



The **Cornerstone Connection**

Building lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

January 2025

### Meet Your Youth Director

By Becky Brown

After a busy few months, I am back with another segment of “Meet Your.”

Tommy Bolinger-Hope grew up in Warren and has lived here so far. Some of his passions as a child and still today are learning, family, faith, music, and nature.

As a child, he played piano for four years and drummed for the church and school. He sang in choir for 10 years, played baseball for 8 years, ran cross country and track for 3 years, and played tennis for 5 years. He is as active as ever, playing piano and drums, beach volleyball, and being a newly-wed.

Despite his busy schedule, Tommy remains dedicated to his roles in the church. He enjoys a full-time job as a Computer Science lecturer at Purdue Fort Wayne and a part-time job as a Youth Director at Solid Rock, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to serving our community.

Tommy loves to learn. His education experiences include a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, a Master of Science in Computer Science, a Bachelor of Arts in Music, and an Outside Field.

I asked how he became interested in computer science. Tommy shared that he took programming classes in high school and that he had quality teachers who inspired him to teach computer science after finishing his master’s degree.

Tommy’s love for learning is truly inspiring; he not only enjoys acquiring knowledge but also shares the joy of learning with others, inspiring students to seek new knowledge in their fields and life.

How he met his wife is a love story waiting to happen. They met on the app Upward and, after a date or two, realized they had gone to the same school and likely had been near each other without actually meeting. They knew after the first date they had something special. They were mar-



(Continued on page 2)

### One Word

By Becky Brown

Oh my, where has the year gone? Soon, it will be January. Another year has passed, and a brand new one is upon us. I wanted to share some thoughts with you and pray they will bless you and yours.

Years ago, I learned (probably like many) to avoid making New Year’s Resolutions. I can’t keep them, so why make them?

Instead, I turn to God for guidance. I ask Him to reveal one word for me to focus on for the year. One year, it was “joy.” I was to reflect on that word and live out a year of joy. Another year, it was a different word. Each time I’ve done this, it has transformed my life. I used to wonder why God chose that particular word, but as the year unfolded, I understood. God always gives me the word I need for that specific year, and it has always led to transformation.

I encourage you and challenge you to try this for one year. Ask God for that one word. It could be “love,” “patience,” “gratitude,” or any other word that resonates with you. After He does, pay close attention to the word He has for you. Live out that word for an entire year. For instance, if your word is “love,” show love to others in your actions and words. If it’s “patience,” practice patience in your daily interactions. And see if God hasn’t changed you and drawn you closer to Him.

Who is with me and up for the challenge? If you wish you can always share your word with me or others to hold you accountable. May God bless you this New Year and draw you closer to Him.



O Lord, let my  
New Year's resolution  
be to **follow you**  
**more closely**  
and to  
**trust in your**  
**loving guidance.**

(Continued from page 1)

ried on June 21, 2024, and look forward to a marriage centered in Christ under their new faith-inspired name, Bolinger-Hope. They enjoy their daily lives together, including walks in nature, traveling, spending time with family, dating nights, and relaxing at home. They were blessed to each have a church family they loved and adored when they met. Instead of leaving either church, they agreed to attend both churches (Solid Rock in Warren and Avalon Missionary Church in Fort Wayne) on an alternating weekly schedule. They are incredibly grateful for the support and love from each church family.

As a new church member, I can see the depth of Tommy’s faith and love for Christ. His mom (Marie) took them to church throughout childhood. He began to take his relationship more seriously after multiple profound spiritual moments at church camp Impact 2818’s Camp Lakewood, Camp Adventure, and Epworth Forest. He enjoyed attending church as Warren UMC joined Jefferson Center UMC, and our communities blended in faith as Solid Rock. He has fond memories of each pastor who has led the congregations he attended, including Pastors Kathy Newton, Paul Burris, and now John Boyanowski.

