

MESSENGER

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CHRISTMAS WITH THE CRUISERS

The Cruisers cordially invite everyone to attend their gala Christmas program on Tuesday evening, December 4, at 7:30 PM in Koopmans Hall. Noel Collins is preparing a fun evening of popular Christmas music featuring granddaughter Lexie, son Doug, and Lindsay and Alex Waggoner. There will be a great variety of favorite songs by soloists, duets, trios, and sing-a-longs accompanied by piano with all manner of percussion and “occasional” brass. Bring your family and friends for a wonderful celebration!

The Choirs of LCPC present



Join us for this festive evening filled with traditional carols and musical surprises, featuring our choirs, chamber orchestra, and a special appearance by vocal ensemble Monday@JoJo's. And don't forget the dessert reception to follow in Koopmans!

Thursday Evening, December 20, at 7:30 PM



ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

Come shop the Alternative Gift Fair for all your Christmas gifting. Sunday, December 2, between and after services, in Koopmans Hall.



For families with children: Lambs, goats, rabbits, a donkey and other furry nativity animals will be in front of the church to greet you for the 5:00 PM service! Tell your friends!

Andy Wilson will offer a brief, family-friendly message at both the 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM services, “All Is Calm, All Is Bright.”

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December 24, 5:00 PM Family Candlelight Service—with Nativity Animals!

Our Praise Band gives a new beat to old carols at this colorful celebration service. Candlelight and Christmas images enhance the prayers, readings, and brief message. Special music includes a stirring new song and a children's chorus. We end with “Silent Night” by candlelight. Bring your dinner guests with you to church to welcome the King of kings.

December 24, 10:00 PM Festival of Lessons and Carols

Following a century-year-old tradition in the Church of England, this colorful, candlelit service will include readings, carols (old and new) and images that illuminate the beautiful Christmas story. A variety of singers, professional musicians and readers will lead us.



Dear friends,
Well, it's happening again. For the entire month following Thanksgiving, billions of people are going to be throwing a gigantic birthday party for Jesus.

Since a great many of those people don't know the person they're celebrating, that opens up ripe opportunities for us Christians. We can bring people to church who ordinarily wouldn't be inclined to attend. We can talk about Jesus with people who at other times would tune us out. We can present the Gospel message to people who, during any other season, would walk away from us.

What should we say? How does Christmas relate to the Gospel of Jesus? I offer these brief thoughts to help you in your conversations with people who love Christmas but don't know Christ.

Paul sees the incarnation, or the mystery of God's being born in human form, as the key to understanding God's plan of salvation. Writing to the Christians in Colossae, he describes Christ's unique role as the one who bears God's image, and who is therefore able to save us:

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created... For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things... (Colossians 1:15-16, 19-20)

Paul is saying that Jesus is the full embodiment of God and the full embodiment of God's plan for us. Jesus shares our human flesh, and all the limitations and temptations that come with it. And that's what makes it possible for him to save us from sin, and to share with us his victory over death.

We usually don't think about salvation as something that's connected with Christmas. We think of it instead as something that was accomplished through Christ's death and resurrection. But according to the Bible, the incarnation – Christ's birth at Christmas – is absolutely central to God's plan. Christ had to take on human flesh so that he could represent us, and put his life in us.

Paul elaborates on this mystery in Romans where he draws a parallel between Adam and Christ. Sin got its start with the very first man. Sin is like a deadly poison that flows from Adam through the human race. But we trace our

salvation to Christ. His grace and forgiveness flow through us like a river of new life. Paul explains:
...if the many died by the trespass of the one man [Adam], how much more did... the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many. (Romans 5:15)

Elsewhere, in his First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul makes the point even more succinctly:

For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:22)

In Christ, and through Christ, God is forging a new race of people, one that is pure and righteous in his eyes. Christ is the head of this new humanity. And our participation in the whole plan is dependent on our relationship to him. He must be our head so that his life can flow into us!

What does all of this tell us about Christmas? It tells us that Christ's birth wasn't just a quiet prelude to the main events of Christ's death and resurrection. Instead, it was the earth-shattering intervention that gave new hope to humanity. Christ was and is God's model for human life. He's the prototype of what he intends for you and me to be. And the promise of Christmas is that God's life – eternal life – now flows through him to us. John brings it all together for us in one pregnant sentence:

In him [Jesus] was life, and that life was the light of all people. (John 1:4)

That's the message that's so often lost in the busy-ness of Christmas. That's the Good News we're call to proclaim through our worship, our carols and our conversations.

