

#### SUPERINTENDENT



Don Miller donmiller@somoag.org

### Hope is Born

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope," (Romans 15:13, ESV)

The human mind and heart can overcome nearly insurmountable obstacles. Yet, one thing seems to stop life and peace cold...hopelessness! Hopelessness brings despair, a feeling of no answers and no way out. In the last 18 months our nation and our world has experienced so much feeling of hopelessness, often egged on by social media and doomsday newscasters. From Covid, to racial unrest, to political unrest, to potential shortages...the list goes on and on.

Enter Jesus!

Possibly greater than any time in decades, the true message of Christmas is needed by our country and our world. In the midst of hopelessness, God has given us unwavering hope.

It is not an uncertain, "Well, I hope so." It is a sure hope filled with assurance and confidence. What a beautiful message that he who knew no sin became sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God!

In the midst of the negative, dark culture in which we live, let's purpose this Christmas to go counterculture and remind those around us of the awesomeness of the story that God sent His son to be born as a baby, to live and to die and rise again. He did all this so we would never have to feel or be hopeless.

Take heart believers! I sense that we are about to enter into the greatest spiritual harvest this world has ever known because Jesus is coming soon. Determine now to be part of the difference. Through relationship and love, during this special season share the news with those around you. Hope is born...His name is Jesus!

### Commissionings



Eric and Brooke Bates - Morrisville Assembly of God



Jim and Kim Kaminski - Park Hills First Assembly



Scott and Rebecca Barton - Eldon First Assembly



Shawn and Andrea Miner - Tipton Assembly of God



#### REFRESH MINISTRY WOMEN

Vicki Miller vickimiller@somoag.org

## refresh connect groups





Are you a woman minister or minister's wife?



#### Refresh Connect Groups are for you!

- Meet online with Facebook or Zoom or live in person
- Connect to build relationships with other women in ministry
- Be renewed, refreshed and encouraged

We recognize the importance of life-giving community. We invite you to join a Connect group where you will learn and grow as a woman in ministry.

Go to www.freshenitup.org for more information.





**Stan Welch** stanwelch@somoag.org

# CHRISTMAS BRINGS THE HOPE OF GLORY TO MEN

Christmas is about many things. We enjoy the excitement of children. The coming together of our families and the music of the season. Sherry loves Christmas movies, Christmas trees, and Christmas celebrations. And she makes sure that Christmas is special around the Welch house.

The giving and receiving of gifts is a wonderful custom that accompanies our Christmas celebrations. I remember as a child trying to guess what the gifts were; and thinking I knew what was inside, only to finally open it to find something greater than what I had guessed was inside!

Men have been in great anticipation for the coming Messiah for many centuries and when He came they were greatly surprised to see that the Hope of His Glory was greater than anything they had expected.

For instance, Zacharias and Elizabeth were surprised to hear that their son, John the Baptist, was to be the forerunner of Christ.

And to say Joseph was surprised is an understatement when he was told of the coming birth of Christ.

Mary was very surprised at the announcement that she, a virgin, would have a son and He would be the Son of God, the Savior of the world.

And none were more surprised than the lowly shepherds that were told that the Glory of God had come to men! God sent the fullness of His Glory and had Him wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, Jesus Christ born of the Virgin Mary is the Glory of God revealed!

The glory of God is His manifested presence to mankind! John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

One of the greatest surprises of Christmas is the Hope that the revelation of His glory brings. Colossians 1:2" the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

When we celebrate Christmas with our family and the presents are opened, the torn wrapping paper lays across the family room, and empty boxes are scattered around, we may feel a little emptiness that it's all over, the anticipation is gone, and the surprise is gone.

But when we open the mystery gift that was hidden for ages and generations, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory He comes to give us a living hope that takes up residence in our lives. There is no feeling of emptiness, for now we can go from glory to glory.

Sherry and I wish each of a very Merry Christmas as you enjoy Christ in you, the Hope of His Glory. Let Jesus fill your life and take all emptiness and loneliness out of you heart.

May you be filled with the Glory of Christmas!





