

Tahoe Community Church

Notes, Announcements, and Reminders

December 2024

Worshipping Together, Making Disciples, Reaching Our World!



Ten Guidelines For Keeping Christ in Christmas

TAKE time to be alone and ponder

your relationship with Christ.

READ the story of Jesus' birth and note how people responded- Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Simeon and Anna.

PRAISE God at Christmas. Join other Christians in celebrations of music and praise.

HELP those in need at Christmas. Follow the example of Jesus whose heart was filled with compassion for those who were suffering.

KEEP your TO DO list as short as possible. Limit your social obligations so there is time for reflection.

USE cash when you buy gifts to avoid holiday debt.

TELL others about the Savior. Find opportunities to give a tract or a Bible.

REMEMBER Christ's church around the world.

LIVE like Christ in this season. Be compassionate, forgiving and sensitive to people.

BE JOYFUL at Christmas! You are celebrating the greatest event in the history of the world—the arrival of God in human form.



Christmas Eve Service

Join us on
Sunday December
24th, at 6:00 pm for
a special Christmas

Eve service. This service will include the singing of familiar Christmas Carols, special music presentations, and a message from God's word. Lets make plans to celebrate the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is also a great opportunity to invite friends and family members to come to Church.

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m.	Sunday Prayer Time
9:00 a.m.	Bible Study Class
9:00 a.m.	Praise Team Practice
10:10 a.m.	Coffee/Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service

Children's Church Available

Weekly Church Activities

Tue.	8:00 am Bible Study Breakfast
	9:30 am Prayer Gathering
	10:30 am Knitting Group
Wed.	9:00 am Homeschool Co-op
	3:00 pm Praise Team Practice
	5:30 pm AWANA Bible Club
	6:00 pm Design for Discipleship Class
Thurs.	9:00 am Women's Bible Study
	2:00 pm Ladies Community Bible Study
	Satellite Class
Fri.	6:00 pm Word of Life Worship Service



Poinsettia Donations

After a few year re-prieve, we are reinstating our tradition of decorating our Worship Center with

Poinsettias.

All of the poinsettias received will be given in memory or in honor of someone special. If you would like to participate, simply bring in a poinsettia and let me know who you are giving it in memory or in honor of. If you are unable to purchase one yourself, please let me know and I will gladly get one for you.

I will put a flyer in the bulletin each week listing all the poinsettia donors and whom they are giving flowers in memory or in honor of. If you wish to donate anonymously, that is great too!



The Shepherds Spotlight

By Pastor Todd Cheney

THE CHRISTMAS GIFTS OF PRAYER

When I was a small boy I would get so geeked for Christmas morning...the night before in my grandmother's house the tree had nothing underneath and the stockings were hung but empty. And I was always amazed Christmas morning to see presents under the tree and stockings filled with all sorts of candy and other fun items.

Then when I turned 10, I began taking the wonder of Christmas for granted because I found where my grandmother hid each year's Christmas gifts. Just like taking the wonder of Christmas for granted I sometimes take the wonder of the simple act of prayer for granted.

Matthew 6:9-13 is often miss-named, "The LORD's Prayer." However, it is better to think of this portion of Scripture as the Disciple's Prayer since this is what Jesus taught us (his disciples) to think about as we pray. I observe (6) Christmas gifts of prayer as I meditate on the wonder of our Christmas Savior.

First, there is the Gift of Fellowship that flows out of addressing God, "Our Father" (v. 9). Amazing that Jesus directs us to begin here! Religious Jews would have never approached or addressed God as "Father." In fact, they would not even use His covenantal name of Yahweh for fear of being struck down and killed. The familiar address would have been Adonai or simply Lord. Jesus directs us to begin our praying by remembering what He accomplished on the cross which provided access or fellowship to our Heavenly Father.

Second, there is the Gift of Fear that flows from the phrase, "Hallowed be Your Name" (v. 9). What does it mean to "hallow" one's name? It means to regard as sacred, to uphold it as the perfect standard, to be in awe of who God is based off of how He identifies Himself. In other words, when we pray "hallowed be Your Name" we are essentially expressing – God, you are my Heavenly Father and since You are awesome, since You are holy – I fear You, I respect You, I stand in amazement under You.

