

An Easy, Delicious Toffee-Flavor Recipe
Submitted by Chris Hausted

Ingredients

- 50 saltine crackers
- 2 sticks butter (cubed)
- 1 cup soft light brown sugar (packed)

Instructions

Preheat oven to 325°F.

Line 9x13" jelly roll pan with aluminum foil. Spray foil with cooking spray and then line pan with saltine crackers.

Place butter in a medium-sized pot over low medium/low heat. Stir until butter is slightly melted, then add sugar. Once butter is melted, bring to a boil over medium-heat for 3 minutes, or until it thickens and sugar has dissolved. Stir constantly. You want the butter and sugar to be combined and turn an amber caramel color.

After 3 minutes, remove pan from heat and pour evenly over saltine crackers. Spread mixture with a knife...however it doesn't have to be perfect.

Place pan in oven and bake for 7-8 minutes or until lightly golden brown. Do not over bake. The mixture will spread evenly over the crackers as it bakes.

Remove pan from oven and then take foil off of the pan. Allow the toffee to cool and then break pieces off of foil.

Notes

You can also place 1/2 cup chocolate chips on top right when it comes out of the oven. Pop back into the oven for a few minutes, allow the chocolate to melt and spread it out with a spatula, then freeze for 20 minutes. You can also add slivered almonds, chopped pecans, M&Ms and other favorite toppings as well.

Mark Your Calendar...

Wednesdays Prayer Meetings -
6:30 pm

Twelve Carols of Christmas - see graphic this page



Our Vision: To encourage a closer walk with God and greater involvement in His Ministries in the Lincoln Nebraska area through the medium of A Walk in the Park.

Our Mission: With God's leading, we will reach out to our church family, sharing stories of hope, encouraging all, and promoting active involvement in the various ministries of Piedmont Park Seventh-day Adventist Church

December 2020
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Thunderbirds – Active Despite Pandemic
By Chris Hausted



Piedmont Park Thunderbirds are active during this pandemic. Thanks to our wonderful church family (who donated over 1,700 pounds) and our Piedmont neighbors' generosity, your Pathfinder club collected and transported an estimated 2,500 to 2,800 pounds of non-perishable food and personal hygiene items to the Good Neighbor Center.

Director Josh Kittleson and Deputy Director Alexa Hazelton keep our club moving forward despite the weird year we find ourselves in. We've had two campouts this year, which are hands down a Pathfinder favorite activity!

Rejoining our staff this year are Benjamin Baugher and Cat Singh, welcome additions to a group that includes Alex Stout, Chris Hausted, Christian Beard and Martin Gomez. If you or someone you know have a heart for youth, enjoy camping and learning/teaching new skills, we would welcome you too! (Pathfinder experience is valuable, but not necessary.) *Continued on Page 2*

Nicole Houdek shared a resource for families with special needs: There is an abundance of ideas, activities, Sabbath School options (mostly Gracelink), etc. at the following link:
<https://www.childmin.org/virtual-resources>

For our current statement and plan regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit
<https://www.piedmontparksda.org/covid-19> .

Pathfinders—Continued from Page 1

In Pathfinders we've learned about (and made) kites, origami, homemade pizza, tie-dying, studied reptiles, knot-tying and much more; knowledge that will benefit us in the future. But even more valuable are the concepts of honor and integrity emphasized this year by our Director's introduction of metal honor tokens to represent and reward especially honorable actions and attitudes by our youth.

Even though church services have moved online, Pathfinders continue meeting in-person with a renewed emphasis on safety, social distancing, and responsible behavior. Also continuing are achievements in personal growth, spiritual discovery, service to others, making friends, health & fitness and outdoor living. We've memorized and aim to internalize the Pathfinder Pledge:

*"By the Grace of God,
I will be pure
I will be kind
I will be true
I will keep the Pathfinder Law
I will be a servant of God
I will be a friend to man."*



and the Pathfinder Law:
*"The Pathfinder Law is for me to,
Keep the Morning Watch
Do my honest part
Care for my body
Keep a level eye
Be courteous and obedient
Walk softly in the sanctuary
Keep a song in my heart
Go on God's errands."*



Our club's fund-raising activities have all but ground to a halt. If you would like to support our Pathfinder club financially this year, all tax-deductible donations would be gratefully accepted and immensely appreciated. Other ways to support our club: volunteer to join our staff (every Wednesday from 6:15 – 8:00pm) or share your knowledge and expertise by teaching an honor (usually one or two class nights). But most importantly, we solicit your prayers for our youth and staff as we navigate a year fraught with challenges both new and familiar. We thank you for your support!

Light Up the Dark 2020-Style

By Vanessa Schaecher

On Sabbath afternoon, October 31, Piedmont Park hosted our annual Light Up the Dark Halloween alternative event. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic we were not able to hold the event inside the church building as usual, but that gave the team a chance to be creative and come up with a drive-thru event that shared the story of Daniel in four scenes created on the church property.

While attendees drove through, they listened to Pastor Michael telling the story on the radio in their cars. As they exited each group was thanked for coming and given a bag containing Adventist literature and candy. Approximately 675 people attended with many expressing their gratitude for a safe and fun event for their families. to enjoy together!