May the Holy Spirit give us the words to explain the mystery as it has been revealed to us. And may we yield our lives to our Savior so that others will see him alive in us.

Merry Christmas!
Andy Wilson

LEE'S LATEST

Blessed Assurance: A Study of Revelation

We take the same route to work every day, listen to the same music we did in high school, order the same meal at restaurants, and according to national statistics, spend three hours on our phones everyday arguing with the same anonymous people about politics. OK, so maybe our lives aren't that ho-hum. But most of us find ourselves in a rut. If we are honest with ourselves, we tend to read the same Bible passages again and again – like finding comfort from a familiar old friend. Our church attendance becomes routine and status quo, singing the same old songs. What can break us out of our doldrums?

Reading a book like Revelation is exactly



what we need. This book, very often ignored and even more often misrepresented, is an antidote to our spiritual rut. The language of dragons, cosmic battles, and a victorious Hero can shake us out of our routines and awaken us to what God is doing in

the here and now. The Revelation of John is not a theological crossword puzzle to be decoded, but rather a pastoral letter to people who are struggling to make sense of a world that is in political and cultural chaos (sound familiar?).

I will begin a study of Revelation in January and I hope you will join me in the New Year to celebrate the new life that Jesus brings.

Lee

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

(continued from page 8)

DECEMBER 23, 10:00 AM
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
HOLIDAY HOMECOMING
WORSHIP

Message by Lee Cook:

"The Peace of Christmas... For the Church"

For personal study: *Philippians 2: 1-11*

This one-service-only gathering will include lots of carols, beautiful Christmas favorites played

by ensembles of professional musicians, and a short game with prizes for kids.

After worship we'll enjoy an especially elegant fellowship time in Koopmans Hall featuring special hot drinks, homemade cookies and finger foods. No charge – bring your friends!

DECEMBER 30
NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Message by Lee Cook

"The Peace of Christmas... In Tumultuous Times"

For personal study: *Revelation 1:12-18*

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Messenger articles and corrections should be emailed to shawndraws@gmail.com. Please put the word "Messenger" in the subject line.

They can also be placed in the Messenger folder. Materials submitted after the deadline may be omitted at the discretion of the editor.

PRAISES FROM MARIE AND DANIEL

Surprised by...Funding

Sometimes I actually think raising financial support is fun! I love the opportunity to share stories of God at work in students' lives, and enjoy the relational time with wonderful people. But sometimes it's just plain hard. Doubts begin to creep in. When I'm far from reaching my budget, I wonder if I will have to quit my job with InterVarsity because the funds just aren't there. I become afraid of reaching out to new people and nervous about making someone uncomfortable by asking them about financial giving.

All summer long, I faithfully worked on raising support alongside the entire Boston InterVarsity staff team. I took courageous steps to reach out to potential new partners. But when September began, I still had not reached the 80% mark of my budget. So the music students began the semester without my in-person support. That is when I e-mailed you, explaining my situation and my need.

Then something special happened! I experienced an abundant outpouring of prayer and financial support beyond anything I have ever seen in my 10 years on staff. You shared in my urgency, wanting me to get back on campus to the work God has called me to. Each day when I opened my e-mail inbox, or my literal mailbox, I was surprised to find notes of prayer and encouragement, or news sharing they just made an extra gift to help me get on campus!

I not only passed the 80% mark, but **I am also now fully funded for this school year!** Rather than doubting if I can stay on staff with InterVarsity long-term, God has confirmed my call to serve college students in Boston. I am still raising funds for the work across the Boston Division. My dream is to be fully funded again when our fiscal year resets on July 1.

This week back on campus, I already have led the student leaders in a powerful time of prayer and healing, trained students to disciple their friends who just became Christians (read below!), and more.

Thank you for your regular support, and for your extra gifts!

Surprised by...the Gospel

At the fall retreat, I had the privilege of giving a talk to 140 students on Micah 6:8. I spoke about a God who has called us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with him. But what are we to do when we recognize we all need mercy from God, and none of us actually deserve to receive mercy? At the cross, both the hurting and perpetrators (we all fit into both those categories) are brought before God, and God's justice and mercy is satisfied. This is who our God is!

