

ORRICK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 29, 2024



MORNING TIME ON THE PORCH

12/23 - I Timothy 4 "Gift of Love." Read Romans 8:28 and II Timothy 1:6.

12/24 - Isaiah 53:4-6 "Why Christmas?"

12/25 - None.

12/26 - None.

12/27 - Luke 2:19-20 "After Christmas Glow."

SERMON SUMMARY

Luke 2:17-20 – Don't Put Away Jesus With The Decorations

Usually, the advent candles are put away after the last Sunday of advent. However, this year the advent candles were left out. We will put them away tonight, but advent is so cool because it gets your heart prepared for Jesus. When we put them and the decorations away, we don't put Jesus away with it. We continue to celebrate Christ. Sometimes, though, it seems that when we put the decorations away our enthusiasm for the baby in the manger starts to dwindle a little bit.

We get excited about Christmas as we begin to decorate. Does it show in the light you share of Christ back into the community? In your workplace? Do we hide our light under a bushel?

Charles Spurgeon said, "A good character, when established, is not easily overthrown." What is character? How you live your life; what you reflect without trying. You do the right thing in the name of Jesus. The character we carry during Christmas time is different than the character we carry through the rest of the year.

During the Christmas season, when we think about helping others and the birth of Christ we think about how to carry it forward. There are 51 sermons to prepare between now and next Christmas. That is how we should prepare. Not just for Christmas but to carry the light of Christ into the world all year.

Luke 2:17 & 20 – the word "seen" in Greek means not only did you see it but it made a profound change in your life. Both times in the scripture the word seen means they soaked it up. Christmas should make a change in our life, not just something we rush through. We should be celebrating all year long.

STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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).

CALL TO WORSHIP

Read Psalm 51:10-13

ADVENT

During our Christmas Eve candlelight services, the Christ candle in the Advent wreath was lit. In the early service, JC and Sheri Claypool lit the candle and did a wrap up of the Advent season. The word "advent" means coming. Advent is a season of expectation and preparation. We remember God's promises to Israel and the world. The final candle celebrates the birth of our savior. Then JC read John 3:16. In the second service the Edney family lit the candle and did the readings.

The shepherds made widely known, or proclaimed, the birth of Jesus. When we decorate we are proclaiming Christmas. We want to make sure Christ stays in Christmas. Back in the 1970's people were writing X-mas. The X is proclaiming Christ. X is Xi in the Greek which is the symbol for Christ.

Luke 2:18 – they marveled at what the shepherd told them. Marvel means to get excited, which is exactly what the shepherds and Mary did. We take Jesus beyond the manger. When we proclaim Jesus outside the walls of the church we are taking Jesus outside of the manger.

In verse 19, Mary **kept** all these things. If you have another version of the bible the word used is **treasure**. So much better. The Greek word is suntereo – we keep it for a specific reason. It means we are so excited to have it that this is now a treasure. We put it out where people can see it. That is where Jesus needs to be in our life. When we take him past the manger scene then we start to live our lives where Jesus is always present. We are modeling a picture of Christ in everything we do.

Manifest in Christ's presence post Christmas. Manifest means to create and to make. After Thanksgiving our house begins to manifest a picture of a Christmas celebration. It should be evident to everyone around us that we are Christ followers. Luke 13:13 – Jesus heals a crippled woman. Greek doxazo – glorified God – same word that the shepherds took with them when they went back to the fields. We glorify Him with every step we take. Read Hebrews 10:25.

Proskereisis – To make Jesus a daily devotion in our lives. Steadfast, consistent, persevering, a sense of commitment. Making Jesus a daily devotion we can manifest Jesus past the manger. Making Jesus a daily devotional comes after the daily reading. Read Acts 2:42.

When you are born again your life has changed to the point you don't look anything like the past person you were prior to asking Christ into your life. We should all want to talk about Jesus when we are out in the world.

When Christmas comes around each year there is a sense of urgency. To get that certain meal prepared, or get that certain gift bought. We should have the same urgency for sharing the love of Christ to those who don't know Him. That is what God calls us to do.

Thanking God for a church that records the service for those that are shut in or sick!

3. Social Team meeting at church on Monday, Dec 30 at 5:00 pm.
4. "Christ, Coffee & Campfire" men's fellowship event in Higginsville on the first Saturday of the new year. Carpool leaving church parking lot at 5:15 am. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.
5. Mission Team is doing a coat drive through January 12. Any contribution is greatly appreciated.
6. Mission Team is asking you to start collecting now for Operation Christmas Child Shoebox and Kids' Christmas Store. So as you come across great clearance items considering purchasing for these projects. Collection bins in the entry way to the church.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Fifteen men attended the "Fellowship on the Farm" hosted by Drew Gill. "Christ, Coffee & Campfire" men's fellowship event in Higginsville on the first Saturday of the new year. Carpool leaving church parking lot at 5:15 am. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

We had a full house for our candlelight Christmas Eve services. The focus was "Adore Jesus!" Our call to worship was Psalm 96:1-4. Katie Phillips led the congregation in singing Christmas carols. Prayer was lifted to God, praising God and blessing our church families. The elders and deacons came forward to serve at the table as Katie Phillips sang "What Child is This?" Pastor Art delivered a brief message from Luke 2:1-7. He stated that the Holy Spirit has a message for you - to remember the truth! It is important to not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of Christmas. Then he played the Charlie Brown cartoon, where Linus reads Luke 2:8-14. Then he shared a tribute to Gene Parman because of his servant's heart. Gene was a huge advocate for this Charlie Brown Christmas cartoon because it was telling people about Jesus. Gene was a big supporter of Pastor Art. But he constantly advocated for not complicating things just to keep it simple. It's about your salvation and mine. We can give our hearts to Christ at any time. We need to be about the Lord's business. Read Luke 2:49. Pastor Art closed the message with an admonition to rejoice in our salvation. Katie Phillips led everyone in singing "Silent Night" as we lit our candles. Closing benediction was may the light of Christ go out into the world through each of us!"



