



# Faith Christian Assembly December Newsletter

December 1, 2021

## Special points of interest:

- \* Pastor Sheri highlights THE Everlasting Light
- \* Gary Leming exhorts unto "peace like a river"
- \* Earlene Leming on the blessing of Christmas carols
- \* Guess who's coming to town? Hint: he has rosy red cheeks and a jolly laugh
- \* Recap of Veterans Day tribute

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## Yet in Thy Dark Streets Shineth the Everlasting Light *by Pastor Sheri Leming*

I have always been fascinated with light. My parents tell me the story of the first time I took notice of the moon. I had barely learned to talk, but kept babbling on and on about, "The moon! The moon!" I still have a love for lights - especially at this time of year. In fact, I believe this is the earliest Gary and I have ever put up our Christmas tree [truth be told - it was November 20].

There is something about the beautiful light from the tree that speaks to me of the greatest gift to mankind, the true Light of the World, Jesus! The account of The Incarnation contains countless references to light. Jesus gives us insight as to why that is the case...

John 12:46- I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.

In fact, Jesus very life was a light for all men to see (John 1:4). It still is. Even in the Old Testament we see Jesus was spoken of as "the light."

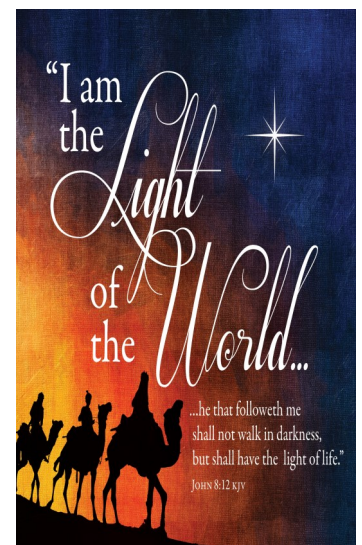
Isaiah 60:1- Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.

However, there has always been a problem with mankind... John 3:19- And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds

## Do You Have Peace Like a River? *by Gary Leming*

Last month Pastor Sheri taught a series titled, "Side Effects of Sin". Recently, in my dealings in the market place, the following Scripture has come alive to me:

Isaiah 48:18, NIV "If only you had paid attention to My commands, your peace would have been like a river, your well-being like the waves of the sea."



were evil. As incredible as it seems, men actually chose the darkness over the light.

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What comes to my mind when I read this passage is how it relates with one of my favorite passages in Deuteronomy:

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## Earlene's Corner *by Earlene Leming*

It was December 1984 and I had been helping the Prison Chaplain on Sundays. This was my new "mission-field", and he asked if I'd come by myself to help them sing Christmas Carols? After leading Church and School Music Programs for many years, I was delighted! I never dreamed God had a precious treasure to



Earlene Leming

give me.

The women were waiting in the small CRC Chapel when I arrived. They had a list of carols from the Chaplain. I remember quietly praying when I sat down to the piano, "Lord, please help these women FEEL Your Presence tonight."

After singing two songs, I observed their

faces, and realized many were crying! I stood up from the piano and said, "If this makes you sad, we can sing other songs tonight." Immediately someone spoke, "Oh, please don't stop...We love these songs!"

Seeing the puzzled look on my face, a young girl softly explained, "Earlene, we are crying because it's the FIRST time we truly understand what the WORDS mean. Now Jesus is OUR SAVIOR too."

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**Let your light so  
shine before men,  
that they may see  
your good works  
and glorify your  
Father in heaven**

**Matthew 5:16**

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## ...The Everlasting Light *continued*

Albert Barnes' Commentary says that this is the reason why men are punished in their sin. Sin brings ignorance, error - whatever is opposite to truth and walking in holiness. Light is come - through instruction, teaching, doctrine that we gain from God's Word.

If I pay attention to that Word, it will bring light to my path. (Psalm 119:105) But we read that they love darkness

more than they do light. Why? The verse goes on to give us the reason - because their deeds were evil. Their deeds are done under the cloak of darkness, so they escape detection.

If we truly follow Him - we have a responsibility. First of all we will not walk in darkness (John 8:12) But we will desire to be the light that Jesus told us we are to be... I'm not talking about the Christmas lights, I'm refer-

ring to the true Light - and allow the Light of Jesus to shine through our lives in a greater measure this Christmas and on into 2022.

There is a dark world all around us that is in desperate need of Jesus. But that darkness will never be able to overcome the Light of Jesus (John 1:5). What can you do today to shine His Light?

~ Pastor Sheri

## Do You Have Peace Like a River? *continued*

Deuteronomy 12:28, "Be careful to obey all these regulations I am giving you, so that it may always go well with you and your children after you, because you will be doing what is good and right in the eyes of the LORD your God."

The main way for us to follow through with the spirit of these Scriptures is to be in God's Word daily, be in constant prayer, and not try to figure

things out on our own. We have to be completely satisfied with an intangible solution to our problems, namely what God wants, and not just be bailed out with money, or any other kind of help thrown at us. For example, if a true believer offers intercessory prayer and goes to God on our behalf, that has to be more important to us than any amount of money, or any pre-conceived "solution" that we would have wished.