Tommy attended youth group regularly since middle school and completed a confirmation class with Pastor Kathy. The youth group consisted of a close-knit group led by Marie. As he transitioned into college, he volunteered as a youth leader while John Pearson and later Emily Oke served as youth directors. Throughout his years in church, he believes his involvement in the praise team, Sunday school, and other ministries has developed a steady faith in God and a discipline to show up and serve

the community. He encourages everyone to find a fit in the church’s many ministries and discover how their passions have a special place in God’s kingdom.

Tommy’s leadership role at Solid Rock began as a part-time Youth Director in November 2023. He mentors and teaches youth grades 4-12 weekly. He is so thankful for Pastor John, Allison Voght, and his wife Haley’s consistent volunteering. They are all blessed to have a wholesome group of kids who are interested in learning about God as they grow through many life stages. Throughout the year, they enjoy regular faith-development lessons, seasonal fun parties and events, occasional service and volunteering, and an annual confirmation class. Tommy is pleased with the development of the youth programs at Solid Rock so far, and he has future goals to provide additional outreach and mission opportunities, small groups/ Bible study for graduating youth and young adults, and continuing his development to foster quality faith development and engaging youth opportunities.

After watching and listening to Tommy, we all agree that our youth are in good hands. He is an impressive young man who hopes to not only live out his faith but also encourage others along the way. We are blessed to have Tommy in our church. Take time to stop Tommy, thank him, and encourage him as well.

## Christian symbol

**NOAH’S ARK** — The image of an ark, or boat — often shown with pairs of animals — recalls the story of Noah and the “Great Flood” in Genesis. The floodwaters represent God’s judgment on sin, while the ark reminds us of his gracious power to save and redeem. In this account, Christians see a foreshadowing of our baptism into Christ: “And baptism, which [God’s rescue of Noah and his family] prefigured, now saves you ...” (1 Peter 3:21, NRSV).



### The Cornerstone Connection is published each month by Solid Rock Church

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Sunday School at 9:00  
Worship at 10:00

Office Hours  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Friday

*Solid Rock Church is a  
Global Methodist  
Congregation*

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## Online Giving



## November Financial Update

General Fund Contributions.....	\$10,831
General Fund Budgeted Disbursements.....	\$9,988

News for the February newsletter is due January 19

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The middle section of the passage from Isaiah describes the fragility of mankind. Even the youth – those who are supposed to be the strongest, falter and fail. Man is flawed and we can only do so much before our bodies give out. I know that in my senior years, I am no longer able to do the same things that I used to do. No matter how much I work out, prep, or whatever it is to get myself ready, I still can't do those things. And all of those younger than me might be able to do some of these; however, they too are limited.

The last section shares what can happen when God gets a hold of us and we place our hope and trust in Him and wait on the Lord... This is a learning in progress as we rely more on His abilities and less on our own. The more we release to His care and understanding, the more control of things that will take place. How does all this help us to gain patience?

Every time I trust in my own understanding and abilities, I lose. Yes, I might think I am getting somewhere but the truth is I always find myself running in circles and getting nowhere on my own. You might think we would get a clue after several times of this happening over and over again, but not so. What I have been discovering is that if only I was patient with God and had patience with His timing, things would have happened quicker if only I hadn't interfered with my frail attempts to do it in my timing.

Patience is actually a gift from God. It might allow us the time to restore and renew ourselves and catch our breath. Having patience is a discipline not to be impulsive or too quick to move God's hand in a different direction than what He wants (as if we could move His hand...). I will admit I am still learning this truth...sometimes the hard way. And I'm not complaining because I want to develop patience any way God sees fit for me to learn!

I will continue to sometimes state NOT to pray for the "P" word, yet know this: I'm still growing in my development. I hope that you will begin to pray for the "P" word in your own life, your church, and your community. As God develops within you this prayer, instead of complaining, let's all rejoice. He is helping us by answering our prayer. God bless!

## God's constant new work

From the beginning of time, God's pattern has been to continually do new things and make things new. Though we can celebrate this every day, the New Year's season is especially fitting to pause and recognize God's work of renewal. Consider the following scriptures (all NIV) and how God is making them real in your own life right now.