Women's Ministries, continued from Page 4

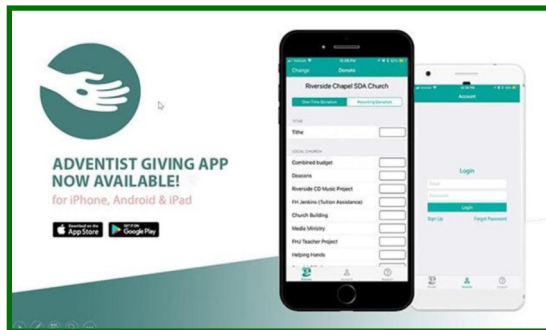
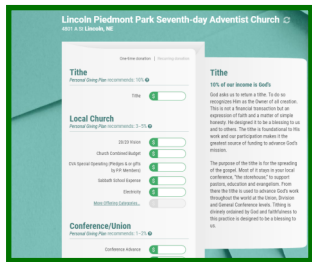
Piedmont member Linda Johnson works in an assisted living facility. She likes to deliver small gifts or treats to her clients to cheer them up. The day before Thanksgiving, Paula Lopez prepared plates of delicious treats for Linda to deliver to her thirty-four clients. Jill Thompson and Carol Leonhardt also helped with this project. The small gifts that we had made for Mother's Day were repurposed with Thanksgiving verses and we had just enough for each client to have a Thanksgiving bookmark. Linda and her clients were so appreciative. We would like to do more projects like this if anyone has a small craft or treats that you would like to share, please contact Linda Johnson or Carol Leonhardt.

Some Women's Ministries members met on Zoom and talked about other projects we could share in the community while we are spending more time at home. We had a request from St. Monica's, a substance abuse therapeutic program and recovery center for women, to help supply art or craft projects for the women and some families with children who are clients there. Piedmont member Jennifer Somers, who works at St. Monica's, reached out to us about recruiting volunteers to help with arts and craft classes on site, but the pandemic put a stop to those plans. This December, we purchased clear Christmas ornaments that can be painted with acrylic paint and Nicole Houdek and her children recorded an instructional video on how to make these decorations. Sara Thompson loves baking and is making Christmas cookies to deliver to St. Monica's. We originally planned to have cookie decorating as one of the craft activities, but realized we couldn't do this safely during pandemic conditions. We would like to continue to build relationships with these women. If anyone has craft or art ideas to share, Women's Ministries has committed to purchasing supplies to support this project.

The Man Who Taught Jesus, continued from page 5

The Bible doesn't tell us when or how Joseph died. We know it was sometime after Jesus turned 12. How they must have felt his loss. This was a man who God honored by entrusting Jesus to his care. This was a man of humility, integrity, and love. A man who would accept unfair humiliation to perform the task God asked of him.

Joseph was a man chosen by God for a difficult yet amazing role in the salvation of us all. While we should not venerate him, we should think about his life and how he was able to contribute to the greatest task ever.



Change

By Pastor Nate Elias

Change is an ugly word. From the moment we leave our mothers' womb change is thrust upon us and we don't like it. In a year like 2020, we have seen humanity exposed. We have seen who we really are and how little control we really have on life. When my family decided to move half-way across the country in the middle of a pandemic, little did I realize the challenge change was going to be.

As I look towards 2021, I realize two realities have to become part of my heart, mind and soul. First, BELIEVE. Acts 10:31 *"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."* When I ponder on the use of this statement *"Believe in the Lord Jesus,"* I become cognizant that *"believe"* is more than simply making a verbal statement. This *"believe"* is life altering. This *"believe"* means a change. This *"believe"* changes my heart, my mind, and my soul. This *"believe"* changes my longings, my thoughts, and my feelings. *"Believe"* is present tense in that God continues to make the changes in me to restore me to what He intended me to be. Change is uncomfortable and I tend to resist it, yet *"believe"* tells me that change must happen.

The second reality in 2021, is LOVE. John 13:35 *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* 2020 created divisions within us. 2021 is our opportunity to respond. Even if we stumbled in 2020 and hated or looked down upon or showed disrespect towards our brothers and sisters, 2021 is our chance to restore the *"love for one another."* Jesus knew what the disciples were up against. There was prejudice. There was racism. There was sexism. There were salvation wars. There were law versus faith wars. There were social issues. It wasn't all that different than what we experienced in 2020. Into that Jesus spoke, *"everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

Change is never easy. It isn't going to be easy in 2021. If we choose to believe, God promises to keep changing us. If we surrender to His changes, we will love one another. That love will be the greatest witness this world has ever seen. Let's make 2021 the year of God's changing you and I, so that we can love one another.

School Fundraiser – Boxtops and Labels

By Chris Hausted

Thank you, church family, for your faithfulness in collecting and donating Worthington and Loma Linda **canned goods** labels, Best Choice UPCs, and Boxtops for Education coupons. In 2020, your generosity has resulted in the submission of 1,363 Best Choice UPCs, 145 Boxtops, and 329 Atlantic Natural Foods labels for a total of just over \$137, which will benefit our Little Lambs, Eager Beaver, Adventurer, and Pathfinder clubs. See what redirecting part of your trash can accomplish! Want details? Have questions? Call/text/email Chris Hausted: minnakrueger@yahoo.com/402-450-2479.

