

## Weekly Connector: No Greater Joy!

December 22, 2017

Hello Church!

This week, we had the privilege of serving our teachers and staff at East Canton Schools. Becky DuBois led a great team who offered a meal and a gift to these unsung heroes of our community. I really enjoy being a part of these opportunities to serve and share the love of Jesus - our true Reason for this Season. Praise the Lord!



Don't forget! It's not too late to invite someone to services this Sunday. As we consider the prophecy of Jesus' arrival, have you ever wondered how the Son can also bring "the Everlasting Father"? Me, too. Be sure to bring your friends and family to the service at 10AM to find out as we continue to consider "What Child Is This?"



Then, at 6PM, we celebrate Christmas Eve together with a candlelight service filled with music as well as a final consideration of Jesus as our "Prince of Peace". Once again, here is a great opportunity to reach out and bring with you someone who just might need the "peace that surpasses all understanding". I hope to see you all there!

In the opening lines of a letter the Apostle John sent to "the beloved Gaius", he expressed his love and his joy that Gaius was walking in "the truth".

*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. (3 John 1:4)*

It is more likely that Gaius was John's "spiritual" child rather than his natural son, but it jumped off the page to me that John had "no greater joy than to hear" of children walking in truth! Oh, how that resonates with me this Christmas.

The joy felt by the wise men when they saw the star.

The joy demonstrated by John the Baptist when as a baby in his mother's womb, he "leaped for joy" at the sound of Mary's voice as she spoke of her pregnancy.

The joy declared by the angels as they brought news of the King's birth!

I pray that everyone in our families would know the joy that comes from walking in the truth found only in Jesus, the King.

I pray that everyone in our churches would know that same joy - as would our friends, neighbors, coworkers, employers, classmates, teachers and administrators, and civic leaders.

I pray that everyone in our communities - the oppressed, the downtrodden, those without hope, would know the joy of the arrival of a little baby who was, is, and always will be, the Truth.

And, I pray that the church would truly make Him known by more than our words - but through our "actions and in truth." (1 John 3:18)

With every "Merry Christmas" greeting, let's look more closely into the eyes of those who receive those words. May their days be merry and bright, and that we all would experience "no greater joy" than what is found in the walk we each have available to us with Jesus.

I love you, Church!

Pastor greg