Grace and peace, all!

Merry Christmas, everyone! We have really enjoyed gathering together in peace and harmony at First English! Our music has been overwhelming! The children…well, the children are awesome! Every pastor deeply appreciates a full church, good will expressed by everyone. But, we also know that the Sunday after Christmas and the Sundays up to Lent will be sparse. Weather, illness, work and travel all work to separate us from each other. But there is much to look forward to in 2022! We have really appreciated the great replacement windows in our sanctuary. The company working for us say that the quality of the pictures transferred onto plastic has really come a long way. Still, when our windows return, it will be a glorious sight! More importantly, 2022 will see the arrival of a new pastor for First English! I can’t promise this, but there is every reason to hope. And Christians live by hope! There are two general groups of pastors looking for a call. One group is always looking, never satisfied. The other group has resisted God’s timing as long as they can. This second group will finally decide to “test the waters”, usually in early spring. This is a wonderful congregation with an active ministry in downtown Mansfield and around the world. We have a powerful ministry in the Early Learning Center. We have well crafted worship and talented worship leaders. We have ample resources, even while we ask for continued pledges. It will be a relief to have your pastor living in Mansfield, rather than your Interim Pastor living 45 minutes away. Living in Mansfield will allow your new pastor to become immersed in the ecumenical ministry and social services of this town. In January, at our congregational meeting, we will elect our Call Committee. The Council has approved a list of twelve, of which nine will be elected. When the Call Committee is elected, please pray even harder that we follow God’s will. It is a pleasure to serve our Lord at First English, especially at Christmas time. Thank everyone of you for your faithfulness, hopefulness and prayers. When we walk this path together, following our Lord, everything will turn out for the best. And that is the best Christmas gift!

Blessings, Pr Tim+