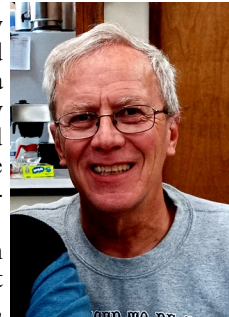




## Christmas Sleights



Last year, a couple of friendly townspeople asked me if I would be willing to play Santa for a Christmas event. I think they thought it was both an honor and a good fit. Both looked a little shocked at how quickly I declined.

While I try to keep my opinion to myself (except when I blurt it out, unasked, in print like this), I'm not really a fan of the Jolly Old Elf (in this article, hereafter referred to as J.O.E.). He's friendly, hardworking, generous, and nice; all qualities I admire, but he's also a distraction.

The word 'sleight' comes to mind. Sleight of hand is defined as "skill with the hands, especially in confusing or deceiving onlookers, as in magic." The hand is quicker than the eye, get them looking this way while you do something that way, replace one thing with another while people wonder how you did it. Keep your eyes on Christmas. Look. Keep watching. Don't take your eyes off. Poof! Christmas is about world peace and the spirit of giving, personified by J.O.E. How'd they do that?

Or, you can feel slighted. Different word, same sound. It means "insult (someone) by treating or speaking of them without proper respect or attention." It might be used in a sentence like this: "I felt slighted when my best friend didn't invite me to his party."

Somehow, sleight is involve in the slight when your best friend isn't invited to his own party. And in this case, it to His own party. Because if you're not careful, you—the Bible-believing Church-going Christian

can look back at your Christmas day and wonder, 'How did that happen? I don't think Jesus was really part of my Christmas!'

The only example we have in the Bible is the first Christmas. Apparently it took a long time before people started celebrating it at all, let alone with the style and size we use today. But let's look at the one example we have.

In Matthew, we have Magi, a king, and a star. When the wise men found Jesus, "*they fell to the ground and worshiped Him.*" In Luke we find an angel choir and shepherds. The first angel shared the good news with the shepherds, then he had company. "*And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest...'*" And as for the shepherds, after they saw the baby Jesus, they "*went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen....*" The first Christmas was all about God's glory and praise.

Does your Christmas glorify Jesus? Or does it slight Him? Don't misunderstand me—you can still have trees and lights and gifts and special food—those things can be every bit as much a part of a legitimate celebration as a false one. You can even have J.O.E. In our house he was 'a fun pretend guy some people believe is real.' But be careful. Don't let anyone sleight you so that you slight Him.

Glorify Jesus this Christmas.

# Photo of the Month



I don't get it. For some reason, Mike Cronrath didn't want this picture in the Church Directory! Fortunately for us, he said okay to using it here.

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tbfdavenport@hotmail.com  
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Steve McLachlan, Pastor  
(509) 721-0830  
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John Doyle, Youth Pastor  
(509) 435-6393  
tbfypdoyle@gmail.com

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Elders:**

Jeremy Eaton  
Knut Hernas  
Dion Ricketts

#### **Deaconesses:**

Justina Sliter  
Rachel Lacy  
Peggy Semprimoznik  
Sandy Buchanan

#### **Trustees:**

Wyatt Downing  
Robert Boleneus  
Micah Choate  
Jim Buchanan

#### **Treasurers:**

Sue Warwick  
Debbie Anderson

#### **Secretary:**

Jana Scott

#### **Sunday School Superintendent:**

Tyson Lacy

*"Our mission is to proclaim the Word of God, leading people to a saving faith and a growing relationship with Jesus Christ."*

## Elders Report

Tuesday, 12 November 2024, 6:30pm

Attendees: Steve McLachlan, John Doyle, Jeremy Eaton, Mike Bell, Dion Ricketts, and Knute Hernas. Guests: Susie Warwick and Iain Stewart

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved.

Scheduled report:

- Susie guided the discussion over next year's budget in preparation for the Annual Business Meeting.
- Iain presented a new program called Helping Hands where those interested in working on a specified project can pool their talents and equipment to benefit those in need. He will guide this group.

