

10th Annual Journey to Bethlehem

Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7, 2019

4pm to 8pm (please register and pick up your map at WALNUT CREEK MENNONITE CHURCH by 7:30pm)

Refreshments are served at several stops. Previously refreshments were served only at The Farm.

Stops: (A lighted star hangs at each stop.)

- Stop 1: Mary and Joseph register to be taxed (guests also register)
 - Walnut Creek Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall
 - visitors will register on scrolls and receive a map outlining the Journey
 - If anyone wishes to donate to the Walnut Creek Benevolence Fund, they may do so at Registration
 - Bottled water and candy canes are given at this stop – no charge.
 - Each family will receive a special surprise for our 10th annual Journey. (Don't ask. It's a surprise.)
- Stop 2: The busy marketplace
 - At Coblentz Chocolates in Walnut Creek
 - Chocolate covered pretzels are given at this stop – no charge
- Stop 3: No room at the inn
 - Carlisle Inn Walnut Creek
 - main lobby
- Stop 4: Shepherds in the fields
 - Grassy area beside Carlisle Gifts Walnut Creek
 - visitors view the shepherds from the sidewalk above the grassy area
- Stop 5: Angels appear to the shepherds
 - Angels are on the upper porch of the building next to Carlisle Gifts Walnut Creek
 - visitors stand on sidewalk below the porch to hear their message
- Stop 6: King Herod's throne room
 - At Yoder's Home & Hardware located beside Rebecca's Bistro
 - Enter through the rear of the store and exit through the front door
 - Popcorn and cider are served as you exit this stop – no charge

AT THE FARM: In the parking areas at the Farm there will be soldiers on horseback to direct you to wagons that will take you from the parking areas to the Live Nativity, Wise Men and refreshments.

Horse-drawn wagons will take you to

- Live Nativity
 - In the barn at The Farm at Walnut Creek
- Wise men traveling to see the baby Jesus
 - The Farm at Walnut Creek
- Refreshments – no charge
 - In the large houses at The Farm
 - Cinnamon rolls, apples, cheese, hot chocolate, coffee, cookies, Rice Krispy treats
 - Kettle corn and marshmallow roasting outside next to the houses at The Farm

1) **Is there an admission fee?** No. The Journey is put on by the employees and merchants of the Walnut Creek Business Association, with the help of hundreds of volunteers, as a thank you to our community and our guests.

2) **Do you have it regardless of the weather?** Yes

3) **Do we walk or drive?** You need to go into the businesses to experience the short vignettes put on by actors. Register at Walnut Creek Mennonite Church, then drive to Walnut Creek, park in Der Dutchman parking lot or the parking lot across from Carlisle Inn, walk to the three stops in town; drive to The Farm, park and ride a wagon to The Wise Men and the Live Nativity and then to the houses for refreshments.

a) First stop at Walnut Creek Mennonite Church to pick up Journey map, bottled water and candy canes plus this year a special gift.

b) Drive from church up to town, park across from Carlisle Inn or in east parking lot at Der Dutchman and walk to stops in town

c) Walk to visit the marketplace at Coblenz Chocolates; refreshments

d) Walk to “No Room at the Inn” at Carlisle Inn Walnut Creek

e) Walk to see the angels and shepherds at P G Dunn

f) Walk to Yoder’s Home & Hardware to visit King Herod; enjoy popcorn and cider

g) Drive to The Farm (2 miles from Carlisle Inn or Der Dutchman parking lots)

h) Dress for the weather. Be prepared to be outside walking in rain, sleet, or snow.

i) Don’t miss the refreshments spread throughout the big houses at The Farm

- Freshly baked cinnamon rolls, cookies, rice crispy treats, apples, cheese, hot chocolate, coffee

j) Don’t miss the refreshments outside as well:

- Kettle corn – outside next to barn on the north side of houses
- Roasting marshmallows – outside next to barn on the north side of houses

4) **Best time to come?** If anyone in your party has difficulty walking, you may want to begin at 4pm to reduce your time of walking after it becomes dark. It is less congested and busy prior to 5:30pm. Otherwise, please register at Walnut Creek Mennonite Church between the hours of 4pm and 7:30pm.

5) **Are the shops open?**

- Walnut Creek Cheese
 - open until 6pm on Friday and Saturday
- Carlisle Gifts Walnut Creek
 - open until 8pm Friday and Saturday

- Der Dutchman Restaurant
 - open until 8pm Friday and Saturday
- Coblentz Chocolates
 - open until 8pm Friday and Saturday

6) **Is this event suitable for children?** YES This is definitely a family event and hopefully will become a family tradition

7) **How do we know where to go?** First stop is Walnut Creek Mennonite Church where you will be given a map outlining the rest of the Journey. The church is located at the intersection of Pump Street and County Road 144, just past the covered bridge and almost directly behind WC Cheese. Follow the luminaries.

8) **Can we see the stops from a car?** No

9) **What about someone in a wheel chair?** I took a family member in a wheelchair and he was able to see the entire Journey and enjoyed it very much; however it was not a rainy or snowy night. The roads and sidewalks were dry.

If you have someone in a wheelchair, when you arrive at The Farm, please tell the guides directing traffic that you have someone in a wheel chair. They will give you special access to the barn where the live nativity takes place. A person in a wheel chair will not be able to ride in the wagons at the Farm unless those accompanying them can lift them onto the wagon and lift them off the wagon.

10) 2500 luminaries light Pump Street in Walnut Creek and the pathways at The Farm

11) The sidewalks in Walnut Creek run from the BellStores gas station to Pump Street and down Pump Street to the Walnut Creek Mennonite Church.