When I concluded my talk and made the invitation to faith, I didn't know if anyone would respond. I said, "Some of you came to this retreat as someone who was walking your own walk



rather than walking with God. And now, even if you don't know everything about God, you know you want to begin walking with God. If that is you, please stand."

Nine students almost leapt out of their seats to indicate that they wanted to begin following Jesus! The Christians across the entire room erupted in joyful cheering and celebration!



Music Students at Fall Retreat: Flora (top row, white hat) and Laurel (top row, far right) started following Jesus!

Two of the students who said yes to follow Jesus were Berklee students: Laurel and Flora. They shared their stories — one coming from a background where she was afraid of God and felt judged by the church, and the other coming from a Buddhist family who disapproved of her even beginning to seek Jesus. As one Berklee student listened to God's work in their lives, she began weeping and shared, "I've never seen anyone begin to follow Jesus before, and tonight I got to see two of my friends say yes! I'm just so happy!"

Please join us in prayer for Laurel and Flora as they begin walking daily with Jesus. And also pray for Grace — she said she's not yet ready to follow Jesus, but she is returning to Berklee from fall retreat eager to seek God for answers to her deep questions.

Surprised by...Mucus?

Daniel is enjoying his classes, but he said right now things are hard to sum up, and he's afraid it would bore you. He's learning a lot about different resources for research (like Philo, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Mishnah). He's had a cold for almost four full weeks, and would appreciate your prayers for his health. I'm making him homemade

chicken broth to drink, and he's taking regular doses of Mucinex

Surprised by... a SABBATICAL!

Can you believe I have served with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship for 9-1/2 years? One of the joys of working with InterVarsity is the gift of a sabbatical, and I will be embarking on my first season of rest away from ministry! My sabbatical will begin on December 3, 2018 and end on June 2, 2019. Three of my co-workers, and two volunteer staff at Berklee and New England Conservatory, will be covering my role during my time away.

My heart is drawn to a "less is more" approach for my time on sabbatical. I see my need for a season of physical rest. I am looking forward to more time with Daniel. I will take space for emotional processing and cognitive reflection through my past seminary classes. And I hope for lots of fun and laughter with family and friends, hiking in New Hampshire, and running around Boston.

You will hear from us occasionally while I am on sabbatical. I invite you to pray for us regularly — perhaps you could add a weekly or monthly reminder to your calendar!

Thank you for your ongoing financial partnership and continuing to invest both in the Kingdom work on campus, and in the deep work God's doing in me. I am deeply humbled by your partnership. When I return in June, I look forward to serving as an Area Director over a group of campuses in Boston.



Please reach out with any questions or encouragement! I will send a final update from campus next week.

We are truly blessed!
Marie & Daniel

WORLD VISION GIVING TREE

There's still time to pick an ornament from our World Vision Giving Tree and make a huge difference in the life of someone in need this Christmas! All donations are due by December 9 and can be put in the offering envelope or delivered to the church office. Thank you for giving!

children's Ministries

by Ashley Pollock

The other night, Charlie declared somewhat randomly: "I'm so excited because Christmas is Jesus' birthday and He shares all His presents!" Now, I was thrilled that she remembers the reason for celebrating Christmas is Jesus. But I am 99% sure that when Charlie was thinking about the presents Jesus shares, she was not talking about grace and love or even gold and frankincense and myrrh. I'm almost positive she is imagining something more connected to her 3-year-old world — perhaps something like the mermaid tail sleeping bag she has been asking for the past two months.

It's hard for anyone, let alone a preschooler, to grasp the value of the gift of Jesus Christ. It's hard to wrap your mind around His very presence on earth as the greatest gift of all time. But that is what it is. In Jesus, we are given the Way, the Truth and the Life — the Way back to the God who loves and created us. We are given the way to new life, forever life.

But how do we teach something so complex to little ones? I wish that after ten years in Children's Ministries, I had the perfect answer. I don't. To be honest, I am still working on grasping the complexity myself. But as a mom and as someone privileged enough to spend time with the children of LCPC on a regular basis, I do have two things I like to do with kids in every Christmas season.

Celebrate. It's simple, I know. But I think as a child grows, so can their understanding of what they are celebrating. Perhaps they begin by celebrating the birthday of someone who was born over 2000 years ago — and thinking that while that is strange, all the traditions are fun. And over time they find themselves celebrating someone they talk to when they pray, someone they recognize as presence in their life.

