

# Sunday Sermon Themes and Scriptures

<b>Date:</b> December 4, 2022 <b>Title:</b> The Best Christmas Ever <b>Theme:</b> Peace <b>Purpose:</b> Peace that transcends understanding is Christ's gift to us. Receive His gift this Christmas season. <b>Old Testament:</b> Isaiah 9:6-7 <b>New Testament:</b> Philippians 4:4-7	<b>Date:</b> December 11, 2022 <b>Title:</b> The Best Christmas Ever <b>Theme:</b> Joy <b>Purpose:</b> Joy is not based upon <i>things</i> , but it is based upon our relationship with and understanding of Jesus. <b>Old Testament:</b> Psalm 51:10-12 <b>New Testament:</b> Luke 2:9-22
<b>Date:</b> December 18, 2022 <b>Title:</b> The Best Christmas Ever <b>Theme:</b> Love <b>Purpose:</b> God shared His unconditional love with humanity through His son Jesus. And Jesus asks us to love one another as He has loved. <b>Old Testament:</b> Isaiah 7:10-16 <b>New Testament:</b> John 3:16-17	<b>Date:</b> December 25, 2022 <b>Title:</b> God of the Dark and the Light <b>Theme:</b> Christmas Day <b>Purpose:</b> Life as we long to live it. We can't be who we are, or who we long to be without that Jesus thing. <b>Old Testament:</b> Isaiah 52:7-10 <b>New Testament (Epistle):</b> Hebrews 1:1-4 <b>New Testament (Gospel):</b> John 1:1-14
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Sunday's Service Information</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Currently, we have switched over to one worship service on Sundays, and it is at 10:00 am.</p>	

## Church Contacts

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

Email: [burtonmemorial@bellsouth.net](mailto:burtonmemorial@bellsouth.net) Pastor: [pastor.foote@outlook.com](mailto:pastor.foote@outlook.com)

Administrative Assistant: [bae\\_bmumc@att.net](mailto:bae_bmumc@att.net) Web Site: [www.BMUMC.net](http://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 twentieth 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](mailto:bae_bmumc@att.net).

DON'T MISS  
THE DEADLINE!

## December Birthdays:

## December Anniversaries:

	<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>		<u>DAY</u>
Tom Simpson	3	Bryella Beerkircher	21	Bud & Gail Preston	17
Annabelle Bricker	4	Sharon Braunberns	23	Gene & Virginia Spear	19
Kay Comer	4	Betty Anne Gear	24	Carol & Alan Ackenhausen	23
Holly Holly	10	John Holly	31		



# The Beacon

a monthly newsletter publication of Burton Memorial UMC  
December 2022

## THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER (Advent Sermon Series)

It's been quite a year, hasn't it? The Christmas season is our annual opportunity to reflect upon the year and to remember all that is truly important and worth celebrating. In the *Best Christmas Ever* series each week focuses on one of the traditional advent themes of **hope, peace, joy, and love**. Using the theme as a guide, our church will learn why having its *Best Christmas Ever* is possible this year, and truly every year, as we focus on what is most important in our lives.



OUR SHARED  
HOPE IS ALIVE  
IN CHRIST.

**November 27, 2022:** It is easy to be overwhelmed by the state of our world, but don't lose heart, **Jesus has overcome the world**. Stop believing the lies that things will never change. Choose to find hope in the promises of God. Choose to believe that Jesus' birth changes everything. Each day we can be defeated by darkness or find victory in the light of Christ. Choose hope. And share it with others.

PEACE IS  
CHRIST'S GIFT  
TO YOU  
(JOHN 14:27)

**December 4, 2022:** Listen to what Jesus tells the disciples in John 14:27; "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*" Friends, peace is a gift of Jesus - It's different from the things the world gives - And just like any other gift, it's your responsibility to receive it well. Are you ready to receive *peace* today?

DEEP, ABIDING,  
RESILIENT JOY  
IS POSSIBLE  
WITH CHRIST.

**December 11, 2022:** During Christmas we remember who Christ is and why He came for us. We have eternal hope in the promises of God made alive in Christ. We have unshakable peace in Christ who will return for His church. We have the gift of deep, abiding, and resilient joy through our love for and understanding of Christ.

