

Bring it Home

MONDAY: Be Still - - God says, “Be still, and know that I am God!” (Psalm 46:10a). We may want to sing and play during this season, reveling in God’s love, yet many are caught in the tyranny of the urgent and are in danger of missing the true blessing of Christmas: Emmanuel, God with us. Be still! Pray the Spirit will awaken your heart to the love and mystery of God as you read Luke 1:26-56. Ask the Spirit to enable you to step into the mystery of God’s story.

TUESDAY: Treasure and Ponder what God Has Done - - Mary and Elizabeth, each pregnant with a miracle baby, spent three months together; we aren’t told if Mary stayed long enough to see the infant John and hear Zechariah’s prophecy (Luke 1:24-27,39,56-79), but we do know Mary pondered God’s glorious activity and her role as God’s instrument (Luke 1:46-49; 2:19). Read Luke 2:1-20. Allow the Spirit, through the Word, to take you to Bethlehem that night so long ago.

WEDNESDAY: “Mary, Did You Know?” - - “Mary, did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod, and when you kiss your little baby, you’ve kissed the face of God?” Read Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-20 and Philip- pians 2:5-8. Jesus, born of a humble virgin, put aside His divine glory and became flesh. How much of the holy mystery did Mary grasp as she pondered these things? Yet she trusted God’s promise (Luke 1:38)! Praise God as you ponder God’s amazing love.

THURSDAY: Be Still and Know - - As shepherds watched their flocks, an angel of the Lord appeared, and the shepherds were terrified. Read the angel’s words to Zechariah, Mary, and the shepherds (Luke 1:12-14,19,30-31; 2:8-14). Zechariah was a priest; Mary was a young, engaged woman; the shepherds were humble men caring for their sheep...and God interrupted the routines of their lives with words of hope. God still speaks. Do we hear Him? Ponder and listen.

FRIDAY: What God Has Done - - On whom is your heart fixed this Christmas season? Consider the Christ- mas characters in Scripture; they all point us to the Trinity: Father, Son, and Spirit. Read Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-20; and John 3:16, learning all you can about how God (the Trinity) worked in history and in the hearts and lives of people because of love. Ask the Spirit to move the knowledge of God’s love and eternal plan from your head to your heart.

SATURDAY: Nothing Is Impossible with God - - One definition of faith is the acronym Fantastic Advent- ure In Trusting Him. Do you trust God’s heart of love? Is your faith a fantastic adventure? Recall the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph—consider how all God’s promises proved true. Were their lives easy? No, but God was faithful and true. Read Jeremiah 32:17,27; Luke 1:37; 18:27; and Romans 4:20-21. Thank God the promises in Scripture are true for you.

SUNDAY: Share the Good News - - As we approach a new year, it’s easy to pack up the decorations and for- get about Christmas; the truth that God’s love became human is too precious to dismiss, even when our culture says Christmas is over and done with. Is the best Christmas gift you can give, perhaps, still waiting to be given? Have you been quiet long enough to hear someone’s heart cry and offer them the greatest gift of all, Jesus? Pray you will live the words of the old spiritual, “Go tell it on the mountain...and ev’rywhere...that Jesus Christ is born!”

Anticipation

When I was a little tyke I was good at anticipating the good times to come. Of course, for any American kid, there was a kind of rhythm to the calendar after school started in the fall. Before you knew it, good things started to happen...good things one anticipated fully.

It helped that my birthday was in mid-October, so I got to start early with my holidays. Just two weeks after my birthday was Halloween. Then, about three four weeks later, Thanksgiving. Then, of course, came the month of December and all sorts of holiday happenings occurred, ending with me and my sister’s “two” Christmases.

You see, Santa, according to our parents, really loved us. He came a night early to give us our gifts at home; then, after we drove south to our grandparents, Santa came again – as he did with everyone else – on Christmas Eve.

