

About our guest preacher, Paul DeHart – Pastor Paul DeHart, husband to Leann, father to Matt, is the full-time chaplain at the New Hampshire Veterans Home. Paul & Leann served together as enlisted linguists in the Army. He went on to serve as an intelligence officer in the Air Force until retirement when he entered the ministry. Following seminary, Paul and Leann taught at a Christian School then served as the ministry family for four different congregations in New Jersey, New York, and Indiana. After several years as a Hospice Chaplain in Indiana and New Hampshire, he accepted the position at the New Hampshire Veterans Home. Paul is also on the leadership council at United Baptist Church. He enjoys traveling, fishing, gardening, and reading Sci-Fi.



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CORNERSTONE TOP THREE

Find the Top Three on the top of our app's opening screen (& linked from our home page). CornerstoneNH.org/app

1. **You can still give to the Christmas offering.** See our [2024 Christmas offering gift catalog](#) (linked in the app or follow the "Give" link from our homepage) and choose a gift to give away during this season of giving. Your generosity can make a meaningful difference in someone else's life this season and beyond.
2. **Giving for 2024 can be accepted or postmarked through midnight 12/31.** Follow the "Give" link from the app or homepage (CornerstoneNH.org/give) to include your giving on your 2024 giving statement.
3. **Giving statements will be sent by secure email link in the 2nd half of January.** Make sure your email is correct in your profile (CornerstoneNH.org/mycontactinfo) and watch for the giving statement email once the books are closed on 2024.

OUR OBJECTIVES



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YOUR GROWTH GUIDE FOR

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024 • 11 AM

TODAY'S MESSAGE

FIND THE "AN UNEXPECTED CHRISTMAS" SERIES AT
[CORNERSTONENH.ORG/UC](https://CornerstoneNH.org/UC)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." – Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

memorize with remem.me _____

A Season of _____

*For Christians, Christmas is about the most important gift ever—Jesus—God's one and only Son as a gift to all of humanity, come to earth to bring us the **hope, peace, joy, and love** that we celebrate during the Advent season.*

How gifts are given says a lot about the giver.

Giving ☺ _____

*A gift means the most when you know **there is love behind it**. The **expectations** of the recipient can also affect the experience of giving a gift.*

Present or _____?

*A gift is different from a reward; **you earn a reward**.*

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV

How gifts are received says a lot about the recipient.



You _____ the gift.

You accept but _____ the gift.

You accept the gift feeling you _____ it.

You accept the gift with _____.

How you receive God's free gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ says a lot about you.

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.
– Revelation 22:17 NIV

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23 NIV

Some _____ the gift.

There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day. – John 12:48 NIV

For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken. I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say." – John 12:49 NIV

Some accept but _____ the gift.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
– Ephesians 2:10 NIV

Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith. – 1 Timothy 6:20-21 NIV

The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. – Luke 8:14 NIV

Some accept the gift feeling they _____ it.

Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. – Romans 4:4-5 NIV

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23 NIV

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV

Some accept the gift with _____.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.
– 1 Peter 4:10 NIV

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. – Romans 15:13 NIV

NEXT STEPS

OPEN YOUR _____.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
– Matthew 11:28-30 NIV

Saying "YES" to Jesus? Let us know by checking in on the app, double-circling "say yes" on your Check-In card, or text YES to 603-225-2550. Let us celebrate your decision with you & resource you for your new life in Christ with the booklet devotional "You Said Yes."

LIVE IT OUT

Answer these questions on your own or preferably with others to reflect upon and apply what you've heard.

1. Which part of today's message stood out to you and why?
2. Which way of mishandling God's free gift of life in Christ Jesus are you most prone to?
3. How could you express your gratitude for God's gift this week?