- [God] has granted us new life to rebuild ... and repair .... (Ezra 9:9)
- If [a tree] is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new

shoots will not fail. (Job 14:7)

- He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. (Psalm 40:3)
- See, I am doing a new thing! ... I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:19)
- You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. (Isaiah 62:2)
- [God's] compassions ... are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. (Ezekiel 36:26)
- [Jesus] took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:20)
- Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)



## Giving your best

Like the Magi, we can respond with our best gifts — our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ's tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person.

Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.

—Michael Simone

**NEW YEAR'S  
RESOLUTION:**  
*More  
Church  
Potlucks!*

**Sunday, January 19, 2025**  
immediately after Worship  
let's gather for a potluck  
lunch and a time of  
fellowship!

**BRING A DISH TO SHARE**







# Shepherding Moments

by Pastor John Boyanowski

## Praying for the “P” Word

*The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. - Isaiah 40: 28-31; ESV*

I know what you might be thinking, “Pastor John, you’ve ALWAYS said that you hate praying for the ‘P’ word (patience) because God laughs...”. This is true. However, I have been giving some thought to this. It didn’t hit me until I was talking with someone about being patient about a situation they were going through. These are the words that I shared with the person and immediately the words clicked a switch in my heart: “If we don’t

have patience, how can we wait on the Lord?” Let these words sink in for a few moments.

How often do we find ourselves asking things of God and expect Him to do it “as of yesterday”? We claim to be a people who wait on the Lord but not in His timing, our own timing. We want our loved ones healed NOW. We want help with finances NOW. We want our prayers answered NOW. Does this sound like us?

Look at the passage provided. The first part describes who God is and His abilities. A very impressive list of abilities I must say, and these are only the beginnings of His abilities. He never tires. God doesn’t grow faint. His understanding is unsearchable. In fact, He’s the One who empowers all of us. This being said, it is He who gives us the ability to have the strength for the developing of patience. My own judgment is broken in comparison with God’s judgment and timeline. Because He is all-knowing, God knows the best time for things to take place so that things will work out perfectly for all involved.



*(Continued on page 3)*



# January Events

**3rd Thursday each month  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
Light meal served.  
Bring a friend  
Pre-K thru 4th grade.**



**Kids Praise Team  
practice prior to Kids Club  
5:30 - 6 p.m.**



**Women's Widows Care & Share  
Meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the  
month at 2 p.m.**



**Weekly Bible Study  
Monday mornings at 10 a.m.  
NOTE: Check the calendar  
for any changes.**



**Men's Fellowship  
2nd Saturday each month at 8 a.m.  
at Solid Rock Church  
All men welcome!**

**Women's Breakfast  
Last Saturday each month  
9 a.m. at the church  
All ladies welcome!**

## **Solid Rock Participating Dates at the Bread of Life Food Pantry for 2025**

January 8  
February 19  
April 2  
May 14  
June 25

August 6  
September 17  
October 19  
December 10  
January 21, 2025

# January Helpers

## Liturgists

- 5 Marsha Boyanowski
- 12 Addy Wiley
- 19 Jane Hitzfield
- 26 Susan Mills



## Greeter

- 5 Steve & LeAnn Buzzard
- 12 Debb Smitley
- 19 Mary Ellen Plummer
- 26 Bruce & Noreen Preston

## Nursery 10 a.m.

- 5 Brenda Conner
- 12 Linda Howell
- 19 Lana Myers
- 27 Lyvonne Nightenhelser

## Children's S. S. Teachers

- 5 Brenda Conner
- 12 Jazmine Plummer
- 19 LeAnn Buzzard
- 26 Marie DeWeese

## Snacks

- 5 Ryan & Danielle Goodspeed
- 12 Todd & Shelley Preston
- 19 Brenda Conner
- 26 Mike & Rita Bolinger

## Acolytes

- 5 Malcolm Voght & Paizley Nightenhelser
- 12 Kalin Elliot & Kerrigan Goodspeed
- 19 Kinley Goodspeed & Kaley Campbell
- 26 Kaidyn Bolinger & Malcolm Voght

Please contact the church office at 375-3873 by Thursday prior to Sunday, if you are unable to do any above activities. Thank you!