Anticipation is a wonderful feeling when it is based on consistency and trust. My sister and I knew that our birthdays (hers was in mid-September) would automatically be celebrated. We knew Halloween and Thanksgiving would arrive; and we knew, above all, that we would be able to celebrate Christmas in style – twice.

What we didn’t know was, compared to other little children, how good we had it. For other kids, anticipation is fraught with “maybe not’s.” We may not have gifts for your birthday; we may not have a good coat or shoes for school. We may not have much for Thanksgiving or Christmas. We may, or we may not. For those kids, the act of anticipating is definitely not a “sure and certain hope.”

With the Jews of Christ’s day, it was different. They knew the prophecies of the coming Mes- siah, and they both loved and feared them. Then the Magi came to King Herod to inquire about where the “King of the Jews” had just been born. When they had been back in the Far East, they had seen a special star that, in their calculations, had announced a new Messiah. Herod’s advisors shuddered; they all knew the Messiah was to be born in little Bethlehem – who might grow up and replace their favorite king.

Herod’s advisors knew where the Messiah was to be born because of the prophecy in our les- son for today – “But you, O Bethlehem...from you shall come forth...One who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.” (Micah 5:2)

The anticipation of the wise men was full of faith, for, just as they hoped, the star re-appeared and led them the rest of the way to the new Messiah in Bethlehem.

When Jesus was much older, He told us all to have that kind of sure faith, the kind that truly and fully anticipates what will happen – because it WILL happen, we just know it; the kind of faith most kids have at Christmastime. The kind of faith we need, more than ever, today.

- -DLH- -



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December 22-23, 2018

CONNECTIONS

Calendar

- **Sunday, December 23**

9:00 am Worship
11:00 am Worship
1:00 pm ICCCI Dance

- **Monday, December 24**

4:00 pm Children's Service
7:00 pm Contemporary Candlelight
10:00 pm Christ-Mass

- **Tuesday, December 25**
Christmas Blessings!



- **Friday, December 28**

7:30 pm ICCCI Dance

- **Saturday, December 29**

5:01 pm Worship

- **Sunday, December 30**

9:00 am Worship
11:00 am Worship
1:00 pm ICCCI Dance

- **Monday, December 31**

6:30 pm Yoga

Council

Elders

Dick DeLor (317-816-2230)
Donna Frazier (371-896-5378)
Paul Retzlaff (317-843-9068)
Kevin Wachtel (317-727-9583)
Deann Wimer (317-846-6822)
Pastor Hewitt (317-846-1555)

Deacons

Jeff Boldt	Brandon Hulse
Julie Hayden	Brad Johnson
Susan Kraabel	Carole Rahn
Ann Sullivan	Bob Tipword

Announcements

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP - - Invite your friends, neighbors and family to join us at 4:00 for our Children's Worship, 7:00 for our Contemporary Candlelight, or 10:00 for the Christ Mass service.

SPECIAL EPIPHANY SERVICE JANUARY 6 - - It is only once every 6 or 7 years that Sunday actually falls on one of the most important days of the Church year – Epiphany! You are invited to attend a special set of services that weekend. Epiphany Day announces something important – that the Christ was born for us Gentiles! So come to worship and actually SEE three of the Wise Men! Come see actual frankincense! Come see actual myrrh! Come see actual gold (well, we're still working on that!). Please be there for that special "holy day" that ends the twelve days of Christmas!



WE'RE EXCITED! - - On January 6 between services, please join us for our First Sunday Fellowship time at an 'Open House' in Gloryland and Cross and Crown. Thanks to your gifts to the Renew KOG Fund, we have been able to renew the oldest area of our building and give our KOG kids nice, bright Sunday school rooms. Did you know that Gloryland is built into the original sanctuary for the church? Look for the original cross.

