

## THE MESSENGER

Smith Grove Baptist Church

P.O. Box 57

Colfax, NC 27235

VOLUME 39

December 2022

ISSUE 465

### PROVERBS 25:13

As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him, for he refresheth the soul of his masters . . .

Sunday School	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Children's Church	11:15 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
Wednesday Service	7:00 PM
Bible Clubs	7:00 PM
Thursday Visitation	7:00 PM

~ NURSERY PROVIDED ~

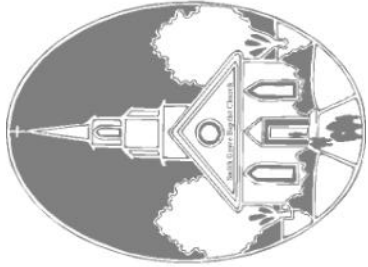
2707 Sandy Ridge Road

Colfax, NC 27235

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Peters, Pastor

Home: (336) 996-8563

Cell: (336) 812-1169



[www.smithgrove.org](http://www.smithgrove.org)

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# The Messenger



December  
2022



**Smith Grove Baptist Church**  
2707 Sandy Ridge Road ~ Colfax, NC 27235  
[www.smithgrove.org](http://www.smithgrove.org)

**Dr. Charles (Chuck) Peters, Pastor**  
Home: (336) 996-8563; Cell: (336) 812-1169  
**Rev. Bruce Freeman, Associate Pastor**  
H (336) 996-1501 C (336) 816-2473

Sunday School	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Children's Church	11:15 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
Wednesday Service	7:00 PM
Bible Clubs	6:45-8:15 PM

**Streaming Live:** Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/mySGBC/>  
YouTube  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39\\_zpMzkkCXdFYy1NKndQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39_zpMzkkCXdFYy1NKndQ)

**PROVERBS 25:13** *As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him, for he refresheth the soul of his masters . . .*

**Sat., Dec. 3, 6 pm - W-S Rescue Mission**

**Sun., Dec. 11 ~ Christmas Dinner after the morning service ~ covered dish meal.**

**Sun., Dec. 18, 6 pm ~ Smith Grove Choir & Youth will present, "Arise, Shine ~ Your Light Has Come"**

**Sun., Dec. 25, 11 am ~ Morning service ~ No Evening Service**

**Mondays, 3 pm, Robinwood Retirement Ctr. ~ Bible Study**

UNTIL  
US A  
IS Child  
Born



### Statement of Faith:

We are an Independent Baptist Church (*established in 1921*) preaching the old time Gospel and still believing that the King James Version of the Bible constitutes the preserved, inerrant, and inspired Word of God for the English speaking people of the earth.

# REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**SHUT-INS:** Iris Farrington Carolyn McBrayer

## IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY

**PVT Adam Brittain**, Army, Germany (Sam Crater's nephew)  
**SGT. Eric Compton**, Army, Ft. Stewart, GA (Doug Slate's grandson)  
**CW4 Jonathan Harless** (Raleigh) } (Hal & Martha  
**LTC Robert Harless** (Washington, DC) } Harless' sons)  
**E3 Noah Johnson**, US Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral,  
Cape Canaveral, FL (Henry & Geraldine Johnson's grandson)  
**Spec. Jocelyn Laramore**, US Army; Ft. Hood, TX (Granddaughter-in-law  
of Jim Laramore) Pray also for Valentino James Laramore, Jim's great  
grandson & his namesake.  
**CCWO5 Michael Maine**, US Army; Fort Rucker, AL  
(Nephew of Clarence Redmon)  
**SSGT Trevor Westmoreland**, Army, Fort Benning, GA  
(Allen & Sandy Westmoreland's son)



## A Letter a Day with a Verse to Stay

*This is a devotional series from Pastor Chuck which takes us through the alphabet with the inclusion of a Bible verse containing the letter. We will include one or two devotionals each month, until the alphabet is complete! Please pray that God will see fit to use these brief devotions for His glory.*



**K- "Keep"** "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." – II Timothy 1:12

The most profound and personal testimony is that of a redeemed sinner who has anchored their soul in the haven of the rest of a living and vital relationship with Jesus Christ through salvation. They can relate to a time in which they placed their trust where God placed their sins, in the finished work of Christ. They can speak with assurance and gladly testify to knowing Him for they know that He discharged their sin debt at Calvary. The redeemed sinner knows that Jesus was God incarnated in human flesh, yet died, was buried, and arose again. They speak with persuasion for they know that their soul is secure for it is deposited in the bank vault of God's grace and forgiveness. The Christian does not have to live in fear of a day of judgment for judgment, on account of their sins, fell upon the Person of the Divine Substitute. They sing and rejoice for they know of the "happy day when Jesus washed their sins away!"



## BEAMS' Report for November 2022

# of Pledges: 11; # of Contributions: 1;  
Total Contributors: 12  
Total Contributed: \$ 628.00 =  
78 Bibles in November (plus some postage)

*Many thanks to the Adult Fellowship Bible Class for their ongoing BEAMS' ministry which added \$ 250.00 for postage in November!*

You can also get the BEAMS' report online at our website:  
<https://www.smithgrove.org/beams-report/>

Services will be streaming Live every Wednesday at 7 p.m. & Sunday at 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. on [Facebook](#) & [YouTube](#) — (You do not need a



facebook account to watch the video on fb!)



<https://www.facebook.com/mySGBC/>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39\\_zpMzkkCXdFYy1NKndQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj39_zpMzkkCXdFYy1NKndQ)

To listen & download mp3:

Audio Archive Online ~ <https://www.smithgrove.org/audio-archive/>



## Men's & Ladies' Fellowship

Quarterly Mtgs.: (3rd Tuesdays - 7 p.m.)

Future Meeting times to be announced.



**Lessons from a Christmas Tree: Be a light in the darkness.**  
**We all fall over sometimes. You can never wear too much glitter.**  
**Bring joy to others. Sparkle and twinkle as often as possible.**  
**It's okay to be a little Tilted!**

## The Road to Everlasting Life

**Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

**Romans 5:12** "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

**Romans 5:8** "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

**Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

**Romans 10:9-10** "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

**Romans 10:13** "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."



**Smith Grove's ministry to our  
widows, widowers, & senior singles**  
*"Honour widows that are widows indeed."  
 (1 Timothy 5:3)*

This is a continuing churchwide ministry to remember *widows, widowers, and senior singles* of the church in a meaningful way. Each month, we highlight our special "Honour Roll Gang Members" who are having birthdays. Listed below are *December and January 2023* Honour Roll Gang members. Please take a moment to send a card, make a telephone call, or do something extra special for our special saints.

**Jo Ann Green**

3942 Cloverwood Meadow Ln  
 High Point, NC 27265  
 336-454-0351 (Home)  
 336-802-6172 (Cell) ~ December 17

**Bernice Johnson**

1624 Mellon Dr.  
 Kernersville, NC 27284  
 336-904-0832 ~ December 23

**Barbara Bowden**

8728 Bame Rd  
 Colfax, NC 27235  
 336-668-2495 ~ December 30

**Casandra Mann**

800 Quail Meadow  
 Colfax, NC 27235  
 336-993-4327 (Home)  
 336-317-3483 (Cell) ~ January 2

**Kathy Flynt**

896 Flynt Rd.  
 High Point, NC 27265  
 336-668-2500 (Home)  
 336-880-3352 (Cell) ~ January 7

**Doris Cochran**

122 Welch Dr  
 High Point, NC 27265  
 336-869-5059 ~ January 17

**Mary Ellen Haynes**

708 Lakedale Rd.  
 Colfax, NC 27235  
 336-993-2081 ~ January 27

**Dolly Westmoreland**

520 Lakedale Rd  
 Colfax, NC 27235  
 336-993-2093 ~ January 27

**Betty Bame**

8610 Adkins Rd  
 Colfax, NC 27235  
 336-993-2488 ~ January 30



*Are you or a family member turning 90 this year? Please let Pastor Chuck know if you would like to be recognized on your special birthday!*

*December Anniversaries*

4 Tim & Consuelo Matthews  
 23 Waynard & Carol Nuckles



*"Where Are You, Christmas?"*

**Matt. 2:2** *"Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."*



The wise men from a far-away land had beheld the star and came to Jerusalem enquiring as to where they could find the "King" and worship Him. Their question was, "where is he that was born King of the Jews?"

Again we find ourselves in a Christmas frenzy doing what comes natural for this time of the year. Again there are crowded shopping malls and busy highways. We hope that the right sizes were chosen or the other gifts will match the interest of those we attempt to please! Yes, we all love this yearly activity and gladly nourish the child spirit within. I, quite frankly, love the excitement of the season!

We do however, need to factor in that this is also a lonely time of the year for many people. Many of us are unable to include this year, loved ones on our gift buying list. Christmas will be spent cherishing precious memories instead of actually sharing the occasion with the one we love. I, for one, drove home this Christmas to spend some time with my family in Virginia. I could not return to my mother's home for she is no longer with us. Many of you are experiencing the same loss this year. If the Lord tarries His coming, some will know the hurt next Christmas.

I would offer, as a word of encouragement, the following antidote for loneliness and despair during Christmas. We may be asking at the Christmas dinner table, where is my mother, my father, my sister or brother? Oh yes, we know where they are if they died in the Lord! Yes, we will eventually join them and perhaps even spend next Christmas with them! The truth is that we still miss them and are lonely without their presence this Christmas.

The remedy for loneliness and despair is really found in the question asked by the wise men from the east. Christians need to rephrase their questions during Christmas. We should not be asking "where is the joy or where is the Christmas spirit?" We may be asking, where is mom or dad? We can still rejoice! The key is looking to Him that was born King of the Jews. If we can somehow understand that Christmas is really about Him, we can be truly joyous. Christian, we have seen His star and it has pointed us to Him. Do you remember the "Gospel Star" that pointed you to the Savior? You came to the cross as a seeking sinner enquiring, "Where is He?" You found Him then and He is still here! Remember the joy of sins forgiven and the peace with God?

A country music musician recorded the song, "Where are you Christmas?" She mentions the changing world and vulnerability to be caught up in the change and lose the love in one's heart and mind. She then concludes that when there is love in the heart and mind, Christmas is again felt and experienced. We would agree that the sentiment of love constitutes the Christmas spirit! We look at this truth in the deeper sense and understand that God's expression of love was supremely demonstrated in the gift of His Son as the substitute for our sin. His love is shed abroad in the heart of the Christian. The sentiment of love is fused by the Holy Spirit and continually sustained as we walk with Him and worship Him. When that love is fed by Him and directed back to Him, every day is Christmas day! *Where are you Christmas?* When He is our pursuit, *we find Christmas.* ~ Pastor Chuck Peters



**Teen Update ~** Worldview could be defined as what everyone believes and understands about life and the world around them which impacts how they think and act. It determines the perspective that we have on life and how we look at the world around us. In our study of *"A Biblical Worldview,"* we'll be looking to the Bible to see what God had to say as we work towards developing a biblical worldview by which we should live.

**"What is true?"** was the first question we discussed to help our teens in developing a biblical worldview. Knowing what is true is the foundation of understanding our world. Truth is known to be any statement, thought, or belief that matches the world as it really is. The truth will always reflect reality. To understand what is really true we turned to the Bible for our answers.

~Isaiah 45:18-19 and Jeremiah 32:17 tells us that God gives knowledge.

~John 8:31-32 tells us that truth can be known.