TO BE TRULY LOVED,  
FOR WHO YOU ARE,  
IS ONE OF THE MOST  
AMAZING AND  
WONDERFUL  
FEELINGS A PERSON  
CAN EXPERIENCE.

**December 18, 2022:** This Christmas could also be a special one. This could be the moment that you decide to put your love for others into action. This could be the moment that you decide to follow the lead of Christ, to love others by giving your life - energy - time - and resources for them. This could be the first time you accept God's love. This could be the first time you share God's love. The redemptive love of Christ is not something to keep to ourselves - it's something to share with as many people as we possibly can, for as long as we can.

## Potluck Luncheon & Gingerbread House Competition

Burton will be hosting our December potluck on **December 4th at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Center** following the 10:00 am service. **For this potluck, Pastor Kerry Foote will be providing smoked ham that will be prepared on his pellet smoker.** We are asking those attending to bring a dish to share.

Also, we will be holding a friendly rivalry in which members can bring a decorated gingerbread house and throw their gloves in the gingerbread ring. Those in attendance will be voting on their favorite gingerbread creation.



## Membership and Information Class



**Pastor Kerry Foote will host a membership and information class in his office this month on Sunday, December 4, 2022, at 1:00 pm.** 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 attend. Also, if you would like to become a member of Burton Memorial and will not be able to attend one of the classes provided on Sunday, please **contact Pastor Kerry to set up an appointment.** Call or text him at 305-407-7040 or email him at [pastor.foote@outlook.com](mailto:pastor.foote@outlook.com).

## Tuesday Night Fellowship and Adult Bible Study

For the month of December, the Tuesday Night Fellowship and Adult Bible study will be meeting on 11/29, 12/6, 12/12, 12/19. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to share. This a traveling Bible study and meets are various homes of those attending.

**6:00 to 6:30: Food and Fellowship**

**6:30 to 7:30: Bible Study (In person or on Facebook)**

This study will coincide with our current sermon series, "The Best Christmas Ever." Stay tuned for the place and the lesson itself will be e-mailed out prior to the study according to our church database.



## Men's Wednesday Morning Devotional Breakfast



**Every Wednesday morning, from 8:00 am to 8:45 am, the Men of Burton Memorial, along with their friends, are invited to attend our Wednesday morning devotional breakfast.** We share a hot breakfast with one another and various devotional topics that cover current events of the day. We also provide one another with much needed support and fellowship through prayer, storytelling, and active listening.

## Christmas Caroling

You and your family and friends are invited to join our WoW (Walking on Water) praise band at **Crystal Nursing Center (48 High Point Rd, Tavernier, FL 33070) on December 4th, 2022, for some Christmas Caroling at 2:00 pm.** The event should last around 1 hour, and you will have the opportunity to spread some Christmas cheer and impact the life of another person just by your presence. Hope to see you there.







## **December 24, 2022 (Christmas Eve Services)**

*Burton Memorial will have three services available on Christmas Eve.*

**3:00 pm (Parking Lot Service)**- This service will be like our drive-in service that we held last year. People attending are encouraged to bring chairs or simply lower the tailgate for a time of worship and celebration.

**7:00 pm (Candlelight Service)**- This service will be held in the sanctuary and will have many of your favorite Christmas songs and will end with a special candlelight service.

**11:00 pm (Candlelight / Communion Service)**- This service will be just like our Candlelight service with the addition of communion in preparation for Christmas Day.

## **Bell Concert**

*Our Advanced Ringers and Burton Belles will share their ringing gifts on Sunday, December 11, at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary.* Scripture, music, stories will accompany our handbell choirs to bring you the songs of the sacred Advent and Christmas season. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the concert. A love offering to fund our ministries will be taken. Please plan to attend and bring some friends!