Job 16:20-21, My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God; on behalf of a man he pleads with God as one pleads for a friend

~Gary Leming

## December Calendar

### SUNDAYS

Service Times: 10:30am & 5:30pm  
 Pre-service prayer 5:00 pm  
 Dec 5-10:30 am Communion Service  
 Dec 12-10:30 am Guest speaker/  
 worshipper Pastor Paul Vaughn  
 Dec 12-5:30 pm Happy Birthday  
 Jesus Celebration  
 Dec 26 No evening service  
 Jan 2/2022 No evening service



### TUESDAYS

Church Office/Library Hours 10:00  
 am to 4:00 pm Please call ahead

### WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study 11:00 am  
 Dec 29 No Bible Study  
 Grief Share 4:30 pm Garden Room

### THURSDAYS

Dec 16 Men's Ministry 1:00 pm Main  
 Sanctuary  
 Dec 16 Touch of Love Women's Ministry  
 1:00 pm Garden Room

### FRIDAYS

Dec 24 & 31 Church Office Closed

## Guess Who's Coming to Town? *by Pastor Sheri Leming*

Well, it's that time of year when we look forward to that guy with the rosy red cheeks and the jolly laugh flying into town. Yes, we're talking about the amazing Pastor Paul Vaughn! (Who did you think we meant?)

Paul will be ministering at FCA on Sunday, December 12 in our

10:30am service, both in music and in the Word. You will be blessed as he shares with us about the faithfulness of God through 2021 at La Bonne Nouvelle in Tahiti.

Thank you all for supporting missions both locally and around the world!



Pastor Paul Vaughn

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**Paul Vaughn**  
 will be  
 speaking at  
 our 10:30 am  
 service on  
**December 12**

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## Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration

Faith Christian Assembly will have our annual Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration on Sunday December 12 at 5:30 pm in the Garden Room. This event is a congregation favorite with delicious food, games, music and fellowship. It is always a great fun time! Huge thanks to Sherre Yurenko for bringing her planning and culinary talents to

the occasion!

During this event we are also excited to bring our financial gift to Jesus, with all proceeds going to Missions and Local Outreach. It's a beautiful and holy time as each gift is placed at the Christmas tree as part of the celebration. A gift to honor and commemorate the greatest gift of all, our wonderful

Savior Jesus Christ!

These gifts go directly to our Grace International missionaries, Samaritan's Purse, Salvation Army, Orange County Rescue Mission, and We Care Family Support Center.

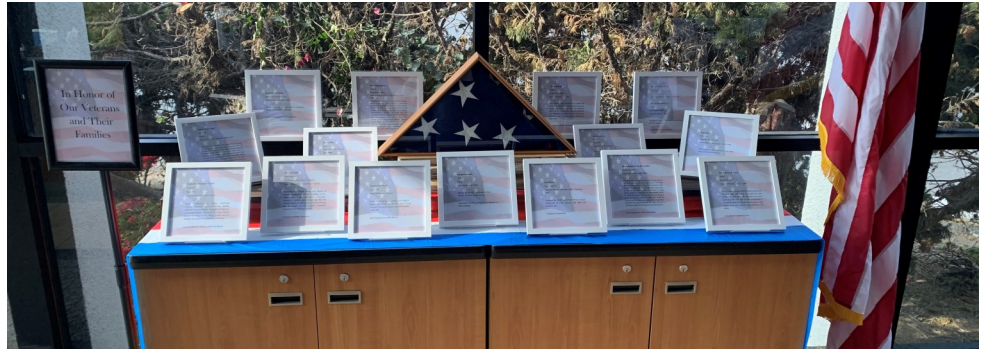
**Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! ~ 2 Corinthians 9:15**



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### Honoring our Veterans *by Pastor Sheri Leming*

Sunday, November 7 in our 10:30am service we paid tribute to some of the veterans of our FCA family. It was a very special time. We heard from them how much they appreciated their service and sacrifice being recognized. This was truly a team effort and I want to especially thank Rose Seeley and Gary Leming for helping us put this together.

John 15:13, NKJV Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

### From the Desk of Pastor Sheri Leming

We pray this Newsletter finds you well as we enter into this wonderful Christmas Season. We are so blessed by all that God continues to do in and through Faith Christian Assembly. Please take note of all that we have going around the church this month through the teaching, and the events that bring God's people together for His glory!

We always look forward to Pastor Paul Vaughn returning home from Tahiti this time of year. He will be ministering through music and speaking for us Sunday, December 12 in our 10:30am service. You will

be richly blessed by Paul's ministry - both in music and in the Word of God. And you will probably enjoy some laughter as well.

We always look forward to our Birthday Party for Jesus, which will be Sunday, December 12 at 5:30pm in our Garden Room. We encourage you to bring your best financial gift that will go to missions, both locally and internationally.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your



righteousness. If You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. ~Looking forward to Sunday, Pastor Sheri (and Gary) Leming