

ORRICK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 16 TO DECEMBER 22, 2024



MORNING TIME ON THE PORCH

12/16 - None.

12/17 - None.

12/18 - Psalm 98:1-4 "Our Joy in the Lord."

12/19 - Luke 2:10-11 "Advent Joy." Read II Timothy 1:15 and Luke 2:12-15.

12/20 - Nehemiah 8:10 "Joy of the Lord is My Strength." Read Nehemiah 8:1, 9-12 and Romans 12:2.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Read Psalm 89:3-4

ADVENT

The fourth Sunday of Advent focuses on Love. In the first worship service the Edwards family shared scripture passages about love and lit the candle. Gretchen read I John 4:7-11 and I Corinthians 13:4-7. Brad lit the candle with Noah and Abram present. In the second worship service, Dan and

SERMON SUMMARY

John 3:16-21 – The Greatest Gift that Keeps on Giving

Pastor Art returned to the pulpit pumped up to share a sermon entitled "The Greatest Gift that Keeps on Giving," based on John 3:16-21. Clearly, it is Jesus Christ. The truth of the gospel is the gift we can offer others. Telling them about Jesus is what it is all about. Read Ephesians 2:8. Because of that grace that you received from God, you will want to do more for God. It is important to share but not to boast. Read Ephesians 2:10.

God reminds us in John 3 that we are saved by grace. God wants us to be a light in a cold and dark world. Read I Timothy 4:14. Don't neglect the Holy Spirit. Read I Timothy 1:6. Respond to the Holy Spirit. Read John 4:10. Jesus comes to you in perfect timing. Note - Jesus comes to you. Read John 1:1 and Ephesians 2:8 again. How are people affected by the way you share your gifts?

There are over 50 prophecies of the birth of Christ. Jesus did not come as a surprise. Read Isaiah 7:14 and Isaiah 9:6. Remember Emmanuel - God with us. A redeemer is someone offering redemption for your mistakes. Read Galatians 4:4-5. Adoption by God entitles you to an inheritance from God. Read John 1:14, Romans 12:1-2, Romans 5:5, and Romans 8:28. God needs each of us to share the light. Somebody will remember your words. It doesn't always feel like it. But God is using you for His glory. Your works come after you have

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. 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.

Kathie Paige along with their sister Terri West led us in the lighting of the advent candle. Dan and Kathie Paige shared in the readings with Terri lighting the candle. May the love of Jesus be felt as we continue to anticipate his return!

given your heart to Jesus. Praising God for a pastor who turns our struggles and doubts into faithful testimonies for our Lord!

4. "Fellowship on the Farm" will be hosted by Drew Gill on Saturday, December 28 at the Farm shop, 8804 Wollard Blvd, Richmond, MO at 6:00 am. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.
5. Join us next Sunday evening (Jan 29) as we take down all the Christmas decorations and put them away for another year. Bible 101 and OCC Youth group will meet afterwards. The more hands helping the quicker the job gets done.
6. Mission Team is doing a coat drive through January 12. Any contribution is greatly appreciated.

WELCOME

In the first service we welcomed Wayne and Irene Souders into our church family as they transferred their membership. Wayne and Irene have been worshipping with us for about a year. They came to OCC through Irene's brother, Billy Marrant. Please extend the right hand of fellowship to them.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Twelve men attended the Third Saturday Men's Fellowship gathering at the church. The last "Fellowship on the Farm" for 2024 is this Saturday and it will be hosted by Drew Gill, at the Farm shop, 8804 Wollard Blvd, Richmond, MO at 6:00 am All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.



REFLECTIONS ON THE BABE FROM BETHLEHEM BY MISSOURI STATE COORDINATOR OF MOMS IN PRAYER INTERNATIONAL

The world was dark and without Hope. The people had been groaning and pleading for help since the fall of Creation. Life seemed so bleak. God in his great mercy sent a rescuer. Who would He send? A military general able to conquer everything? A king on a horse wielding swords? God did something no one expected. He sent His Son as a baby. A baby? A baby was to be the Savior of the world? Does that even make sense? What can a baby do? Well, they can grow up and shake the course of history-- because Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He was Divine. He was conceived through the Holy Spirit. He was God in the Flesh. That baby in the manger was God Himself. The fact that Jesus was born in such humble circumstances is hard for my mind to grasp. Then, Jesus grew up and went through all that we go through. I like how Hebrews 4 puts it, ***“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have One who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet, He did not sin.”*** All the difficult seasons of life, He went through. He went through the awkward middle school years, and as He grew older, He saw the pain and difficulties of walking on this broken planet. Christ knows what it is like to be us. What a wonderful thought. Then Jesus rocked the world. He demonstrated power over demon possession, disease, and brokenness. His might was displayed in the nonphysical realm as He calmed raging seas and multiplied simple loaves and fish into a

dinner for a multitude. But that wasn't all, He later walked out of the tomb proving His authority as God Almighty and showing that He had dominion over death. Our Liberator came as a baby! Blessed be the Name of the Lord!

We are forgetful people, and we worry when we see all that is happening around us. Our world often seems dark and bleak. We constantly need to be reminded of the Good News of Jesus Christ, so once again God sent us help. He sent babies that would grow up to be men of the Word. He gave us babies like John Calvin, Charles Spurgeon, C. S. Lewis, R. C. Sproul, Father Mike Schmitz, and Billy Graham. These babies, and many others like them, grew up to be men of the faith who pointed us to the baby in the manger. They assured us of the love that God has for us in that, He came and walked among us. They also reminded us that Emmanuel is fully God and fully man. They declared "Good Tidings of Great Joy," -- that Salvation is available to all. We are never alone. **God is with us.**

Babies- can you believe our comfort comes as an infant? God sent us redemption in an unexpected way, and that is why being a mom is so important. Our calling is to care for babies. When God blesses us with a child, He has just given us a ministry. Motherhood is not only a profession, it's a mission field. We take care of our children's physical needs, but more importantly, we tend to their spiritual needs. We stand in the gap and ask God to intercede in their lives. We fight on our knees praying that our children will come to faith in Christ and live out their God given purpose. We ask God to enable our children to walk so closely to the Lord that they influence those around them by pointing the lost to Christ. Who knows what God will do in answer to our prayers? Because God has sent babies who grew up to be men and women who impacted the world, we never know what He will do in the lives of the children in our home. We may be rearing the next Francis Chan, Martin Luther King Jr., Chris Tomlin, Elisabeth Elliot, or Fern Nichols. You may be thinking, "My child would never grow to be one of those great men or women of God. Their heart is bent against the ways of the Lord. They are prodigal." Mom, you never know what God is going to do. He is the One who transforms lives and makes all things new. Great men of the faith like Jacob, Moses, David, and Paul had sin problems. We are reminded that failure isn't fatal. God uses broken people. Even strong Christian believers like St. Augustine, Franklin Graham, and Craig Groeschel have testimonies of God snatching them out of their sinful lifestyles and using them for good. So, we must stay faithful in our calling. We pray. We bring our kids before the throne. We call down the power of Heaven to come to earth on behalf of each child in our home, and we shine. We shine the love of Christ. We ask the Lord to fill us daily with His Spirit so that we can become like Bethlehem's star and shine the way to Jesus. Motherhood is our ministry, and our ministry is to guide our children to Christ-- much like the Wonderful Star which led the wisemen to Jesus. May we twinkle with Spirit filled brilliance leading those around us to Christ. - And whatever you do Mom, don't stop praying!

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



PRAYER FROM THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE ACKNOWLEDGING JESUS' NAMES

"Blessed Savior, Light of the World, Wonderful, Lamb of God, Lion of Judah, Prince of Peace, King of Kings; Holy is Your name. Your name fills us with love, power, comfort and courage, fire and faith to walk through another day, another challenge in great celebration and joyful confident expectation in the One who gave us salvation. Your great grace and mercy surround and saturates us as You drain the pain of guilt and shame and fill us with Your love, forgiveness, and life everlasting. We praise Your name and commit that, whatever we do in word or deed, we do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. In the name of Jesus we believe, live, and pray, Amen!"



OCC CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Those who attended the Christmas Concert on December 22nd were truly blessed. All ages participated in the program. Children representing Mary and Joseph as well as the angels kept our focus on the reason for the season. The program was interactive featuring solos, duets and congregational singing. A skit was performed, testimonies were shared and talented musicians played guitar and drums. We laughed, cried, prayed and the hair literally stood up on my arms because of the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit. Thank you to all who shared their many gifts with us under the direction of Sherri Smith. Cappi Lawrence and Hailey Darnell shared a specially written poem entitled "Gifts."

Gifts are something that are given
 But there is a gift we all have in common
 This gift can be big or small and some of us may not even
 Know we have it at all.
 But each one of us have a gift inside
 This beautiful gift we shouldn't hide
 It's not being creative or having a talent
 It's something to share there's no doubt about it
 This gift we have comes from within
 It helps us laugh, it helps us grin
 On those days when we feel dark and blue
 We'd be just fine if we'd let it shine through
 It's a God given gift that he gave to you and me
 It's the greatest gift of all, don't you see
 Do you know what it is?
 Hailey tell them please
 It's LOVE and FAMILY
 Merry Christmas, God loves You!



OCC COAT DRIVE

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 barrel 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.



MEN'S ENCOUNTER 2025

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.



THANK YOU CHURCH!

Church family, Ten or twelve years ago I walked into OCC needing God and faith. The regular attendance was around 35/40. The love I felt was unbelievable. I was welcomed with open arms. Now we have 250 to 300 in attendance and the only thing I can say is "Wow". The love has grown with it. I want to thank each of you for the cards, calls, visits, and all the prayers I received over these past 7 weeks. Without those prayers, I know this would have been a much harder recovery. Again, thank each of you for all you did. I just hope I can pay it forward. Love to all and God Bless.
Betty Wilson



ANSWERED PRAYER

Maybe take a moment to re-read Betty Wilson's thank you and testimony about the power of prayer. Please continue to lift the individuals on our prayer list. Your prayers do make a difference!

COMING UP IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

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.
- Tuesday, Dec 24 - 5:00 pm - First Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
- Tuesday, Dec 24 - 6:00 pm - Outreach to Cedars in Liberty. Contact Phil Boude if interested in helping to teach a Bible study at this center.
- Tuesday, Dec 24 - 8:00 pm - Second Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
- Wednesday, Dec 25 - Merry Christmas!
- Thursday, Dec 26 - 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 28 - 6:00 am - "Fellowship on the Farm" will be hosted by Drew Gill at the Farm shop, 8804 Wollard Blvd, Richmond, MO. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- Sunday, Dec 29 - 8:15 am - Traditional worship service. Nursery available (birth to 5).
- Sunday, Dec 29 - 9:45 am - Sunday School classes for all ages.
- Sunday, Dec 29 - 10:45 am - Contemporary worship service. Nursery available (birth to 5).
- Sunday, Dec 29 - 2:00 pm - Worship service at Shirkey's Leisure Acres.
- Sunday, Dec 29 - 5:00 pm - Undecorate the church. Then finish in Bible 101 and OCC Youth group.

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