

CONNECTIONS MAGAZINE

neighborhoodchurch.com

DECEMBER 2023




LOOK INSIDE FOR:

- Holiday Party
- Advent Sermon Series
- Thu Ladies Bible Study
- Christmas Service Times
- Bloom Pictures (11/10)



Arts
CAMP

NOV 20-21@LOSAL





CALENDAR

Deck the Halls



26

Tree Lighting



29

1

2

10a- Ladies
Coffee

7p -BSF

7p -Youth Group

645p - SHINE

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

930a - MOMS

7p -BSF

7p -Youth Group
Christmas Party

645p - SHINE

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

1230p Iglesia
Lunch

7p -BSF

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

1230p Khmer
Lunch
4p Worship
Cypress
6p - Worship
Los Al



24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31



****Year-End Giving****

You may drop off your giving
in our mailbox by Dec 31
or you may give online.

For more information on any of these events, please visit our website at
www.neighborhoodchurch.com or contact the church office at 714-952-3001

WELCOME TO DECEMBER



Welcome to the Wonderful Month of December

Wonderful because it is the season to reflect on and enjoy God's great gift to humanity...Jesus! This whole month we have the opportunity to experience the blessing and amazement of God giving us belonging and connection through His Son Jesus. That belonging and connection is through Jesus coming to save us from our sin.

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

Christmas time is all about Jesus being with us.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"(which means, God with us).

See, we are not abandoned or left to go about life alone. We have an amazing Lord who is the "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Christmas time can be a time to experience the hope and blessing as we receive and interact with Jesus, God's great gift to us! Each Sunday of December, we will be enjoying some inspiring music, festive experiences, and an encouraging message from the Bible. We will also be having our wonderful candlelight Christmas Eve service to experience that amazing connection and belonging we have in our wonderful God. We do hope you will be able to make some room in your busy schedules and join us either in-person or online.

Listed in the pages to follow are all the details and further information about all that is happening this December. Please look and see how you can be part of celebrating Christmas with us. Also, within these pages are great options to connect with God and others through Life Groups (aka small groups), Bible Studies, Support Groups, and more. We do hope you will take some of these opportunities to grow in faith and connect with others.

Experiencing the joy and wonder God's great gift of Jesus this December along with you,

Mike



ADVENT SERMON SERIES



Christmas is synonymous with gift-giving for many. The only thing better than receiving the perfect gift is giving it. There's something wonderful about that gift that fills the heart of the one you love. Perhaps it was a much-needed gift, or maybe a long-awaited gift, or maybe much effort and preparation was put into assembling or purchasing the gift. Gifts can be special in many different ways. Beyond reminding us about gifts in general, Christmas is a time to remember God giving His greatest gift, the ultimate Christmas Gift: Jesus. He was a gift that, whether we knew it or not, was desperately needed. God prepared the perfect timing for His entry into human history and this arrival was certainly long-awaited by the people of Israel. We'll find all of these are true for us as well as we look at The Gift this Christmas season.

WORSHIP GATHERING



Invite your friends and family.
Flyers are available in your Sunday worship folders.
Grab a lawn sign for each family at our Welcome Tables.
Come let us adore Him, the gift of Jesus this Christmas season!



Every Sunday morning, you are invited to come early and pray with us. Whether you are volunteering that morning or just needing a community that values spending time in God's presence, please consider coming to our sanctuary at our Cypress Campus.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

Support the Holiday Party for Human Trafficking Victims

- Pick up a tag and a gift bag by the Christmas Tree at the Cypress Campus Lobby
- Donate money to help with costs

for more info contact Susan
Peterson susan@funplaces.com

GIFTS FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Our church partners with Waymakers, a non-profit organization that supports victims of human trafficking. This Christmas season, you are invited to help by purchasing gifts for the victims and their family members that Waymakers and the Salvation Army are assisting.

The Christmas tree in the lobby has silver stars with the names of people in need. Would you consider taking a star and buying gifts for them?