Do you have something to share in the next newsletter? We'd love to read it!
Email it to piedmontinspiration@gmail.com, or call Laura at 402-217-6369.

The Church is Still Here

By Pastor Michael Halfhill

On November 30, our church in business session voted to remain online for church services until our dashboard Covid dial goes back to the Orange level. But we also voted that small groups could meet in the church building while social distancing and wearing masks. We sought to keep everyone safe, but also provide an outlet for those who desire to meet to use our spacious rooms as opposed to meeting in living rooms of houses.

But church is not closed. Church is not a building. Church is the people and no one has closed us down. Now we are tasked with finding new, creative and safe ways to do ministry and stay connected. This is why we have our worship services and Sabbath Schools online. This is why we deliver DVDs of our services to people who do not have the internet and why we mail hard copies of our sermon notes to people. If you would like a DVD or a hard copy of the sermon, please let the church office know.

The gospel must continue to spread. The church can still glorify God as we find new and safe ways to do ministry. Let's continue to encourage one another. This is a hard time so encouraging words and understanding are needed even more these days.

Women's Ministries December 2020

By Carol Leonhardt, Women's Ministries Leader

Women's Ministries volunteers cooked and delivered a Thanksgiving dinner to the women living at Fresh Start Home, a shelter for women experiencing homelessness. Homemade pumpkin pies and rolls, real mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, cranberry relish, and turkey and gravy were on the menu. When the food was delivered, the Fresh Start ladies quickly gathered in the kitchen to set out the meal since our volunteers were unable to enter the facility due to pandemic precautions. We always deliver the food in disposable containers and bring festive disposable plates and napkins so that the women have a night off from doing dishes. They really appreciate this. Already, we have signed up for six dates in 2021. The next date is January 17, 2021.

Paula Lopez is one of our regular Fresh Start volunteers and a member at College View Church. Her daughter works for a corporation who asked employees to nominate a non-profit to receive a corporate gift. Her daughter nominated Fresh Start and we were excited to learn that Fresh Start was selected to receive a \$2500 donation.

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A Walk in the Park is available under the **Newsletter** tab on the **Piedmont Park** website at www.piedmontparksda.org, or on its own tab at <https://www.piedmontparksda.org/a-walk-in-the-park-quarterly-newsletter>. Printed copies will be handed out to members each quarter and are also available at the Welcome Desk.

The Man Who Taught Jesus

By Laura Daw

<https://laurahartnelldaw.wordpress.com/>

With Christmas coming soon, I was thinking of Joseph this morning. Unlike Mary and baby Jesus, Joseph is more of a shadow figure in the Christmas story.

What was his life like? God, in His grace, ensured that Mary would have love and support from a wonderful man. That wonderful man probably bore the brunt of the rude comments from those who could count to nine. There most certainly would have been gossip about how, if the baby was his, he hadn't waited for his wedding night. Maybe this was another good thing in having the baby born in Bethlehem and then a five-year sojourn in Egypt.

There is a culture in which Joseph is pictured as a saintly man who never had a physical relationship with his wife. This is never even hinted at in the Bible. (If you can find it, please feel free to share it with me.) I believe this was a story created by the Catholic Church way back in the day, to explain how Jesus had brothers, but Mary remained a virgin (not supported by Biblical evidence).

But I digress. The Bible does not say Joseph was a widower or that he had other children from a previous relationship. My guess (and here again the Bible doesn't state it) is that Jesus' brothers were younger sons of Mary and Joseph.

Just imagine Joseph. He must have been a man of great faith. He finds out that his fiancée (actually, in those days, considered his wife) is pregnant when he has not touched her. He first offers to quietly end their engagement to save her as much as possible from the gossips and even possible stoning.

Then he has a dream. An angel tells him that Mary is pregnant by the Holy Spirit and he should complete their marriage because the child she carries is the long-awaited messiah. Did he ever doubt that dream? Did he ever wonder if it was actually *only a dream*?

God sent him reassurances. There was the star that shone above them. There were the shepherds and the wise men who crowded into that stable to worship the child. There were the costly gifts that financed their time in Egypt. Finally, there was the day in the temple when Jesus, at the age of 12, amazed Torah scholars with His knowledge.

Joseph was a vital part of Mary's life. He was the man on whom she could lean when people were unkind, and the man who helped her get Jesus to Bethlehem to fulfill a prophecy and then to Egypt to protect His life. He was the man to whom she confided her hopes and fears for their son. He provided a home and all the necessities for Mary and all their children.

Joseph was a vital part of Jesus' childhood. He surrendered himself to God to be used to ensure Jesus' safety. He showed Jesus how a Godly man lived; how he treated everyone with respect, how he worked hard, and willingly shared what he had. He taught Jesus about humility and being clay that God could mold. He taught Jesus integrity and honor. He taught Jesus what God asks of all His children.

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