

Sermon Themes and Scriptures

Date: December 6, 2020
Title: Company's Coming
Theme: Clean Up Crew (2nd Sunday of Advent)
Purpose: It is one thing to notice that there is work to be done. It is quite another one to determine that you are the one who needs to do that work!
Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-11
New Testament (Epistle): 2 Peter 3:8-15a
New Testament (Gospel): Mark 1:1-8

Date: December 13, 2020
Title: Company's Coming
Theme: Deck The Halls (3rd Sunday of Advent)
Purpose: Let our celebration be the awareness of the presence of Christ. We reflect our inner experience with our outward appeal.
Old Testament: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
New Testament (Epistle): 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
New Testament (Gospel): John 1:6-8, 19-28

Date: December 20, 2020
Title: Company's Coming
Theme: Waiting on the Threshold (4th Sunday of Advent)
Purpose: The one who comes to us comes to all, and our privilege is that we can announce this invitation, this good news to everyone.
Old Testament: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
New Testament (Epistle): Romans 16:25-27
New Testament (Gospel): Luke 1:26-38

Date: December 27, 2020
Title: Company's Coming
Theme: Enjoying the Company (1st Sunday after Christmas Day)
Purpose: Let us together enjoy the company we've welcomed.
Old Testament: Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3
New Testament (Epistle): Galatians 4:4-7
New Testament (Gospel): Luke 2:22-40

Sunday's Service Information

Traditional Service – For those that love that “Old Time Religion”, we have a traditional worship service that meets every Sunday at 8:30 am. *During the Covid-19 pandemic, the 8:30 am service will be held outside and those attending are encouraged to dress appropriately...t-shirt and shorts are acceptable.*

Blended Service – Not too bold, not too mild...just right. Our Blended service combines the best of our traditional and contemporary worship services. The Blended service is every Sunday at 10:30 am. There is also Children's Church available for kids K through 5th grade and a nursery for infants and toddlers. *During the Covid-19 pandemic, the 10:30 am service will be held in the sanctuary while practicing social distancing in the pews.*

Church Contacts

Phone: 305-852-2581, **Fax:** 305-852-4917

Email: bartonmemorial@bellsouth.net **Pastor:** kmf_bmumc@bellsouth.net

Administrative Assistant: bae_bmumc@att.net **Web Site:** www.BMUMC.net

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Friday – Office Closed.

Newsletter and Bulletin Deadlines

We have a lot of ministries and events going on at Burton and it is important to get the word out regarding them. So, please remember the *deadline for getting information into the weekly bulletin is on Wednesdays. The deadline for monthly Beacon articles is the 20 of each month.* Please send all information that you want placed in the bulletin or in the Beacon to the office at

bae_bmumc@att.net

*DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!*

December Birthdays:

	<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>
Annabelle Bricker	4	Sharon Braunberns	23
Kay Comer	4	Betty Anne Gear	24
Holly Holly	10	John Holly	31
Bryella Beerkircher	21		

December Anniversaries:

	<u>DAY</u>
Bud & Gail Preston	17
Gene & Virginia Spear	19
Carol & Alan Ackenhausen	23



The Beacon

a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC
December 2020



COMPANY'S COMING

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

Who doesn't like Advent? It is a season of excitement and anticipation and joy. Lots and lots of joy. Even when we acknowledge that we aren't ready for what is coming, for the realm that is promised, for the kin-dom we hope for. We admit we have fallen short; we confess that we are wrapped up in ourselves and in things that don't last; we admit that our watchful waiting has fallen by the wayside. And yet, in this season, there is joy. And we have a sense that we can start all over again, because "Company Is Coming."fb

Advent sits in the nexus between the past and the future. The origin of the season is to remind us that we are heading somewhere, that we are waiting for something that is not yet here. We are reminded that we are pilgrim people during the season of Advent. And as startling as that is, we find joy in the seeking, joy in the longing. The prophecies are full of warning and of struggle, but there is also a resounding vision of something greater, something of peace; and we can lean into that.