Here is what we ask of you:

- ✔ Please purchase the items from their wish list found on the back of the star ornament. If you would like to purchase other items after the wish list is fulfilled, that would be great! Some don't have a list - pray and purchase as you will.
- ✔ We ask that your present costs between \$20 - \$50.
- ✔ Wrap your items and put them in a HOLIDAY gift bag - not a Christmasy one. For example, bags of any color; with snowmen or stars, or with Christmas trees and outdoor scenes. Please don't use bags that say "Merry Christmas" or have a scene depicting the nativity.
- ✔ The gift bags **MUST** be turned in at church no later than Tuesday, Dec. 5 - the earlier, the better!!!
- ✔ When the present is ready to be turned in to the church, please tape the star name tag/ornament on the bag or we won't know who to give it to! And take their wish list off the back of it.
- ✔ Feel free to add a personal note of encouragement or holiday cheer.
- ✔ Pray for the person you are buying for!!
- ✔ Thank you so much for doing this and making a huge difference in someone's life.

Here's a few other suggestions for your bag:

Socks (warm fuzzy ones for women!)
Coloring books for kids, with crayons
Nice, reusable water bottles
Soft blankets



BELONG & WORSHIP



PRAYER NEWSLETTER:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/DECPRAYNHC](https://tinyurl.com/decpraynhc)

we
would
love to
pray for
you...



REQUEST PRAYER HERE:

Celebrating the Gift & Joy of Prayer (by Lynn Selden)

The Lord's house is meant to be a place where joy and prayer grow freely.

1. Prayer is for God's people and their gatherings

God's heart for His place of worship is that it would be characterized by prayer. When we step foot in church, is prayer the first thing that pops into our minds?

Of all Paul's requests of the church, He always asked for prayer! (1 Tim. 2:8) Just as prayer was the heartbeat of Paul's ministry, it is meant to be ours today as well.

2. Prayer in God's house brings joy

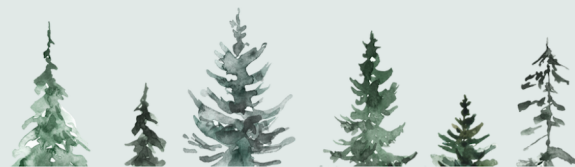
Prayer is our comfort especially with the heaviness of our times. We are meant to come together during these times to seek God's face together. For our comfort and joy in God's house is meant to be a defining trait of the Lord's people and His place (1 Chronicles 16:27).

May we cherish the Lord's joy and presence when we gather together in prayer. Check out the link for the longer Prayer Newsletter here:
<https://tinyurl.com/decpraynhc>



Thank you so much everyone for your radical generosity!

All our care packs were filled because of your donation of granola bars, socks, fruit snack and PB crackers.



BELONG & WORSHIP

WE WOULD LOVE TO MEET THEM AND HELP YOUR STUDENTS CONNECT W/ THEIR CREATOR, HIS CHURCH AND OTHER STUDENTS THEIR AGE!

DO YOU HAVE A 7TH-12TH GRADER?

SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:00AM AT THE CYPRESS CAMPUS (6143 BALL RD, CYPRESS)

YOUTH GROUP
TUESDAY NIGHTS • 7:00-8:30PM AT THE CYPRESS CAMPUS GYM (6143 BALL RD, CYPRESS)

GAMES • RELEVANT BIBLE MESSAGES • SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS



 **NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH**
Students



 **Cozy Christmas Night**

DECEMBER 6, 2023
6:45-8:15PM
GRADES TK-6TH

COME HEAR THE CHRISTMAS STORY!
COME IN YOUR COMFY PAJAMAS.
COME WITH YOUR STUFFED ANIMAL.
COME WITH A FRIEND!

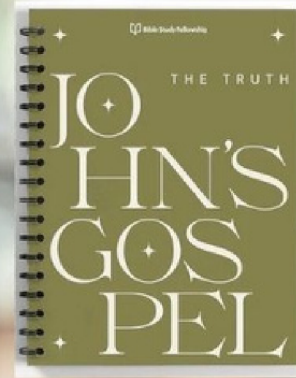


At Cozy Christmas Night, we will gather around in our comfy pajamas with our friends to hear the true story of Christmas. It never gets boring. It never gets old. It fills us with joy each time we hear how God became an adorable baby boy who grew up to give up His life for ours! So to Him we will sing our praises too, caroling to the best Christmas tunes!

GROW TOGETHER



**MEN's Group
Monday
6:55-8:30p
Cypress Campus**



Currently studying

Each week, men 18 years of age and older come together to study the Bible, learn from one another, and be challenged and encouraged to live for something larger than themselves.