~John 14:6 tells us that Jesus is the Source of truth.

~Psalms 119:160 and John 17:17 tells us that God's Word is truth.

~John 16:13 tells us that God helps us with understanding truth.

There are also misconceptions about truth. Many in our culture today have concluded that we can't know the truth, and the term "truth" has been redefined to mean one's personal beliefs. Truth is not a personal issue, but rather something outside ourselves that is true for all. What people refer to as their "truth" is just their opinion. When actual truth and opinions collide we no longer seek truth outside ourselves where it can be found.

The world we live in today is full of crazy ideas and for some, it can be very confusing to know what to believe. God loves us so much and doesn't want us to live our lives in confusion. He created each of us to be the thinkers and truth seekers! When discovering the truth that God has revealed to us in the Bible, we always find the answers we seek!

The next question we discussed was **"Who is God?"** We know He is holy, righteous, gracious, just, merciful, loving, and the list could go on and on. We know these wonderful qualities because He chose to reveal Himself to us through the Bible.

~Isaiah 45:18-19 and Jeremiah 32:17 tells us He is the Creator of all things.

~Psalms 103:19 tells us He is sovereign over the Universe.

~Genesis 17:1 and Matthew 19:26 tells us He is all Powerful.

~1 John 3:20 and John 21:17 tells us He is all Knowing.

~Psalms 36:9 and 104:27-30 tells us He is the Giver of life.

As we discussed the foundation of our worldview we see that because our world came from God, the way we approach it should start with God. We must view the world through His eyes. It is through His word that we can find a reliable truth by which we can understand all issues of life. The impact of God within our worldview is that we cannot take God for granted as each of us live our lives. God is our Creator, and He is the reason we even exist. When we understand His power, it gives us the confidence to trust in Him.

When we know His love and promises, it gives us hope. When we study His word, we get direction. How each of us views God will greatly impact how we will view our lives and the world around us. It is, for this reason, that we must always place Him in the center of our lives! ~ John & Stephanie Moore



## Be Strong ~ Youth

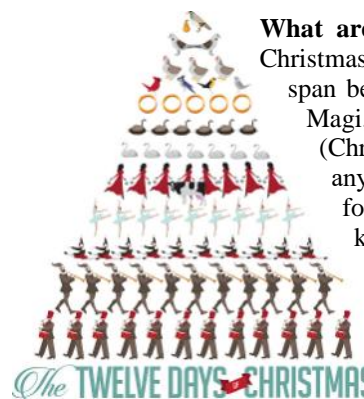
As Christmastime approaches, our youngsters are busy preparing our hearts to celebrate the coming of our Savior! We're deeply grateful for your generous help in packing shoeboxes to send across the world... thank you, church family, for being part of this year's Operation Christmas Child outreach. Help us pray that young hearts will be touched, and that many will invite Jesus to be Lord of their lives as these gifts are delivered, along with the saving message of the gospel.

In the midst of upcoming festivities, we're continuing our journey through the Bible, adding a new segment to the timeline, called *Crowns and Prison*. In the weeks ahead, we'll explore more of Israel's history as the kingdom divides, and God's people are exiled and returned. In this, our final Old Testament portion, we look forward to meeting Elijah, Elisha, Joash, Jonah, Hezekiah, Daniel, Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah. What a fitting time to ponder the darkness of those days, when God's people could only cling to the glorious promise that God would someday send His Light... His precious Son, to bring hope and salvation to this fallen, fragile world.

This is why we are blessed to join with our choir to present "Arise, Shine!" this Christmas season. With the words, *"Arise, shine, for thy light is come"*, Isaiah prophesied about the coming Messiah hundreds of years before He arrived. As the story unfolds between the songs, our youngsters will portray a family of Bethlehem lampmakers, recalling the precious night of Jesus' birth. For some who saw the tiny King in the feeding trough, it seemed impossible to think this Baby could be God's Son. But for those who saw with eyes of faith, they believed He was God, cloaked in human flesh. In these dark, uncertain times, we too, must open our eyes and hearts to the Light of the World. Like the lampmaker's family, we're grateful to be living in this age of grace, able to proclaim that Jesus has come... to not only *live with* us, but to *die for* us. We always appreciate another chance to gather at the manger with our church family. Together, we celebrate God's unspeakable Gift to us... Jesus our Savior, given in love, so that we might be redeemed!

*May Christmas find you wrapped in His love and rejoicing in His light!*

~ Bruce, Darla, & Marshall



**What are the 12 days of Christmas?** The 12 days of Christmas is the period in Christian theology that marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men. It begins on December 25 (Christmas) and runs through January 6 (the Epiphany, sometimes also called Three Kings' Day). The four weeks preceding Christmas are collectively known as Advent, which begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on December 24. "The 12 Days of Christmas" is also a Christmas carol in which the singer brags about all the cool gifts they received from their "true love" during the 12 days of Christmas.

## A Gift of Thorns

Strange gift indeed! - a thorn to prick-  
To pierce into the very quick,  
To cause perpetual sense of pain.  
Strange gift! And yet, 'twas given for gain.

Unwelcome, it came to stay;  
Nor could it even be prayed away.  
It came to fill its God-planned place  
A life-enriching means of grace.

O much tried saint, with fainting heart,  
The thorn with its abiding smart,  
With all its wearing, ceaseless pain  
Can be thy means of priceless gain.

And so whate'er thy thorn may be,  
From God accept it willingly.  
But reckon CHRIST - HIS LIFE - HIS POWER  
To keep, in thy most trying hour.

And sure thy life will richer grow;  
His grace sufficient will bestow.  
And in Heav'n's morn thy joy 'twill be  
That by His thorn, He strengthened thee.

*I found this poem written in  
Mother's and Daddy's Bible.  
It was written in my  
mother's hand. ....Sherrill*



~ The beauty of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His presence.

~Matthew 1:23

~ Each of us in an innkeeper, who decides if there is room for Jesus. ~Luke 2:7

~ A thousand times in history, a baby has become a king, But only once in history, did a King become a baby. ~Luke 2:11; Isaiah 7:25; John 1:14



*Charlie Brown*, you're the only person I know who can take a wonderful season like Christmas and turn it into a problem. Maybe Lucy's right. Of all the Charlie Browns in the world, you're the Charlie Browniest.

~ *Linus Van Pelt*

## The Kennedys & the New Life Children's Home

~Peru, SA

### Greetings from our family and The New Life Children's Home ...

It's a great joy to share with you some of the things God has allowed us to be a part of recently. Thank you for your prayers and financial support for us and this ministry. We appreciate your generosity and sacrificial giving! It's such an honor to be a part of your Missionary Family!!

### Ministry & Family Life

We are so thankful for the open doors we've had to minister together and be back in Peru sharing The Gospel. Chelene and I were blessed to have three of our children with us in Peru this summer. We were also happy to have several groups from the US ... sharing Christ in schools, markets, villages, rehabilitation centers, giving out Bibles, Gospel tracts, blankets, building homes for widows, spending time with the children at NLCH, and much more!

### New Life Children's Home

Meet our newest blessing at NLCH. Thayza arrived at New Life on August 5th. We love having her with us!

If you're interested in learning how you can help us meet her needs, please contact us at the numbers or email given below. Thayza and several others are in need for sponsors. Along with taking in more children, we've also had several placed with families. Seeing them get adopted or placed back with family members is always bittersweet, but so rewarding. Watching them grow in the knowledge of The Gospel and realizing that God loves them and has a purpose for their lives is our greatest accomplishment.



### New Life Christian School

In July we had a special program celebrating Peru's Independence (July 28th), and I had the privilege of sharing the Gospel with the families and guests of our students. Many trusted Christ as their Savior, including a deaf couple. NLCS is providing a Biblical influence and education to almost 200 children and their families! Please continue to pray for The New Life Christian School and financial needs, so we can continue helping these children and families.