There is also joy in the remembering. We cannot look forward to the in-breaking of the one who comes without looking back to the first time God entered our history and space. Yes, **Advent is more than a countdown to Christmas**, but it is a reenactment of the Mass of Christ that prepares us for the return of the Christ. It is the remembering of the way the world was turned upside down when the child was born, that we can have an inkling of the righting of the world when the Savior reclaims all that belongs to the kin-dom of God.

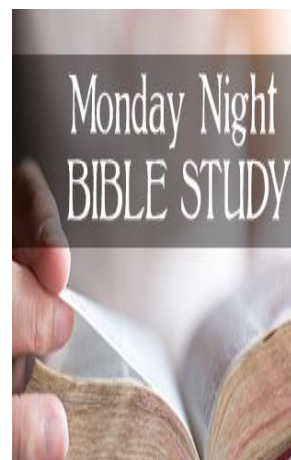
There is joy in the anticipation, in the waiting for the one who comes, both as we look back and as we lean forward. The joy erupts, not because it will be an easy welcome—there is work to be done and transformation to occur. Our brokenness will come to light, and our healing will stretch our capacity to hope. But the joy is there, because deep down we know that what is coming is what we have been longing for. Who is coming is who we have been longing for. So, join us in this special sermon series this Advent, because "**Company Is Coming**."

Smokin Monday Adult Bible Study

We will be hosting a Monday Night Bible study that will coincide with our sermon series "**Company is Coming**". The reason for the smoke, is because the pastor will be preparing meals using his Pit Boss wood pellet smoker. The evening starts at 6:00 pm with a fellowship meal. The meat will be provided by Pastor Kerry, and those attending are asked to bring a side dish to share.

Then the Bible Study will begin at 6:30 pm and end at 7:30 pm. Those that are uncomfortable meeting at the parsonage in person can attend the Bible Study via Zoom. Invites for the Zoom meeting will go out every Sunday afternoon via e-mail. The Pastors address is: 123 High Street, Tavernier FL 33070.

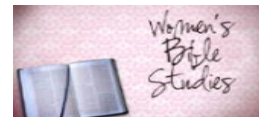
If you have any questions you can call Pastor Kerry at 305-407-7040.





Bible Study Groups

The Men's and Women's Bible Study Groups are not currently meeting. Watch the announcements for when meetings will resume.



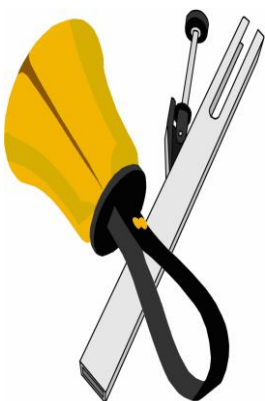
There is a "Smokin Monday" Adult Bible Study Group meeting on Mondays at the pastor's house, with dinner at 6:00 pm, and bible study at 6:30 pm in person and on zoom. Pastor Kerry is supplying the "meats." Please bring a side dish to share.

Choir News

Carlene Jarboe

I am sorry to say that the choir is canceled until further notice. Since there is no singing in church yet. We will wait until the pandemic is somewhat under control and singing in church is permitted. Until then, keep singing safely, in the car, in the shower, wherever you can. "This too shall pass."

If you have any questions about this, feel free to call me at 301-655-0522. Hopefully we can continue safely singing as we work through this challenging time.



Ringine News

Our Baby Belles will share their ringing gifts on Sunday, December 20, at both our services. Invite a friend to hear them as they share two songs for Advent. After that, The Baby Belles are on Christmas Break until January 2020. We currently have 7 - 9 ringers practicing but we would love to have a few more! Practice is from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm every Wednesday in the sanctuary. Ringing techniques and basic music education are provided. No experience necessary. God offers the BEST benefit package around! See any bell choir member or director RaeLeigh Gonsalves for more information.

Each Sunday in Advent our Burton Ensemble Ringers will be playing several songs of the season. We hope you enjoy them!