Contact Peter Kovacik (714) 222-5046

Peter Kovacik: We will not be meeting 12/25 and 1/1. Return to normal schedule 1/8.



PENNIES FOR A PURPOSE

In October and November our kids at all of our campuses and branches are collecting pennies and coins to buy a special Christmas gift for a family in need.

Please send your child with a coin or more to deposit in the offering buckets in their classroom!

 Goat and 2 chickens \$150	 Global Hunger Crisis Response Starting at \$100	 School supplies Starting at \$50	 World Vision Fund Starting at \$100
 East Africa hunger crisis Starting at \$50	 Chickens Starting at \$100	 Necessities in the U.S. Starting at \$100	 Deep well Starting at \$100



Lorena (11/13): We have collected \$123 and still counting.

GROW TOGETHER

FOLLOW JESUS

FIND BELONGING

FURTHER HIS
MISSION

LIFE GROUPS

TURN IN A CONNECTION CARD

CYPRESS: JON@NEIGHBORHOODCHURCH.COM

LOS ALAMITOS: JUSTIN@NEIGHBORHOODCHURCH.COM

Following Jesus Together

Life Groups provide the environment for us at Neighborhood Church to cultivate our relationship with God and others –

*moving us from acquaintances to allies,
from distracted to deepened, from
wandering to rooted!*

jon@neighborhoodchurch.com



WEEKLY LIFE GROUPS

Sun

1030a:
Paul & Janis Lacombe

4p Zoom:
Tony Birge

6p:
Bob & Beth Vroon/
John & Bev Paris

6p:
Shawn Thomas

630p
Bob & Ellen Kabelitz

Mon

630p:
Mark & Jijian

Wed

6:45p:
Justin & Jill Bright /
Peter Kovacic

7p:
Steve & Carol Ellis/
Jim & Helen
Passmore

7p:
Hap Kellogg

Fri

7p:
Sam & Mercy
Lanka

 NEIGHBORHOOD
CHURCH

GROW TOGETHER



Seeks to offer mothers of infants, toddlers, preschoolers as well as elementary age and beyond a place to connect and care for one another as well as receive helpful tools in their journey as mothers and wives.



We meet the first Tuesday of every month for fellowship and coffee. This is a time for the women of the church (and their friends!) to get to know one another. All women are welcome!

Location: Panera Bread
12241 Seal Beach Blvd.
Seal Beach, CA 90740



Helena: We will not be meeting in December but will start back up January 27 at a new location. Please call Helena for more information.

GROW TOGETHER

QUIET SPIRITS

Sundays 9:00-10:15a
Cypress Campus, Rm 2

"The Power of the Holy Spirit's Names"
by Tony Evans

"He is called The Helper and The Dove, but also The Living Water, The Anointing, The Vine, The Seal, The Breath, The Power, and Wind and Fire. He is totally amazing!"

CONTACT JO ANNE SIMS
714-349-6650

COFFEE CONNECT

JOIN THIS MINISTRY TO PROVIDE A HOT CUP OF COFFEE AND A VARIETY OF GOODIES BETWEEN GATHERINGS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.

