

CHRISTmas edition
2020



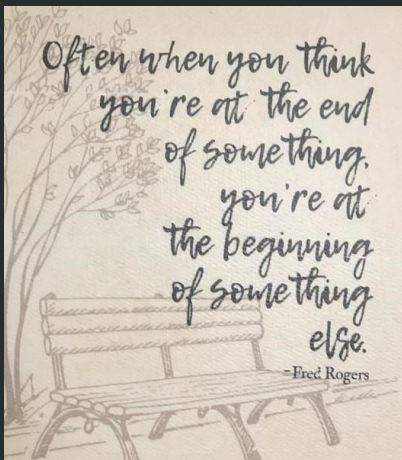
(kudos to Tricia Robinson, artist)

Our theme verse for this year:

*“For everything there is a season
and a time for every purpose under
heaven.*

*He has made everything beautiful in
its time”.*

Ecclesiastes (chapter 3, vs 1&11)



Share your story

Women's Ministries at First Baptist Narragansett

Christmas greetings from our team:

It's the most wonderful time of the year (or so the song says). But is it really?

Is it for the many affected by the virus? There is arguably no one that does not know of someone whose life has been touched in some way through this pandemic year.

Is it the most wonderful time of the year for those who have experienced loss of a family member or friend this year and are now facing their 'first' (or more) Christmas celebrations without that person?

Is it the most wonderful time of the year for families that cannot be together to celebrate their traditions?

I have to admit that some of those situations are personal for me.

But hearing the term “cancel Christmas” (because of these or other circumstances) is what ruffles my feathers every time. With the abundance of God's promises throughout scripture, this should never be a part of our vocabulary. Rather we should go back to see how He has made good on His promises. Many people love to read Luke 2 at Christmas and I clearly remember doing so every year as a child. It's wonderful to reflect on the actual event of Christ's birth.

However, I love reading Isaiah 9 as it starts with *“there WILL be NO MORE gloom”*. In vs 2-3, Isaiah (the author most quoted in the NT), tells us *“the people who walk in darkness WILL see a great light...the light WILL shine on them...you shall increase their gladness...they WILL be glad in Your presence”*. Wondering about the meaning of the great light? Check out vs 6-7 for the answer: *“For a child WILL be born to us, a son WILL be given to us; and the government WILL rest on His shoulders; and His name WILL be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace”*. Then in vs 7, this is reinforced with words like *“there WILL be NO END to peace...from then on and FOREVERMORE...the zeal of the Lord of hosts WILL accomplish this”*. Powerful stuff! And for those of you that pay attention to repeated words, that's 10 WILL's!

Thus: I triple-dog-dare you to stop saying “cancel Christmas”. It would be impossible to cancel this amazing plan that was set in motion hundreds of years ago and continues to unfold today. And furthermore, you can be totally alone this year, away from family/friends, and still rejoice in the love of God for His people and the gift of His son.

Through our Bible studies this year, God gave me Ephesians 3:20: *“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think”*. Be sure to read the full context in the [full chapter 3](#) and see if you can see Christ's birth as part of the big picture. What verse has resonated with you this year?

So yes, regardless of the pandemic and tough circumstances, you can celebrate Christmas with great joy because we know that God loves you, He is with you, and He's on your side in all things. We can have true peace. If you are still skeptical, please log onto the church's website and listen to the 'Pathways to Peace' sermons from our own Pastor Caleb. He explains it much better than me!

I'm truly grateful for each one of you and have truly appreciated the times we have managed to be together through zoom Bible studies and events, in person classes, walks with Hannah, and C4C workshops. And my prayer for each one of you is to celebrate CHRISTmas in the light of what God has already accomplished for each one of us. It WILL be a bright 2021!

Karen (for our team)



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Thanks to those who joined in our First Annual Jingle Mingle!! The 20 or so of you were a treat to have on the Zoom call. I really loved each person's story of why an ornament, a mug, a sweater, a couch was special as it revealed something from 'your story'. We appreciate Barbara Sherman's sharing her story with us and I know we were all able to identify with some part and take something away from it. Thanks Barbara!

AND...if you missed out on Jingle Mingle...

we wish to announce our ??th Annual

Soup Night



: the Pandemic version

YES, we are still moving forward with Soup Night this year despite it looking a bit different. We would LOVE to 'see' you all on our Zoom version. There's no way 100 wonderful ladies could safely gather in person in January. Sorry!

Plans are in motion so get out your recipes and plan to make a pot to 'share' with us.

It is scheduled (as usual) for the Monday, January 18th at 6PM.

We have a guest speaker that will share her story with us in our years of stories: *Lori Roeleveld*.

Don't' Miss Out!!

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88519821104>

Meeting ID: 885 1982 1104

C4C --- Laurel has things up and running with this ministry.

Next date to be announced

We had a great day this month making many tiny quilts (like they fit in your hand) that can will have a cross sewn on them and handed out to remind people of His love. Laurel's goal is to have information included that links to our church website. We had a great morning working together in our socially distant workstations. Plenty of room for YOU!



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

- Our Wednesday evening Zoom study will resume in January as we look at the topic of “Forgiveness”. It will begin on January 6th at 7-830, every Wednesday.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88454375100>

Meeting ID: 884 5437 5100

- Kerry continues to lead Women’s Sunday School class (in person but socially distanced) every Sunday following worship service. Studying the book of Mark “Listening for His Voice”
- Tuesday morning in person study on hold for the time being.

~REMINDER OF THE BANNER PROJECT~

Have you been working on your square?

Laurel is available for consultation (see left hand column for her phone number)

Remember our theme statement this year? *“Though it may seem that our threads are fraying, God is weaving a beautiful tapestry through His steadfast love”.*

Laurel is heading up the project to create individually-designed squares that she will assemble into one banner or quilt. The goal is to illustrate and display how God weaves all our uniqueness together in unity and sisterhood. Thus, our theme.

None of us are identical; all have different experiences, emotions, and lessons learned in life. Some of us write poems to represent our experiences, some paint or draw.

We NEED your help (yes, even you!) to create our banner(s). Laurel has graciously put together kits that include a blank muslin square that can be used to paint/draw, embroider, applique---your choice.

Yours could be a life event, a favorite verse, a family member/loved one that positively influenced your life, a cherished memory...endless possibilities!

Laurel’s **deadline for completed squares is April 1st** (no foolin’) so that she has time to assemble in advance of our year’s closing event.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR SHARING PART OF YOUR STORY IN THIS CREATIVE WAY!! See Laurel for a kit (or she can mail you one if you are not attending church in person). We cannot wait to see the finished product!!

“He makes everything beautiful in its time”

KEEP SCROLLING FOR THIS EDITION’S PRINTABLE PAGE-----





FOR

UNTO US A

Child is born,

UNTO US A

is given; and the *Son*
the government will
be upon his shoulder, and his name
will be called

Wonderful Counselor,

MIGHTY GOD

Everlasting Father

PRINCE OF PEACE.

ISAIAH

9:6

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!