Our First Ever Facebook Live Handbell Concert

Join our Burton Ensemble Ringers and our Baby Belles on Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 6:00 pm live in our sanctuary or on Facebook as we share the JOY of the season through the songs of Advent and the carols of Christmas with our handbell and choir chimes choirs. Spread the word and invite a friend!



College Ministry

The following students are currently enrolled for this college term: James Kirkman, Kyrié Foote, Makenzie Wright, Kayla Lynn de Vroedt, Daniel Walker, Brooke Peacock, and Reid Bennett. Please keep them in your prayers as they make arrangements to get through the holidays. Please contact Sue Peacock with any changes at 305-731-6825.

God's Kitchen

Our food pantry is still seeing more clients each month. We are continuing to serve To Go boxes for Thursday night God's Kitchen Free Dinner. We are still looking for groups or individuals to help with our dinner, helping to cook, box and clean up on Thursdays.

We can also use people to help create the grocery bags we hand out to our clients, and we can use extra help in our drive-thru pantry. If you would like to help out, please call the church office at 305-852-2581.



Membership and Information Class

If you would like to discover more about Burton Memorial United Methodist Church and what it means to be a member of the United Methodist Church, ***please contact Pastor Kerry to set up an appointment.*** Call or text him at 305-407-7040 or email him at kmf_bmumc@bellsouth.net.

Status of Offerings

Please remember that the weekly offerings pay the expenses of our worship services, as well as contributing to the various church ministries. Below are the offering and website collections for the past four services.

Last Four Weeks					Year to Date		
Week	Date	Offering	Plan	+ / -	Offering	Plan	+ / -
44	1-Nov	\$3,673	\$2,154	1,519	\$117,355	\$109,018	8,337
45	8-Nov	\$4,161	\$2,154	2,007	\$121,516	\$111,172	10,344
46	15-Nov	\$2,620	\$2,154	466	\$124,136	\$113,326	10,810
47	22-Nov	\$1,602	\$2,154	-552	\$125,738	\$115,480	10,258



While our services have reopened, we are continuing with our Facebook Live service at 10:30 am, with videos posted on Facebook. If you do not feel safe at this time to come to the church, please help us by either mailing your normal donation by check to Burton Memorial UMC, 93001 Overseas Highway, Tavernier, FL 33070, or go to our website and click on Give Online to set up a payment online.

Message from the Green Team:

The Burton Green Team suggests you consider watching an important PBS documentary about clean energy. This unbiased presentation highlights the obstacles and opportunities for America's solar industry in an unbiased manner. You may recognize Jonathan Scott, from his role in the HGTV home makeover show. This unifying documentary entitled "*Jonathan Scott's Power Trip*" is more than an hour long, so we suggest that you first view the trailer to determine if it is of interest to you. The video will be online only through December 16, so don't miss it. <https://www.pbs.org/video/trailer-jonathan-scottspower-trip-zcnst6/>

Jack Stein Grove, PhD.



No matter which side of the political spectrum you stand on, as Christians, recognizing our responsibility to care for God's creation, you are likely to find this PBS documentary of interest. In "*Jonathan Scott's Power Trip*" the video exposes how the fossil fuel monopolies halt the growth of renewable energy. Jonathan interviews politicians, coal miners, solar panel installers and he visits the Navajo Nation as they build their own solar plant. This important chronicle represents the forefront of the battle for energy freedom.



When I watched this documentary, I reflected on the numerous conversations I have had with members of the Burton family about the feasibility of solar energy for our sanctuary. Unquestionably, the roof of the Fellowship Hall would be an ideal location for solar panels. Maybe the time is right, perhaps we should at the very least discuss the pros & cons? There may even be funding available for us to become a BEACON for clean energy in our community. Brad Kunkel has kindly agreed to serve as coordinator for the solar committee of the Green Team. If you have questions or suggestions we welcome them. Brad's number is 717-650-5716.

Health and Wellness

Debbie Premaza, RN, BSN

A Pandemic Holiday: Tips for a different kind of holiday, staying connected with family and friends. Caring for each other with LOVE!

Holiday events are a time to disconnect from our busy lives and slow down so that we can connect, reflect with, and listen to our cherished ones as we express gratitude for all we have. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 is a time to explore different ways to re-connect. What is now important is discovering how to put new spins on old traditions, so friends and family can connect in safe ways. Unfortunately, when there are barriers to in-person socialization, feelings of both exclusion and loneliness can be intensified. This can wreak havoc with our emotional and physical well-being. Even though we will be celebrating differently this year, plan ahead. This will allow for coming up with creative suggestions as to how everyone can experience a sense of inclusion, especially during the holidays.

The [Centers for Disease Control](#) has published ways to celebrate with care, including what we already know: wear masks, wash hands frequently and follow the six-foot rule.

Virtual get-togethers..... Ways to virtually connect with loved ones include:

- Cooking or planning recipes together on virtual platforms (make the moment even more special by sharing secrets of traditional favorites!)
- Playing games or doing fun activities together online (e.g., trivia night, dancing, karaoke, and many others!)
- Sharing a meal together by connecting virtually (arrange a specific time for everyone to log onto their devices and enjoy an online celebration together.)

Non-virtual Creative ways to stay connected... ways that can help us feel closer without going online:

- Mail out a hand-written card or send flowers or food baskets.
- Delivering food in a safe manner can make a big difference to someone, especially if they are isolated and alone during the holidays.
- Take physically-distanced walks outdoors with family and friends during the day. Have a physically distanced picnic meal together outside.
- While seeing each other on-screens may not be ideal, it is a nice way to still feel close while being physically apart during the pandemic.
- Connect via phone or video conferencing. An activity for all ages is to share photos, videos, and stories of past celebrations together.
- Swapping recipes is a great way to feel connected and ensure everyone gets to have a bite of a favorite dish while remaining physically distant.
- Perform a gratitude activity, such as making a list of what you are grateful for and sharing the list with your family and friends.

Keep the connection going

It is beneficial to take time to feel grateful for what we have and reflect on the positive relationships. Being around familiar faces during this time is comforting, but it is also important to maintain these connections beyond the holidays! This unique time could be the perfect opportunity to help protect and nourish our mental, emotional, and physical well-being during these difficult times.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15 NIV

⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV

If I can be of any help navigating health insurance, please contact me at 305-546-6682.

Bereavement Support Group

We are providing a bereavement support group weekly at Burton on Fridays in the Fellowship Center starting at 11:00 am. For more information, please contact Cindi Miller, 786-236-6336 or cynthia651@msn.com.



**United
Methodist
Women**
Faith • Hope • Love in Action



UMW Ladies and Ladies of Burton Memorial Church: Well, I don't know if you know, but we have some wonderful ladies in our group. If you would like a little nurturing, please come to our next meeting. We are also offering our meeting on Zoom if you would like to attend that way. Please contact Edith at 305-363-8392 for more information on that venue. ***The date of our next meeting is Monday, December 28, at 7:00 pm in the church's Fellowship Center, or on Zoom.*** We have a program book for each month that we try to do. We also have some great books to read in your spare time, whether you come to our meetings or not. There is a UMW reading program. If you would like to see some of the different categories, they are on a shelf in the narthex. If you take a book home to read, please check it out on our clip board. If you need a ride or any information about our wonderful group please call me, Mary Lou, at 305-394-3878. Hope to see you in December.

Love ♥, Faith and Hope, Mary Lou -President

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry sent over 60 knitted and crocheted hats to cancer children in November. Besides making hats and prayer shawls for our world community, in the past we sent yarn to a women's prison for knitting and crocheting classes, and blankets for military children in trauma. A big Thank You to everyone contributing to our ministry.

We are meeting again Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Center. We are using social distancing and wearing masks. We are a small group. Come and learn to knit or crochet and for great fellowship. For information, please call Virginia Spear at 305-522-2978.

Prayer Bead Ministry

Each holiday season throughout the year we have suggested our prayer beads as a loving gift to someone special in your life. This Christmas season, due to social distancing, we cannot suggest this. Instead our message is to express our gratitude for our ministry and the love and warmth we have received from you all. ***Gratitude***... that was the word in this most recent United Methodist Women's Response Magazine that started me thinking about this message.

Gratitude is defined generally as when you feel pleased by what someone has done for you that has provided pleasing results, and unlike indebtedness, you are not concerned about having to pay it back. The only payback is showing appreciation.

With our world in turmoil over the pandemic, there are still great reasons to be grateful.

Harriet Jane Olson, General Secretary of the UMWomen, had a great suggestion that I want to share. "What if we started a practice of making a call, sending a message, or writing a note to someone everyday between now and New Year's Day who has made a difference in our life."

This heartwarming suggestion could make a difference in many lives and especially your own.

If you would like more information, contact Linda Norman, Chair, UMWomen Prayer Bead Ministry, at 305-393-2589. Please feel free to call, text or email to lindalillonorman@gmail.com.

A Grateful Message



Christmas Gifts for Staff

Dear Burton Congregation:

With the Advent Season upon us, we would like to present Pastor Kerry and the staff of Burton Memorial (Mary Lou Wilkinson, Sexton and Betsy Edwards, Administrative Assistant) with a monetary Christmas gift as an appreciation for all they do for us at Burton. If you would like to contribute, you may use the self-addressed envelope enclosed in the newsletter. You can either mail in your gift or put it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. *(Please make checks out to Burton Memorial United Methodist Church and put "Christmas Gift" in the memo line.)*

Brad Kunkel, Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee



Christmas Eve Services

The Committee on Passionate Worship would like to invite you to attend our Christmas Eve services on Thursday, December 24, 2020. *We will have two drive in services in the parking lot of the church on Christmas Eve, at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm.* If you can, please also join us for our *11:00 pm service in the sanctuary.* This is an intimate service with the addition of Holy Communion to the candle lighting. *Please come and invite a friend or neighbor.*

Meaning of Advent

RaeLeigh Gonsalves

A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas! The Christmas holiday season is a very exciting time with our church dressed in her Christmas finery! We encourage you to join in the spirit of Advent with your whole heart. A little confused about Advent? Here are some basics about the traditions of Advent.

When. Advent marks the beginning of the church year. It begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve. If Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, Advent will last four full weeks. If Christmas Day falls on any other day of the week, Advent will last less than four weeks. If Christmas falls on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, all of Advent will be in December. If Christmas falls on any other day of the week, Advent will begin in November.

What. Advent comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, meaning "coming." It is a season to prepare for the coming of Christ in various meanings: the promised coming of the Messiah to the Jews, the coming of Jesus being born in Bethlehem, the promised return of the risen Christ in final victory, and the continual coming of Christ into the lives and hearts of believers.

History. Advent began in France in the fourth century. In various times and locations of the church, Advent has been observed for three, four, and six weeks leading to Christmas

Color. While the traditional color for Advent is purple, there is a growing interest in and acceptance of the color blue as an alternative. *The United Methodist Book of Worship* identifies purple or blue as appropriate colors for Advent. The genesis of the introduction of blue into the liturgical colors comes from continued reflection on the calendar of the Christian year, particularly on the season of Advent. Here is how the reasoning goes: Advent is a season of preparation that anticipates both Bethlehem and the consummation of history in the second coming of Jesus Christ. Since this anticipation is characterized by hope -- in contrast to the repentance characteristic of Lent -- the color for the season should not be purple, with its mood of solemnity and somberness, but blue with its hopefulness.

Here at Burton, we celebrate in many ways. We light the candles in our Advent wreath each Sunday, with the four candles representing "Hope", "Peace", "Love" and "Joy". The center white Christ candle will be lit this year on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

We decorate our Chrismon tree with the symbols of the church. We encourage you and your family to take a close look at these symbols, many of which were handmade by members of our congregation. A picture explaining the meaning of these symbols is located on each of the front wall columns. See if you can find them all on the tree!

We sing the hymns of Advent like "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" and "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" and the carols of Christmas such as "Away in the Manger" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem".

We display our crèche with the scene of Nativity, complete with Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men, animals, and eventually -- the baby Jesus!

On Christmas Eve, we join in the singing of "Silent Night" with only candlelight to illuminate the church. Then we lift them together -- the Light of the World has come!

This year, make Advent and Christmas a time of renewal as we await together the greatest Gift of all!

**My Eight Plans for Meeting the Challenges of
Alzheimer's, Arthritis and Aging – AAA**
Harry W. Forgan, PH.D. 11/11/2020

Recently, I have been dealing with some health issues related to Alzheimer's, Arthritis and Aging. I want to remember these very important steps to continue my positive outlook on life.

1. I will express my gratitude for a wonderful and exciting life! I'll continue to be positive, upbeat and loving as I smile, laugh, sing and count my blessings. I created a 40x28 picture poster of some blessings and I have written a paragraph of 78 blessings – one for every year I have lived. Recollections of my blessings keep me happy.
2. I will keep active and Forganized. I will enjoy yard work, housework, and running errands and I will use a calendar to remind me of appointments and events. I am a huge fan of the University of Miami Hurricanes and frequently shout "GO CANES!" I bleed orange, green, and white because I enjoyed being a Professor at UM for 39 exciting years.
3. Checklists will help me remember my medicines and record my vital signs and exercising. I'll seek medical help when necessary and follow the doctors' orders. I am being treated by the University of South Florida's Byrd Institute which is devoted to helping people with Alzheimer's. I have eight doctors to treat me with my aging concerns: eyes, ears, teeth, skin, heart, feet nose and throat. The song I learned in grade school, "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" has a whole new meaning!
4. I'll be safe by using grab bars, watching where I walk, and using a timer when cooking. As a driver, I'll concentrate on where I am going and avoiding accidents. I am not as agile as when I was young.
5. I enjoy many favorite activities including writing notes of encouragement, best wishes and congratulations! I read my daily devotions, newspapers, and nonfiction materials. Throughout the day I take time to pray, ponder, and meditate. I remember songs like "God will take Care of you" when I have problems.
6. I want to be prudent about finances by using auto pay, reviewing bank statements, and keeping a budget. I am very generous as I help family members, friends, church and needy people but I want to avoid scams!
7. I'll continue to appreciate nature as I look at the skies, sun, bodies of water, rain, rainbows, flowers, trees, and all vegetation except weeds. I love the song, "In The Garden."
8. My top priority is caring for Ruth Ann, my wonderful wife of 57 years. She has pulmonary fibrosis and needs a hip replacement. We love each other dearly and cherish our children, Jim and Jennifer, and their spouses, Peggy and Justin, and our five "Grands" – Emily Kali Ted, Hannah and Austin. We met on a "Sweet Thursday" and have enjoyed each other "Through the Years!"

I look forward to going to my Heavenly Home for an everlasting peaceful life! Thanks be to God and His Son Jesus for teaching me how to be a Christian. I am not going to let these three AAA health issues (Alzheimer's, Arthritis, and Aging) get me down. I am determined to face these problems with the help of my Family, Friends, and Faith (FFF). We'll meet again over the rainbow. You pray for me and I'll pray for you! Thank you for your help!

Food Pantry Donations

The food pantry at Burton Memorial is asking church family and friends to take part of a unique way to celebrate Advent. It is called a "Reverse Advent Calendar". Starting December 1, 2020, we would like individuals and families to get a box and fill it with an item each day. On Sunday December 27 we would like the boxes to be brought to the church to be stored into our food pantry to be given out that Monday. If you cannot make the Sunday service of December 27, you can drop the box off anytime that week in the breezeway of the church.

R E V E R S E ADVENT CALENDAR

**EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.**

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans