

THE VISION

A Monthly Publication of
Northside Baptist Church
3021 E 71st Street
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www.NorthsideIndy.org

December 2025

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A Christmas Worship Reflection

by Alex Darnall, Worship Pastor

As we approach Christmas, we're reminded that this season isn't just a tradition on the calendar, but rather a moment to refocus our attention on the heart of our faith. The birth of Jesus is more than a familiar story; it's the prophecy fulfilling part of God's plan that brings hope into a world that needs it.

In Luke 2, the message the angels delivered to the shepherds was straightforward: a Savior has been born. Not a political figure, not a philosopher, not just an example to follow, but a Savior. Someone who steps into humanity in its great need.

That's why we gather for worship this time of year. We don't gather out of routine, but because the truth of Christmas still matters. We come together to remember that God has chosen to be present with His people. That He sees us. That He hasn't left the world to sort itself out.

My hope is that this season gives you space to slow down in a practical way. Space to slow down enough to listen and consider what it means that God came near to us in the person of Jesus. Whether this year has been full of joy or challenges, the message of Christmas meets us right where we are.

Don't let the lights, presents and family time keep you from seeing and savoring the Savior!

Candlelight

CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE 5:00 PM



ENGAGING
IN WORSHIP

GROWING
IN GROUPS

SERVING
IN MINISTRY

TOGETHER

November 30 - December 7
WEEK OF PRAYER
for International Missions

WMU | **INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Week of Prayer for International Missions

Together, we are reaching the nations.

And it starts with prayer. You are invited on this journey around the world through your prayers for International Mission Board missionaries. Join the Great Commission task as, together, we find the lost, give help to the hurting, share the hope of Christ, and witness God grow His Church around the world. God works through your prayers to change lives.

Pray with others for a church-planting movement in Seoul and for human needs ministries in the Horn of Africa. Ask God to bless discipleship among believers in Chile and creative access to the gospel through the arts in Spain. Praise God for partnerships in Brazil and West Africa. Rejoice that God is moving among Central Asian peoples. Thank God for sustained missionary presence in Japan.

Let's pray now, together.

LOTTIE MOON | *Post Office*

The Lottie Moon Post Office is ready for Christmas cards for your church family! Use your Northside Church Directory to see the list of names.

If you don't find your name and would like to participate, please fill out a Church Directory Information Card at the Welcome Desk.

1. Place your Christmas cards in the corresponding file folders with the recipient's name.
2. Donate the postage you saved to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering supporting international missions.
3. Check your folder each week for Christmas cards.

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What's Involved in a Missions Partnership?

by Jeremy Couture, Senior Pastor

Southern Baptists have one of the most effective international missions programs in the world. The International Mission Board, or the IMB, is currently supporting 3,548 people in 155 countries around the world. The gospel has been shared 1,609,869 times through those missionaries and 144,964 have responded with a profession of faith, according to the IMB's website. This work is financed through the generosity of cooperating churches all over North America and beyond.

Southern Baptist missions efforts are well organized and financially strong, but they aren't very personal. New men and women are sent out to the foreign mission field every year, sometimes with their entire family. These new missionaries are well-trained and well-equipped, but they don't always have the kind of personal support they need to make it over the long haul.

That's where our Disciple-Making Pathway comes in. One of the steps along the way to spiritual multiplication is to "Mobilize for Missions." This includes helping some of our global missionaries through a newly formed 3-year partnership. Like all good partnerships, this includes commitments from both sides of the relationship. For our church, this means special celebrations for the birthdays and anniversaries of our missionaries and their family. It also means sending a team at least once a year to work with the missionaries on the field and supporting special ministry projects as requested. This also assumes that we will continue supporting the work of all our IMB missionaries through the Co-operative Program, the B.J. Higgins Missions fund, and the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

This partnership means our missionary friends will promise to send us regular prayer requests and praises so we can be involved in their ongoing ministry. It also means we can look forward to a live or pre-recorded video message from them at least once a year. From time to time, missionaries are allowed to travel home for "stateside assignment," and this also means we can anticipate a personal visit at that time.

Someone might wonder why we would enter a special partnership like this. The first reason is it provides a focus for all of our collective missionary interest. It would be next to impossible to pray for all our IMB personnel on a regular basis, but you can certainly pray for one family. The second reason is to raise interest in the people group they are called to reach. The third reason is to involve our church members in hands-on missions experiences so they can learn and grow in their faith.