Pastor's report

- Steve has jury duty on Nov. 19, Dec. 11 and 18, but only if he gets called.
- Ellie Suttentfield asked to show a Kendrick film and charge admission. Will suggest a different show without a charge.
- Discussed restarting a College and Career group.

Youth Pastor's report

- Youth Leadership Training (YLT)
  - Monday is a great day for these meetings! Great participation from both boys and girls, great prayers!
- AWANA Trek/Journey
  - Good attendance, 8-10 per
- Youth Group
  - Green Bluff trip was GREAT!
- Will be preaching again at Loomis on Dec.1.

Old Business

- Scholarships: John will email a rough draft for our comments; FYI budget for scholarships stands at \$1500.
- Broadcasting the Sunday Sermon on YouTube vs Band vs Signal: Dion is still researching the issues.

New Business

- We will invite Sue Beckman to present her choir ideas at the Dec. meeting.

Intercessory Prayer: Time was devoted to sharing the needs of the congregation and covering them with prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 3 December 2024, 6:00pm

## Church Funds 10/31/2024

Benevolence Fund	1,495.00
Bus Fund	3,600.00
Missionaries Reserve	3,935.00
Missions Fund	5,527.00
General Fund	110,800.00
Total	\$125,357.00
Building Fund	\$170,387.00
	\$295,744.00

## Book Review

### Unveiling Grace

In the library: We have obtained a new book "Unveiling Grace", which can be found on the shelf marked 'Recommended.' Lynn Wilder tells her family story of leaving the deception of Mormonism. Following her son's conversion to Christ the family was in a tailspin wondering what that would mean to safety, jobs & relationships. She also offers a wonderful comparison on Mormon teaching versus Bible truth

## Breakfast

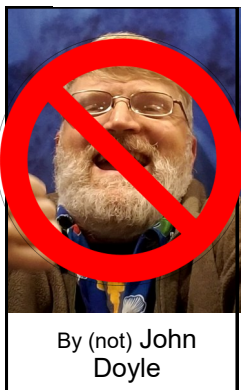
Yes, even in December we need breakfast!

Ladies, be here at 9 am on Saturday the 7th for a shared blessing of food and fellowship with good friends.

Men, your turn comes on Saturday the 21st at 8 am. Guys, if you haven't tried it yet, join us and find out why the rest of us keep coming back.

## Christmas Day Service

Join us for our relaxed Christ-centered Christmas day service at 10 am on the 25th. It helps keep our day focused on Jesus in a comfortable and friendly way. Simple and informal, this celebration is good for the whole family.



By (not) John Doyle

# Youth Stuff

"Hi, it's Decemburr." (I think he'd say something like that.) "We're coming into Christmas and New Year and all the things that go with it. You'll get a lot of days off from school, so come hang out with me in my office any time you want!" (John didn't actually say that, but I'm sure it's a good idea.) "In November we went to Cocolalla for the Youth Retreat and had a great time. It was a huge success!"

This month we're having our Youth Group Christmas Party, as well as all the regular activities, so grab your sleighs and reindeer and hang on! That's right! The Youth G.A.N.G. is on the move!!!

Youth Group G.A.N.G. (God's Anointed Next Generation)

Youth Group 3:30 to 5 pm Sundays, come hang out with the G.A.N.G. Discover the Word of Christ and maybe play a game or two.

## Youth Leadership Training

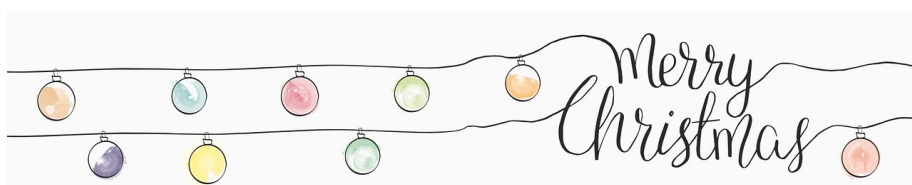
We have two meetings in December, Mondays the 2nd and 16th at 5:30—7:30. (I have no idea what food themes John will set, so I'll suggest Nacho Bar and Chicago Style Hot Dogs)

## Youth Group Big Event

**Christmas Party!** Saturday, December 21, 6—10 pm. (That's the actual schedule, I'm not just making it up.) There will probably be food, there will probably be games, and there will probably be a gift exchange. Listen later for directions that are actually right.