Stan Welch stanwelch@somoag.org



# Camdenton First A/G Building Dedication



It was a privilege to be a part of the dedication of Camdenton First's new church building on November 20th. It is exciting to see what God is doing and we look forward to seeing all the great things He still has in store. Below, Pastor Greg Mills shares a brief statement of their journey.





On January 31, 2020 our church, our ministry base, our calling (or so we thought) was a complete loss by fire. Just six weeks later, COVID shut everything down and so began our time of waiting. No matter how hard we tried pushing, making innumerable phone calls, and hours of work, we could not rush the timeline that God had for our church. Each time that we experienced a setback, God opened our eyes a little more and showed us how His hand was with us and was working things out for His good in the waiting. We were able to build relationships with the community that would not have happened on our timeline. In addition, we have been blessed with ministry opportunities that we would have missed if we had already been in our new building. We have learned as pastors and as a church how to fully lean into God and rely on Him during this season of waiting. The best part of all, even though there were record highs in lumber and supply costs, we were blessed to be able to finish our building DEBT FREE! November 20-21, we celebrated our first services in our new building. We are rejoicing for all that God has blessed us with. We are excited to begin ministry from this new home base, but we are even more excited to see the results from all that God was doing IN THE WAITING. Rev. Greg Mills









Rhonda Amer ramer@somoag.org

### Hope Was Born This Night

Sidewalk Prophets

Tonight I can see a star shine
And its splendor fills up the sky
It's the same that appeared
And the wisemen revered
When Hope was born this night
Out upon the snowy fields
There's a silent peace that heals
And it echoes the grace
Of our Savior's embrace
Because Hope was born this night
I can hear the Christmas bells ringing
As softly a church choir sings

It's the song used to praise
The ancient of days
When Hope was born this night
There are angels in this place
And my heart resounds in the praise
Like a shepherd so scared
I'll rejoice and declare
That Hope was born this night
Glory to God in the highest
Peace on earth
Goodwill to men
Let all of the world

Sing the chorus of joy
Because Hope was born this night
Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, Gloria
Glory to God in the highest
Peace on earth
Goodwill to men
Let all of the world
Sing the chorus of joy
Because Hope was born this night
Because Hope was born this night
I know hope was born this night
Because Christ was born this night

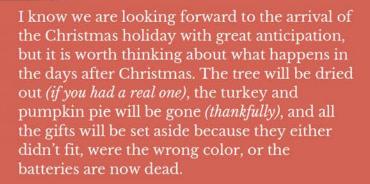
### Sectional Council Tours 2022

Date	Section	Presbyter	Location	Time
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Tuesday, Feb 22	WP	Jerry Orf	Cabool	12:00 Lunch then 1:00 Mtg
Tuesday, Feb 22	VB	Scott Reynolds	1344 Ozark Ave, Cabool <b>Ellsinore, First</b> 20 N Pine St. Ellsinore	5:30 meal 6:00 Meeting
Wednesday, Feb 23	KN	Richard Ross	<b>Malden, First</b> 929 N Madison St, Malden	10:00 Meeting
Wednesday, Feb 23	CG	Phil Roop	Cape First at Sikeston 1370 N Main St. Sikeston	1:30 Meeting
Thursday, Feb 24	РН	<b>Dwight Jones</b>	Park Hills, Harvest Christian Co	entre 10:00 Meeting then go to Catfish Kettle for lunch
Thursday, Feb 24	SL	Joe Zarro	St. Louis, Grace Union 3900 Union Road, St. Louis	3:00 Meeting
Friday, Feb 25	SU	Jerry Beers	<b>Rolla, First</b> 1608 N Oak St, Rolla	10:00 Meeting
Friday, Feb 25	SD	Jeff Higbie	<b>Jeff City, First</b> 1900 Route C, Jeff City	3:00 Meeting
Monday, Feb 28	SS	Ryan Goeden	Springfield, New Life 776 W Farm Road 186 Springfield	10:00 Meeting then \$10 Lunch
Monday, Feb 28	SN	<b>Brad McAtee</b>	<b>Springfield, North Side</b> 2310 N Campbell Ave, Springfield	11:30 Lunch then 1:00 Mtg
Tuesday, Mar 1	KC	John Martz	Hilton Garden Inn 19677 East Jackson Dr, Independence	11:00 Lunch then Mtg
Tuesday, Mar 1	CL	Allen Perkins	Clinton, First 1506 E Ohio St, Clinton	4:00 Meeting
Thursday, Mar 3	JO	Ken Robinson	<b>Joplin, Faith</b> 7211 E 32 <sup>nd</sup> St, Joplin	6:00 Meeting