## **Altar Guild News**

On behalf of your Altar Guild – a big *thank you* to all the volunteers who came out in November to prepare the decorations and install them! What a joy and blessing to be part of this great church! Mark your calendar for *Sunday, January 8, 2023, to be a part of our “undecorating” meal and workday, immediately following the 10:00 am service.*

## **Christmas Tea Fundraiser**

*The Altar Guild will host their first annual Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 3, at 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.* Join us for afternoon of Christmas cheer, friends, delicious food, and scrumptious tea. Attendees are encouraged to wear their Christmas finery and bring a friend! Seating is limited – *tickets are \$20 per person and will be on sale until December 2.* All funds raised will go towards repairing our current banners and completing our Keys banner series, begun for our 125th anniversary. If you would like to make something for our tea table, please contact Carol Albury Johnson, Sue Peacock or RaeLeigh Gonsalves. We can't wait to share Christmas Tea with you!



## **Operation Christmas Child**

*Through your love and support we were able to send 103 shoebox gifts to hurting children around the world.* They will be a part of the 12 million shoe box gifts that are being distributed. Thank you for your generosity and love for all God's Children! Please continue to pray for the millions of boys and girls who will be receiving gift-filled shoe boxes and gospel literature telling the story of God's love, and for the ministry partners as they distribute the shoe box gifts and share God's love with the children and their families. Your prayers are appreciated.

## **Campus Ministry Representative**

A very special thank you needs to go out to Holly Holly for stepping into the role of our Campus Ministry Representative. The person filling this position is responsible for keeping our church in contact with our college and trade school students. If you would like yourself, your child, grandchild, or great grandchild to be put our “student database,” please send your request to [burtonmemorial@bellsouth.net](mailto:burtonmemorial@bellsouth.net). We will need the name of the child, grade, and school.



## **Thank You to Plantation Key School**

For several years, Plantation Key School parents, students and teachers have organized a food drive for Burton’s Food Pantry for Thanksgiving. This is a picture of just part of the donations. Just another indication of the wonderful community we live in!

## **God’s Kitchen/Food Pantry**

***Burton is still in need of help with our Food Pantry Ministry.*** We can use extra hands in the pantry to help with deliveries on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, and to serve our clients. ***Please contact Cindi Miller to volunteer (see picture on left.)***

***We are also still looking for groups or individuals to help with our God’s Kitchen Free Dinner,*** helping to cook, serve and clean up on Thursdays. If you can help, please call or text Marylou Wilkinson at 305-394-3878, or call the office at 305-852-2581, to get more details or to volunteer.



## **God’s creatures right here in the Florida Keys**

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”  
- Genesis 1:28

### **LOCAL PERSPECTIVE:**

This excerpt is from an article by Craig Pitman published in the November 17, 2022, edition of the “Florida Phoenix,” about God’s creatures *right here in the Florida Keys*:



Bette Zirkelbach, who for the past 11 years has managed the Turtle Hospital in Marathon, reports, “We have not seen a single male juvenile turtle in the past four years, which is frightening.” Something’s wrong with the loggerhead sea turtles that overwhelming breed here in Florida: They’re not producing male babies. As columnist Craig Pittman writes, Florida Atlantic University has been monitoring the turtle breeding cycle for 20 years and reports that the proportion of female births over the years have ranged in the high 90s to 100 percent. The reason is climate change — the heat of the sand in which turtles bury their eggs has been increasing as the climate warms, which encourages

development of female rather than male babies. Bad for turtles and bad for us — just as the warming planet is making life harder for them, it’s subjecting us to more powerful storms and flooding.

**GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE:** The COP 27, the 27<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Climate in Egypt, will end tomorrow November 18. The “big ask” is for a *Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty*. To save lives, to avoid global destabilization, and to prevent volatile prices, first-world countries **MUST** stop any increase in the production of fossil fuel and hasten the transition to renewable energy ...by 2030. ***God help us.***

Green Team





United  
Women  
in Faith

***The 2023 Reading Program kicked off on November 28 at Edna Waldorf's house with a review of ten new books for members to read during the coming year.*** Members earn reading certificates by reading one book in each of the following five categories: Spiritual Development Education for Mission; Social Action; Nurturing Community; and Leadership Development.