CONTACT

YVONNE PAGE
YVONNEPAGE2012@GMAIL.COM



BEST DONUTS

owner - Jenny

Cappuccino - Coffee - Smoothie - Sandwiches

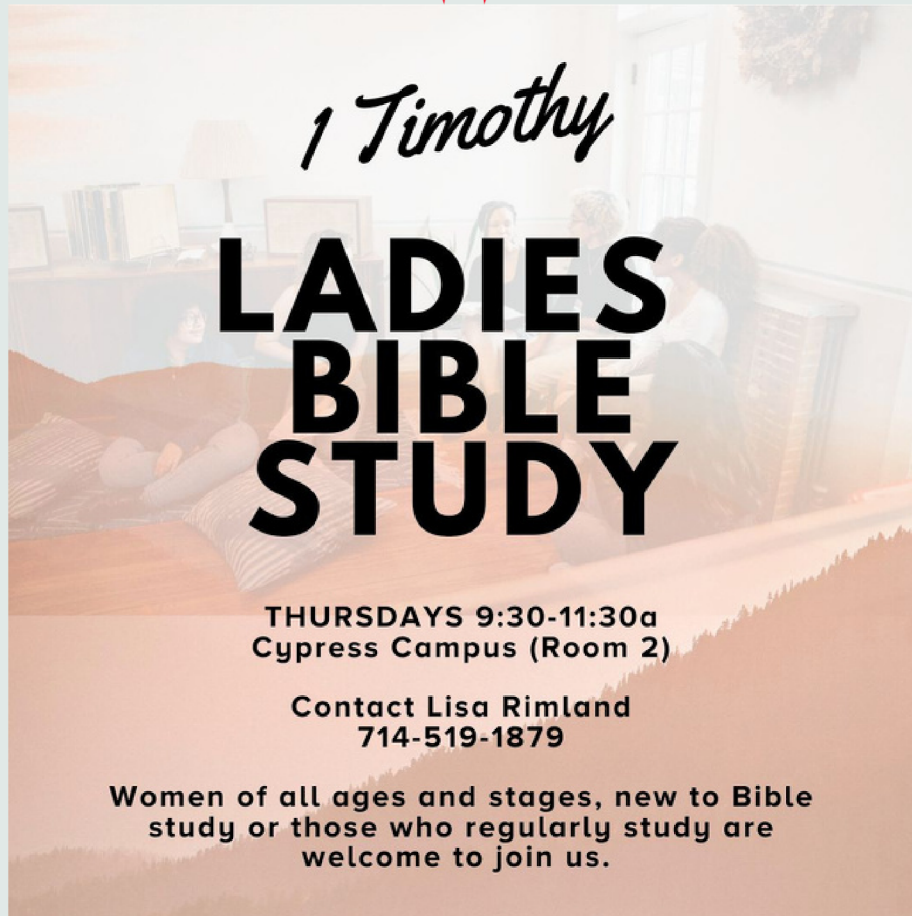
Mon. - Fri. 3am - 8pm
Sat. 3am - 2pm
Sun. 3am - 2pm

(714) 643-9296
(714) 247-9629

8504 Chapman Ave. Stanton, CA 90680

Our Coffee Connect Ministry partners with Best Donuts in Stanton, CA. This great ministry helps create a vibrant community in between our worship gatherings.

GROW TOGETHER



Lisa R: If you would like to get into the Word, want to feel welcome and fellowship with a small group of women of various ages, and wonder what's happening at Neighborhood Church when it's not Sunday, stop in at room 2 on Thursdays at 9:30a.

We have been spending several weeks looking at the beginning of 1 Timothy as Paul is preparing Timothy to go out to the churches to continue the work Paul has begun which is to carry the good news and instruct the people. Timothy is young and must beware of false teachers. Our women have learned to question who today's false teachers might be, as well as how to use great care in how we study the Word, and pass along instruction to our children. Timothy is instructed in the functions of the elders and deacons of the church who are totally different from the power wielding Pharisees of their day. Our group discussions, prayer and praise time have been transformational as we consider our church life today. We have also had great discussions about the role of women in our homes and community, how to support our husbands, sons, and pastors as encouragers and examples since we are the church.

1 Timothy is a small but mighty book and we can't wait to get back from Christmas break to see where our study will lead us next!

There's always room for you in room 2 so don't hesitate to join us after the New Year when we continue our study of 1 Timothy on Thursday, January 10, 2024.

SERVE TOGETHER

ELDER BOARD



Elders continue the work of overseeing and defining the goals of church and are focusing on better ways to measure our progress towards fulfilling each of them: Worship, Belong, Grow, Serve, Reach and Helping the Hurting.

TRUSTEE BOARD



Trustees continually watch over the maintenance of our facilities and the financial soundness of our church.

JOIN OUR SECURITY TEAM

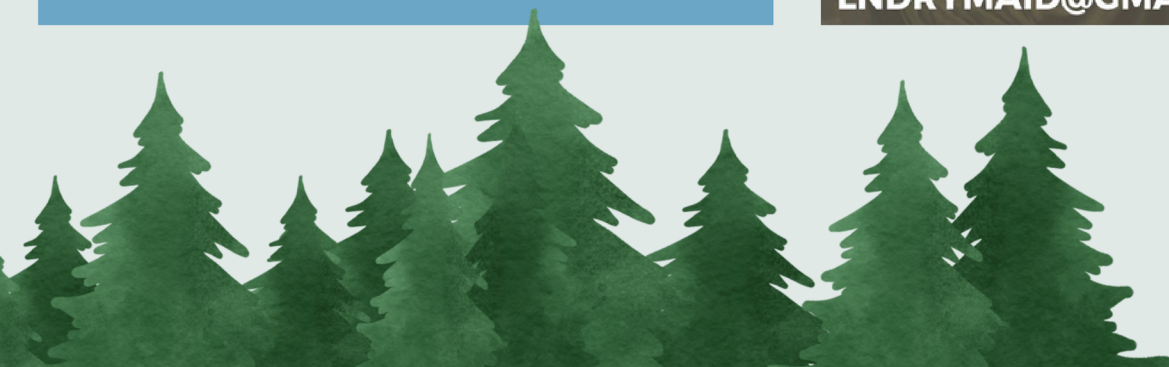
WE ARE LOOKING FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN SECURITY OR EMS. FLEXIBLE HOURS.

