

## KEEPING IN TOUCH



During the fall of 2023 the annual hayride and maze at Risser's Farm was enjoyed by many of our congregation. We also had a time to celebrate through the humor of Tim Hawkins as we spent an evening of Christian fun and laughter together. Trunk or Treat was enjoyed by many members of the community and hot chocolate was offered to anyone who ventured by. We had a bountiful harvest of food placed at the altar railing to help those in need in our community. The Table has returned and a healthy meal was served to our friends and neighbors in our community. Lingle Avenue Elementary School was bathed in prayer by members who met and walked around the school in November. Hats, scarves and gloves were handed out during Palmyra's Holiday Parade. Many attended the LCCM silent auction and dinner to raise funds for our community. We have shared in communion at the Lord's table.

Now we are entering the Christmas season. Once again many activities are taking place at First EC. The S.O.S. group has already started making blankets. Boxes and boxes of filled Christmas treasures for boys and girls are being shipped around the world only to be opened by excited, expectant, little fingers. Cards are being delivered to our Shut-Ins, poinsettias are being placed in honor and memory of loved ones and gifts are being bought for less fortunate students of our "adopted school." The halls are being decked and the song sheets are out! We will have caroling, crafting, eating, and fellowship with one another during this very special month. But most importantly, everything we do, from exchanging our cards through the Missions group, to singing on the steps, will be done for the glory of God and to benefit our community, strangers and friends. We will learn of Christ's coming, we will prepare our hearts for His arrival. We will share the Good News with those around us by word and deed and let others know that this is a safe place. That First EC is a place to hear God's Word, His Promise, and His Victory!



### Some Upcoming Important Dates

#### December

- 2 - Church decorating 9:00AM
- 2 - Craft/Movie Night 4:30PM
- 3 - Advent begins
- 10 - Caroling and pizza afterwards 3:30PM
- 20 - The Table 5:30-6:30PM
- 24 - Christmas Eve Candle Light Service 6:00PM
- 24 & 31 - No Bible study
- 27 - No CST Meetings AM or PM

#### **A Name in the Sand**

Alone I walked the ocean strand,  
A pearly shell was in my hand,  
I stopped, and wrote upon the sand  
My name, the year, the day.  
As onward from the spot I passed,  
One lingering look behind I cast,  
A wave came rolling high and fast,  
And washed my lines away.

And so, methought, 'twill shortly be  
With every mark on earth from me,  
A wave of dark oblivious sea  
Will sweep across the place  
Where I have trod the sandy shore  
Of time, and been to be no more;  
Of me, my frame, the name I bore  
To leave no track nor trace.

And yet, with Him who counts the sands,  
And holds the waters in His hands,  
I know a lasting record stands  
Inscribed against my name  
Of all this mortal part has wrought,  
Of all this thinking soul has thought,  
And from these fleeting moments caught  
For glory or for shame.

by,  
Hannah Flagg Gould

