

The Gift (Part Two)

Colossians 1:19-23

Montwood Small Groups

Small groups help members connect with each other and grow in their faith in God. All groups welcome new members. Small groups this week:

Tuesday

Single Women 6:30 p.m. Room 7

Wednesday

Discipleship Dynamics 6 p.m. Dining Hall
(led by Demetrius Williams)

Overflow (Young Adults) 6:30 p.m.
at the Tapscott's home

Faithful Witness (Revelation) 7 p.m. Room 10
(led by Jim Kotter)

Youth Group 7 p.m. Room 34 (led by Adrian Luna)

Children's Group 7 p.m. Room 24
(led by Ida Rusell)

Gifts for Children of the Zaragoza Church

Thank you to everyone who signed up to provide gifts for the children of the church in Zaragoza! Don't forget to package items in gift bags with the child's name and bring them as soon as possible but no later than Sunday, December 21.

How do I become a Christian?

We believe God's Word teaches we are saved by grace, through faith, at our baptism and remain so as we pursue the obedience of faith.

If you would like to become a disciple of Jesus, we invite you to come forward during our Response Time or meet with our leaders to further discuss what Scripture reveals.

How do I become a member of Montwood?

All disciples of Jesus are welcome to place membership with our flock. If you are interested in doing so, the shepherds would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss this.

Who we are:

MCOC is an denominational, autonomous, independent Christian church. We believe in...

- a Triune God.
- the Deity of Jesus.
- the inerrancy of Scripture.
- the resurrection of the dead.
- the priesthood of all believers.

We invite all who want to know God in a personal way to join us as we work together at following Jesus every day.

Prayer Requests

Elton Davis, Christina Lewis, LouEllen Clement, Riki Pinales, Jake LeMense, Don Seale, Randa Smoot, Amelia McDonald, Carlene West, Alta Rubio, family of Gail Clarke



To submit a prayer request, scan or

Call: 915-855-9896

Email: prayer@montwood.org

Birthdays

21 - Aliene Williams



A Church for You to Call Home

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Singing | Cantos – Demetrius Williams

Joy to the World | Al mundo paz
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Escuchad el son triunfal

Welcome | Bienvenida & Prayer | Oración –

Demetrius Williams, Ray Gutierrez

Our God He is Alive | Nuestro Dios vive hoy
This is My Father's World
El mundo es del Padre
O Come, All Ye Faithful | Venid, fieles todos
How Deep the Father's Love
Profundo el amor de Dios

Lord's Supper | Comunión AJ Leday &
& Offering | Ofrenda – Marco Santiago

Joy in Jesus – Adrian Luna

KFC – Shelby Oliver

BAC – Noah Holguin, Lizett Moreno

Scripture Reading – Jeremy Blackowl
John 1:1-18

Sermon – Lonnie Tapscott
"The Gift" (Part Two) Colossians 1:19-23

Sermón – Marco Ortega

Response Time - *O How I Love Jesus*

Family News – Jim Kotter

Closing Song – *A Common Love*

The Lord's Servants

Preaching Elder: Jim Kotter

Preaching Elder: Lonnie Tapscott

Worship Minister: Carlos Gonzales

Family & Youth Minister: Adrian Luna

Missionaries:

- Paul & Claire Ahrens - Querétaro, Mexico
- Miguel Garcia - Zaragoza, Mexico
- Dionicio Santillan - Juárez, Mexico
- Kevin Montgomery - Texas International Bible Institute, Houston
- Dan & Sonia Koen – Bo, Sierra Leone
- Greg Clodfelter – Nyeri, Kenya

Montwood Leadership

Shepherds (Shepherds@montwood.org)

Jim.Kotter@montwood.org, 915-328-2122

Lonnie.Tapscott@montwood.org, 915- 491-0374

Demetrius.Williams@montwood.org,
915-433-5196

Deacons (Deacons@montwood.org)

Caleb Bloom, Keith Boutwell, Troy Cranston,
AJ Leday, Adam Lewis

For the Week of December 7, 2025

Weekly Budget: \$6,026

Contributions: \$6,429

Sunday School: 75

Worship: 175

Wednesday: 78

Visit us online to learn more

Montwood.org

Worship and class on YouTube
@MontwoodChurchOfChrist



Upcoming Events

Today

Sisters Sharpening Sisters 3 p.m. in the dining hall. Sign-up sheet is at the front desk.

Monday, December 15

Retirees' Luncheon 11 a.m. at West Texas Chophouse

Wednesday, December 17

Caroling Practice 6:30 p.m. at the building

Saturday, December 20

Food Pantry Distribution 7:30 a.m.

Wedding Shower for Lizett Moreno and Noah Holguin, 1 p.m. in the dining hall

Christmas Caroling 5-8 p.m. meet in the parking lot

Don't miss "Christ" this Christmas

The privilege of loving someone includes the pain of missing them when they are gone.

That is evident for many during this holiday season. The traditions and rituals we shared with our departed loved ones don't feel the same. We can still decorate, bake, exchange gifts, and listen to our favorite Christmas songs, but the feelings they produce are just different.

If that is your experience this year, I encourage you to make it a point *not to miss* the one who is the true reason for the season like many did and do. The story of Christ's birth is full of characters who effectively missed his entrance into the world. One prominent group of them, Israel's religious elite, is mentioned in Matthew's account of Herod's treachery.

When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers

of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" (Matthew 2:3-6)

It is not shocking that the chief priests and scribes knew exactly where Christ was to be born. These were the theologians, the brightest minds, the guardians of spiritual truth, Israel's religious aristocracy, who knew Scripture backwards and forwards. They understood prophecy well enough to quote Micah 5:2, which foretold God's Messiah being born in Bethlehem. Yet, they missed the one who had just arrived.

Their folly is highlighted by the reality that the Jewish people had been looking for their Redeemer ever since Moses first said a great prophet like him would come. (Deuteronomy 18:15) Now that they lived under Roman occupation, their longing for him was foremost on their minds. He was their one, great hope to alleviate all their suffering. Yet, they missed his coming.

Moreover, they never even bothered to walk the few miles south to Bethlehem to find out for themselves if this child Herod was so worried about was the Deliverer they anticipated. We understand why many of them would reject Jesus later on, since he challenged their interpretations of the Law and called them out for the way they treated those under their care. But even while he was still a baby, their indifference caused them to miss the one who could fill the emptiness in their hearts.

At least Herod feared Jesus' authority. The innkeeper who turned away Mary and Joseph could claim ignorance. The shepherds were oblivious until an angel appeared to them. But the religious leaders had all the facts and still missed the Savior who had been born.

It's OK to miss your loved ones this year. It's understandable to not enjoy the same sentiments you once did. It's normal as we age that we come to see Christmas as being more eventful for children.

But it's not good to overlook the true wonder of this time of year, which is that God reached down to us in our misery and provided hope for all eternity by sending his son into the world. You can be apathetic about Christmas traditions, but don't be indifferent to the one who came to save God's people from their sins.

---Jim