

The Air Hill Breezes

Air Hill BIC Church
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Office Hours Mon.— Fri. 8-12

December
2024



AIR HILL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

“To Follow Jesus Christ through the
Wind of the Holy Spirit”

“Be prepared,” announces the Boy Scouts motto. In 1907, Robert Baden-Powell, an English soldier, created the Scout Motto. He published it in a book called *Scouting for Boys* in 1908. Two years later he helped form the Boy Scouts of America. What did he mean by “Be Prepared”? In his words, “You are always in a state of readiness in mind and body to do your duty.” In short, being prepared means being ready to do what is needed.

Are you ready for Christmas? I asked that to us back in July. Well, if you go to <https://www.minted.com/lp/christmas-preparation-checklist> you will find an article “The Ultimate 2024 Christmas Checklist and Holiday Planning Guide.” Believe it or not, it gives you a checklist beginning 8 weeks before Christmas. What are you to do eight weeks ahead of time to be ready for Christmas:

- Set a budget.
- Create a gift list and brainstorm gift ideas.
- Schedule your Christmas card family photoshoot.
- Make travel plans.
- Plan the décor of your house.

Believe it or not, that was to be done during the week of October 28 through November 3. If you have not already done this, you’re behind the time. If you have not already done this, you must not have been a boy scout.

There is another way to prepare for Christmas; it is called Advent. The word “advent” means “the arrival of a person, thing, or event.” In this case, the season of Advent prepares one for the coming of Jesus Christ, both his first coming and his second coming. You will not read about the season of Advent in Scriptures. However, you will read in Scriptures about being prepared.

Being prepared for the coming of Jesus Christ has nothing to do with setting a budget or creating a gift list. As the prophets looked forward to the first coming of the Messiah, they were inspired to write, “A voice of one calling: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God’” (Isaiah 40:3). What does that mean? In short, as one prepared the roads for an upcoming king and made them straight and beautiful for them to enter your city, so you prepared your hearts for the upcoming Messiah, the ruler from God. In other words, you repented of all your sins, so you could experience the Messiah in all his fullness. Jesus Christ came; he was that that Messiah.

In the New Testament Jesus tells us, and so do the other writers, to be prepared for the second coming of Jesus Christ. One time Jesus told a parable contrasting five foolish virgins with five wise virgins. These virgins were waiting for the coming of the bridegroom to lead them to the wedding banquet. All ten fell asleep. But when the bridegroom came, only five were prepared. (Read the story in Matthew 25:1-13.) Jesus summarized, “keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” He wants us to repent of sin and remove sin from our lives. Our love for our sin will hinder us from being ready for the coming of Jesus the second time.

Cont. on next page.

As we approach Christmas, we will celebrate Advent once again. It is a time to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Use this time to seek God through his Holy Spirit to show you any sin embedded in your life. Ask God to remove it. Advent is not a celebration of his coming; it is a preparation for Christ's coming. {We will save most Christmas carols and songs and celebrate his coming beginning on Christmas Sunday, December 22 through December 29, and maybe some on January 5. (January 6 is considered the 12th day of Christmas – Epiphany.) We will immerse you with the joyous celebration of Jesus from that time on, for JESUS IS HERE.} But until then, we want you to get ready. Prepare the way for the Lord! Remove the roadblocks for knowing and following Jesus! Get ready! Jesus is coming! Be prepared!

December Prayer

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"
Amen.

- Henri J.M. Nouwen

Community of the Month **Roxbury**

Walk, ride, or drive through Upper Strasburg. Ask God to give you the opportunity to talk and pray with people.

December Spiritual Exercise

As Jesus, the Son of God, became human and lived on this earth (incarnate: God in the flesh), we are called to live the incarnate life at home and in your work. Answer your phone calls as Jesus would answer your phone. Work on the computer as Jesus would work on your computer. Bake a cake as if Jesus would bake a cake. Milk a cow as Jesus would milk a cow. Allow Jesus into your work and home life. List three activities that you do throughout the day and invite Jesus to especially be present with you in those activities. Take note of any changes of attitude and action in your journal.