I'm pleased to report that during our fall Members' Meeting, we agreed on a 3-year missions partnership with IMB Missionaries Kevin and Karen White. The Whites have 2 sons, Benjamin and Andrew. They are currently in language school with plans to begin service in Bogota, Colombia. We are planning to send a team from our church to work with them and their IMB colleagues in the summer of 2026.

November 30 through December 7 is this year's Week of Prayer for International Missions. As we've done many times before, we'll encourage our church family to pray for handful of very special IMB missionaries, give to support our cooperative missions efforts, and even go on a mission trip this next year, if they are able. This upcoming Christmas season is a great time to "Mobilize for Missions."



ANDREW - KAREN - KEVIN - BENJAMIN

PRAY FOR THE WHITES

Serving the Americas
whitesonmission@gmail.com
www.whitesonmission.com
Colombia, South America

**INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD**



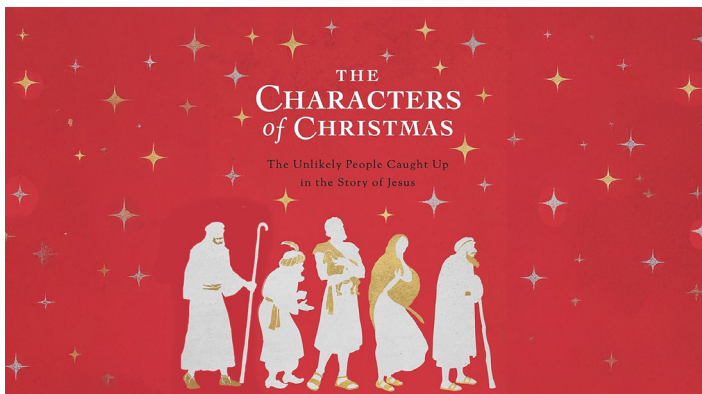
Northside Youth Ministry Essentials

by Jared Barham, Youth Pastor

Merry Christmas Northside family! I hope you are ready to celebrate the birth of Christ this Advent season with family and friends and especially here at Northside!

Our Northside Youth have had a wonderful November and have a lot to be thankful for.

- Our **Home Bible Study** came to an end as we concluded our study talking about feeling God's presence in the midst of the wilderness.
- The newly renovated **Youth Room** was unveiled, and we hosted an **"Open House"** as we presented that to the whole church (if you missed that then please stop by and check it out sometime).



- We concluded our Wednesday **Assemble** series on "Overcoming Elephants in the Room" while also starting our **"Characters of Christmas"** miniseries.
- Last, we experienced a whirlwind of a **Fall Retreat** with some other churches up in Northern Indiana. It was a great time of connection, fun, and learning more about the gospel and the responsibility we have for those of us who are now in Christ. Thank you for praying for us and supporting us in this new event. We are so thankful for how you have given to Northside Youth in 2025, how you have prayed for us, and how you have loved on our youth as they seek God and grow as young disciples. We are so grateful for our Northside family!



In December we have a lot to look forward to. We will continue and finish our Wednesday Assemble series on "Characters of Christmas". Several of our youth helped decorate the Youth Room and other areas of the church for Christmas. We will also have many that serve at Belles' Brunch on December 6.

The Northside Youth Christmas Party will be at the Barham House on December 12, 6-9 PM. This will be an intentional time of reflection on the Christmas season with some great food and great fun.

The Jingle Bowl is beloved by our youth and will be on December 14 so come on out and cheer them on!

And, the Assemble Christmas Party will be the final event of the year and will be a great way for everyone to come together and praise the Lord for what he has done for us in 2025.

Merry Christmas Northside, and may your family experience the blessings of Christmas that the Lord has lavished on us through his son Jesus!



Northside Youth Summer Camp
June 22-26, 2026 at Highland Lakes
\$200 (\$150 each for siblings)
Deposit due January 10.

Contact Pastor Jared:
jbarham@northsideindy.org or 615-290-3350

Pick up your copy of this year's advent devotional book, "The Christmas We Didn't Expect"

The Christmas We Didn't Expect by David Mathis

The most unexpected and significant event in the history of the world actually happened over 2,000 years ago when God himself became one of us in the person of Jesus Christ.

These Advent reflections, written by David Mathis, help us to lift our eyes to the wonder of the incarnation, and worship the One who came to save us and make our futures certain.

