



Newsletter

Sara Pascucci received a letter in the mail on February 3 scolding her for still having Christmas decorations up. The anonymous letter read: “Take your Christmas lights down! It’s Valentine’s Day!!!!!!” While the letter would have upset her in normal circumstances, Pascucci said, it hit especially hard now. She lost both her father and her aunt to COVID-19 less than one week apart.



Her father, who lived with her, put up the Christmas decorations immediately after Thanksgiving—as he did every year. In the weeks following his death on Jan. 15, Pascucci couldn’t bring herself to take the decorations down. Receiving the harsh letter, she said, was “... a major blow to the heart. No one really knows what is going on inside the house or why we didn’t take down the decorations.”

She shared the letter in the Long Island Moms Facebook group and explained why it was particularly painful, in the hopes that the anonymous sender might see her post. She wrote, “The family has been preoccupied with funeral arrangements, mortgage/utility payments, and just the grieving process of it all. So yes, we haven’t gotten around to taking down his Christmas decorations. Be kind to people because you never know what they are going through.”

The community was outraged on her behalf. Within minutes of her sharing the post, dozens of messages flooded Pascucci’s Facebook inbox. Neighbors sent the Pascucci family heartfelt cards, flowers, meals, and a GoFundMe page was created to help cover mounting mortgage payments and funeral costs.

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Beyond the private acts of kindness, what struck Pascucci the most, she said, is that many neighbors started to put their own holiday decorations back up so she wouldn't feel so alone. Bethpage residents climbed up to their attics and down to their basements to retrieve the decorations they had already stored away for the season. In early February, they redecorated their homes for Christmas.

Although the holiday season is long past, twinkly lights and festive ornaments recently reappeared on the streets of Bethpage, in a show of support for a grieving neighbor.

Source: Sydney Page, "She Was Shamed for Still Having Christmas Lights Up. Neighbors are now putting theirs back up in solidarity," The Seattle Times (2-11-21)

One of the themes we developed for this holiday season is related to the Light of Jesus. As a child, we didn't spend a lot of money on Christmas decorations. But we always had a tree and the same old lights that were kept in a box in the attic between Christmases. One light that I always tried to put in the front of the Christmas tree was a little snowman. He wore a black top hat and a scarf around his neck. I noticed that every time I displayed that snowman to my little brother, Stevie's eyes would light up and he would begin to laugh. For some reason, that little light was special to him and I made certain it was in his view.

Jesus, who is the Light, needs to be on full display in our lives. There are those who need to see that Light. We must encourage them to receive that Light in their hearts. In this dark world with so much sin, pain, and suffering, aren't you joyful that we have a Savior that vanquishes the darkness. His Light will guide our way through dark times. My prayer this year is that in each of us, Jesus will shine brightly.

Merry Christmas,

Bob & Jamie



Please make your plans to join us on
Christmas Eve, December 24th at
5:00 p.m. for our

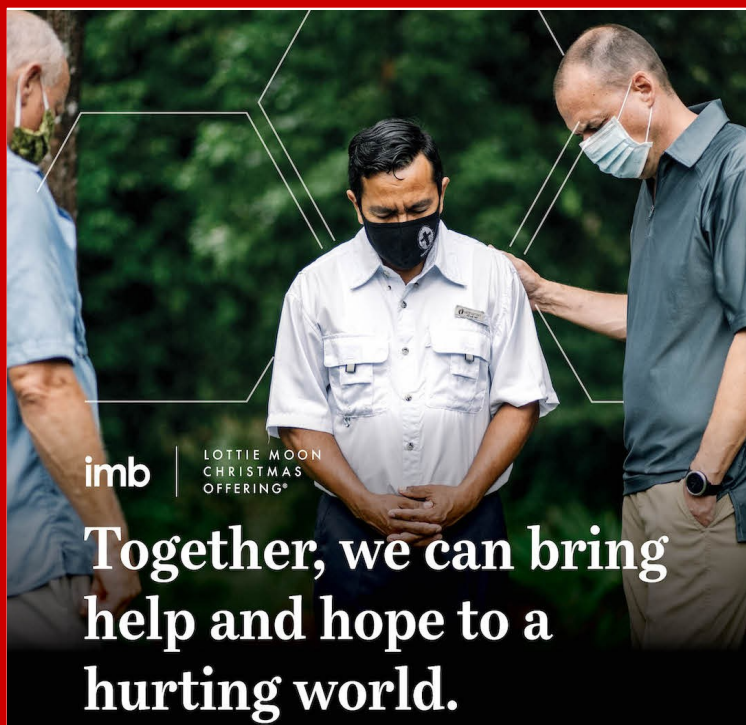
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.
"THE STORIES OF CHRISTMAS"

There will be songs of the season,
stories of Christmas, candlelighting,
and Communion

CHECK OUT *our*
NEW LOOK
WEBSITE
sandariobaptistchurch.com



Margie Watts	12/4
Pete Smith	12/5
Aleece Bonnema	12/7
Gary Buhr	12/14
Bill Rasmussen	12/21
Christian Cochran	12/22
Mike Rants	12/23



imb | LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING*

Together, we can bring help and hope to a hurting world.

Please consider what God would have you give to help support international missions.

Envelopes are available at the church.

Giving for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering runs through December.




Larry & Carolyn	12/7
Pelland	
Butch & Glenda	12/22
Warren	

New Christmas Tradition

Beginning December 1st read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening.

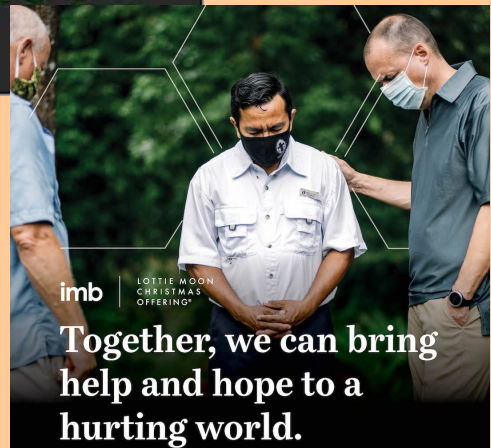
There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!!



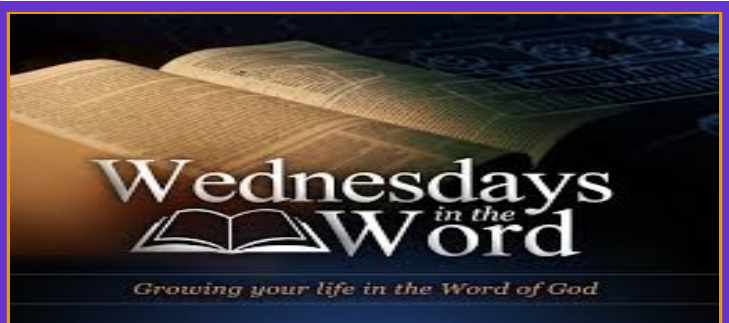

Join us on Sunday, December 19th at 9:15 a.m. for our Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Online Giving is available for all your tithe and giving needs. You may access this by visiting our website sandariobaptistchurch.com and clicking on the Give Online Tab. You may also download the app **GIVE PLUS** at your app store.

Please continue to support the church with your tithes and offerings during this time either online or by mailing to the church.



Please join us on Wednesday Evenings for a time in the word.

We will meet every Wednesday, evening for

BIBLE STUDY @ 5:00PM

SHARE & PRAYER @ 5:30PM

Please come and be a part of the exciting things God is doing at Sandario

We are in need of a drummer to play with our Praise Team on Sunday Morning. If you play drums or if you know someone who does that might like to join us in worship, please contact Mark soon. We are looking for someone with a heart for worship who could start as soon as possible. Mark can be reached at mark@sandariobaptist.com