Sometimes we don't fear something or someone until we are confronted with an awful reality. For example, the first time I took my son Kyle out shooting...everything was fine; he thought the weapons

We were firing were cool until he actually shot one of the pistols. Then he had a look of dread come over his face because it occurred to him how terrible it would be to be injured by one of those weapons. The same can be said of God...the consequences of sin are one practical example of enjoying the gift of fear.

Third, there is the Gift of the Spirit that I observe in the next phrase, "Your Kingdom Come" (v. 10). The Kingdom of God is in a state of "already not yet" here. So how do we know that the Kingdom of God is among us? We know that God began establishing his kingdom through the sending of his Holy Spirit and establishing the church (see Acts 2). How do we assess the Spirit's influence and work in our lives? Let me provide several thoughts. He gives you a love for the Word of God. The Spirit convicts you of sin and areas of your life that need shoring up.

He produces in you a passion for spiritual realities (like sound preaching, fellowship, prayer). And he is the singular reason for reformation and revival.

Fourth, then there is the Gift of Contentment captured by the phrase "Give Us Our Daily Bread" (v. 11). This is praying to the Lord for what we need rather than for what we want. Bread, in Jesus' day was a precious commodity. The reference to daily bread underscores Jesus' instruction to focus on day to day needs rather than future wants. And so this part of our praying is twofold: thanking the Lord for His provision but also a reminder to be content.

Fifth, there is the precious Gift of Forgiveness expressed in "Forgive Us Our Debts" (v. 12). This is a prayer to provide a clean slate to others that God has provided for us. Gathering with family during the Christmas season can be a very challenging experience due to relational conflict and brokenness. I'm wondering: is there someone this Christmas season you need to settle accounts with?

And lastly, the Gift of Revelation by observing the phrase, "Do Not Lead Us into Temptation" (v. 13). Psalm 119:105 says, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." That is how God resources us in answering our request to not lead us into temptation.

How do we know what sin is and what sin is not? How do we know God's will?

Simply, because of the divine gift of revelation. Consider, Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is he

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The shepherd's spotlight (Cont.)

who keeps the law." The NASB is not the best English. Vision literally means "revelation" – in other words, where there is no biblical revelation people go completely and totally astray. One translation says that where there is no revelation people go berserk!

What gifts are you grateful for as you anticipate Christmas?

Let us humble ourselves and ask God to steel us from taking for granted the Christmas Gifts of Prayer and all the benefits that prayer provides for us.

Update on Pastor Todd Cheney

Pastor Cheney will be in Lake Tahoe at the end of December and will be giving the message on Sunday December 22.

He is scheduled to begin his Career Skills Program (CSP) internship with us on January 1st and will be here through April 30th. He will then need to return to Ft. Leavenworth Kansas in May, for Army out-processing and retirement. Pastor Cheney will return as our full time pastor in June.



Opportunities to Pray Together

Tuesday Payer Gathering

This mid-week prayer session meets every week at 9:30 am following the Breakfast Bible Study. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in this important mid-week activity.

Sunday Prayer Time

Church Members meet every Sunday Morning at 8:30am in the Adventure Zone Building for prayer.

Prayer Requests

When you have a prayer request:

- * for the Church Bulletin
- * for the Prayer Team
- * or a confidential prayer request

Please contact Linda Robinson, the Church Prayer Ministry Coordinator, who is available 24/7, by phone/text 5 at (530) 721-0942 or e-mail at: TCCprayerministry25@gmail.com

Please do not hesitate to share your prayer request with us. The Bible tells of the importance of praying for each other and It is hard for us to pray for you if you needs are not known.



Team Time!

On November 23, the church ladies got together for a special event called "A Tea of thankfulness." Jacki Wright was the hostess and she and her sister Paula Murray

provided most of the tea settings. The tables were vey elegantly decorated and the food was beautifully laid out. The guest speaker for the event was Christine Feinberg. Christine and Jan Hurst also set the room up for the event. Judging from the pictures, all the ladies in attendance had a great time!



Christmas Giving Catalogs

There are currently 3 gift giving catalogs in the office for you to use. All of them contain great ideas for giving a needed gift to someone who really needs it. There is the Send Relief Catalog, the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Gift Catalog, and the ANM Share Hope this Christmas: The missions Gift Catalog. Gifts range from small items like Bibles and food, to larger items like farm animals. A farm animal like chickens or goats can help sustain a family for years. You can also donate towards digging wells for clean drinking water and other building projects. You may borrow theses catalogs, just bring them back.