Then the celebration takes on a little more meaning. And hopefully, one Christmas, they find

themselves celebrating their Savior. All the fun traditions, gifts and fanfare of Christmas become not the center or best part of the holiday, but rather the extension of the joy and gratitude they feel toward a God who gave so much.

Give. I think we understand more about the generosity of God when we are able to participate in it thanks to the blessings He has given us. So each December, Children's Ministries participates in at least three "giving projects" on Sunday mornings. They are not complex. They are not large, fundraising endeavors. Instead, they are simple activities like packing a lunch for the homeless or making a card and ornament for the residents of a nursing home.

Every year, I am so thankful to see that the kids don't view these projects as a reason to pat themselves on the back or as a way to earn favor with Santa. Not one child has ever asked what he or she gets in return. Instead, year after year, they seem genuinely excited to be able to impact someone else — to offer an expression of care to someone who may not often feel cared for.

My prayer is that in experiencing that excitement, kids will be able to better understand how the greatest gift is not something wrapped up or bought on Amazon. It is an expression of care that God showed to all His children one quiet night in Bethlehem.

In Christ,
Ashley Pollock

December Events

Kristy and I hope your children and your family can join us this month as we celebrate and give at these events:

Every Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00 AM:
Servant's Heart Sundays. Join us as we learn about

the first Christmas and work together to share the love of God with others this Christmas through service projects.

December 6 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM:

Center for Children Christmas Craft Night. Come enjoy a variety of fun Christmas crafts and the chance to get your picture taken with Santa.

December 14 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM:

Cookies and Cocoa Christmas Party! This party is for kids in Kindergarten through sixth grade. We will play some Christmas games and then enjoy the cookies and cocoa while watching *The Star*.

December 16 from 1:45 - 3:15 PM:

Caroling at La Crescenta HealthCare Center (formerly Verdugo Vista). Children and youth are invited to join us as we deliver handmade ornaments and cards to the residents and share with them both the Christmas story and a set of beloved Christmas carols. No rehearsal is necessary. Just meet in the church parking lot ready to spread love and cheer!

December 24 at 5:00 and 10:00 PM:

Christmas Eve. We will be offering two different services. The 5:00 PM service is more contemporary and will include a live nativity and petting zoo. The 10:00 PM service our candlelight service and will feature the LCPC Cathedral Choir.



Kids Say the Darndest Things

8-Year-Old Boy: "Ashley, what are you going to name your baby?"

Ashley: "Well, I don't know yet. Any good ideas?"

8-Year-Old Boy: "Jill-bert."

Ashley: "Do you mean Gilbert?"

8-Year-Old Boy: "Nope — Jill-bert."

7-Year-Old Girl: "I know! I know! Jesus!"

Dear Friends,

In this last Deacon's Beacon of the year, I want to share with you a couple of reminders about services that our Deacons provide like our food pantry which offers a bag of canned and boxed groceries for those in need of a few days' meals. We also have people ready and willing to provide rides to doctor's appointments, the grocery store, post office, etc. We have our Meal Train for families or individuals who need meals while going through an illness, a new baby, a life change, or any situation where we can help take some of the stress out of your day. I can speak from personal experience that a short visit from a friend with a meal is very welcome and appreciated.



There is also a need for past or current Deacons and Elders to help serve communion at the 9:00 AM service. This is a meaningful act of service for anyone who may have been out of the loop, so to speak, and who would like to be useful and blessed all at the same time.

This has nothing specific to do with Deacons, but I recently had the opportunity to meet US Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and receive a copy of her book, *The Beloved World of Sonia Sotomayor*, which is an autobiography adapted for young readers. I was very impressed with her ability to dream big dreams and work hard to achieve them. Her family had emigrated from Puerto Rico and lived in some of the poorest neighborhoods in the South Bronx, New York. She was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at a very young age and had to administer her insulin shots herself, so you know she was someone who faced life with grit and determination.

(continued on page 6)



December is finally here – let the Christmas celebrations begin! Get out your calendars because you won't want to miss any of these festive events.

We're starting off the **first Sunday of Advent** on December 2 with the perfect opportunity for you to get a few gifts marked off your list. The **Alternative Gift Fair** will be down in Koopmans Hall after both services. There will be oodles of beautiful hand-crafted items created by artisans of poor communities worldwide.