### We need your help . . . meeting their needs!

With inflation and the effects of Covid (both in the US and Peru) we are paying much more for food and necessities at NLCH. We are praying for 50 people (families, Sunday school Classes, or Churches) to give \$25.00 a month to help us meet these needs. Would you please pray about being one of these 50? Also, as Christmas approaches we need to raise funds for gifts for both the children and workers at NLCH.

If you can help or have any questions please contact us at:  
perumissions@yahoo.com or call us at (336)905-0964 and (336)905-0330.  
Thank you in advance for your consideration and prayers for these needs.





# The Wonder of Christmas




None of us can deny that Christmas is somewhat of a magical and exciting time of the year. There is a noticeable difference in the spirit, attitude, and excitement level this time of the year. Most of us do not have a lot of patience with Christmas Scrooges, unless we are a Scrooge! An atheist complained to a Christian friend, “You Christians have your special holidays, such as Christmas and Easter. Jews celebrate their national holidays, such as Passover and Yom Kippur. But we atheists have no recognized national holidays. It’s unfair discrimination.” His friend replied, “Why don’t you celebrate April first?”

The wonder of Christmas is found in the One whose name is “Wonderful”! “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.” – Isa. 9:6 The Shepherds found that wonder for they found the wonder of Christmas!

I miss the Christmas that I experienced as a child. I miss the fun and family time when all of my family was living. I miss the fun, wonder, excitement of childhood at Christmas time. That part is gone but the real wonder of Christmas will never be gone. Traditions are altered by time and death of family members but truth stands. How can we lose Christmas when its meaning pertains to the birth of Christ? In order to lose Christmas, we would have to lose an historical event. We would have to lose a fulfillment of prophecy. We would lose a necessary requirement for the redemption of sinners. The virgin birth of Christ!

The Real Wonder of Christmas never ends because the One whose name is “Wonderful” lives forever! The wonder is found in a “Name” – “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” – Matthew 1:23

  
**GOD  
ROCK  
SAVIOR  
MESSIAH  
IMMANUEL  
HOLY • CHILD  
MIGHTY • GOD  
LORD • OF • ALL  
LAMB • OF • GOD  
CHRIST • OF • GOD  
KING • OF • KINGS  
THE • WORD • OF • GOD  
ALPHA • AND • OMEGA  
PRINCE • OF • PEACE  
LIGHT • OF • THE • WORLD  
HEAD • OF • THE • CHURCH  
SON • OF • THE • HIGHEST  
EVERLASTING • FATHER  
RESURRECTION • AND • LIFE  
JESUS**

The wonder was expressed in a question – “Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him” – Mat. 2:2 The wonder is found in the miracle of the event – “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.” – Mat.1:18

The wonder is found in the experience of salvation made possible by the virgin birth of Christ – “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” – Mat.1:21. What a celebration when we know the Author! The wonder is every day and forever! The wonder is in a gift of all gifts – Jn.3:16 The wonder is in a reflection on the Person of Christmas – “Mary kept those things...” The wonder is in a Christmas Carol – “Glory to God in the highest...” The wonder is in a Gospel message that has saving power – Rom.1:16 The wonder is the peace of God in the heart of the redeemed. The wonder is in a hope that will be realized. – “And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.” – Rev.19:6 The wonder was found in the One wrapped up in swaddling clothes. That same one Who was wrapped up was lifted up on a cross, He was raised up out of the tomb, He ascended up to heaven, He will call up His church, he will straighten up this earth one day and will rule upon this earth.

The wonder of Christmas is an eternal wonder found by a hell bound sinner when they receive the Wonderful Saviour in their heart. When you have found the wonder, you will forever celebrate the wonder!

*Pastor Chuck Peters – 11/1/2022*

*Celebrate*  
THE  
Wonder