

★ THE CHRISTMAS PLEDGE

1. To remember those people who truly need my gifts.
2. To express my love for family and friends in more direct ways than presents.
3. To rededicate myself to the spiritual growth of my family.
4. To examine my holiday activities in light of the true meaning of Christmas.
5. To initiate an act of peacemaking within my circle of family and friends.

★ From "Unplug the Christmas Machine"
Jo Robinson & Jeanne Coppock Staeheli ★

Advent Waiting in Hope



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Sunday, December 29
Guest Speaker
Benjamin Muro
From New Creation Church

Great Joy

A CHRISTMAS SERIES

Dec 01 » Mary's Joy

Dec 08 » Zechariah's Joy

Dec 15 » The Shepherds' Joy

Dec 22 » Simeon's Joy

Dec 29 » Guest Speaker: Benjamin Muro.

Prayer REQUESTS

► SALVATION

- Walter Miner III Gearen Family Tom M. Stein Family
 Ryan K. Tyler M. Mandy W. Dave. O

► HEALTH ISSUES

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mandy W. » Cancer | <input type="checkbox"/> Clarence F. » Knee Rehab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merle » Health Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Mike K. » Bone Cancer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carlos V. » Health Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Walter M. » Limited Mobility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angie & Family » Life Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Sophie T. » Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camilla S. » Cancer/Leg | <input type="checkbox"/> Keith K. » Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lucille S. » Health Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Kenzie S. » Seizures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augustin A. » Sobriety | <input type="checkbox"/> Hector S. » Healing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yalda Samano » Cancer | <input type="checkbox"/> Angela A. » Hospice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walter Miner III. » Health Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Vanessa » Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zach D. » Sobriety | <input type="checkbox"/> Jacob M. » Emotional Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paitn » Return to God | <input type="checkbox"/> Noelle G. » Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meztti » Return to God | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior » Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeffrey » Healing | <input type="checkbox"/> Charlie » Lung Cancer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ivy » Healing | |



METRICS THAT MATTER (12/08/24)

ATTENDANCE ► 36

GIVING ► \$3,693

GUESTS ► 0

VOLUNTEERS ► 14

DECISIONS FOR CHRIST ► 0

Who is a shepherd?

- Often the youngest of the family
- Often one who had no other skills/education
- Looked down upon by leaders because they could not keep religious rules or observe Sabbath
- Poor/dirty – worked long hours and looked ragged
- Lived far outside of town and were not part of the “in crowd”



What is a sheep?

- Easily distracted/careless
- Wanders and easily lost
- Clueless to danger/easy prey
- Not self sufficient



Luke 2:8-20 NKJV

“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

THEY WERE THE FIRST TO KNOW.
THEY HAD NEVER BEEN
MET/GREETED LIKE THAT BEFORE.



So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

SHEPHERDS DID NOT JUST LEAVE THEIR FLOCK UNATTENDED OR IGNORE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT THEY KNEW THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING GREAT!



Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them."

THE SHEPHERDS' JOY WAS MORE THAN A REACTION TO THE SPECTACULAR SHOW THAT THEY HAD SEEN. IT WAS JOY IN RECEIVING AND TRULY UNDERSTANDING GOD'S LOVE FOR THEM.

Why a stable?

- Humble location
- Somewhere they could come and were welcome
- Somewhere the shepherds were used to
- Somewhere they could bring their work with them



• Key Points



*Christ meaning Savior/Messiah
Lord showing His authority/power*



Benjamin Muro Special Guest

Dear Friends—

As we wrap up 2024 we are on the threshold of fulfillment or regret. Some of us are in the process of making choices that will impact our future and perhaps our destiny.

On Sunday, December 29, we have the good fortune of having a guest speaker who I believe God will use to challenge us to make *better decisions* so that we will have *fewer regrets*.

Benjamin Muro is a vessel that God will use to speak to us regarding the issues that are now crowding out life. Without knowing any of us, Benjamin will be a “guiding light” to point us in the right direction.

Please join us for this PIVOTAL TIME together. I believe God will use this moment to nudge us in the direction of life-begetting choices.

Pastor Bob