Missionary News

by Ted Beverage

For more details, and photos on missions, check out the bulletin board in the church lobby.

Tim and Susan Driscoll, Japan (OMF)

The Driscoll's monthly newsletter is called "We have so much to be thankful for!" They go on to list 20 specific things that they are thankful for. Please read their newsletter which is posted on the bulletin board to find out what they are. I wonder how long it would take us to come up with a list like that?

Psalm 107:3 **"Give Thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endured forever."**

"Pastor W. in Pakistan/FMI

I did not receive anything new from FMI since the last Newsletter. Current information is posted on the bulletin board.

Macedonia Missions to the Balkans/ANM: Marino Mojtic and the Evangelical Church (EC) of Macedonia"

A Few Updates from ANM:

Lebanon: Christians from Muslim backgrounds had to leave their homes and possessions because of war this fall. They were welcomed and cared for by Native missionaries and churches, and friends like you helped provide food, water and other essentials. God is doing something amazing in the midst of the chaos of war!

North Korea: The people of this land are oppressed and silenced. This fall we sent food and Bibles secretly into the country for more than 6,000 underground Christians.

Pakistan: Native Missionaries are distributing hundreds of Bibles to new believers in this country where 97% of the people are Muslim. Muslims are finding true hope in Jesus and learning about the Lord through Bibles in their local languages.

ANM Fall 2024 Missions Report:

The fall 2024 Missions Report is posted on the bulletin board. Here are the featured stories:

- Churches Multiply in Uganda
- New Program Trains Missionaries to Reach the Unreached in south Asia.
- Missionaries Bring Healing and Assistance to victims of Violence in the Middle East.

The Fall Missions Report included a poster showing specific missions work being done and the locations of that work. Examples are water for wells for 75 rural villages in Cambodia, Food and clothing for 600 children in India and small business training in Ecuador. It really is worth your time to look it over.

Just think, because of our support, we have had a hand in all of these projects!

I also received the latest Prayer Letter from the Evangelical Church in Macedonia which is posted on the bulletin board. Their big event for October was a National Sunday Service. On October 27, around 800 believers from all over Macedonia attended their National Sunday Service. This was the first gathering of all local evangelical churches, in one place, in such remarkable numbers. There was a class for 80 kids in a different room.

Feel free to take any of the material off the missions bulletin board to bring home to read. Just bring it back the following Sunday!

Life Choices, Carson City

From the Life choices Monthly Letter:

"This Month as we take a step back and reflect with gratitude I am considering 2 Corinthians 2:14-15. **"But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are perishing."** Each day at Life Choices we have the opportunity to be the aroma of Christ to those who enter our office. What blessing it is to be placed here by the Lord!

Important 2025 Life Choices Events at-a-glance:

- Baby Bottle Campaign, January 2025
- Student Rally: Saturday, January 18, 2025
- Spring Fundraiser: Thursday, June 26

Central Asian Family Update

We are going to Court!!!

If that title was not about our adoption it would be a stressful title! But it has been our dream for 2.5 years now, to get a court date and take D. to court and petition the local authorities to make us D's legal parents!! Before God, he is our son. Now we are asking for the legal proceedings to catch up.

Can we ask you to set an alarm to pray everyday for this until November 20th? We will stand before the judge with Daniel by our side and be interrogated as if we are criminals.

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Building and Grounds

There has not been too much activity in building and grounds this time around. Bill Kolstad is continuing to work on getting property insurance for us. We have been without property insurance for the last four years because our last carrier dropped us after the claim we made for water damage to the Fellowship Hall building. If all goes as planned, we should have property insurance by the beginning of next year.

Snow season will be here soon. The heavy work will be done by All Clean Snow Removal but there will still be plenty of work to do. As Leonard once said, if you need to clear snow at your house, we will also need to clear snow at the church. Please contact Bill Kolstad if you are available to join the under appreciated snow removal team. Remember, we can't have Worship Services or Church activities if we can't get to the Church!

As always, keep your eye out for anything on property that needs to be upgraded or fixed and let us know. Thanks for help in maintaining the great property God has given us!

Homeschool Co-op Turkey Trot!



The Homeschool co-op kids had special party the week before Thanksgiving. They dressed up like "turkeys" and "trotted" to Kale park where they played games on the field. When they returned, they shared a meal together and gave thanks to God for all he has done. The parents are really dedicated to educating their kids in a Christian environment. It is a pleasure to have them on campus and great to see how God has blessed this program.