Greg Perkins gperkins@somoag.org





It's easy to feel an emotional let-down when things are over and immediately turn our thoughts toward the fresh start of a New Year to pick up our spirits. Before you do, consider what remains long after the gifts and the calendar date has passed – HOPE! On some level we all know this, but it is often overlooked or dismissed in the race to move on.

Look at what the Apostle Paul says in Romans 5:1-6: "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

"And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly."

When everything has been unwrapped and unplugged, the impact of Christmas is NOT over! Christmas celebrates the birth of HOPE in the world. Christmas is NEVER over as long as HOPE remains.

#### **Merry Christmas!**

Greg & Di Perkins

### NEED HOPE FOR YOUR CHURCH IN 2022?

Text the word SOMO to 97-000 Get immediate help



**Jerry Harris** jharris@somoag.org



BY JERRY HARRIS, REACH MISSOURI NETWORK

#### **New Church Planters Join Network**

Join us as we welcome two new church planting families to the RMN Network. These pastors need your prayer support as they build God's church and become influencers for Christ in their communities.



#### John & Angie Yates

**Appleton City** 

With a burden for rural America and reaching souls for Jesus, the Yates are called to a discipleship driven ministry, one that is geared toward equipping people for Kingdom service.

#### **Troy & Michelle Coke**

**Bonne Terre** 

The mission is to offer newness of life through Christ to people in the Bonne Terre community. "We are excited to see what God is going to do."







For this is as the Lord commanded us when he said, "I have made you a light to the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the farthest corners of the earth."

(Acts 13:47)

This verse sums up the rest of Acts 13 and marks a turning point in Acts. Now the emphasis is on the spread of the Gentile church throughout the Roman world. It grew because of a dynamic, doctrinally sound, spirit-filled church at Antioch, a flag-ship church that reached the then known world. It was a "multiplying" church that brought the message of "hope" to its world by sending church planters, namely Paul, to start new churches.

Throughout church history, and in particularly our Assemblies of God history, starting new churches has proven to be the most effective way of bringing "hope," the message of Christ, to our generation.

Every community deserves a thriving and impactful church that is influencing the very core of our culture with the message of "hope." The RMN vision and goal is to start sixty new, thriving, impactful and influential churches in the next 10 years: 20 in St. Louis, 20 in Kansas City and 20 in our rural communities.

I am grateful that we are well on our way. Please be praying for our new churches, that we will see successful launches in Bonne Terre, Appleton City, Louisiana, and Branson, and for strength, wisdom, support and health for all our church planting families.

Thank you for your continued financial support and prayers for Reach Missouri Network. Without it we could not expand the message of hope to people through new churches.

May this season bring you a renewed sense of hope and passion, like the hope and passion that gripped the hearts of the spiritual leaders of the Antioch Church to send pioneers into every community with the message of Christ.

# Merry Christmas from Southern Missouri District Team



George and Annette Westlake III

Assistant Superintendent



**Don and Vicki Miller** Superintendent Refresh Ministry



Stan and Sherry Welch
Executive Secretary/Missions
WM Director



#### **Presbytery**

From Left to Right: Richard Ross, Joe Zarro, Jeff Higbie, Jerry Orf, Jason St. John, Ryan Goeden, Brenda Henson, Jerry Beers, George Westlake III, Don Miller, Ken Robinson, Stan Welch, Phil Roop, Scott Reynolds, Ted Cederblom, Allen Perkins, Paul Scheperle, John Martz, Brad McAtee, and James McIntosh

Not Pictured: Dwight Jones



Rhonda Amer Chief Financial Officer



Greg and Di Ann Perkins
Church Development/Mens Ministry



Jerry and Lisa Harris Church Planting

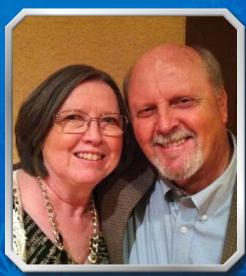


Austin, Lauren, Jude and Quinn Westlake
District Youth Director





Jim and Pam Calvin Christian Education



Carrol and Gayle Deal Missions – Resource & Development



Curtis and Cindy Washam
District Prayer Coordinators/
Cross Pointe Camp



DeShae, Mark and Emma Thrasher
Girls Ministries



John and Amanda Hicks Royal Rangers



John and Judy Heide 50 Plus Ministry



**Our Support Staff** 

Left to Right: Shannon Fox, Nancy Cook, Kevin Parkison, Sharon Julian, Marsha Fortin, Kim Glad, and Carleen Clair. Not Pictured: Amber Mills and Josh Fong

#### **WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**



**Sherry Welch** wms@somoag.org





### Hope is Born

When Jesus was born God made it evident that this baby was the one for whom the world had been waiting for. Our Savior and Our King.

What joy filled Mary and Joseph's hearts as they looked down at their baby boy. What hope they had in knowing this child was the one in whom all of God's promises would be fulfilled.

The past few years have brought much heartbreak for all of us with the pandemic. I am thankful as children of God we can look hopefully to the future. Hope means we can expect better days. Things won't always be the way they are now.

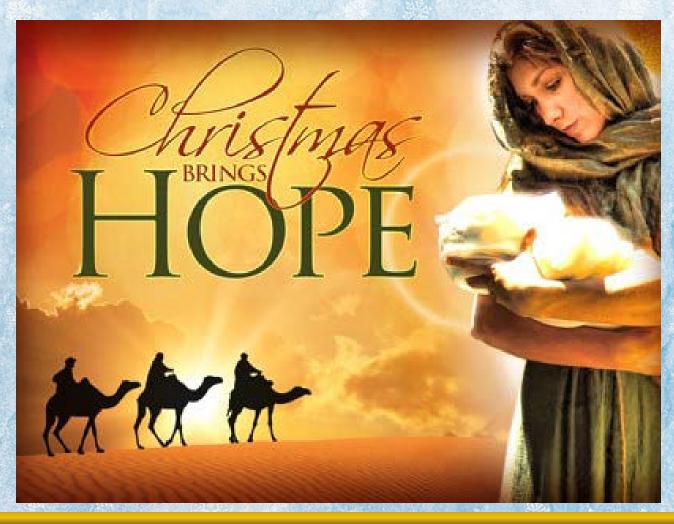
Hebrews 10:23

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Merry Christmas to you from our family to yours!

May the peace, joy, and hope that God gives fill your hearts during this holiday season and always as you put your trust in him!

Sherry



#### GIRLS MINISTRIES



Deshae Thrasher dthrasher@somoag.org



# Hope is Born

There did it all begin for you? Everyone has a story that has led them to exactly where they are today. For many of us the Savior prophesied about in Isaiah 9:6 has radically transformed our story! The beginning of each of our stories was marked by the darkness of being born into sin and the selfishness that quickly engulfs us. We quickly become accustomed to the demands of life and are looking for ways to belong and succeed. Our human nature is flawed, so we are willing to do whatever it takes to achieve those two things. Even from a young age students do not have to be taught to lie, steal or make wrong choices they merely see what they want or need and try to do it for themselves. It is until we see our utter inability to provide for ourselves adequately on our own that we desperately cry out for help. Thankfully we can call on the the Savior born in Bethlehem many years ago. Our hope for a future was born in Bethlehem as baby, but the end of His earthly story is the beginning of ours! How has Jesus changed your life? How can you share this story with someone else this Christmas season? Our stories have all been marked by sin, how can you be a part of seeing the life of a student changed because of the Hope Jesus brings?









St. James First Assembly of God was the highest giving church with over \$2,000 for missions project.





# PURE GIRL 2021 THE MYSTERY REVEALED

God wants to reveal Himself in and through the lives of the girls across the Southern Missouri District

> SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 5 Go Bold Girl Spring Tour

> > More details to come



MEN **Greg Perkins** gperkins@somoag.org





























2.18 KANSAS CITY

**WEST PLAINS** 

2022

#### **ROYAL RANGERS**



John Hicks rangers@somoag.org

### IMPROVING CAMP MILLHOUSER

One of the many blessings the men and boys of our district enjoy is our district Royal Rangers campgrounds at Rocky Mount. Located just down the road from Cross Pointe, the Royal Rangers campground has been a focal point of this ministry for many years.

Last year we had the privilege of renaming our campground as "Camp Millhouser" in honor of Jerry and Brenda Millhouser who served so faith fully as our District Commander & spouse for over 33 years. A new entryway is almost completed that will reflect this change and provide campers with an impressive first look as they enter the camp for next year's events.

A log cabin is also nearing completion in the FCF village of the camp. This cabin was originally built over 100 years ago on the property and was carefully disassembled, moved, and reassembled at its new location.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Bob Sederwall, Mark Jones, Don Bixler, Jerry Haines, Michael Harris, and many more who helped with these projects to improve our campground and make it a place of adventure for every boy.

Basic features such as camping, hiking trails, and multiple outdoor amphitheaters are available for use by any Royal Rangers or Men's Ministries group from our district at no cost. Hot showers, a large indoor dining facility, a full-sized gym, and other facilities are available at very modest fees and could provide your church with a great low-cost option for winter or spring activities. Contact us at Rangers@somoag.org for details.



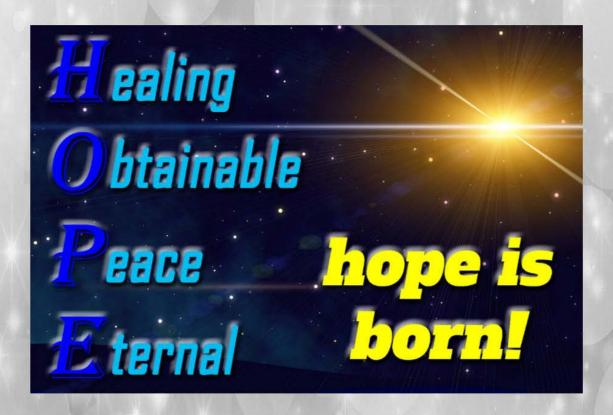




#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Jim Calvin jcalvin@somoag.org



In these days of confusion and uncertainty,
Pam and I wish for you the peace and blessings
of God for you and your family throughout the
Chirstmas season and in the future.
We love you and value your friendship greatly.

"For to us a child is born, to us a child is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

sa. 9:6



YOUTH
Austin Westlake
awestlake@somoag.org





#### SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES



John Heide johnheide2002@yahoo.com

# When Hope was Boun!

From the time a child is conceived until birth is usually 9 months. The conception of the child and the birth of the child is a process which cannot be speeded up or bypassed and will be accompanied by sickness, pain, questions, laughter, tears and Hope.

Salvation was birthed in the heart of God before creation yet there had to be a process worked out before Hope could be introduced to the world that first Christmas morning as baby Jesus.

Redemptions process that started before creation took 4,000 years but God keeps his promises and in the fullness of time Christ was born. Romans 5:5 says that hope does not make us ashamed because God will keep his promises and whether we receive the answer to our prayers immediately or after a lengthy and sometimes painful process his word is true.

Hope in this world has nothing solid to base itself on and can be more wishful thinking that things turn out okay. Hope built upon the promises of God will never make us ashamed because God is faithful.

"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness..

He who began a good work in you and every 50 pluser will see his promise to completion. As the world's hope turns into hopelessness the Believers ultimate hope will turn into reality, just like that first Christmas morning! Merry Christmas!