On Tuesday, December 4, you're all invited to celebrate **Christmas with the Cruisers** at 7:30 PM in Koopmans Hall. **Noel Collins** is preparing a fun evening of popular Christmas music featuring granddaughter **Lexie**, son **Doug**, and **Lindsay** and **Alex Waggoner**. There will be favorite songs by solos, duets, and trios and sing-alongs accompanied by piano, percussion and brass. Bring your family and friends too!

CFC's Christmas Craft Night will be on Thursday, December 6. You can start in Koopmans with dinner at 5:30 PM for just \$3 per person. Crafts will begin at 6:45 PM throughout the CFC classrooms and of course there will be a special photo op with Santa. CFC would love to have you join them.

The **World Vision Giving Tree** will be in the Narthex through December 9. Choose an ornament and commit to providing the money for that item, to bless a needy child or family across the globe. Turn in your payment with the ornament you chose, and the item number in the memo line of your check. Payments can be taken to the church office or put in the offering plate on Sunday.

There will be a special **Creative Bible Journaling Holiday class and Cookie Exchange** on Monday, December 10, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM in Koopmans. Bring a beverage to sip on, a batch of your favorite cookies for the exchange, and a container for the cookies you take home. All journaling supplies will be provided, but if you have a journaling Bible, please bring it. You'll be making a holiday keepsake as well as journaling some Christmas pages. **Bob Keiter** and **Dave DePaoli** will tell you this is not just for ladies!

Children's Ministries will be caroling at **La Crescenta Health Care Center** (formerly Ver-

dugo Vista) on Sunday, December 16. The residents there love to hear our kids' angelic voices and see their sweet faces! Meet in the church parking lot at 1:45 PM and the kids and chaperones will walk to the facility which is just down the street. Pick up your little caroler back at LCPC at 3:15 PM.

Thursday, December 20, is the **Christmas Choir concert**, "Candles and Carols," at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. This is a favorite holiday tradition featuring our **Cathedral Choir** and **Monday@JoJo's**, a women's a cappella group featuring some ladies from our choir and guest musicians – another great opportunity for inviting friends and family.

On Sunday, December 23, there will be one **combined worship service at 10:00 AM**. Look for an expanded "Party in the Breezeway" after the service. On **Christmas Eve**, we will have two services to choose from. The contemporary family service with the Praise Band will be at 5:00 PM and the traditional candlelight service with our Cathedral Choir will be at 10:00 PM. Come celebrate that the waiting is over!

November proved to be a pretty busy month as well! We had 26 avid Bunco players down in Koopmans for a fun night of dice rolling and dessert gobbling. **Whitney Lescher** was the big winner of the night with her high score. Everyone had such a great time that the **Cruisers** are planning another **Bunco Night** in early 2019!

The **Men's Ministry** group hosted a dinner at Greg and Kathy Perkins home and had a good turnout of men and high school boys. Jim Granier BBQ'd sausages and they all had great night of fellowship, food and sharing.

Ashley and Kristy's Lego Fest and Feast was a huge hit! Friends of all ages joined together for dinner then split up into teams to construct Bible scenes out of Legos. These creations were far more spectacular than anyone could have imagined! The winning team of **Lee and Chelsea Cook** and **Alice, Audrey and Adam Hill** created the best Garden of Eden you've ever seen, complete with an apple and a snake. Hope to see this event again next year.

About 20 LCPCers joined **Andy** and had a fun and productive weekend working on the **Casa de Los Angeles orphanage** down in Rosarito Mexico with **Jim Sedgwick** and his team from La Jolla Presbyterian Church. Not only did they move a lot of rocks around and did concrete work on the retaining wall, they also found time to visit another orphanage in the area, play with the kids, and have some fabulous local cuisine.

Thank you **Deacons** for another delicious **Thanksgiving Brunch** after the combined service last month. We look forward to it every year and you never disappoint.

Feel free to jot down, roll up, and insert a prayer in the beautiful new **Prayer Wall** in the Narthex. Each week, a dedicated team of prayer

warriors will be praying over your requests and praises. Prayers can be anonymous, or you are welcome to write your name and contact info if you would like someone from the team to reach out to you.

Bob and **Pat Chambers** went to South Carolina recently to celebrate the engagement of their daughter **Riley** to **David Dadzie**. They were thrilled to have David's parents from Ghana join them for this special occasion.