Weekly offerings not only feed our church, but also our community and much more. In return souls are fed. Give as you can and may your hearts and minds be filled with the love of God in all you do.

# January



- Cereal - Mac & Cheese
- Canned Ravioli - Pop Corn
- Small Candy Bars - Snack Crackers
- Pudding Snacks - Chicken Noodle Soup

++++++

Thank you for all you do!

Monetary gifts through Solid Rock are always appreciated.

## Card Ministry

If you haven't looked at the rack across from restrooms lately you need to. Lot's of beautiful homemade crafted cards.

-----  
Cards for all occasions.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1/1 Darrell Blair    | 1/17 Bill Boxell      |
| Gordon Cocklin       | 1/21 Brandon Bolinger |
| 1/3 Pauline Adsit    | 1/23 Dave Spahr       |
| 1/4 George Kriegbaum | 1/24 Billie Horrell   |
| Adaira Stockman      | Jessica Bendorf       |
| 1/6 Linda Howell     | Nathan Campbell       |
| 1/7 Allison Voght    | 1/27 Keeli Elliot     |
| 1/9 Rochelle DeHaven | 1/28 Becky Parker     |
| 1/11 Becky Campbell  | 1/31 Marg Bentley     |
| 1/15 Jackie Blinn    |                       |
| Jeremy Rogers        |                       |
| Brad Myers           |                       |
| Haley Bolinger-Hope  |                       |



## CARRY IN LUNCH 2025 ! Bring a dish .....

Sunday January 19th  
following Worship Service.

Great fellowship and food,  
what more could you ask for?

Eat and leave or stay until 1:30-2 p.m



# January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3 Office Closed	4 Church reserved 5-8 p.m.
5 Communion Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Rock Solid Youth 6 - 7:30 p.m.	6 Bible Study 10 a.m. Hallelujah Hands 6-7 p.m. Taekwondo 6-7 p.m.	7 Sign Language 10 a.m. Widows Care & Share 2 p.m. Trustee Mtg 7 p.m.	8 Solid Rock works at the food pantry 2-4 p.m.	9	10 Office Closed	11 Men's Fellowship 8 a.m. church kitchen
12 Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Church reserved 12-5 p.m. Rock Solid Youth 6 - 7:30 p.m.	13 Bible Study 10 a.m. Hallelujah Hands 6-7 p.m. Taekwondo 6-7 p.m.	14 Sign Language 10 a.m.	15	16 Kids Praise Team practice 5:30-6 p.m. Kids Club 6 -7:30 p.m.	17 Office Closed	18
19 Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Carry-in Lunch Newsletter Info due to Gary W Rock Solid Youth 6 - 7:30 p.m.	20 Bible Study 10 a.m. Hallelujah Hands 6-7 p.m. Taekwondo 6-7 p.m.	21 Sign Language 10 a.m. Widows Care & Share 2 p.m. S.P.P. Mtg 6 p.m. Ad Council Mtg 7 p.m.	22	23	24 Office Closed	25
26 Sunday School 9 a.m. Birthdays-Anniversaries for Feb. Worship Service 10 a.m. Rock Solid Youth 6 - 7:30 p.m.	27 Bible Study 10 a.m. Hallelujah Hands 6-7 p.m. Taekwondo 6-7 p.m.	28 Sign Language 10 a.m.	29	30	31 Office Closed	

# SOLID ROCK PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor John Boyanowski

## Other

Abortion - Addiction - All Missions - Bargain Basement - Our Nation & Leaders - Missionaries - Local Churches - Solid Rock Ministries  
Bread of Life Food Pantry - WAMA - Healthcare Providers & First Responders - Schools and Educational Leaders - Our Service Men & Women

