

Hope and a Future

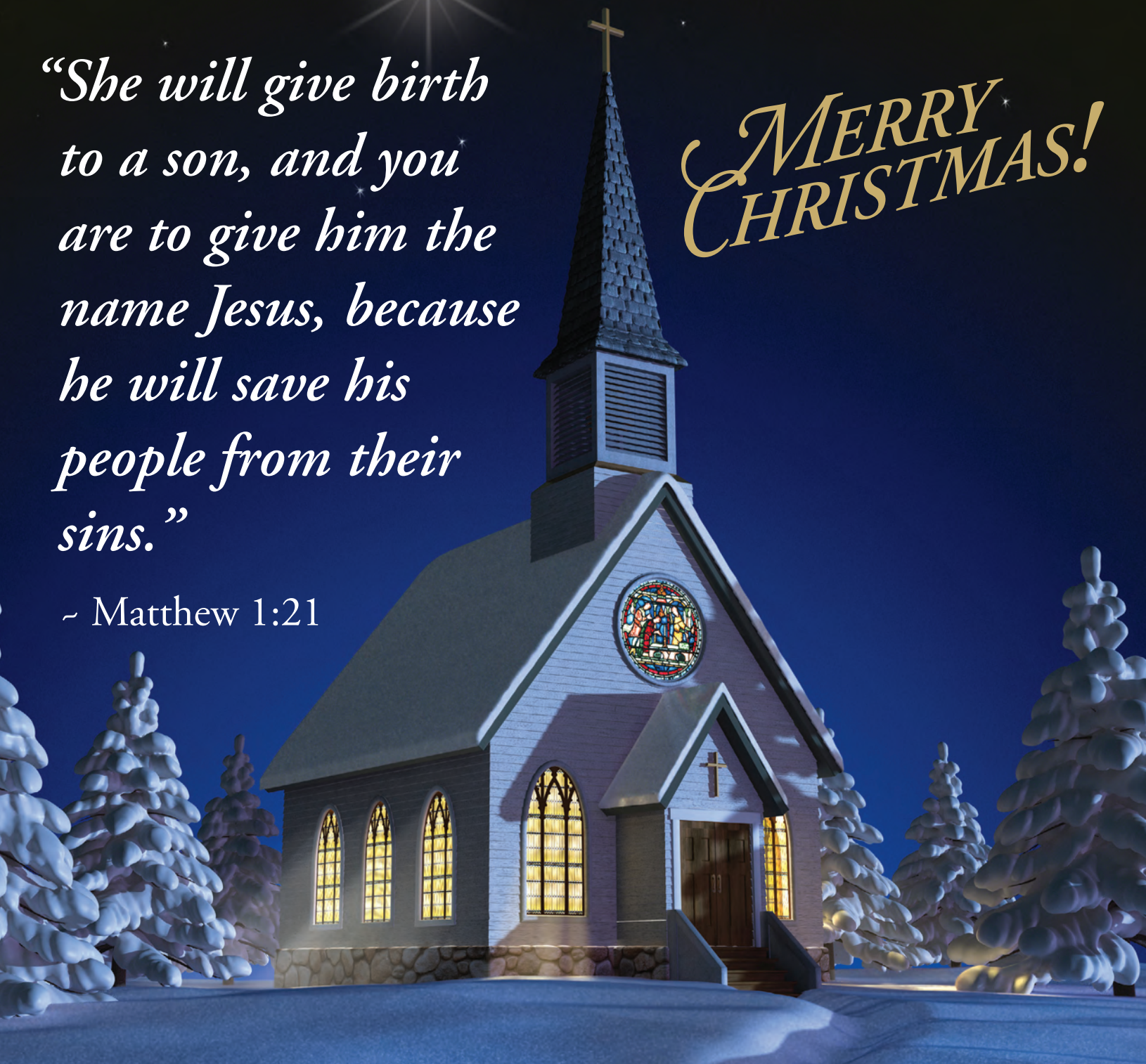
THE VOICE

NEWSLETTER

*“She will give birth
to a son, and you
are to give him the
name Jesus, because
he will save his
people from their
sins.”*

~ Matthew 1:21

*MERRY
CHRISTMAS!*





Rev. Jeff Kaiser, CEO

“Families often gather for the Christmas season and our hearts go out to those whose loved ones are not with them. For individuals experiencing homelessness, it is an exceptionally lonely time. This is why the Mission strives to give guests a memorable Christmas while sharing Christ’s love and compassion. In this edition, you will read about the many ways guests are welcomed and assisted during their greatest times of need. Thank you for your support and all the donations we received. May the Lord bless you this Christmas season and always.”



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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*



CITYGATE
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Help and hope found here

MISSION RADIO BROADCASTS SUNDAY MORNINGS

7:30 AM

WNIR 100.1 FM

WKVX 960 AM

WAKR 1590 AM

WKJA 91.9 FM

8:00 AM

WHBC 1480 AM

Thanks for listening!



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS IN THE WOMEN’S DIVISION

Haven of Rest’s Harvest Home shelter for women and children is a festive place during the Christmas season. Women and their families are kept busy with special activities and events throughout the month of December like riding the Polar Express, going to see the Hower House in downtown Akron, and putting up Christmas decorations. The week before Christmas, Harvest Home Staff and volunteers host Christmas parties for the families and for the women staying without children. The women staying in the Women’s Day Room are treated to a special Christmas brunch provided by a local Amish congregation, participate in a white elephant gift exchange, eat Christmas cookies, and hear the story of Christ’s birth.

The moms and kids get to kick off their party with crafts and games like reindeer antler ring toss, pin the nose on the snowman, and Christmas charades. After supper and dessert, the Christmas Story is read and everyone receives Christmas gifts: toys for the kids, gift cards for the moms, and new pajamas for everyone! The party ends with singing “Joy to the World,” reminding

everyone who attends that Jesus is the reason they gather in celebration.