During this busy month, be sure to take some time to reflect on the true reason for the season. **Merry Christmas** and I'll see you next year!

CFC FAITH UPDATE

We are entering into the most wonderful time of the year (at least in my opinion)! I love Christmas time at CFC. The kids are all filled with excitement and anticipation. The Christmas Craft Night is a ton of fun every year, and the CFC kitchen is usually stocked with Christmas candy for the staff.

One other thing I love about this year is that it seems like CFC families and LCPC families have more reason to come together in December. This year, I hope to see everyone at Christmas Craft Night, but I also encourage you to come to some of the LCPC Christmas Events listed in this newsletter – events like or Cocoa and Cookies Night and our Christmas Eve services. Let's celebrate the birth of our Savior together!

DEACONS

(continued from page 4)

Her love of reading and ability to focus and work hard enabled her to progress in her studies and to persevere. She won a scholarship to Princeton University when most poor minority students were unable even to dream of such an opportunity. Graduating summa cum laude from Princeton, she went on to Yale law school and proceeded to expand her professional life until eventually, she was nominated to the US Supreme Court by President Obama.

I think what impressed me most about her was her humbleness and ability to ask for help. I feel she is a beacon of graciousness, kindness and rationality, all of which are so important to civilized society. One phrase from her book stands out for me: "Build bridges instead of walls."

I will keep those words in mind as we finish this year and look forward to the next and pray that I will build bridges instead of walls myself.

God Bless you all,
Kerry Milbrodt



CFC Heartbeat



Director's Corner

Merry Christmas to all our families at the Center for Children. Christmas is a magical time with young children. With each new decoration or light that appears they feel the excitement growing. This is also a month when we tend to get overwhelmed with our to-do lists, invitations, and other activities. I love the idea of having 24 children's books wrapped under the tree, they don't even need to be new, to let your children see how important the gift of time is with them each night. Open one each night and cuddle together.

Here at the CFC we will be having fun with secular aspects of Christmas, Santa, reindeer, elves and trees, all while still making sure that your children hear the story of the birth of Jesus. We will be singing, making things, and enjoying all this season has to offer.

When children see all the commercials for toys, they may get caught up in the idea that they need all these things to be happy this Christmas. It's our job as parents to keep things in perspective. Did they write a wish list? Make sure they know it

Scholarship Fund

Our scholarship program is for helping families already enrolled in the Center for Children that find themselves in temporary financial constraints. We have helped families in the past through job loss, illnesses, home fires, injuries and divorce. Our goal is to allow children to remain in a consistent environment while the family is facing hardships. If you would like to make an end of the year tax-deductible gift to our scholarship program, make checks out to CFC – Scholarship. Thank you in advance for thinking of CFC families at this time of the year.

Calendar of December Events

- December 6:** CFC Craft Night
- December 20:** LCPC Christmas Cathedral Choir Concert
- December 23:** 10:00 AM Worship Service—Holiday Homecoming
- December 24:** 5:00 PM Praise Band-led Family Worship Service
- December 24: 10:00 PM** Cathedral Choir-led Worship Service

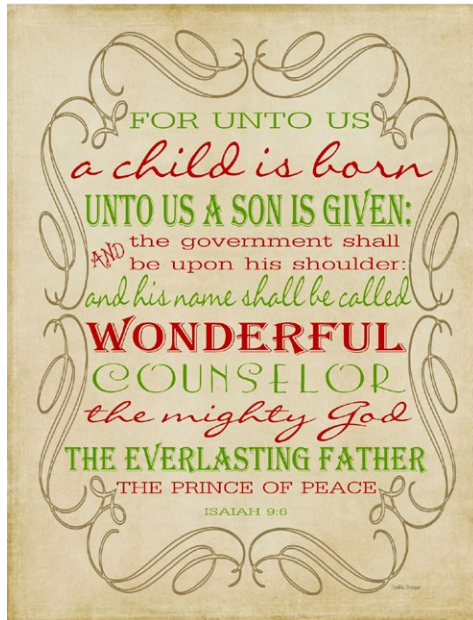
is a wish list and not a demand list. They should get some things on the list, but not everything. Find a way for them to give back over the season. Donate gently used toys, make Christmas boxes for operation Christmas Shoebox, take an item off one of the many Christmas gift trees in the community, and give to others.