## Volunteer

The youth Ministries can use your time, talent, and prayers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact John Doyle at (509) 435-6393, or [tbfpdoyle@gmail.com](mailto:tbfpdoyle@gmail.com).





## Children's Christmas Program

Normally, it's easy to find seating up front at church, but not when there's a children's program! Come early for the good seats on Sunday, Dec 15th, as the kids perform **Simeon Sees the Savior**. The story takes place after the traditional Nativity Scene story, when baby Jesus is presented in the temple.

## Family Christmas Night at TBF!

Mark your calendar for 6:30, Friday, December 13th for a free family movie night at Church! We will be watching family favorites **A Charlie Brown Christmas** and **The Star**. There will also be popcorn and other treats at low-to-no cost.

There is no charge, and you can invite any friends you want to join you. An offering tray will be out, all money brought in will be sent to the House of Omeed.

For more information, contact Ellie Sutzenfield.

## New York New Year's Eve Party

Join us for our annual New York New Year's Eve Game Night! Tuesday, December 31st from 5—9 pm at the church. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. We will have stacks of board games to choose from or you can bring one from home. A Pinochle Tournament will be going on, as well as Bingo for the Kids!! Everyone is welcome!

TBF Snow Closure Policy—No Closure, No Guilt.  
If you come, we will worship!



PO Box 853  
Davenport, WA. 99122



Prefer to get your Newsletter by email? We can do that! Contact the church office at [tbfdavenport@hotmail.com](mailto:tbfdavenport@hotmail.com)



## Preparing for Christmas!

I like to think we're always preparing for Christmas at Awana. We always want to be looking for Jesus—it's just that in December we're looking for Baby Jesus!

### Special Nights in December

There are only three Awana Nights this month:

- Dec 4 Talent Night
- Dec 11 Penny Parade
- Dec 18 Nativity Scene Night

Penny Parade is the night we bring in money to send as a Christmas gift to Awana Missionaries Jim and Bev VanMersbergen. Don't worry—we don't have to mail all that change. We take it to the bank and send them a check! On the 18th we'll have Christmas Cards for them the kids will sign.

Snow Closure Policy: Normally we will do what the Davenport School District does. If there is a change, we'll let you know.

Missionary of the Month:  
Olivier & Ellen Melnick



# December 2024

*Women's Ministry Leader: Sandy Buchanan*

*Group Members: Annie Ricketts*

*Carolyn Ross*



**Sun**

**Mon**


**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

1 Gideons Visit TBF Coffee Fellowship  Youth Group 3:30 pm	2 MNF at Andrew Abell's Youth Leadership 5:30 pm	3 Elders Meeting 6:30 pm	4 Awana 6 pm Talent Night	5 BSF 10 am Ladies Prayer 1 pm	6 Men's Coffee 7 am	7  <b>9 am</b>
8 Youth Group 3:30 pm	9 Deaconess Meeting 2 pm MNF at Andrew Abell's	10 Missions Committee 2 pm	11 Awana 6 pm Penny Parade	12 BSF 10 am Ladies Prayer 1 pm	13 Men's Coffee 7 am Family Movie Night at 6:30 A Charlie Brown Christmas and The Star	14
<b>15 Children's Christmas Program during church</b>  Youth Group 3:30 pm	16 MNF at Andrew Abell's Youth Leadership 5:30 pm	17	18 Awana 6 pm Nativity Scene Night	19 BSF 10 am Ladies Prayer 1 pm	20 Men's Coffee 7 am	21  <b>8 am</b> <b>Youth Group Christmas Party 6-10 pm</b>
22 Youth Group 3:30 pm	23 MNF at Andrew Abell's	24	25  <b>10 am</b>	26	27 Men's Coffee 7 am	28
29 Communion/ Benevolence Offering  Youth Group 3:30 pm	30 MNF at Andrew Abell's	31 <b>NEW YORK NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 5-9 PM</b>				