At the meeting all attendees received bookmarks to use in their reading efforts as well as having the opportunity to make Thanksgiving bookmarks. All books for the United Women in Faith reading program are kept on the shelves in the church narthex. Women do not need to be a member of our group or even a member of Burton Church to sign out books from the shelves. They are for the growth and spiritual development of any member or visitor to our church. All we ask is that books be returned in 4 weeks if possible so that others can check out the book. Please be sure to enter your phone number on the sign out sheet if you are not a member of the United Women in Faith group.

***During our November 28 meeting, Barbara Koch gave a short report on Dulac Community Center in Louisiana.*** This National Mission Institution of the United Women in Faith, located in the bayou communities of lower Terrebonne Parish, was founded in 1932 by two Methodist women to provide an education for the indigenous children of these communities who were denied a public-school education at that time.

Over the years the mission changed to encompass all aspects of social service for people in this area which has been repeatedly devastated by major hurricanes. In addition, this area was in the forefront of communities damaged by the Deepwater Horizon spill, the worst environmental disaster in United States history, and an economic disaster for this community for many years.

Information about all the national mission institutions supported by the United Women in Faith can be found in our annual prayer calendar. Researching the institutions and programs listed in the prayer calendar is an uplifting experience, revealing the difference that two or three women banding together can make in combatting social problems.



***Our December meeting will be held on Monday, December 26, at 7:00 pm at Edna Waldorf's house.*** We are still celebrating Christmas! Think fun, food, and fellowship! Bring a friend and help avoid the post-holiday blues. Call or text Mary Lou Wilkinson (305-394-3878) if you need a ride. We would love to see some new faces.

All women are welcome. Neither membership in UWF nor Burton Church are required to attend our programs or events. If you would like information about UWF events, text Mary Lou and you will be kept informed of all upcoming activities. God bless you all during this Advent Season.

Blessings,  
Mary Lou Wilkinson, President



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Nine Prayer Shawl Ministry ladies knitted and crocheted 146 hats for two children's cancer hospitals, Cincinnati Children's, and Children's Medical Center in Plano, Texas. We sent them in honor of Owls for Avery Foundation, in honor of Carol Baxter's granddaughter Avery.

Come and join us for fun and fellowship Thursdays at 7:00 pm in the church Joy classroom. We teach and we have supplies. For information, please contact Virginia Spear, 305-522-2978.

*Pictured back row: Viola, Virginia, Sharon, Sue, and front row: Deborah, Jane, Carol, Betty.*

## 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, Betsy Edwards, Administrative Assistant, and Cindi Miller, Food Pantry Coordinator) 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 put it in the offering plate on Sunday morning or mail in your gift:

Burton Memorial United Methodist Church  
93001 Overseas Hwy.  
Tavernier, FL 33070

*(Please make checks out to Burton Memorial United Methodist Church and put "Christmas Gift" in the memo line.)*

-Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee

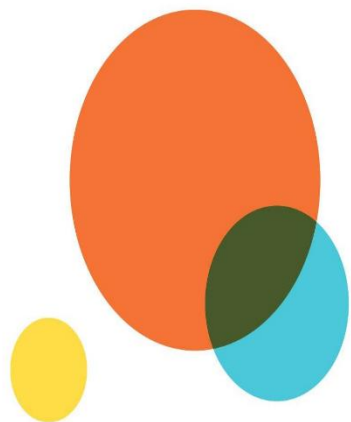


## Status of Offerings

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	30-Oct	\$2,133	\$2,154	-21	\$125,728	\$110,170	15,558
45	6-Nov	\$3,790	\$2,154	1,636	\$129,518	\$112,324	17,194
46	13-Nov	\$3,716	\$2,154	1,562	\$133,234	\$117,478	15,756
47	20-Nov	\$2,605	\$2,154	451	\$135,839	\$119,632	16,207

We are continuing with our Facebook Live services at 10:00 am, with videos posted on Facebook. If you are not able to attend services in person, 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: [bmumc.net](http://bmumc.net) and click on **Give Online** in the upper right corner of the home page to set up a payment online.



# I Like Giving.

## **Health and Wellness**

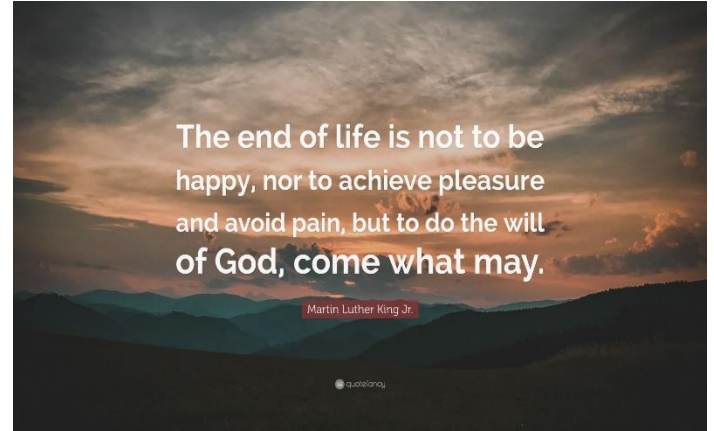
Debbie Premaza, RN, BSN

**Give your family the gift of “Letting your wishes be known” this Christmas!**

**The Holidays are a good time to talk with people closest to you about your end of life wishes; they will thank you for it! It does not matter how old you are to have these conversations. It is my prayer that you have them!**

<https://theconversation.com/end-of-life-conversations-can-be-hard-but-your-loved-ones-will-thank-you-173614>

Death – along with taxes – is one of life’s few certainties. Despite this inevitability, most people dread thinking and talking about when, how or under what conditions they might die. They don’t want to broach the topic with family, either, for fear of upsetting them. Ironically, though, talking about death “early and often” can be the greatest gift to bestow on loved ones. As a sociologist who has studied end-of-life issues for more than two decades, I’ve learned that people know they should talk about death honestly and openly, but surprisingly few do. In fact, one recent study showed that while 90% of adults say that talking to their loved ones about their end-of-life wishes is important, only 27% have actually had these conversations. It’s frightening to think about our own suffering, or our loved ones’ distress. But everyone should talk about and prepare for death precisely because we want to minimize our own suffering at the end of life and soften the anguish of loved ones left behind.



### **What to cover**

Advance care planning, which typically involves a living will and a health care proxy, allows people to articulate which medical treatments they want or don’t want at the end of life. A living will formally articulates preferences for care, such as whether to use comfort measures like hospice and palliative care, or more invasive measures like feeding tubes and ventilators. Documenting these preferences when the patient is still able to make those decisions helps to ensure they die on their own terms – a cornerstone of the “good death.”

Appointing a health care proxy when still relatively young and healthy gives people an opportunity to decide who will be tasked with their end-of-life decision-making. It also clarifies loved ones’ responsibilities and can fend off arguments that could arise around the deathbed. Having these discussions early also prevents panicked choices when someone’s health takes a dramatic turn for the worse. End-of-life discussions also help you to construct your own legacy. Ample resources are available to guide these conversations. Organizations like The Conversation Project – not related to The Conversation – have created guides for productive end-of-life discussions. Advance care planning documents ranging from living wills to the “Five Wishes” program, which helps clarify people’s values about how they’d like to spend their final days, can be a good starting point.

A simple introduction like “I need to think about the future. Will you help me?” is a good icebreaker. And the first conversation eases the path to future chats, because changes in physical health, family relations and mental sharpness may necessitate revisions in end-of-life plans. By discussing these issues during calm times, such as after a holiday get-together or birthday dinner, we can feel prepared and empowered as we and our families approach the inevitable.

**<sup>19</sup> And it is a good thing to receive wealth from God and the good health to enjoy it. To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life—this is indeed a gift from God. Ecclesiastes 5:19 New Living Translation**

**If anyone would like to talk with me about resources or has questions, call me at 305-546-6682.**



## 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 Christmas 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!

## Reverse Advent Calendar

How about an inexpensive way to celebrate an advent calendar while making a lasting impact on a family in the community. Pastor Kerry is encouraging all of Burton family and friends to participate in a reverse advent calendar food box.

Following the calendar below, each day put an item in the box along with saying a prayer to God for the blessings he has given all of us this advent season. After you have completed your box, please bring it to the church on Sunday morning, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

# REVERSE 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

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM