

# The Manor Highlights

Yorkshire & Stonebridge Manors \* 3511-3515 Leonard St. NW, Walker, MI, 49534 \* 616-791-0111



## **Celebrating December**

**Universal Human Rights  
Month**

**Bingo's Birthday Month**

**Cookie Cutter Week**  
*December 1-7*

**Hanukkah**  
*December 10-18*

**Gingerbread House Day**  
*December 12*

**Christmas Bird Count**  
*December 14-January 5*

**Free Shipping Day**  
*December 17*

**Christmas**  
*December 25*

**Kwanzaa**  
*December 26-January 1*

**New Year's Eve**  
*December 31*

**"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness  
has not overcome it."**

Never has there been a darker year that I can remember than 2020. Social injustice, rioting, COVID-19, political division, isolation, loneliness, mental health decline, the list could go on and on. The world right now and even more specifically the United States of America, the world in which we live, is a very dark place. It seems in a lot of ways that the world we once knew is a distant memory. And yet it was in a world of darkness not too dissimilar from ours that a great light entered our atmosphere...  
...1st century Palestine was a world full of social injustice, murder, power, greed, political division, crippling taxation, this list could also go on and on. This dark world seemed to find and squash any goodness or light that dared enter it, and yet, in a little town called Bethlehem, our Savior was born into an ordinary family and into a world that had no room for him.

As we enter this season of Advent in the Christian calendar, which in simple terms is a season of preparation and expectation of Christ's coming (past and future), I extend an invitation to you and your family to take time together to reflect upon and notice things that are good and beautiful in and around you, things that bring light to our dark world. These things can be very simple things such as a smile, an encouraging word, holding the door for your neighbor, an intentional act of kindness for a stranger, naming things you are thankful for as a family or taking time together to pray and enjoy one another's company. Whatever leads your hearts towards light and goodness this Advent season, I invite you in that direction.

## Craft Corner

Even though the weather was in the seventies, we enjoyed putting together door hangers for Thanksgiving!



## Indoor Visits

We are starting a new indoor visit policy as CMS has released guidelines for us to do so. All visitors **MUST** adhere to the policy.

--For now, visits are;

Stonebridge on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Yorkshire on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

--Visits are 9a, 10a, 11a, 1p, 2p, 3p, 6p and 7p. These visits last ½ hour to give us time to sanitize.

--**Visitors must;**

-Schedule a visit. If the visitors are not on the schedule, they may not visit! Please call at least 24 hours in advance.

-Wear a mask or face shield over nose and mouth.

-Must maintain the six foot social distancing.

-No bringing in or sharing of food or beverages during the visit.

-No hugging/kissing/hand holding.

-Must be temped, fill out health screen form, contact tracing form and sanitize hands upon entry (hand sanitizer is located in the hallway right by the temp stations).

-Only two visitors per resident, including two adults or 1 adult and 1 child.

--If you are visiting a resident under hospice care, or are the resident's POA, you do not need to setup an appointment.. but we ask you call and let us know when you are visiting.

Visits must be approved by Rebecca, either by calling the facility or emailing [rebecca.vandewege@baruchsls.org](mailto:rebecca.vandewege@baruchsls.org)

I have personally witnessed all the beautiful things listed above in our homes from residents and staff to one another this year. Christ's life and light continues to shine very bright in the hearts and lives of our residents and staff. I echo the words of St. John concerning the light he saw in Christ, "In him there was life, and that life was a light for the people of the world. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:4-5 May we allow Christ's light to shine in our hearts this Advent season and be the light we wish to see more of in the world.

On behalf of Baruch Senior Ministries, I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

-Chaplain Clint

*\*continued from front cover*

## Strange Christmas Traditions

Christmas brings with it many beloved traditions: trimming the tree, hanging stockings, and singing carols. Many countries around the world enjoy traditions you may be less familiar with.



In Japan, an estimated 3.6 million families eat Kentucky Fried Chicken during the Christmas season. This is largely thanks to Takeshi Okawara, who managed the first KFC

franchises in Japan. In 1970, Okawara marketed the Christmas “party barrel,” a complete fried chicken dinner replicating American turkey dinners. There were so few existing Christmas traditions in Japan that KFC filled the void. These days, if you do not pre-order your KFC dinner weeks in advance, you will have to stand in line for hours to get your “Kentucky Christmas.”

