

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! ” 2 Cor. 9:15 (NIV)



Hope! Peace! Love! Joy! We are in the season of Advent, a time to reflect on the coming celebration of the birth of Christ and the anticipation of His return at the second coming. (“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, meaning “God with us.” Matthew 1:23 (NKJV) I constantly marvel at the fulfillment of prophecy from the Old Testament in the New Testament; in this case from Isaiah 7:14. With the coming of every Christmas, we should be filled with excitement and anticipation, as we look forward to the joyous celebration of Jesus’ birth. Advent is about preparing our hearts and homes for Christ’s birth. Instead, however, some of us experience increased stress and anxiety thinking of all the extra expectations and preparations needed to make the season a “Hallmark” presentation! Personally, I go through this yearly, yet knowing full well that “Jesus is the reason for the season.” Perhaps it’s Satan desperately trying to break me down and entice me to join the throngs in our current culture who forget why we really celebrate Christmas. For Christians, Advent is for remembrance with prayer, reflection, special music and helpful deeds to others, to focus on the intended meaning of the preparations and celebration of Christmas.

Beautiful Christmas music helps me focus during Advent and my preparations for Christmas. Carols and lovely Christmas songs, concerts, cantatas, and even “pop-up” renditions of the Hallelujah Chorus in the shopping malls remind me in word and song of what is most important. I listen to them on the radio, play CDs, and attend concerts to fill me with reminders of Christ’s arrival and his ultimate sacrifice for me. Because Advent is

not only the expectation of Christ’s birth, but also the expectation of His return, the words of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” seem to represent it well:

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Perhaps each of you has favorite Christmas songs and carols that are especially meaningful. I encourage you to take advantage of opportunities to listen to or participate in music. As you listen closely to the words and music, praise God for the artists, the authors and the composers for the abilities they received from Him to express their love and gratitude for the gift of Christ, His one and only Son. Christian radio stations offering Christmas music provide an excellent alternative to worldly pop music. Favorite Christmas CDs by Christian artists are good companions when traveling.

Choosing to spend more time in scripture reading, devotions, and prayer help remind me to “be still and know” that God is near! “Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” (Psalm 46:10 NIV) Participation in giving opportunities and special times with friends and family fills us with gratitude for the ability to do so as recognition of just how generous God, through Christ, has been.

While shopping for gifts for family and friends, remember God gave us the ultimate gift—his Son, Jesus, and allowed Him to die on the cross for our sins. No earthly gift can surpass that love. The light He brought into this dark world should bring joy to every heart.

Wishing each of you a blessed, peace- and joy-filled Christmas.

Susan Lutz, CPFI member
Altoona, IA

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Thank you to our 2022 donors! CPFI extends a special thank you to Dr. Lucy Malmberg for her exceedingly generous support!

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APhA 2023 Annual Meeting & Exposition CPFI Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, March 26, 2023
7:30 AM to 8:45 AM (GMT)
Cost \$25.

Speaker: Dr. Jeffrey A. Bates, Dean
Cedarville University School of Pharmacy
Tickets may be purchased when registering on the
APhA website. A small quantity will be sold at the door.
Register: <https://aphameeting.pharmacist.com/>
Visit www.cphi.org for updates on the prayer breakfast.



2023 CPFI Annual Conference & National Student Retreat Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center

91 N Lakeshore Dr., Lake Junaluska, NC 28745
National Student Retreat May 24 to 28
Annual Conference May 25 to 28
<https://lakejunaluska.com/>
Registration opens January 9, 2023



Wilkes University student chapter wins CPFI Operation Christmas Child shoebox challenge!

"This year our CPFI chapter at Wilkes University continued our tradition of supporting Operation Christmas Child by gathering toys and hygiene items to pack in shoeboxes and send to children in need. Each year, we gather donations by sharing our intentions to help those in need with our friends and family, and asking for any donations that people are willing to contribute. Additionally, our current executive board members agreed to donate enough items to fill three shoeboxes each, to help facilitate our initiative. With support from the community, we were blessed to receive enough donations to pack 55 Operation Christmas Child boxes this year and are excited to continue our tradition in the future." Chloe Gilbert, NSC representative for Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, PA



**Are you a pharmacist interested in
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Samaritan's Purse is actively seeking to hire pharmacists for the on-call international Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART).

See the most recent field hospital in Ukraine in [this video](#), and [learn more](#) and apply on the website.



CPFI Prayer Ministry

Join us Sunday, January 15, 2023 at 5:00 PM ET!

The CPFI Past Presidents Committee was asked to implement a prayer ministry on behalf of CPFI. In March 2020, we started a weekly Prayer Meeting on Sunday evening at 5 p.m. ET, initially to pray about Covid-19 needs. **In 2023, we plan to meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Please join us at 5pm ET on January 15th.** If you would like an invitation, e-mail Nena Lindrose at Office@cpfi.org. She will send a reminder e-mail with instructions on how to join and some suggested prayer concerns during the week prior to the meeting. We hope you will join us **Sunday, January 15, 2023**, for our next session. By signing up you are only committing to participate when able and praying out loud is voluntary. Fred Eckel, Past President

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