

United Christian Church, Yakima WA



Growing in Faith, Living in Hope, Serving with Love.

**JAN
2024**

From the Pastor's Desk :

I hope this letter finds you full of joy and peace as we embark on a new year. January often brings a shift in our focus as the Christmas season comes to a close. The decorations are stored away, and life resumes its regular pace. However, I want to encourage all of us to keep the Christmas spirit alive within our hearts throughout the year.

The Christmas season is a beautiful time when our hearts are filled with goodwill, generosity, and a genuine love for one another. We see acts of kindness abound, as we embrace the spirit of giving and share the joy with others. But why should this spirit only be limited to a few weeks in December? Shouldn't the essence of Christmas permeate our lives all year round?

As followers of Christ, the message of Christmas is not just for a specific time; it is a call to embody the love and compassion of Jesus every day. From the humble manger to the cross, Jesus showed us what it truly means to love unconditionally, to embrace the marginalized, and to bring hope to the brokenhearted.

So, how can we keep the Christmas spirit alive within us?

Services : Sundays at 10am

Bible Study : 8:30am on Sundays and 5:30pm on Wednesdays

317 S 41st St : Yakima, WA 98901 : 509.248.6104

Firstly, let us remember that the message of Christmas is centered on love. Love for God, love for ourselves, and love for our neighbors. Jesus taught us that the two greatest commandments are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Therefore, love should permeate every aspect of our lives throughout the year.

Secondly, let us cultivate a spirit of generosity beyond the holiday season. Christmas often prompts us to reach out to those in need, but there are countless opportunities throughout the year to extend a helping hand or lend an empathetic ear. Whether it is supporting local charities, volunteering at shelters, or simply offering kindness to those we encounter, we can make a lasting impact by engaging in acts of love and service.

Lastly, let us continually seek to be a source of joy and hope for those around us. Christmas is a time when hearts are filled with joy and hope, and it should not end there. The joy we experience in Christ can be a constant source of inspiration and strength. Through our words, actions, and attitudes, let us be carriers of joy and hope in a world that often feels overwhelmed by despair.

As we enter this new year, may we all resolve to keep the Christmas spirit burning brightly within us. Let us remember that joy, love, and compassion are not limited to a particular season, but rather, they are the enduring gifts that Christ offers to us every day.

May God bless you all abundantly as we journey together in faith, love, and hope throughout the year.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Steve

Calendar Highlights :

Jan 1st (Mon) : New Year's Day (Holiday)

Jan 6th (Sat) : 9am Workday and Finance Board Meeting

Jan 7th (Sun) : ANNUAL MEETING (following Worship)

Jan 15th (Mon) : Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Holiday)

Jan 21st (Sun) : Fellowship Potluck (following Worship)





Committee Reports :

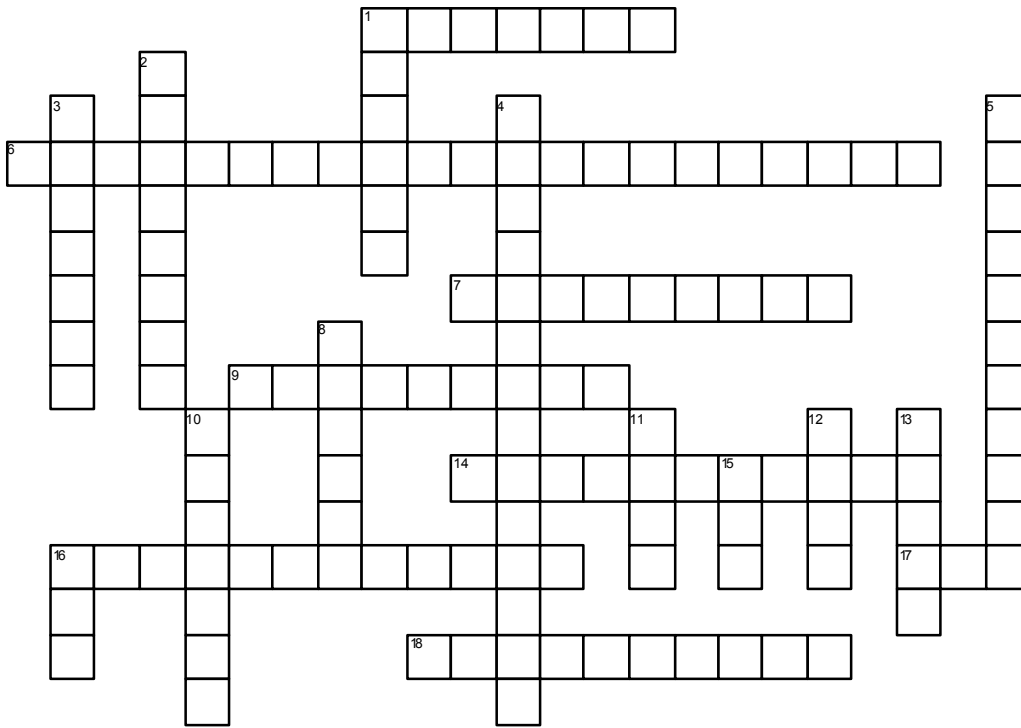
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!

Let celebrate the new year with a healthy potluck. Dessert will be provided. Invite a friend. So let's host potlucks do fun stuff. Thanks to all who helped out with the extra activities in December. If you have a idea of something please let Melissa know. And yes if there is free fishing weekend in the summer we do it. What else would you like to do. Thanks!



GOD CREATES THE WORLD

Genesis 1:1 - 2:3



ACROSS

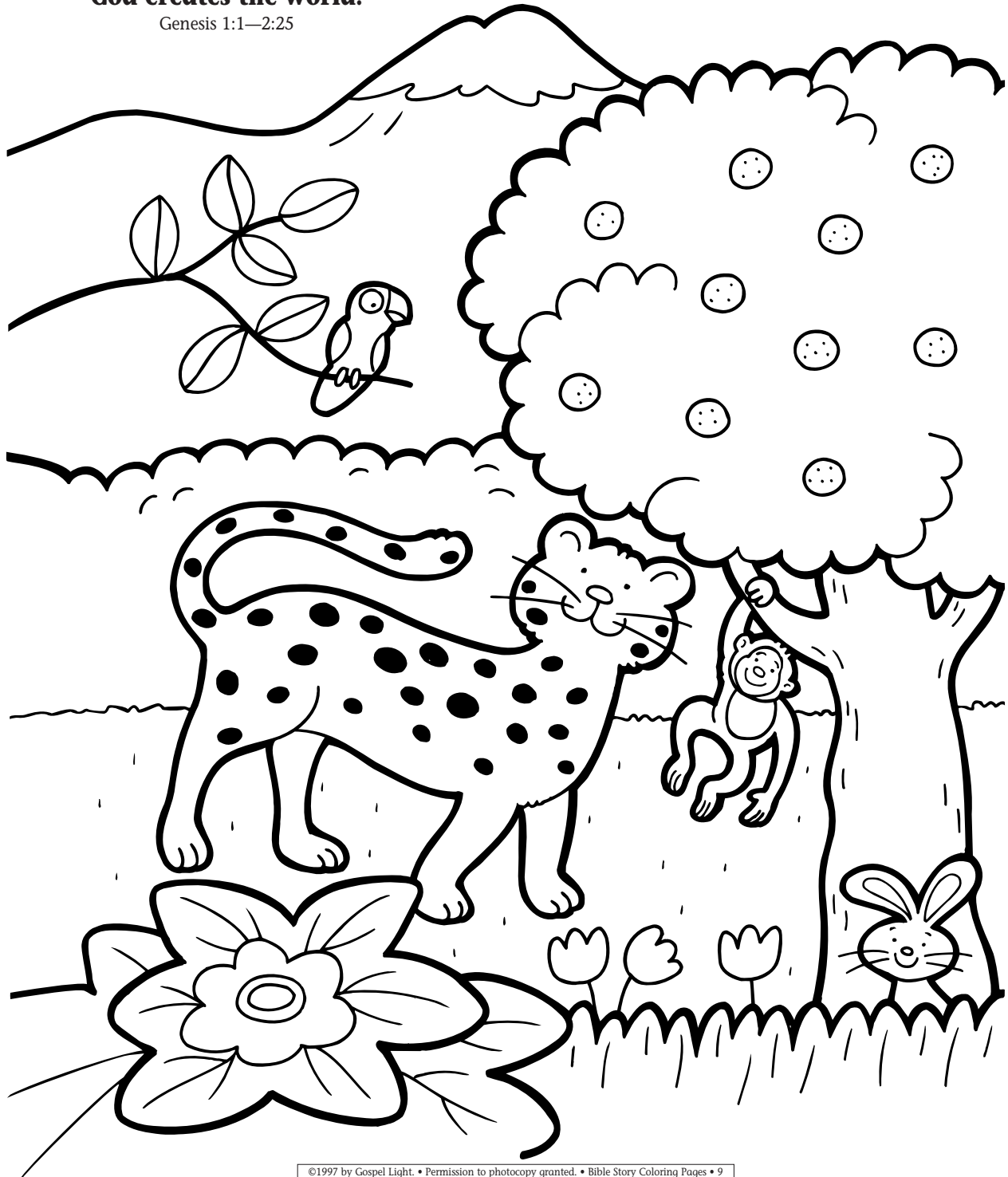
- 1 How did all things come into existence? (Gn. 1:20) two words
- 6 What command did God give the various kinds of fish, birds, animals that were created? (Gn. 1:22) four words
- 7 The earth had before been covered with water; but now the water and the dry land were _____. (Gn. 1:9)
- 9 That which is above and around the earth, which we call sky (Gn. 1:6)
- 14 According to Genesis 1:2, the materials of the heaven and the earth were in existence, but the different kinds had not been separated or put into shape. two words
- 16 Type of seed that continues by natural growth of the same kind. (Gn. 1:11) two words
- 17 According to the Bible, who created the world? (Gn. 1:1)
- 18 When God finished all that he created, He _____ it. (Gn. 2:3)

DOWN

- 1 According to Gn. 2:19, from where were the birds and animals formed?
- 2 God caused the light to shine out of _____. (Gn. 1:15-16)
- 3 On which day did God end all the work of creation and rested? (Gn. 2)
- 4 When did God create the world? (Gn. 1:1) three words
- 5 What moved upon the face of the waters preparing the earth for being brought into an orderly form. (Gn. 1:2) three words
- 8 Brought into being out of nothing. (Gn. 1:1)
- 10 How is the abyss of waters described? (Gn. 1:2) two words
- 11 Everything that God created was very _____. (Gn. 1:25)
- 12 Empty, and destitute of the vegetation, and living creatures which were afterwards brought forth. (Gn. 1:2)
- 13 Another word for likeness. (Gn. 1:27)
- 15 How many lights did God create to bring about the seasons upon the land. (Gn. 1:16)
- 16 How many days did God take to create the world? (Gn. 1)

God creates the world.

Genesis 1:1—2:25



Monthly Scriptures :

January 7th, 2024 : Baptism of the Lord

- Genesis [1:1-5](#)
- Psalm [29](#)
- Acts [19:1-7](#)
- Mark [1:4-11](#)

January 14th, 2024 : Second Sunday after the Epiphany

- 1 Samuel [3:1-10,\(11-20\)](#)
- Psalm [139:1-6,13-18](#)
- 1 Corinthians [6:12-20](#)
- John [1:43-51](#)

January 21st, 2024 : Third Sunday after the Epiphany

- Jonah [3:1-5, 10](#)
- Psalm [62:5-12](#)
- 1 Corinthians [7:29-31](#)
- Mark [1:14-20](#)

January 28th, 2024 : Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

- Deuteronomy [18:15-20](#)
- Psalm [111](#)
- 1 Corinthians [8:1-13](#)
- Mark [1:21-28](#)



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uccyakima.org



Thoughts and Prayers

We humbly pray for those caught in the midst of conflict and strife. May your love and peace surround them, offering solace and guidance during these challenging times. Grant them strength, courage, and the wisdom to seek peaceful resolutions. Let your compassion and understanding fill their hearts, and may they find a path towards reconciliation and harmony.

Submit a Prayer Online! uccyakima.org/prayer

We encourage members to give as they feel led.

Your contributions enable us to continue our mission of service and love within our community and beyond. **Every donation, big or small, helps in nurturing the seeds of faith, hope, and togetherness.**

Whether it's supporting our local food banks, contributing to the maintenance of our sacred space, or funding community outreach programs, your generosity is the cornerstone of our growth and outreach.

Donate Online!



Via tithe.ly

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