CONTACT DAVE MARTINEZ
TRUSTEEMARTINEZ@
NEIGHBORHOODCHURCH.COM

HELP BE A FRIENDLY FACE AT OUR WELCOME TABLE AS WE MEET NEWCOMERS TO OUR CHURCH.

WELCOME TEAM

CONTACT CAROL ELLIS
LNDRYMAID@GMAIL.COM



SERVING TOGETHER

GREETERS

SHAKE A HAND AND SMILE AS FAMILIES
AND GUESTS ENTER THE DOOR.

CONTACT MICHELLE LEDONNE
MMLEDONNE@YAHOO.COM

USHERS

PASS OUT WORSHIP FOLDERS, HELP
GUESTS FIND A SEAT, ASSIST WITH
OFFERING.

CONTACT MARK ANCHETA
MANCHETAHB@GMAIL.COM

Senior

OUT

REACH

MINISTRY

This is a new ministry designed for seniors who could benefit from a friendly and encouraging card, personal contact, and prayer.

Let the caring team know the name, address, telephone/cell number and any additional information that may assist us in reaching out to our precious and valued seniors.

Email Sharon Sackett at
grandkids1943@socal.rr.com



Church Library

open Sundays 10:00-10:45a



SERVING TOGETHER



NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH KIDS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you have a heart to help grow
God's kingdom?
Join the Kids Ministry Team!

Contact Pastor Lorena at lorena@neighborhoodchurch.com
for info on service opportunities

JOIN OUR TEAM

Our Worship Arts Ministry is looking for volunteers to join the team! Whether you already have artistic skills or not, they would love to have you — all that's needed is a heart for being a part of our Sunday services. And they will help teach and train you along the way!

There is currently a need for:

- Media (running the slides for songs & sermons)
- Sound board operators
- Video camera operators
- Service MCs (giving announcements on stage!)
- Singers and musicians of all sorts!

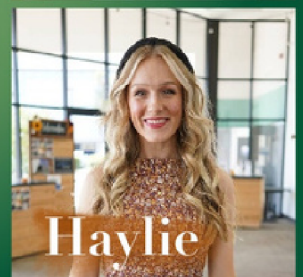
If interested, email Pastor Shawn at shawn@neighborhoodchurch.com



Shawn



Bob



Haylie

HELP FOR THE HURTING



Cancer Companions wants to bring spiritual encouragement, knowledge, resources and especially hope to those who struggle in their battles. Cancer Companions is open to anyone in treatment, post-treatment, loved ones and caregivers. We do not want anyone to go through cancer alone!

Please contact us and we will arrange various opportunities to get together and/or pray for you.

Contact Pat at 714-404-4893



We Care

You can drop off non-perishable items in the bin next to the office.

We Care is a non-profit organization that pools the resources of the community to meet emergency needs of families and individuals.



If you have recently lost a loved one, or perhaps never dealt with a loss suffered earlier in life, GriefShare can help you face challenges and move toward rebuilding. We are a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Groups run for 13-week sessions and are intended for ages 16 years and over.

CONTACT: Stephanie Hathaway (562) 287-9413 or Rhanda Turnbow



HELP FOR THE HURTING

THERAPY

For over a decade, Neighborhood Church has provided professional counseling services for its members and the community. Anyone who struggles with the stress of our hectic life can find solace in the therapeutic services provided here. Issues of depression, sadness, grief, marital discord, separation, divorce, relationship issues, job stress, parenting and premarital counseling are a few of the areas we cover with our counseling services.

Neighborhood Church is a safe and confidential place to work out your personal questions, losses and hurts. Professional Therapy fees are reasonable; please feel free to call for a quote.