DECEMBER 2024 BIBLE READING PLAN

1	John 14:1-14	14	John 18:19-27
2	John 14:15-21	15	John 18:28-40
3	John 14:22-31	16	John 19:1-16
4	John 15:1-8	17	John 19:17-27
5	John 15:9-17	18	John 19:28-37
6	John 15:18-27	19	John 19:38-42
7	John 16:1-11	20	John 20:1-9
8	John 16:12-24	21	John 20:10-18
9	John 16:25-33	22	John 20:19-23
10	John 17:1-5	23	John 20:24-31
11	John 17:6-19	24	John 21:1-14
12	John 17:20-26	25	John 21:15-25
13	John 18:1-18		

Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember

December 8 - Congregational Council

December 22 - 7:00 pm Christmas Caroling

December 24 - 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

December 31 - 7:00 pm New Year's Eve Service



November Church Board News

- *Continued to seek to fill different leadership roles.
- *Approved the 2025 committee roster for congregational council.
- *Approved the 2025 budget for congregational council.
- *Placed two other discussion points on the agenda: leadership vacuum and passing offering plates.
- *Approved Emily Armer, Leslie Armer, Dan Garling, Rachel Garling, and Corban Wenger for membership.
- *Approved Pastor John to speak at Montgomery BIC Church on April 27 for the a.m. and p.m. services.

Shepherd Ministry Moments

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,
just as in fact you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11*

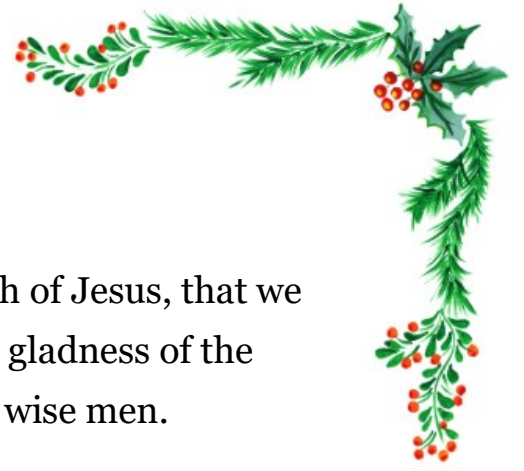
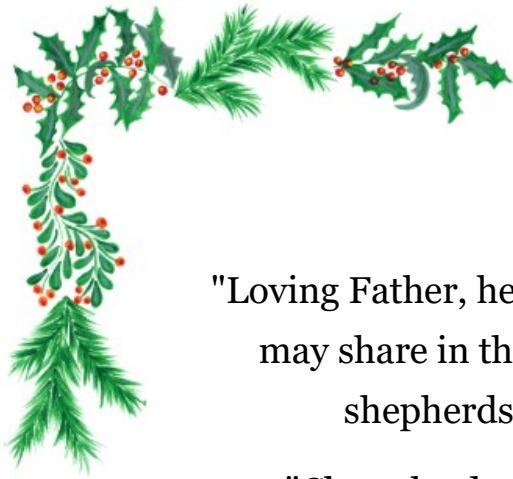
On Friday night, November 8th, there were 17 shepherds who met at Hoss's for an appreciation dinner. We had a good time of fellowship and delicious food.

Our Shepherd Ministry Vision: To have lay people spiritually guide a group of families to grow in the Lord through loving and caring relationships by following Jesus Christ through the wind of the Holy Spirit.

As the New Year begins, may we seek God's will as to what He may want us to do in being a part of the Shepherd Ministry, sharing and caring for families of the Air Hill Church.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.





"Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

"Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

"Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

"Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

"May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Amen!"

~ Robert Louis Stevenson






Karina Thrush



Nippon NEWSFLASH

 Word of Life

11.16.24

"I will give thanks to You, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."
Psalm 9:1

Praises & Prayer

Praise the Lord for the 87% monthly support that the Lord has provided for the Shiobara family so far and 100% of their set-up fund.

Praise the Lord for the people who have been an encouragement throughout our journey in the states from providing support, housing, meals, and fun for the kids.

Praise God for safety and health as we traveled and met with people.

Praise God for the many young people we met in NY during the mission's conference and other places who have interest in serving in Japan.

3 months, 7000 Miles, 86 meetings, 10 churches...

There has not been a moment wasted and the Lord provided rest when needed. We praise the Lord for the many new friends and long-time friends that have joined the Shiobara's support team as partners in the gospel! Together, we are so excited to return to Japan and launch the restart of the SYME



program, Lord willing, in 2026! The Shiobara's plan to finish up the rest of their support raising and follow-up conversations from Japan in December.