## Well Spring (Wells Co) Cluster Churches and Pastors

Liberty Center Community/Rev. Diane Samuels - Bluffton First UMC/Rev. Sherrie Drake - Markle Riverside 316/Pastor Dan First  
Epworth UMC Bluffton/Pastor Marlene Ellis - Ossian UMC/Rev. David Herr - Lancaster Chapel UMC/Pastor Dewey Miller - Boehmer UMC/Pastor Steve Neviu  
Petroleum Community/Rev. Greg Andrews - Poneto Faith Community/Pastor Roy Nevil - Solid Rock/Pastor John Boyanowski

## Health and Healing

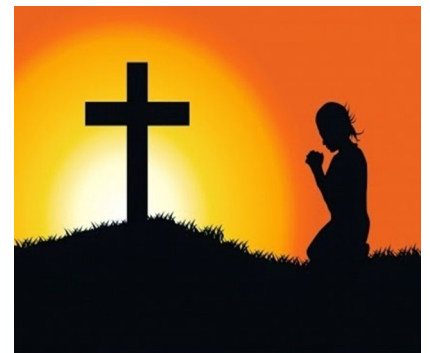
Wyatt Amburgey	Bob Carter	William Harvey	Rick Jones	Betty Mefferd	April Rogers	Tom Tallman
Jim Argerbright	Sue Carpenter	Aletta Heath	Dave Keller	Lynn Mefferd	Tom Rupert	Charles Ternet
Ann Arnold	Elizabeth Cloud	Mike Heath	Jo Keller	Kory Miller	Sue Shake	Eric Threlkel
Rose Marie Beck	Jan Cormican	Norm Heiser	Kaitlyn Kilts	Melanie Mills	Anita Sharp	Todd Tinsley
Robbie Bolinger	Dillon Coss	Danica Henderson	Rory Kim	Audrey Moreland	Deb Shaw	Danny Trout
Tiffany Booher	Karen Czerwonka	Gary Henderson	Jennifer King	Andrew Morris	Jay Shaw	Beverly Vandtzant
Levi Bordeaux	Don Douglas	Patty Hensley	Brenda Kinney	Rod Mowery	Dale Smith	Bryleigh Vetur
Sandra Boxell	Brian Driscoll	Rob Hensley	Kate Lambert	Kammen Odom	Norma Smith	Vonda Watson
Betty Bradford	Amanda Elliot	Steve Herr	Judy Long	Nikka Palmer	Beverly Smitley	Kara Wheat
Kyle Breedlove	Kami Fox	John Highland	Julius Longardner	Becky Parker	Dan Spahr	Ted Williams
Sandy Booher	April Frayley	Billie Horrell	Nathan Ludwig	Madie Pitaels	Wanda Spahr	Diane Winkler
Kiara Bowers	Patricia Franzen	LaTishia Horrell	David Martin	Derryle Pharr	Terry Stafford	Shirley Wohlford
Mark Burns	Andy Gebhart	Mary Ann Jackson	Jenny McComb	Richard Preston	Marge Stephenson	Jackson Womack
Richard Buyck	Loran Gifford Sr	Mary Ann James	Bethany McGuigan	Samuel Rakozy	Jamie Straley	Tyler Woodman
Rosalie Buyck	Betty Green	Katelynn Jones	Sadie McIntire	Mike Roberts	Mary Strawsma	Drew Wutke
	Christine Hamilton					

## Cancer

Carol Alyward	Terry Knight
Steve Barnes	Steve Krachinski
Griffin Brundige	Amanda O'Brian
Brian Cathman	Jay Overmyer
Valerie Ditzler	Kathy Paul
Connie Evans	Martha Paxson
Allan Frayley	Dave Pearson
Tracy Geotz	Sharon Purvis
Ken Groves	Teresa Rhodes
Denise Hantz	Herb Rinearson
Diane Hull	Ann St. John
Jon Jennings	Mark Wilson

## Heritage Pointe

Darrell Blair  
Jim & Jackie Blinn  
Bill Boxell  
Curly & Pat Boxell  
Don Douglas  
Ann Miles-McCammon  
Eva Mae Minnich  
Dee Pattison  
John & Doris Souers  
Alyce Tinkle  
Carolyn Winters



## Those Undergoing Treatment

Marge Blair	Eric Snively
Dale Irwin	John Trout
Casey Jarvis	Courtney Woods
Iris Perez	

**Please let the office know if someone listed above is doing better and can be removed or someone needs added for prayers of healing.**



# Solid Rock Daily Prayer Card for January 2025

Prayer is the greatest, simplest privilege of our lives as believers.