JANUARY – LOTS OF NEW BEGINNINGS

2025 is starting with a number of changes. First, All Church Prayer meeting is moved back a week because of the holiday and travels. So our first All Church Prayer meeting will be Thursday, January 9 at 9:00 am at church.

Next the Women's Wednesday night Bible Study group is starting a new Bible study entitled "Breaking Free" by Beth Moore. Let me share the first line in the study: "I once believed only the spiritually lost were captives. God pried open my comfortably closed mind from the inside out with my life as the object lesson. I had no idea I was in captivity until God began to set me free." Perhaps this is describing your life. Here's her definition of captivity: **"A Christian is held captive by anything that hinders the abundant and effective Spirit-filled life God planned for her."** This is a 10 week interactive study with 11 sessions. Anyone taking this class will be greatly blessed. This class will be starting in mid to late January.

Our first church board meeting of 2025 will be at 6:00 pm on Thursday, January 9 in the fellowship hall. First order of business is the election of church officers. These meetings are open to anyone but only the 7 elected board members can actually vote on church business. If you want to know what is going on or what is planned for the future of this church, join us and learn.



REFLECTIONS ON GOD FROM NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
TASK FORCE

As we look back on cherished memories or painful events of the past, let us always look for God at work.

In times of loneliness in my life, He has been **The God Who Sees**, just as in Genesis 16:13.

When decisions needed to be made or I faced difficult situations, He has been my **Wonderful Counselor**, just as was foretold in Isaiah 9:6.

In seasons where I saw much fruitfulness in my life, He was **the Vine**, just as in John 15:5.

When I confessed with my mouth that Jesus is Lord and believed in my heart that God raised Him from the dead, He became my **Savior**, as promised in Romans 10:9.

Can you think of ways you have experienced God moving and working in the past? As you look back and see God at work, I encourage you to share with someone how you have seen God moving throughout your life. Testifying of His goodness glorifies God and can encourage someone else to reexamine their memories and difficult moments, and see God ministering in their own life!

Prayer from the National Day of Prayer Task Force on Reflection

"Lord Jesus, You are high and lifted up, You are the Light of the World, you are a strong tower, You are our defender, our shield, our Savior, and our Shepherd. We praise You for these moments that You draw our hearts into looking back toward the past and You open our eyes to show us where You were at work. In many of those moments we had no idea how You were working, but now in hindsight we see how You moved. Thank You, for never leaving us or forsaking us. As we look back over the events of our lives, keep us from falling into comparison, or letting nostalgia steal the joy You have set before us. Keep us overflowing with Hope and trust in You, all the days of our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen."





PRAYING FOR ISRAEL NIGHT AND DAY

Our next 24 hr prayer vigil is scheduled for Thursday, January 9 beginning at 4:00 am and ending Friday morning at 4:00 am. The sign up sheet will be circulated during worship service on Sunday, January 5. Please sign up and take a printed prayer guide. More than one person can sign up during a time slot. There is no limit to the number of individuals that can participate in this prayerful intercession. If you failed to take a prayer guide, contact Barbara Britt at pray4occ@gmail.com and she will send you one by email. Thank you in advance for your prayerful intercession for Israel.



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.

	<p style="text-align: center;">ASHES TO BEAUTY WOMEN'S ENCOUNTER WEEKEND</p> <p>Ashes to Beauty weekend is designed for every women 18 years and older. It is about encountering Jesus at the Cross in a new and personal as well as intimate way. There are 12 sessions that relate to a woman's life. Each session will include praise and worship, personal testimonies, teachings from God's perspective, and a time of reflection. First weekend encounter in 2025 is February 21-23. Contact Laura O'Dell (816) 868-3875 if you are interested in attending. She will assist you with making arrangements.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">ANSWERED PRAYER</p> <p>God is so good. We received the shocking news that Pam Johnson had fallen and broke her neck. She fractured the vertebrae at the base of her skull. She went to the hospital, where they evaluated her and placed a collar around her neck. No surgery was needed. She was released to go home and recuperate within 24 hours of her fall. Praising God for answered prayers. Please continue to lift the individuals on our prayer list. Your prayers do make a difference!</p>

COMING UP IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Jan 20 – 24 – Global Celebration of Prayer
 Jan 24 – 26 – Men's Encounter
 Feb 21 – 23 – Ashes to Beauty

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Tune in for "Morning Time on the Porch with Pastor Art" each weekday on facebook.
- Monday, Dec 30 - 5:00 pm - Social Team meeting at the church
- Tuesday, Dec 31 - 6:00 pm - Outreach to Cedars in Liberty. Contact Phil Boude if interested in helping to teach a Bible study at this center.
- Wednesday, Jan 1 - Happy New Year!
- Thursday, Jan 2 - 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, Jan 4 - 5:15 am - Carpool from church leaving for "Christ, Coffee & Campfire" men's fellowship in Higginsville, MO. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- Sunday, Jan 5 - 8:15 am - Traditional worship service. Nursery available (birth to 5).
- Sunday, Jan 5 - 9:45 am - Sunday School classes for all ages.
- Sunday, Jan 5 - 10:45 am - Contemporary worship service. Nursery available (birth to 5).
- Sunday, Jan 5 - 5:00-7:00 pm - Bible 101 with Pastor Art (childcare provided)
- Sunday, Jan 5 - 5:00-7:00 pm - Youth groups meet at OCC

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