

## DECEMBER



Christmas preparations are underway. Music fills the hallways and small hands excitedly prepare projects for this wonderful time of year!

**Thank you** to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child. Your gifts will surely put smiles on many children's faces this Christmas! Thank you also for your generosity to a local food pantry – your donations were especially welcomed, needed and appreciated at Thanksgiving.

**Registration for the 2023-2024 school year** begins Dec 1<sup>st</sup> for church members and Dec 5<sup>th</sup> for all currently enrolled families. Please be sure to get your application in promptly as most classes fill quickly! Applications are accepted on a first come basis. Please put your application and \$60 check (\$50 registration + \$10 School Shirt) in a large manila envelope (do not fold – we want them to stack in order) and place in the mailbox by the front door. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the registration process.

And thank you for spreading the word about our school! So many new families come because they hear your testimony about the kind and loving care as well as excellent education your child is receiving. I appreciate your kind words. Thank you!

**Weekday Playgroup**, a church run program for 1-2 year olds, is also registering for next year. If you have a younger child, please call Angela Pagano at 908.790.1919 or email her at [weekdayplaygroup@thecornernj.com](mailto:weekdayplaygroup@thecornernj.com) for more information.

We are closed for the **Christmas Holiday** from December 19<sup>th</sup>-January 1<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. *Your teachers will be letting you know when your child's Christmas celebrations will be occurring.*

We are waiting for quite a few **flu shot records**. Please remember that if your child is not yet 5 years old, in order to return to school in **January**, we must have flu shot documentation or a note from you claiming religious exemption or a note from your doctor claiming medical exemption. Please see me if you have any questions.

You are warmly invited to attend **Christmas Eve Services** with us.  
Here is the schedule:

### **Christmas Eve**

- 1:00 PM – Children’s service in the Sanctuary
- 2:30 PM – Children’s service in the Sanctuary
- 4:00 PM – Contemporary service in the Ministry Center
- 7:00 PM – Traditional service in the Sanctuary
- 9:00 PM – Contemporary service in the Ministry Center

### **Christmas Day**

- 11:00 AM Lessons & Carols service in the Sanctuary

Something to think about:

*Holidays are meant to be more than chaos with glimpses of grace; they are meant to draw us closer to God and one another. We want all the whimsy and joy the holidays held when we were children, before life crowded it out. We want the holidays to reflect our love for Jesus and reveal the grace that has been lavished on us, but life is so busy that setting a game plan just doesn't happen. No more. It's time to stop trying to survive the holidays or over indulge the whimsy, and instead live in the abundant life God called us to live.*

Excerpted from -*Sacred Holidays* by Becky Kiser

**Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas,**

Lorie