### 50 Plus Fall Bus trip to Amish Country







































#### **2021 MINISTER'S SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**









What a great Ministers Spiritual Renewal as Scott Wilson spoke life changing words in every session!

Grace Community Church led us into powerful worship and helped prepare our hearts for what God desired to speak to us.









# SOUTHERN MISSOURI DISTRICT — AESSENGER

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#### **District Leadership**

Executive Presbyters	Sectional Presbyters	
Superintendent	Cape Girardeau	
Assistant Superintendent George Westlake III	Clinton Allen Perkins	
Secretary-Missions Stan Welch	Joplin Ken Robinson	
S. E. Region Brenda Henson	Kansas CityJohn Martz	
N. E. Region Paul Scheperle	KennettRichard Ross	
S. W. Region Ted Cederblom	Park Hills Dwight Jones	
N. W. Region Jason St. John	Saint Louis Joe Zarro	
District Ministries	SedaliaJeff Higbie	
Chief Financial OfficerRhonda Amer	Springfield NorthBrad McAtee	
Church PlantingJerry Harris	Springfield South	
Church Development/Men's Ministry Greg Perkins	Sullivan Jerry Beers	
Missions Stan Welch	Van Buren Scott Reynolds	
Women's Ministries Sherry Welch	West PlainsJerry Orl	
Church Growth & Ed Jim Calvin	Ethnic Presbyter James McIntosh	
Youth MinistriesAustin Westlake		
Royal Rangers John Hicks		
Girls Ministries DeShae Thrasher		

#### **EDITORS**

Fifty Plus Ministries.....John Heide Cross Pointe Camp.....Curtis & Cindy Washam

Don Miller, Executive Editor Rhonda Amer, Managing Editor

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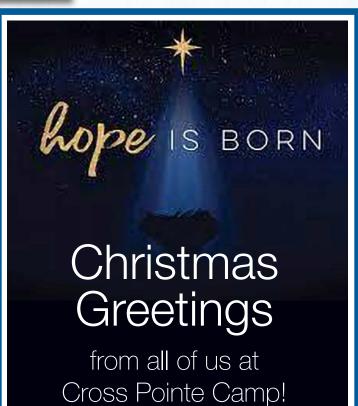
#### **Ministerial Updates**

Ministerial Opdates
New Pastors Tim Kraibel Turning Point Shawn Miner Tipton AG Eric Bates Morrisville AG Scott Beiermann Life360 Conway Scott Barton Eldon First
Transfers In: Michael Towers Sarah M. Brack Joshua Shaffer Benjamin Miller Starla Hoffman Arkansas Starla Hoffman Arkansas Eric Bates Georgia Brooke Bates Beth Moss Cameron Tilus Jok James Reine LA Laura Holeman Helton
Transfers Out  Maxwell Southern Indiana Keshia Southern Indiana Leonard Mitchell TN Josh Sousa Indiana Elizabeth Danielle Sousa Indiana Timothy Howell Ohio Christopher Chiu So Cal Tabatha Payne PenFI Sarah Beach Tiemann NE Brent Tiemann NE Aaron Wesson Alaska Arthur Walker Kansas Benjamin Richner Indiana Jonathan Axtell Iowa Levi Paradee ND Todd Williams S. TX Taylor Williams S. Tx

#### **CROSS POINTE CAMP**



Curtis & Cindy Washam, Directors crosspointeretreatcenter@gmail.com



Thank you to everyone who participated in district events at Cross Pointe Camp this year.
We rejoice over the many lives that have been touched and transformed by God's Spirit at camp.

Thank you to everyone who came and volunteered to work at camp. Your work enabled camp to go on!

The Kings Matthew and Cara Niah, Malachi and Cora



Grandkids are a Gift! Front to back – Cora, Malachi, Beckham, Niah, Kiah, Blake, Cindy and Curtis Washam



Cross Pointe Staff
Chancey Dummermuth, Jesse Ward, David Vernon,
Danielle Neel, & Sheila Smith

### **Camp Intercession 2022**



March 25th and 26th

Guest Speaker Rev. Thomas Trask