Thank you for continuing to pray for Solid Rock. Following are some special requests:



- Blessed Savior, With the beginning of the New Year, please help us to put aside the past things that have hindered our walk with You and help us to use the beginning to draw closer to You. We want to not fill the year with promises we can never keep but to fill this year with our desire to serve You more, to reach out to one another with more love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness in the same way You grant these to each of us. Teach us to rest in You and Your will. In the Name Above All Names—Jesus we pray, Amen.
- Father God Please be our guiding light and shield this New Year. Grant us more time together, more opportunities to bless You and others, and to deepen our intimacy with You. Make us mindful of our frailty and open our eyes to know our sins and to turn away from these. May compassion replace resentments and joy replace our sorrows. Most importantly, help us to be content with Your will for our lives. In Thy Name we pray, Amen.
- Holy spirit, speak to our hearts and whisper God's truths and enlighten us to His will for our lives. May we humble ourselves to see our need for a Savior, to admit that we need deliverance from things that once occupied our every thought. We long to walk with the Lord our God in the morning and to be held by His love in the evening. We desire You to guide us to that place where this becomes our strongest passion. Thank You. In Your Name we pray, Amen.
- Holy Trinity, our prayer is simple: draw us closer to You and to one another. Fix our eyes on You and less on the things of this world. Help us to praise You in all things, to become more deliberate in our devotion to You. We bless You. In Your Names we pray, Amen.

•

# Isaiah 9:6-7

FOR UNTO us  
 a CHILD  
 is BORN, unto  
 us A SON  
 is GIVEN: and  
 the GOVERNMENT  
 SHALL BE upon  
 his SHOULDER:  
 and HIS NAME  
 shall BE CALLED  
 WONDERFUL,  
 COUNSELLOR, the  
 MIGHTY GOD, the  
 EVERLASTING  
 FATHER, the  
 PRINCE of Peace.  
 Of the INCREASE  
 OF HIS government  
 THERE shall be  
 NO END,  
 UPON the  
 THRONE of  
 DAVID, and upon  
 his KINGDOM,

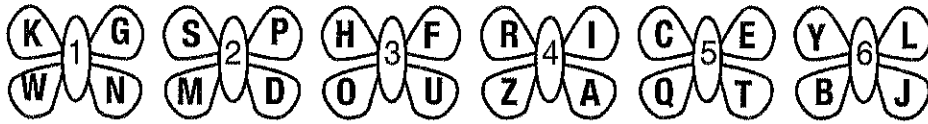
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 S S T C V I R U L E T R L O W M  
 H H E N C E F O R T H E A I N B  
 A B O E E R R F O R E V E R P W  
 L C A S E M O N D T R E L K W S  
 L Y H D T R G N M Z E A L E D I  
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TO ORDER it,  
 and to ESTABLISH  
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 with JUSTICE  
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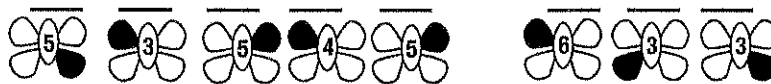
HENCEFORTH  
 even FOR EVER.  
 The ZEAL of  
 THE LORD  
 of HOSTS will  
 PERFORM this.

# Puzzle!

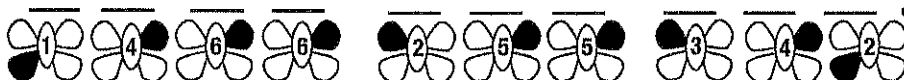
Use the code to uncover the angel's message in Matthew 28:7 (NIV).



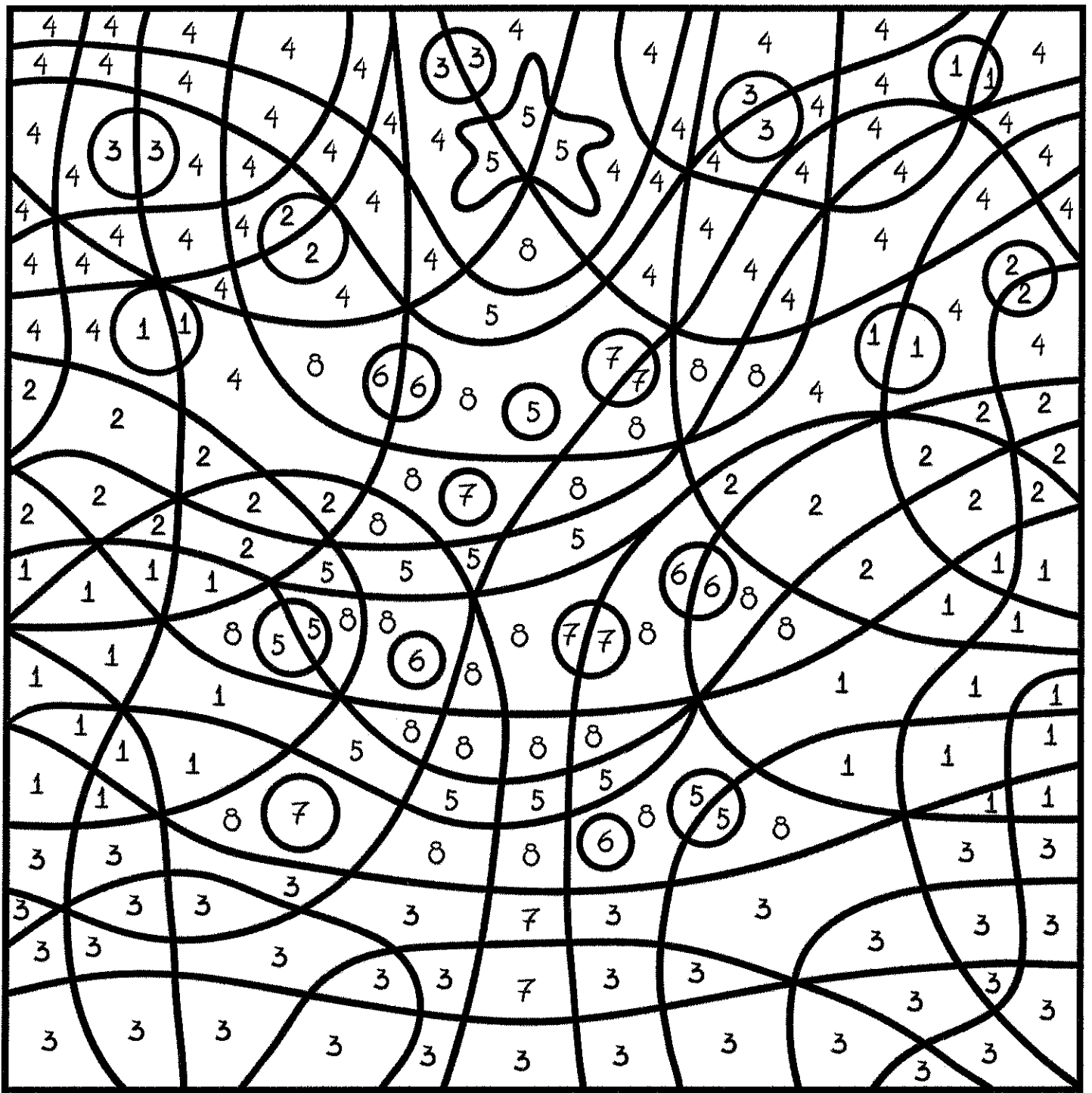
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Answer: “He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.”



1. White 2. Light Blue 3. Blue 4. Dark Blue  
 5. Yellow 6. Red 7. Brown 8. Green

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

LUKE 2:10-11, KJV