

Thanks
be to God
for his
indescribable
gift!

2 Corinthians
9:15

Pastor Tim's Message

As I write this, Christmas is only a month away. It has become a fact of life that this time of waiting and counting down has become one of the busiest times of the year for most people. For many this is a time of hectic rushing around to shop at stores, attend parties, and try to connect with family. How ironic that this time of joyous celebration leaves many feeling rundown, disconnected, or just plain tired.

So, in the midst of our hurrying, let us take time and see that behind the commercial forces that drive many of us of this season, there is a deeper meaning to this time of expectation. As we move through this busy time, I would like to remind and urge us all to slow down so that we can focus on the most important gift we can receive in this Holy Season.

Christmas is God's gift to us – a gift of light and life, hope and grace. This gift is a reflection of God's concern for the world and God's desire to heal it and drive away its darkness. The gift of Christmas, therefore, is the one and only gift that gives our lives focus and meaning. We are called to bear

Christ's light to the world by our love expressed through works of mercy and acts of justice. At Christmas, we are invited once again to walk in the light and take the light into the world.

So, let's think about giving some gifts that will help expand this light of Christ into our world such as:

- Fixing a dish or meal for someone in our community who is sick, disabled or needy; or, inviting them to share a meal with you.

- Taking a few minutes each day to envision a world of peace and reflect on what we could do to help make that happen in our homes and neighborhoods.

- Volunteering our time at the Meal Site on January 25th or at our next host week (February 18-25) for Family Promise.

- Taking an inventory of our possessions and thinking about what we could donate to Goodwill or give to someone in need.

- Making a commitment to increase our time in prayer as we reflect on and open ourselves up to be used as instruments of Christ's hope and peace in even greater ways in the coming year.

May this Christmas season be a holy time as we receive the greatest gift given to us through the birth of Jesus, the Word made flesh, who is the promise of love fulfilled in Bethlehem, the gift of peace, and the future of hope for us all.

In God's Love,

Pastor Tim