

ORRICK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 9 TO DECEMBER 15, 2024



MORNING TIME ON THE PORCH

12/9 - John 14:27
"Peace." Read Philippians 4:7, John 16:33, Isaiah 9:6, John 3:16 and John 14:6.

12/10 - Luke 2:14 "Peace on Earth." Read John 16:33, Luke 2:10-14, Romans 1:1, Galatians 1:3, and Titus 1:4.

12/11 - Micah 5:2-5 "Peace in Our Heart." Read Luke 1:39-49 and Luke 1:26-27.

12/12 - Matthew 1:18-23 "The Presence of God." Read Isaiah 7:14 and Psalm 23:4.

12/13 - Isaiah 26:3-4 "Peace in Our Lives because of God." Read Proverbs 3:4-6, James 1:8 and Isaiah 26:2.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 98:4-6

SERMON SUMMARY

Luke 2:8-12, Philippians 4:4 - Joy

Elder Sam Griffin ably stepped in the pulpit while Pastor Art was out of state. His sermon was about joy. He reviewed what each candle in the advent wreath represented. Our first week focused on hope, then peace and now joy. His message came from Luke 2:8-12 and Philippians 4:4. This special Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is Latin for the word "joy." Christmas is truly a joyful time of the year. We celebrate with food, decorations, music, friends and family. But the heart of Christmas is the good news of Jesus' birth. You can't spell Christmas without Christ.

There are three truths about joy. 1) Jesus brings joy of salvation. 2) Joy leads to proclamation. 3) Joy leads to praise. We will take a closer look at each of these truths.

Jesus brings joy into our lives in many ways but especially with salvation. Read King David's prayer in Psalm 51:12. He understood the connection between salvation and joy. Read Isaiah 12:3 and Isaiah 11. There is no true salvation without joy and no true joy without salvation. Read Luke 1:39-45. This passage unites two parts of the trinity together. The Holy Spirit's excitement of the nearness of the son of God is graphically described. Read Matthew 2:9-10. Again an example of the joy in meeting the messiah.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ONGOING

1. If you are interested in serving on any of the church teams listed in our bulletin, please contact us at this email address and we will be glad to put you in touch with the team leader or contact them directly.
2. In our Catpack program (weekend hunger relief for students), we are preparing 70 backpacks. One in five students in Orrick Schools is food insecure (hungry). So we encourage you to donate child-friendly food (individual servings of cereal, pasta, meat, snack crackers, fruit bowls, trail mix, poptarts, etc).
3. Third Saturday men's fellowship gathering will be at the church at 6:30 am. All men are welcome to attend.
4. Our Christmas musical program entitled "Sharing Gifts" will be held on Sunday, December 22 at 5:00 pm. Invite others to

ADVENT

During the Third Sunday of Advent, we focus on Joy. Blaine and Kristin Wilson lit the Joy Candle today during the first worship service. The pink candle in the Christmas Advent wreath represents joy. Kristin read scriptural passages reflecting joy in Psalm 126:5-7, Psalm 4:7 and Romans 5:1-2. The Holloway family lit the joy candle during the second worship service. May the joy of Christmas be in our hearts as we continue our journey to Bethlehem.

SPECIAL MUSIC

In our first and second worship service we were delighted to have Paul and Carolyn Jeffrey back from Central America for the holidays. Paul played the guitar, and Carolyn sang "What Child is This?" It was truly a blessing to all of us to see and hear them again. Thank you for sharing your talents with us!

Joy leads to proclamation. The Bible tells us in great detail, the sharing of the good news by the angels and the shepherds. It is good news of great joy for all of mankind. Surely, it requires us to share the good news with others in many ways. Good news is for sharing. Read Luke 2:15-18. Shepherds spread the word to others.

Joy leads to praise. Read Luke 2:15-19. This scriptural passage is called Mary's song. Mary rejoices in God's salvation and shares praises to God. Read Luke 2:20. The shepherds praised God since they were eyewitnesses to Christ's birth.

Think about these three aspects of joy. Do you know Christ as savior? Jesus is the reason for the season. If you do know Jesus as your savior, you need to tell others about Jesus. The good news is for sharing. Praise God everyday for salvation and grace. Remember Isaiah 12:3. Draw buckets of praise from God's well of blessings!

Praising God for blessing us with elders so incredibly gifted to share the good news of Christ in practical ways we can live out in our daily lives!

- join us for an evening of music and celebration.
5. We have two candlelight Christmas Eve services at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Please use the Christmas Eve postcards to invite others to join us for this very special evening of worship and celebration.