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When we told D. we were going to court he did a little dance and then said "God is good!"

- Pray for a just and kind judge to be merciful to Daniel and that we can bring him home!! Thank you!!

"Court Rescheduled"

H writes: Thank you for praying. We were very disappointed that our court date on November 20 was canceled but God is in control! It has been moved to Monday November 25th. Please keep praying! **"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases."** Proverbs 21:1

Update: This is an update I just received from H.

We Always Have Hope

As a family we are going through the Bible Project Advent series (check it out if you need something this Christmas season). Today it was on biblical "Hope". I was so challenged by what was taught. He said that biblical hope is not optimism but rather it is waiting on God. I feel like for our adoption and for going to court I have mistaken optimism for hope. I have been very disappointed and confused why God hasn't been answering our prayers. I thought I was being hopeful but I was actually just being optimistic. Biblical hope is waiting on the Lord. And so we keep waiting. Our court hearing number two was a bust. The orphanage sent a nanny in the place of the director and 30 seconds into the hearing he said it was done until we had a power of attorney for the nanny. He mercifully gave us two hours to get the documents and then resume. The power of attorney was attained but it was incorrect and so yet again no decision was made. And so we wait in hope for the Lord. Please keep praying. We are tired and ready to bring our son home! We return to court Monday December 9th.

I will pass on more information about the adoption the families other activities as it come in.



Our Daily Bread
MINISTRIES™

Our Daily Bread

Don't forget to get your copies of the Our Daily Bread devotional for December through February. I am getting more copies now so don't be afraid to take some to share. We also have Special Christmas editions of the Our Daily Bread as well. And don't forget the other magazines that are available in the foyer including Acts & Facts, Kids Acts and Facts and many others.

Shoebox Season 2024 a Great Success!



Our shoebox collection drive this year broke all records. Our church packed and brought in 435 boxes which was a record. Our drop off location collected 483 boxes, another record, and our collection center in Gardnerville collected 7,666 boxes which shattered the old record! The total for Northern Nevada was 17, 349 Gospel Opportunity Boxes.

Remember that each box is not just a number but a gospel opportunity. Every child who gets a box gets the gospel, "The Greatest Gift," in their own language and they are all offered the opportunity to go through a 12 week discipleship class called "The Great Journey." If each child shares the gospel with their families the effectiveness of the boxes is multiplied many fold!

There is a lot of time effort that goes into our shoebox drive and a lot of people to thank. First off,



we need to thank Karen for spearheading our efforts. Karen makes and collects items all year round for our packing party. Karen and Knifty Knitters knit-

ted all 316 washcloths for the boxes we packed. It takes almost an hour to make each one!

Karen wants to thank Louisa Boone and the ladies for decorating the pencil bags, the Home-school Kids for packing all the pencil bags, and those who donated to and helped with the packing party. We had 16 great volunteers including Don



Huggins our rubber band man!

A special thanks goes to Leonard who is a crucial member of our shoebox team. Every year he takes a trailer load of 24 cartons to Gardnerville. That would be three trips in my truck!

Most of all, we want to thank God for laying this project on our hearts

and giving us the energy and resources to make it all happen and for holding off the snow so all our boxes made it over the hill safe and dry. Praise God for blessing our efforts to reach children around the world with the good news of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!



Prayer

"The most important thing you can put into a shoebox is your prayer for the child who will open it," Franklin Graham reminds us. Prayer is essential. In the U.S., a family prayed over their shoeboxes and felt led to include a Bible in one of them. They didn't

know that Jun, a boy in the Philippines, was praying for a Bible with both the Old and New Testaments. His parents couldn't afford to buy one, and he needed it for school. Jun was invited to an Operation Christmas Child outreach event. When he opened his shoebox, he was amazed to find a Bible with all 66 books in it. Out of all of the boxes opened, his was the only one with a Bible. "It's impossible!" he shouted. "God is powerful! The Lord granted my request." Jun's mother also became thankful for the Bible. "Whenever there is a concern," she said, "we turn to the pages in the Bible for God's help."

I am constantly amazed at how God works miracles through these shoeboxes. God is Amazing!



