



CARMEL MONTHLY

A PUBLICATION OF MT CARMEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Finding joy that lasts in the birth of Christ

Joy at the birth of Christ

If we turn to the narratives about the birth of Christ, away from the festivities of the here and now, we find that they are full of joy.

Elizabeth, on hearing the sound of Mary the mother of Jesus approaching, exclaimed that her own baby leapt for joy in her womb, (Luke 1:44).

The shepherds were startled with the angel’s announcement of “good news of great joy” (Luke 2:10), and then suddenly overcome with the sound of ringing praise of “Glory to God in the highest” at the momentous and joyful occasion, (Luke 2:13-14).

The wise men who had travelled vast distances to see Jesus “rejoiced exceedingly with great joy” when they saw the star again resting over the place where Jesus was, (Matthew 2:10).

Joy in the face of terrible darkness

It’s also true to say that the nativity stories are littered with sadness and darkness in places. Take, for example, the terrible evil of boys slaughtered by King Herod (Matthew 2:16-18), or more personally, the ominous words to Mary by old Simeon in the temple; “a sword will pierce through your own soul also” (Luke 2:35). As well as the dreadful atrocities committed by those in power, there is a recognition that Mary herself would feel deep seated sorrowful emotions because of what would eventually transpire. Alongside these moments of great evil and the hardships of life, the joy that the birth of Jesus heralds is accentuated even more. With darkness all around, the announcement that Jesus will bring joy is all the more intense.

What is it about the birth of this child that can create a joy able to penetrate through the darkness of the world to create a lasting optimism?

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

December National Holidays

- 1st - Rosa Parks Day
- 2nd - Special Education Day
- 3rd - Roof Over Your Head Day
- 4th - National Cookie Day
- 5th - International Ninja Day
- 8th - National Brownie Day
- 9th - Christmas Card Day
- 10th - Human Rights Day
- 11th - National App Day
- 12th - Gingerbread House Day
- 13th - National Violin Day
- 14th - National Alabama Day
- 15th - National Wear Your Pearls Day
- 19th - National Hard Candy Day
- 21st - Crossword Puzzle Day
- 24th - Christmas Eve
- 25th - Christmas Day
- 26th - National Whiner’s Day
- 28th - National Card Playing Day
- 29th - Tick Tock Day
- 30th - Bacon Day

Wednesday Night Bible Study 6 P M

IN-PERSON OR ON FACEBOOK LIVE!

REV. BENJAMIN L. CALVERT, II - SENIOR PASTOR
MTCARMELCONNECT.COM

MID-WEEK Power Prayer Call

EVERY Wednesday Morning AT 7:00AM

Dial: 202-926-1174

Access Code: 699649

4 WAYS TO GIVE

- CASHAPP: SMTARMELCONNECT
- GIVELIFY: MOUNT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH
- MAIL: 708 N 5TH ST, STEUBENVILLE, OH 43952
- PAYPAL: MOUNTCARMEL STEUBENVILLE@GMAIL.COM

T-SHIRT SALE

6 DESIGNS • 3 SHIRT STYLES

T-SHIRTS START AT \$20.00!

PLACE YOUR ORDER ONLINE HERE

708 N 5TH ST, STEUBENVILLE, OH 43952 • 740-282-9257 • MTCARMEL_C@COMCAST.NET • MTCARMELCONNECT.COM

MT. CARMEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH & SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS

WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

2 CHURCHES • 1 CHOIR • ALL FAMILY
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025
WORSHIP AT 10:00 PM
SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH
717 ADAMS ST, STEUBENVILLE, OH 43952
(740) 282-4949

GUEST PREACHER
Reverend BENJAMIN CALVERT, II

HOST PASTOR
Reverend JEFFREY STANFORD

GET IN OUT OF THE COLD!
VISIT THE MT. CARMEL WARMING STATION

708 N 5TH ST, STEUBENVILLE, OH 43952

DOORS ARE OPEN

- TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
- DECEMBER, JANUARY, & FEBRUARY
- DOORS OPEN 11 AM - 1 PM

REV. BENJAMIN L. CALVERT, II, SENIOR PASTOR • (740) 282-9257 • MTCARMELCONNECT.COM

MERRY
christmas
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Want to rewatch last week's sermon? Head over to YouTube!

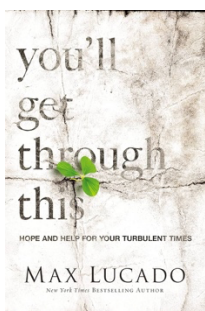
SHARE SUBSCRIBE LIKE

Pastor's Pick! Book of the Month!

You'll Get Through This: Hope and Help for Your Turbulent Times by Max Lucado

Whether you find yourself in the pit of financial downturn, job loss, health crisis, or relationship stresses, God has a plan and a path forward designed just for you.

Max reminds readers God doesn't promise that getting through trials will be quick or painless, but he does use our mess for good.



We Are A Community of Believers Transformed In Him To Be Agents Of Change In The Home, Church, Community, And The World.

SCAN ME



SCAN ME

Check out our website
www.mtcarmelconnect.com
for all upcoming events!

men's holiday FELLOWSHIP

REV. BENJAMIN L. CALVERT II
SENIOR PASTOR

Sunday
Dec. 14

CALLING ALL MEN!

Meet us at 12:30 PM with Pastor Calvert for an afternoon of amateur golf.

Topgolf Pittsburgh

400 Presto-Sygan Rd, Bridgeville, PA 15017

\$30 INCLUDES GAME | FOOD & DRINK SOLD SEPARATELY

Contact any Mt. Carmel Leader for more information.

708 N 5TH ST, STEUBENVILLE, OH 43952 • (740) 282-9257 • MTCARMELCONNECT.COM

This month, help us wish...

Cheryl Johnson.... Charne Gilliam.... Glenn Freeman....
Kareese Minefield.... Laurene Stubbs....
Leroy Hilson Jr. Terrance Lawson....
Deounlee Young.... Gloria Martin....
Whitney Lawson.... Harriet Stackhouse....
Shayla Thompson.... Eliza Kelly.... Dazon Murray....
& Jordan Montgomery a...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mt Carmel Community Baptist Church
708 North 5th St. Steubenville, OH 43953

Rev. Benjamin L. Calvert II, Pastor

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
@10:00 AM

Wednesday Night Bible Study @ 6:00 PM

(740) 282-9257 | mtcarmel_c@comcast.net
www.mtcarmelconnect.com