In preparation for Christmas Day, moms are taken by staff to shop for gifts for their children provided by donors to the Mission. Last year while shopping, a woman excitedly told staff that she had never been able to provide such a nice Christmas for her children and could not wait until her children woke up Christmas morning to see what Mommy got them. Donors also give special attention to the women and coordinate with staff to see that the women wake up Christmas morning to thoughtful gifts of their own.

On Christmas Day, moms gather their kids around one of the Harvest Home Christmas trees to open gifts and everyone enjoys a traditional holiday meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and more made by the Haven of Rest Food Service team. It is a special, heart-warming day for women and their families who call the Harvest Home their temporary home.





CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS IN THE MEN'S DIVISION

Resident men in the Conquerors Program enjoy two special events. The first event is the resident Christmas party, which takes place in the cheerfully decorated Community room. Men's Division staff share a devotional and a Gospel message, lead in singing Christmas carols, and provide the opportunity for residents to share how this Christmas is different and what they like about it. After a white elephant gift exchange game, each of the men are surprised with a large bag full of gifts that have been donated and wrapped by volunteers. These items often include study Bibles, devotionals, grooming kits, watches, wallets, gift cards, blankets, etc.

The second event is a delectable Christmas feast. Male staff prepare to join the resident men for this dinner later in the evening. The dinner may take place at a restaurant, or they can have it catered to relish in the Community room. Good fellowship is enjoyed by the men as they share stories, encourage one another, and listen to Christmas music.

Haven of Rest also provides an opportunity for resident men to shop for their spouses and children prior to these two events. After they choose the gifts they believe their families will enjoy, they are assisted in mailing them to their families in time for Christmas. Many of these men have not been able to send gifts to their families for a long time, due to their life controlling issues. So needless to say, this comes as a special surprise! Sometimes giving a gift creates an opportunity for the men to restore relationships with family and friends. In the midst of their many difficulties, this gesture towards their loved ones often provides hope and a blessed Christmas.

AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

Ten years ago, when Michelle's life had no stability or focus, she credits Haven of Rest Ministries with turning her life around. She was so impacted by the Mission's services and programs that when she heard her community bank was asking their customers to submit an application for a nonprofit to win one thousand dollars for impacting the community in a positive way, she immediately thought of Haven of Rest.

She told her story, submitted the application, and won the gift for the ministry.

Michelle shares, "The Holy Spirit guided me to nominate Haven of Rest. I wrote about how they support people and how I used the services so many years ago." She shares while she was at Haven of Rest, she took advantage of the Learning Center even after she moved to transitional housing. "I continued to come because I didn't know anything about the computer. Soon after, I attended The University of Akron and then Stark State." She also volunteered with another volunteer and planted flowers in front of the Women's Day Room.

Her journey has not been without challenges. After she left the Mission, she went through breast cancer, but has been in remission for ten years. It is so heartwarming to know how much the Mission has impacted her life. Because of friends like you, we were there to help her. We are very grateful to everyone who gives of their time, talent, and treasure to make change possible in the lives of men, women and children. Thank you for all you do. God bless you and may you have a joyful and wonderful Christmas!



Mr. Dean Robinson, Manager, OCFU
and Alice Michelle Gatlin



FREE WILLS ONLINE!

Create or update your will free of charge! It generally takes less than 20 minutes to create your will on this confidential site. Help protect your family and pass along your values!

For more information, go online to a secure and private link at

www.havenofrest.org/get-involved/wills-trusts/.

Scroll down and click on the **legacy giving website** to learn the importance of a will.

You have the option to create your will right then on your computer for free. You will learn how to leave a legacy of love and a little bonus piece called Procrastination. All this at no cost to you!



THE BASICS OF RMDs

By Mike Kura, RFP

“On behalf of the board of trustees, we wish you a blessed Christmas and a big impactful New Year.”

WHAT ARE RMDs? - A required minimum distribution (RMD) is the minimum amount of money that must be withdrawn from certain retirement savings accounts each year after a specific age. Typically, these distributions are subject to income tax.

WHO DO RMDs APPLY TO? - RMDs most commonly apply to the following types of retirement savings accounts: Traditional IRA, 401(k), 403(b), 457(b), SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, and other defined contribution plans. Roth IRAs are not in this list because the IRS does not require you to take withdrawals from Roth IRAs while you're alive. Your beneficiaries may have to take RMDs after your passing, however.

WHEN DO YOU BEGIN TAKING RMDs? - Due to the passing of the SECURE act in 2020, there are different ages you may have to begin taking RMDs. For anyone who turns 70 ½ after January 1, 2020, you do not need to begin taking RMDs until you turn 72. Your first RMD must be withdrawn by April 1 of the year after you reach 72. For each of the following years, you must take your next RMD by December 31 of each year. If you turned 70½ before January 1, 2020, you've already begun taking RMDs. The IRS does not take missing RMDs lightly and could hit you with a penalty as big as 50% of the RMD amount that was not withdrawn. For these reasons, it is certainly a good idea to get help from a financial advisor or tax professional who can help you with your specific situation.



WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Welcome ladies! The Auxiliary meets every first Tuesday of each month in the Mission's Dining Room. Come anytime between 10:00 a.m. and noon to browse and shop in the Auxiliary gift shop where you will find great bargains! Lunch is served at noon and the Auxiliary program begins at 1:00 p.m. in the Main Chapel. There is no cover charge to attend. For more information, please call Rose Rose at 330-535-1563 or email her at rose@havenofrest.org. A link with more details in our newsletter can be found at www.havenofrest.org/who-we-are/womens-auxiliary/. Bring a Friend!