RON J JACKSON MA, MS, LMFT (#46561)

HOURS: Tuesday through Thursday, 10:00 AM through 7:30 PM.

*Please call 714-952-3001 (ext. 212) for an appointment.

LOCATION: Cypress Church, 6143 Ball Road, Cypress, 90630



Celebrate Recovery is a Biblically-based and Christ-centered 12-step program for any and all of our hurts, habits, and hang-ups.



Information on upcoming programs will be posted when scheduled



Al-Anon is an adult support group started for spouses and family members of individuals addicted to any substance who want to learn how to go on with life when a loved one is self-destructing with alcohol or substance abuse.

Drop-in visitors are always welcome.

Thursdays at 7 pm
Room 3 at the Cypress Campus.

For more information,
contact Regina S. (714) 404-0829
Jon Wyatt at jon@neighborhoodchurch.com



HELP FOR THE HURTING

THURSDAY



RM 205 | 7 PM

This weekly 12-step style meeting utilizes various Christian materials to discuss and support individuals who struggle with and wish to overcome sexual addiction.

**Contact Mike at (562) 686-8141
prior to attending**

**ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS**



**CONTACT ALBERT AT (310) 605-0117
TUESDAYS 6:00-7:00P**

PUREDESIRE

How one man's triumph can help others break free from sexual temptation



**Thursdays 7 pm
Cypress Campus
Room 201**

**Designed for
Adult Men**

This weekly meeting utilizes various Christian materials to discuss and support individuals who struggle with and wish to overcome sexual addiction, aiming to learn and live life God's way.

LOS ALAMITOS CAMPUS



**4000 Green Avenue
Los Alamitos, CA 90720**

**Come gather with us for worship
SUNDAY 9:15 am**



@Los Al Campus

**Arts
CAMP**



**Pastor Justin: Arts Camp
was fantastic! Great
program tonight and we
had over 100 kids and
families at our dinner. It
was a joyful celebration to
wrap up the two-day camp
where kids were stepping
out of their comfort zones
performing and singing
worship songs.**



IGLESIA BIBLICA COMUNIDAD



Servicio de Adoración,
Domingos 10:30a
Escuela Dominical 12:30p

Reunión de Jóvenes,
Martes 7:00p

Estudio Biblico de Adultos,
Miércoles 7:00p
Ministerio de Niños 6:45p

Reunión de Jóvenes Adultos,
Viernes 7:30p



NEIGHBORHOOD
CHURCH
EN ESPAÑOL

The
CHOSEN
SEASON TWO

Wednesday
7:15-8:00p

CONTACT PASTOR
MANUEL
MANUEL@NEIGHBORHOOD
CHURCH.COM



*Servicio Y Almuerzo
Especial de Navidad*
DOMINGO | DEC 17 | 12P



KHMER CHURCH



**Sunday 10:30am
Room 206
at Cypress Campus**

**Worship Gathering in
Khmer (Cambodian) Language**



**PASTOR NARETH MAY
WILL BE IN CAMBODIA**

*November 20 to December 20,
2023 for a Youth Conference*

*Please pray for safe travels,
good health and great impact
to further the gospel.*



CYPRESS KHMER MINISTRY

**Christmas
Celebration
+
Potluck**

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 24

LUNCH WILL FOLLOW AT 1230 PM

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD NOVEMBER 11, 2023



Bloom Women's Event was a success. Worship, fellowship and fun. Thank you to all the ladies who participated.



For weekly events subscribe to
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS
email Janis at
Janis@neighborhoodchurch.com



Lead Pastor: Mike McKay
6143 Ball Rd., Cypress
714.952.3001
Worship Gathering at 9:00 and 10:45a



Branch Pastor: Justin McElderry
4000 Green Ave., Los Alamitos
714.952.3001
Worship Gathering at 9:15a



Branch Pastor: Manuel Gonzalez
6143 Ball Rd., Cypress
714.523.0112 cell
Worship Gathering at 10:30a



Branch Pastor: Nareth May
6143 Ball Rd., Cypress
714.952.3001
Worship Gathering at 10:30a



We endeavor to live and love like Jesus as we compassionately relate to our community and beyond so that all will thrive as followers of Christ!



Church office: 6143 Ball Rd. Cypress CA 90630 - 714-952-3001