OCC YOUTH



Ten youth were in attendance for a special Christmas youth session with special readings from Luke/Isaiah and videos from The Chosen, and a message on this Advent season.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Big turnout for "Fellowship on the Farm" as 16 men participated in the event hosted by Drew Gill. The Third Saturday Men's Fellowship will meet at the church at 6:30 am. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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|  | <p style="text-align: center;">WOW – DECEMBER 9</p> <p>About 40 women participated in last Monday evening's WOW event. Lots of delicious cookies were shared and exchanged. Guest speaker, Lora Rucker, did an excellent portrayal of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Everyone who attended was greatly blessed. If you missed this WOW event, never fear, plans are underway for more great WOW programs in 2025!</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">NEXT FIELD TRIP SPONSORED BY OCC SOCIAL TEAM</p> <p>Due to inclement weather, the OCC Social Team field trip to St Joe was cancelled. May hold off on scheduling any more field trips until March when it is warmer. Stay tuned for future announcements!</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">OCC YOUTH SERVICE OPPORTUNITY AND FUNDRAISER</p> <p>One last opportunity to participate! As you know, here at OCC, we make fellowship a priority and we also seek ways to edify and uplift one another. We are extending a final opportunity for you to send Christmas cards to your church family. You prepare cards for your church family but instead of mailing them, drop them in the special collection box at the entrance to the sanctuary. Put the amount you saved in postage as a donation to the OCC youth. Youth have already been busy sorting and alphabetizing the cards received. They are excited to play mail man at church. Remember first class postage is \$.73 per letter. So write youth fundraiser in the memo of your check or put cash in an envelope and again write youth fundraiser on the outside. This is a great opportunity to connect with your church family, create an unique service project for youth that reinforces their skills to alphabetize items, and supports our youth through an easy fundraiser.</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">OCC CHRISTMAS CONCERT</p> <p>On Sunday, December 22 you are cordially invited to attend a Christmas Concert at the church put on by the church choir under the direction of Sherri Smith. The musical program that evening is entitled "Sharing Gifts." Come join us at 5:00 pm for an evening of worship and encouragement during this Christmas season. Invite a friend or two to join you.</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">OCC COAT DRIVE</p> <p>Cold weather is upon us and Mission Team wants to reach out and help those in need. So if you have new or good used coats, please bring them to church. A barrell is set up in the landing between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall as a collection point. Hats, gloves, mittens and scarves are appreciated, too. Mission Team plans to distribute them as needed. Collection continues until January 12.</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">REHOPE FUNDRAISER</p> <p>This Sunday there are candles, drink cups and soap available for purchase. Your purchase benefits ReHope and may offer you an ideal Christmas present for someone on your list. Check it out!</p> |

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|  | <p style="text-align: center;">MEN'S ENCOUNTER 2025</p> <p>Men's Encounter is a 48 hour weekend, where men (18 years & older) from all walks of life, can experience the power and freedom, paid for by Jesus on the cross. There are 14 different sessions. Each session has a time of praise and worship, true life testimonies, teaching from God's Word and a time of personal reflection. All teachings and testimonies are spoken by ordinary men who tell of their Encounter with our extraordinary God! There are five Men's Encounter weekends planned for 2025. The first one is January 24-26. If you have questions, please contact JC Claypool at (816) 718-2309.</p> |
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">ANSWERED PRAYER</p> <p>We are so truly thankful to see Betty Wilson back at church and helping out as always. Praising God for her remarkable recovery! Tim O'Dell reports that John Tavis is cancer free. Praising God for answered prayer! Janet Aldrich reports that Darrell Aldrich's tumor finally shrunk enough for surgical removal. He came through this procedure well. Praising God for his guidance and tender care. Please continue to lift the individuals on our prayer list. Your prayers do make a difference!</p> |

COMING UP IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

- Dec 22 – Christmas Cantata
- Dec 24 – Candlelight Christmas Eve Services
- Jan 20 – 24 – Global Celebration of Prayer
- Jan 24 – 26 – Men's Encounter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tune in for "Morning Time on the Porch with Pastor Art" each weekday on facebook.
- Monday, Dec 16 - 6:00 pm - Final Choir practice in sanctuary.
- Tuesday, Dec 17 - 6:00 pm - Outreach to Cedars in Liberty. Contact Phil Boude if interested in helping to teach a Bible study at this center.
- Wednesday, Dec 18 - 6:00 pm - Men's Bible Study with Tim O'Dell.
- Wednesday, Dec 18 - 6:00 pm - Women's Bible Study with Deanne Townsend.
- Thursday, Dec 19 - 7:00 pm - Celebrate Recovery Lexington Group, First Baptist Church, 525 S Business 13, Lexington, MO. Contact Tamara Lane (660) 570-3761 for more information.
- Saturday, Dec 21 - 6:30 am - Third Saturday Men's Fellowship meeting at the church. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- Sunday, Dec 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Sunday, Dec 22 - 8:15 am - Traditional worship service. Nursery available (birth to 5).
- Sunday, Dec 22 - 9:45 am - Sunday School classes for all ages.
- Sunday, Dec 22 - 10:45 am - Contemporary worship service. Nursery available (birth to 5).
- Sunday, Dec 22 - 5:00 pm - OCC Choir concert "Sharing Gifts" in sanctuary. Invite others to join you for this evening of music and entertainment

<https://www.orrickchristianchurch.com>