YEAR END GIVING - - At the end of every year many of our members find themselves in need of "catching up" on their General Fund Pledges. There are others who desire to make special gifts above and beyond their pledge before the end of the year. While this is a real boost to the church, it's also a tax advantage for many individuals. Stock contributions and IRA Charitable rollover gifts may also be made. Contact Nancy for details on these giving options. In order to accommodate this year-end giving, our church books for 2018 will be kept open until 12:00 noon on Monday, December 31, 2018. All gifts dated January 2019 will be recorded on the 2019 statements. If you have questions about where you stand with your General or Freedom Fund pledges, please don't hesitate to contact Nancy in the office, 317-846-1555.

OFFICE CLOSED - - The Office will be closed December 24 and December 25 so our staff can enjoy time with their families.

Announcements

WOW - - Women on Wednesday begins a new Bible Study on Wednesday January 9th from 9:15-11:00, meeting in the Parlor. We will start with "What Matters Most – a Study on Philippians" by Karen Ehman. The world has always been full of trials, disappointments, temptations, fractured friendships and financial hardships. Yet Paul's letter to the Philippians claims we can discover contentment and joy in the midst of it all by prioritizing what matters most – Christ. Study the ever-relevant Letter of Philippians to deepen your relationship with Jesus, turn your worries into worship, and develop gospel-centered tools for navigating relational conflict. Friends and family are welcome – we love new faces. Cost will be \$15 for the book. Contact Donna Frazier (317-696-0236) or Becky Ellis (317-460-4319) if you have any questions.

HVAC FUNDS NEEDED - - Our Sanctuary air conditioning (the oldest HVAC unit in the building) failed this fall. Recently we signed a contract for a total cost of \$29,000 to replace the unit the first week in April. Unfortunately we have nearly depleted our designated funds set aside for replacements of our aging HVAC units because of several other units that failed this year. We would like to raise the full \$29,000 by the end of March 2019. If you are looking at your itemized deductions for 2018 and want to give now for tax purposes, please mark your envelope "Sanctuary HVAC" next to the amount. Remember that you may be able to transfer funds directly from your IRA to KOG and have the amount of the transfer excluded from your taxable income. It is our understanding that you do not have to itemize to make this transfer. We encourage you to check with your tax adviser to be certain of any rules or limitations that may apply to your situation. Thank you for your support and may God bless you in the many ways you help build the kingdom of God!

DISCOVERINDY COUPON BOOKS - - The Senior High Youth is selling DiscoverIndy Books for \$25 throughout the month of December. These make great Christmas Gifts so plan to stock up! All proceeds raised will go toward the summer mission trip. Questions? Contact Jenn Stumpp at jennstumpp@yahoo.com. Thank you for your support of our youth.

Prayers

MEMBERS

Terry Bowen *health concerns*
Joan Denney *recovering*
Becky DeWitt *ongoing elbow recovery*
Camilla London *breast cancer*
Lynette Gross *upcoming brain surgery*
Thomas Miller *recurring hip infection*
Tim Reeb *upcoming back surgery*
Connie Schmohe *alzheimer's disease*
Matt Wallace *broken leg*

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Ina Carson	Jill Dietz
DJ Dillon	Marlene Eisen
Chris Excell	Karen Fethke
Kajiah Monson	Sonny Mowery
Donald Ruthsatz	Tony Sandleben
Pam Sandusky	Margie Stone
Ray Strohminger	Henry Tomascycki
Tyler Trent	Sarah Wassmuth
Bill Wehrman	Kerry White
Nancy Zachary	

CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to Chuck & Cheryl Hazelrigg on the baptism of their grandson, Everett; and, to Russell and Brittany Nix on the baptism of their daughters Charlotte and Josephine.



Team Leads

Evangelism, Jeff Boldt
Fellowship, Susan Kraabel
Finance, David Baugh
Lifelong Learning, Julie Hayden
Ministry Development, Brad Johnson
Mission Support, Carole Rahn
Preschool, Sherri Hunt
Property, Bob Tipword
Risk Management, Marty Culver
Stewardship, Brandon Hulse
Worship & Music, Ann Sullivan

Making the **CONNECTIONS** that make the difference