just some of the fun things I did growing up as a country kid. The challenges of my boyhood days were indeed memorable. Wish I could have documented them on film for my grandkids but life goes on in different ways for them.

**- Nathan Na** – Last year, when my parents were in Korea, one of my finches died, leaving the



sole survivor, "Fluffy," a female white Society finch that has been with us for several years now. Defiant to the melancholic mood of that particular day, I made it my mission to bring home a companion for Fluffy, knowing that finches should be kept in pairs or more, otherwise, they will be unhappy

and lonely. I managed to bring home a dark, brown Society finch that practically flew out of the local PetSmart enclosure, straight into the box, which the employee was holding. After bringing it home, I could tell it was "love at first sight" for these two as Fluffy did not mind sharing the nest with the newcomer on the first day. Would you be surprised to know that these two have had a total of six babies now? Four of them are adults now, while the remaining two are only a couple weeks old. The parents have become experts at raising their young and even the siblings help out!





## Trivia Corner

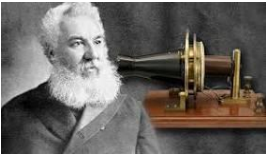
**January** - The first New Year's ball drop in New York City occurred in 1907. Revelers began celebrating New Year's Eve in Times Square as early as 1904, but it was not until 1907 that the New Year's Eve Ball made its maiden descent from the flagpole atop One Times Square. Seven versions of the Ball have been designed to signal the New Year. The first New Year's Eve Ball, made of iron and wood and adorned with one hundred 25-watt light bulbs, was 5 feet in diameter and weighed 700 pounds.



**February's Snow Moon** - February is the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full moon. February's full Snow Moon for 2022 reached peak illumination on Wednesday, February 16. Why Is It Called the Snow Moon? The explanation behind February's full moon name is a fairly straightforward one: It's known as the Snow Moon due to the typically heavy snowfall that occurs in February. On average, February is the United States' snowiest month, according to data from the National Weather Service.



**March** - In 1876, a new invention called the telephone emerged. It is not easy to determine who the inventor was. Both Alexander Graham Bell and Elisha Gray submitted independent patent applications concerning telephones to the patent office in Washington on February 14, 1876. Bell's patent was approved and officially registered on March 7, 1876. On March 10, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell made the first-ever phone call to summons his assistant, which confirmed that the invention worked. He said "Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you."



**April** - There are two zodiac signs in April. Aries, the Ram, which is until April 19th, and Taurus, the bull, which is April 20th and onwards. The Aries sign in astrology is ruled by the planet Mars and Taurus, on the other hand, is ruled by the planet Venus. Aries people are naturally dominating in nature. Taurus, called the bulls of the zodiac jungle, are very stubborn ones who don't like to be controlled whatsoever. Thus, the two signs, Aries and Taurus, are rarely compatible with each other.



## SERVING IN WORSHIP

### JANUARY

1<sup>ST</sup>8<sup>TH</sup>

<b>A-Minister</b>	Jean Opeka	Ramesh Das
<b>Lector</b>	Bette Deller	Steve McKisson

15<sup>TH</sup>22<sup>ND</sup>

<b>A-Minister</b>	Steve McKisson	Billy Clark
<b>Lector</b>	Ramesh Das	Jan Kalshoven

29<sup>TH</sup>

<b>A-Minister</b>	Jan Kalshoven	
<b>Lector</b>	Billy Clark	

### FEBRUARY

5<sup>TH</sup>12<sup>TH</sup>

<b>A-Minister</b>	Anna Graeber	Annie Gajadhar
<b>Lector</b>	Annie Gajadhar	Anna Graeber

19<sup>TH</sup>26<sup>TH</sup>

<b>A-Minister</b>	Bette Deller	Jean Opeka
<b>Lector</b>	Jean Opeka	Bette Deller

### MARCH

5<sup>TH</sup>12<sup>TH</sup>

<b>A-Minister</b>	Ramesh Das	Steve McKisson
<b>Lector</b>	Steve McKisson	Ramesh Das

19<sup>TH</sup>26<sup>TH</sup>

<b>A-Minister</b>	Billy Clark	Jan Kalshoven
<b>Lector</b>	Jan Kalshoven	Billy Clark

### APRIL

2<sup>ND</sup>9<sup>TH</sup>

<b>A-Minister</b>	Anna Graeber	Annie Gajadhar
<b>Lector</b>	Annie Gajadhar	Anna Graeber

16<sup>TH</sup>23<sup>TH</sup>

<b>A-Minister</b>	Bette Deller	Jean Opeka
<b>Lector</b>	Jean Opeka	Bette Deller

30<sup>TH</sup>

A-Minister	Ramesh Das	
Lector	Steve McKisson	