Look around the community and find fun and often inexpensive things to do as a family. Our family loved going to the Montrose Christmas parade when the kids were little. We would go early get a spot, bring pizza to eat while we waited, and then enjoy our hometown parade. There are Christmas lights to drive by, concerts, worship services, and many other ways to enjoy the season.

La Crescenta Presbyterian Church has many opportunities this season for fun and worship. I hope you will look at this entire newsletter to see what might fit your family's schedule.

Merry Christmas from Everyone at CFC!

Pat



Christmas Craft Night

Please join us on December 6 when we will begin with a dinner at 5:30 PM (\$3 per person). At 6:15 PM we will go to the Sanctuary for a little Christmas sing-a-long, then move into the classrooms at 6:30 PM. Six of our rooms will be transformed into Santa's workshops, each with a different craft project. The projects range from easy to more difficult so children of all ages will enjoy the evening. We will be making great crafts

Holiday Closings and Special Events

The CFC will be closed December 24 and 25 for Christmas and on December 31 and January 1 for New Years. Our Holiday Day Camp will run from December 26 – January 4 with the exception of the New Years days listed above. We will have the schedule for our Day Camp out soon.

We will also have two special days in December for all the children:



Crazy Holiday Hat Day!

December 20 will be Holiday Hat Day. Let your children bring a hat to wear that day: Santa, elf, or other fun winter hat.



December 26 will be Pajama and Pancake Day. The day after Christmas will be a "chill" day here at CFC. We will have a special pancake breakfast for the kids and then be cozy all day in our PJs. A movie will be shown in the afternoon so don't forget to bring a special stuffed animal to cuddle with.

for decorating your home. Don't forget to stop by the Fireside Room to meet Santa, bring your own camera and get a great photo, wonderful for Christmas cards! Christmas is a time to be with family and you are our family. We hope to see you there. All crafts and the photo with Santa are free. Invite friends to join you!

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GLENDALE, CA
PERMIT NO. 1701

**DATED
MATERIAL**



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

NEW SONG WORSHIP (CONTEMPORARY), SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM
SERVICE OF PRAISE (CLASSIC), SUNDAYS AT 11:00 AM

Peace. We long for it throughout the year, and never more so than at Christmas. Peace is God's gift to us through his Son, born in a manger. True peace is found in relationship with Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Messages throughout the season will explore the many colors and expressions of Christmas peace. How does our role as peacemakers for Christ relate to our role as stewards of the earth (12/2)? How does the Messiah's birth shape our understanding of world events (12/9)? What can we do to cultivate peace in our families (12/16) and in the church (12/23)? How does having a relationship with Christ allow me to have peace with God? (12/24)? What does the Bible tell us about the "Second Advent," the return

of Jesus and his reign of everlasting peace (12/30)?

This is a series for anyone who yearns for "the peace that passes all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). All messages will be rooted in Bible passages that both seekers and Christians will find relevant to daily life.

Don't even think of missing this year's Christmas concert, Candles & Carols (12/20)!

Our two family-friendly Christmas Eve services (12/24) will help those without a church home to find their way home to Jesus. Whether they come for the lambs, candles and carols, or the readings, prayers and message, Christ's joy and peace will abound.

DECEMBER 2 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE LORD'S SUPPER

Message by Andy Wilson:

"The Peace of Christmas... For Our Hurting Planet"

For personal study: Proverbs 1:20-33

DECEMBER 9 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Message by Lee Cook:

"The Peace of Christmas... For the Nations"

For personal study: Isaiah 2:1-5

DECEMBER 16 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Message by Andy Wilson:

"The Peace of Christmas... For Families"

For personal study: Ephesians 5: 21-33; 6:1-4



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 7:30 PM CANDLES & CAROLS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This Spirit-filled, family friendly celebration will be brimming with Christmas cheer. Accompanied by professional instrumentalists, our choirs and soloists will perform a wide variety of Christmas favorites.

Included will be a marvelous, 20-minute medley of carols arranged by Mark Hayes as well as acappella group Monday@JoJo's..

Afterward we'll enjoy a dessert reception in Koopmans Hall featuring hundreds of unbelievably scrumptious homemade delicacies.

Bring a carload of friends – both the concert and reception are free!

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   **SEE FRONT PAGE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**   

Many people that don't have a church home will gladly come to church at Christmas. Don't just invite your friends – bring them!