We are in need of more teachers and helpers for Children's Church. If you have a heart for children and would like to volunteer one Sunday a

month to assist with Children's Church, please contact Jacky Daly for more information



Advent is Here

The Advent season includes the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The first Sunday in advent

this year is December 1st. We celebrate advent in our worship service with a reading from scripture and the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath. We use church families, or Individuals, to lead this for us each week. I still have Sunday December 22nd and the Christmas Eve service available if any would like to volunteer.

Also, we have Advent Pamphlets available that provide information about the history of advent and how to celebrate advent in your homes. These pamphlets are now available in the Sanctuary for you to take.

"Come Lord Jesus, Come!"



TCC's FAMILY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday, December 22th Following Church in Fellowship Hall

Please Sign up for Vegetable, salad, Potatoes, Stuffing, Ect.

And RSVP on Food sign Up #Attending

Or contact Jan @ 775-781-1783
(Text or Call, leave message)

Or call the Church Office: 775-588-5860



Bible Studies

Here is a look at what the Adult Bible Study Groups are up to.

Tuesday Morning Breakfast Study Group

The Breakfast Study Group is still working their way through the book of Ezekiel using a video series by Chuck Missler as the primary resource. They are past chapter 40 in a book that has 48 chapters so they don't have too much left. Remember, the underlying goal of this study is to recognize prophecy in current events.

Note: There will be no study on December 24th.

Women's Thursday Morning Study

The women's Thursday Morning Study Group has just started a new study, "The Gospel on the Ground: The Grit and Glory of the Early Church in Acts" by Kristi McLealand. Thursday December 5th will be their last session for this year. They will be taking a break until Thursday January 9th 2025! Contact Tootie O'Malley, Kathy Pavich or Christine Feinberg for more information.

Note: There will be no study from December 5th through January 2nd.

Community Bible Study Satellite Class:

This women's study group meets on Thursday afternoons at 2:00pm. The study is an in depth look at the book of Matthew and runs through next May. They are currently up to chapter 12 "Jesus Rebukes the Unrepentant." The last session for this year will be on December 12th. The topic for that day will be Matthew 13 "Clashes over Laws and Power." **There will also be a Christmas Luncheon on December 12.**

The first class of the new year will be on January 9th and they will be looking at Matthew chapter 14 "Kingdom Parables: to conceal and Reveal." Contact Jan Hurst for more information.

Note: There will be no study from December 12th through January 2nd.

Sunday Morning Bible Study Class

Elder Bob Daly, the primary teacher on Sunday Morning, has return from his travels and will be continuing the Study on the books of Peter. Bob informed me that they will probably be in 2 Peter for the rest of December and will start a new study in January. The next study is still TBD, so stay tuned for more information in the next edition. Anyone can join this class at anytime which makes its the perfect study to invite visitors to!



Upcoming Events

Genesis Flood Debriefing
Sunday December 8 at 12:30

Children's Special Presentation
Sunday December 15 during the Worship Service

Church Family Christmas Dinner
Sunday December 22 after Church

Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday December 24th at 6:00pm

Memory Verses for September

- December 1 Matthew 5:16
- December 8 1 Corinthians 10:11-13
- December 15 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- December 22 1 John 4:19
- December 29 1 John 1:2



fellowship Hall for the Christmas season. Also thank Bill Kolstad Bill Kolstad for setting up the Large manger scene on the roof outside of Fellowship Hall. Everything looks great!



Christmas Decorations

A big thank You goes out to Christine Feinberg, Tootie O'Malley and Jan Hurst for decorating the Worship Center and

Upcoming Preaching Schedule

- December 8 Kevin Mayer, Tahoe Community Church
- December 15 Kevin Mayer, Tahoe Community Church
- December 22 Todd Cheney, Tahoe Community Church
- December 24 Todd Cheney, Tahoe community Church
- December 29 Tim Cary, Tahoe Community Church

Here to Serve You

Elders: Jeff Brumbach, Bob Daly, Bill Kolstad, Leonard O'Malley, Bill Rowell

Deacons/Deaconesses: Ted Beverage, Susie Brumbach, Jacky Daly, Christine Feinberg, Jan Hurst, Jerry Klosterboer, Bob Pavich, Kathy Pavich, Tootie O'Malley (On Sabbatical)

Church Staff: Todd Cheney, Pastor (Starting date TBD); Kevin Mayer, Worship Director; Ted Beverage, Office Administrator ; Michael Prager, Church Custodian.

IN GOD WE TRUST



**Tahoe
Community
Church**

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