New Ministry Center!

The whole Word of Life team is in the process of searching for new housing near our new ministry center in **TOKOROZAWA**, a suburb of Tokyo! The Lord has provided a building that meets our needs and is within our budget! There are many opportunities nearby to increase the gospel's reach!



Left: It was so nice to spend time with my brother and his family while in NY!
Below: We were also blessed to reconnect with long time friends!



December 2024 Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Church	Travel to Tokyo to look for new apartment	All Team Meeting	Pray for God's guidance in where to live	All Team Meeting	Pray for God's guidance in where to live	Travel back to Himeji
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Church	Naoya & Aya Pray for their marriage & ministry	All Team Meeting	Ayumi Pray for wisdom in her dating relationship	All Team Meeting	Church Fellowship Night	Aoi Pray for salvation & continued connection with the team
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Church	Riki Pray for salvation & deterrment from materialism	All Team Meeting	Nonoka Pray for wisdom with her future	All Team Meeting	Aiji Pray for wisdom in his studies at university & future plan	Christmas Part for the community
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Christmas Sunday	Yoko A. Pray that her relationship with God will grow	Noriko Pray for wisdom in ministering to the international community	MERRY CHRISTMAS	Yoko O. Pray for a closer walk with God	John & Junko Pray for wisdom for their future and faithfulness in church ministry	Nohara Pray for a deeper relationship with God and courage to share Christ
29	30	31	Jan 1	2	3	4
Appreciation Service	Hiroe Pray for faithfulness in her walk with God and love for God	Yohan & Yuka Pray for their marriage to reflect Christ and the church	HAPPY NEW YEARS	Yukinori & Ayska Pray for opportunities to share about God with people at work	Aika Pray for a deeper walk with God.	Adam & Mana Pray for wisdom in parenting and with finances

Word of Life Japan 2024 Theme: "Forward" (Joshua 1:1-8)

We want to be moving forward as individuals and as a ministry toward our vision, capacity, and purpose. We will continue focusing on our personal walk with Christ, the growth of our team, moving the team to a location that fits our vision, and preparing to restart some ministry programs. Our goals are divided into 3 phases.

Phase 1: **Rebuild** (our team)

Phase 2: **Relocate** (find a property & move)

Phase 3: **Re-establish** (ministries)

Progress Update:

Phase 2: **We have signed the contract for a ministry center in TOKOROZAWA!** This city is on the outskirts of Tokyo. The Lord has provided a 3-story building, where we will rent the second and third floors. Praise God for His provision!

December 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>8:30 am Prayer Time 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 6:30 pm Youth Discipleship Group</p>	<p>12:30 pm Widows & Caregiver's Luncheon 6:30 pm Basketball</p>	<p>7:00 pm Praise & Prayer</p>	<p>6:30 pm Kingdom Kids 6:30 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>6:30 pm Discipleship Group</p>		<p>7:00 am Discipleship Group</p>
<p>8 8:30 am Prayer Time 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Congregational Council 6:30 pm Youth Discipleship Group</p>	<p>9 8:30 am Ladies Sewing 7:00 pm Church Board 6:30 pm Basketball</p>	<p>10 7:00 pm Praise & Prayer</p>	<p>11 6:30 pm Kingdom Kids 6:30 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>12 6:30 pm Discipleship Group</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 7:00 am Discipleship Group</p>
<p>15 8:30 am Prayer Time 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 6:30 pm Youth Discipleship Group</p>	<p>16 6:30 pm Basketball</p>	<p>17 7:00 pm Praise & Prayer</p>	<p>18 6:30 pm Kingdom Kids 6:30 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>19 6:30 pm Discipleship Group</p>	<p>20 7:00 pm Women's Worship Night</p>	<p>21 7:00 am Discipleship Group</p>
<p>22 8:30 am Prayer Time 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 6:30 pm Youth Discipleship Group 7:00 pm Christmas Caroling</p>	<p>23 6:30 pm Basketball</p>	<p>24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25  Merry Christmas!</p>	<p>26 6:30 pm Property Mgmt. Meeting 6:30 pm Discipleship Group</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 7:00 am Discipleship Group</p>
<p>29 8:30 am Prayer Time 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 6:30 pm Youth Discipleship Group</p>	<p>30 6:30 pm Basketball</p>	<p>31 7:00 pm New Year's Eve Service</p>				