If you happen to be in Norway for Christmas, you’ll be hard-pressed to find a broom, for they are all hidden away. Norwegian folklore tells of how evil spirits and witches emerge on Christmas Eve. Norwegians hide their brooms so that witches cannot steal them for riding.

In Caracas, Venezuela, Christmas morning brings presents and roller skates. Authorities close down the city streets on Christmas morning so that thousands of residents can roller-skate to church in safety. One tradition tells of how children go to sleep with one end of a skate lace tied around their toe and the other end dangling out the window. In the morning they are awakened by skaters tugging at the lace to alert them that it is time for mass.

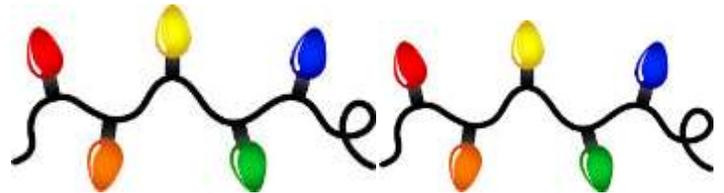
In Ukraine, trees are not decorated with tinsel and ornaments but with faux spider webs. A common folktale tells the story of a poor woman who could not afford tree decorations. When she awoke on Christmas morning, she found her tree glistening with spider webs, courtesy of the spiders in her house who took pity on her.

These traditions may seem strange to you, but does your family have any Christmas traditions that others may find nontraditional?

## The Tale of Beatrix Potter

On December 16, 1901, 35-year-old Beatrix Potter was so fed up with receiving rejection letters that she decided to publish her book *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* on her own. The book had begun as a letter to the sick son of Potter’s former governess. Potter had written and illustrated a letter in 1893 detailing the silly adventures of a family of rabbits, Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail, Peter, and their mother. The rabbits of the story were modeled after Potter’s own pet rabbits, Peter Piper and Benjamin Bouncer. Potter later asked for the letter back, so that she could turn it into a children’s book.

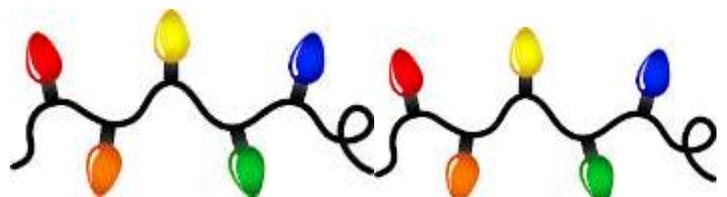
Potter first printed 250 black-and-white copies of her book. In 1902, it was picked up by the publisher Frederick Warne & Co. and reprinted in color. The book was such a success that it had to be reprinted six times in its first year, selling 20,000 copies. Ever the self-starter, when Potter and Warne disagreed over her next book, *The Tailor of Gloucester*, she again published 500 copies on her own.



## Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

7pm in the parking lot courtyard



# Happy Birthday!

Betty Vanderjagt-2<sup>nd</sup>

Phyllis Brandel-6<sup>th</sup>

Betty Eckert-15<sup>th</sup>

Mable Small-21<sup>st</sup>

Connie Atkins-22<sup>nd</sup>

# Welcome!

Genevieve Wychers



Mary Schweitzer

Luke Ayuso

# Your Leadership Team

### Administrator

Beth Strait, beth.strait@baruchsls.org

### Associate Administrator

Epiphany Donat, epiphany.donat@baruchsls.org

### Food Services Director

Skye Wiltse, skye.wiltse@baruchsls.org

### Maintenance Director

Ken Kuchnicki, ken.kuchnicki@baruchsls.org

### Staffing Manager

Jennifer Marckini, jennifer.marckini@baruchsls.org

### Life Enrichment Director

Rebecca VanDeWege,  
rebecca.vandewege@baruchsls.org

### Resident Care Managers

Sydney Duel, sydney.duel@baruchsls.org  
Bretton Eardley, bretton.eardley@baruchsls.org  
Armani Cain, armani.cain@baruchsls.org  
Phyllissa Neeley, phyllissa.neeley@baruchsls.org

### Spiritual Care Staff

Chaplain Ryan Hoekstra & Chaplain Val Wykstra



- |          |          |       |       |
|----------|----------|-------|-------|
| Sleigh   | Stocking | Elves | Angel |
| Santa    | Snowman  | Toys  | Tree  |
| Reindeer | Sled     | Holly | Star  |

