

# THE VINE

WWU Church  
Children & Family Ministries Newsletter

December, 2015  
Volume 1, Issue 9



## Leader Profile: Joy Veverka

Joy volunteers with Children & Family Ministries in many ways, devoting much of her spare time to help the children in our church get to know Jesus better. As necessary, she is called in to teach a lesson in Primary 2 on weekends when hands are short. Also, she is an associate head deaconess. With this position, she helps "get everything ready for the baptism and cleans up afterward."

Sometimes when several children are being baptized on the same day, Joy is up on stage with the boys and girls. If the person is a girl though, she gets to pray with them and as she puts it, "I'm right there. I get to see their faces right as they come out, and they are so excited. It is so fun to be able to pray with them and see how excited they are about their baptism and Jesus."

Again, Joy helps in another way. She is part of a rotation of people that plans the children's stories. Before she chooses which story to tell, she considers the sermon for the particular Sabbath and prays for God to help her decide what story the children should hear. Then, she bounces ideas off friends and family to help check that the message she tells the kids fits the message in the sermon. Joy explained, "I've done this for quite a long time--probably seven years. I always pray first. . . I find the heart of the message."

Joy also has a family that she loves dearly, including three grown children and four grandchildren. Her son Donny lives in town with his wife and their two children, her daughter Deanna lives on the coast with her husband and two children, and her son James lives in Medford, OR. Every Friday, she spends time with her local grandchildren and has dinner as a family in the evening. She has "blocked off Friday" for family time.

Working with children has always been a passion for Joy, and she described her appreciation beautifully. "I love seeing them grow in Jesus. As they get to know Jesus more, I love seeing that warmth that just comes from them as they learn to care for people more and to search for what Jesus wants for

them." Leaders like Joy who care passionately about children are key to helping them develop their spiritual growth.

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**ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS** - If you help with Children and Family Ministries, please contact Pastor Jenn as soon as possible so you can be invited to a volunteer banquet in January. You can reach Jenn at 682-229-7737 or 509-527-2800.

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## Calendar of Events

### Sabbath, December 12 (6 p.m.)

Christmas Caroling &  
Cookie Exchange

### The Month of December

Service Project:

Stock the Stable with ADRA

### Sabbath, January 2 (7 p.m.)

Roller Skating Night (Youth Center)

### Sabbath, January 16 (6 p.m.)

Open Gym Night (Rogers)

### Sabbath, January 23 (6 p.m.)

CFM Volunteer Banquet

### Sabbath, February 6 (7p.m.)

Roller Skating Night (Youth Center)

### Sabbath, February 13 (9 a.m.)

Pancake Breakfast



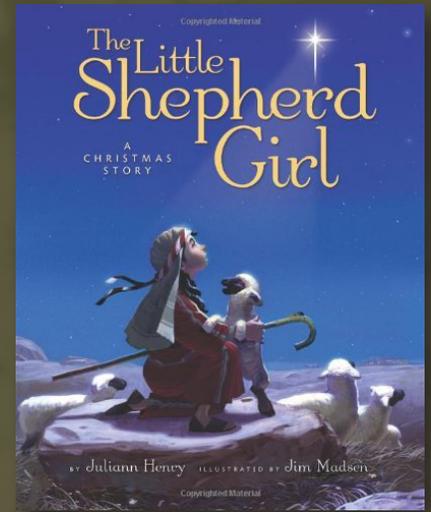
# The Little Shepherd Girl

by Juliann Henry, Author  
& Jim Madsen, Illustrator



Sarah is a curious young girl who is sent with her cousins to tend sheep in the fields. Since there are no brothers in her family, her father decides she should go and, with great pluck, she is an excellent shepherd. On her first night tending sheep, a miraculous appearance of angels telling of a baby born in Bethlehem, leads Sarah to gather the flock and make the journey into town. What a discovery and re-

counting Sarah gives of the encounter she has in Bethlehem! This is a delightful book, most appropriate for kids aged 4-7 and their families. With delightful illustrations and a well-crafted story we can imagine ourselves in the story of the night Jesus was born. No child is too small or adult too big to imagine the majesty of the manger, the angels song, the wise men traveling, and this book will encourage great conversation about what it may have been like for those who visited the Christ child in the stable many years ago. —Pastor Jenn



## Christmas Giving

### Alternatives to Traditional Presents

Let's face it; gift giving can be stressful. Choosing gifts that suit each person individually—but also don't break the budget—can seem impossible. When caught in a dilemma, it is important to remember that materialistic presents are only one type of present, and other options can be just as emotionally valuable.

In a *Psychology Today* article online, titled "Children, Gifts,

and Holidays: Have an Easy Merry Christmas," Dr. Dona Matthews lists alternatives to traditional gift giving that can be just as desired. She says that devoting time to be fully present with your children may be the most important of all. A time with no devices and patience to listen can be more valuable than anything that is bought.

She also mentions gifts of sharing. Community service and helping other people find happiness and Jesus can be rewarding. Next, she suggests "gifts of doing." A

packet of vouchers for activities or chores another person would appreciate is an easy way to make your gift useful for a long time. Finally, anything handmade is worthwhile. Knowing that the giver put time and thought into a gift makes it all the more treasured.

So if you have any last minute shopping or gift-giving to do this year, consider these options. Christmas is about loving Jesus and loving each other anyways, and that has no price tag.



### JUST FOR SPROUTS:

Snap a shot of your completed puzzle (along with your name) and send it to Pastor Jenn. A special prize will be yours the following Sabbath. (682) 229-7737, or jenn.ogden@wallawalla.edu.

H	O	T	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	B	T
L	E	V	V	O	H	O	D	E	E	N	R	N	C
A	W	N	M	T	F	A	L	A	S	P	S	U	H
E	F	I	P	U	E	T	N	B	J	K	F	K	R
H	D	E	N	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	I
S	V	D	I	T	Z	E	T	I	S	D	R	D	S
P	N	R	H	K	E	G	R	Z	U	F	E	Q	T
U	K	O	F	D	V	R	D	Z	S	R	L	G	M
G	F	I	W	S	F	O	W	A	D	H	K	I	A
H	A	P	Q	F	R	I	Q	R	V	J	H	V	S
F	M	O	Q	W	L	J	A	D	I	K	N	I	B
H	I	A	W	S	M	A	R	Y	O	L	E	N	H
J	L	G	I	C	Y	Y	K	T	L	O	A	G	E
L	Y	M	N	A	P	S	L	E	D	D	I	N	G

- Blizzard
- Icy
- Jesus
- Family
- Ski
- Mary
- Sledding
- Winter
- Bethlehem
- Christmas
- Giving
- Hot Chocolate
- Snowflake
- Coat