Be amazed once more by the unexpected details of Jesus's unique birth and saving work with these short daily devotions and prayers, and renew your worship of our humble, generous, and loving Savior.



Special Christmas Lunch for Senior Adults Hosted by New Horizons Band

*joy
Luncheon*

Thursday, December 18

Concert: Kids Cove, 10 AM

Lunch: Fireside Room, 11:15 AM



Staff Love Offering

We know you will want to express your love to all our church staff this Christmas for the way they have faithfully served the Lord by serving each of us. We will be accepting a special 'Staff Love Offering' in the month of December. You can give in the secure drop box or online. Please mark plainly, 'Staff Love Offering'. Thank you for being a generous and loving church.

—The Personnel Team

Northside Kids Ministry News

by Danielle Root, Children's Director

Kids Community Groups at 9 AM on Sunday

We meet each week in Kid's Cove to study God's Word. We have classes for birth through grade 6.

December 7

Daniel Obeyed God & Kid's Store from 9-9:15am

December 14

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

December 21

Daniel in the Lions' Den

December 28

Daniel's Prophecies

Bible Explorers at 10:30 AM on Sunday

Bible Explorers won't want to miss these special Christmas themed lessons in December. In case you'd like to follow up at home, here are the dates and Bible passages that we'll be teaching.

December 7

Forever King from Micah 5:1-5

December 14

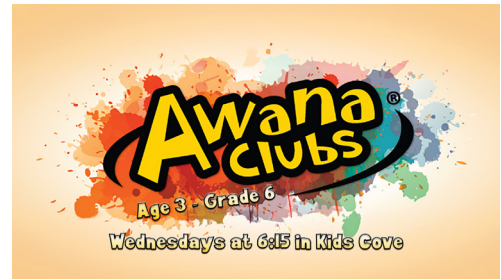
Mary & Joseph from Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38

December 21

Jesus is Born from Luke 2:1-21

December 28

Anna and Simeon from Luke 2:22-38



Awana at 6:15 PM Wednesdays

One of the kids' favorite activities recently was painting pumpkins! Parents loved keeping the mess at church and kids love designing and bringing their very own pumpkin home!

December is a fun month at Awana with a pizza party and store where kids can spend the money they've earned all year!



December Calendar

3 & 10: Regular Meetings

17: Awana Store & Pizza Party! Wear your favorite Christmas attire!



- **Christmas Cookie decorating party on December 12 for grades 3-6.** This drop-off event will be in Kid's Cove 6:30-8:30 PM. It's free and supplies are provided.

- **Christmas Cookie decorating party on December 13 for all kids grade 2 and under** 10:30-11:30 AM. Parents are invited to decorate cookies alongside their younger kids. Enjoy this fun tradition without the hassle of messing up your own kitchen! It's free and supplies are provided.

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:15a Community Groups 10:30a Bible Explorers 10:30a Kids Worship 10:30a Worship	1 6p GriefShare	2 7:30a Men's Coffee, Fellowship & Prayer 4p Covenant Foods	3 9:15a Creative Living Bible Study for Women 6:15p Assemble 6:15p Awana 6:30p Catalyst	4 7p Creative Living Bible Study for Women	5	6 10a Belles' Brunch
7 9:15a Community Groups 10:30a Kids Worship 10:30a Worship Budget Vote for members	8 6p GriefShare	9 4p Covenant Foods	10 9:15a Creative Living Bible Study for Women 6:15p Assemble 6:15p Awana 6:30p Catalyst	11 7p Creative Living Bible Study for Women	12 6:30p Christmas Cookie Decorating Party	13 10:30a Christmas Cookie Decorating Party
14 9:15a Community Groups 10:30a Bible Explorers 10:30a Kids Worship 10:30a Worship	15	16 7:30a Men's Coffee, Fellowship & Prayer 4p Covenant Foods	17 6:15p Assemble 6:15p Awana 6:30p Catalyst	18 10a Joy Luncheon	19	20
21 9:15a Community Groups 10:30a Bible Explorers 10:30a Kids Worship 10:30a Worship	22	23 4p Covenant Foods	24 Christmas Eve (Office Closed) 5p Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas (Office Closed)	26 Christmas Break (Office Closed)	27
28 9:15a Community Groups 10:30a Bible Explorers 10:30a Kids Worship 10:30a Worship	29	30 4p Covenant Foods	31 New Year's Eve (Office Closed)	1 New Year's Day (Office Closed)	2	3



We're collecting 1,200 boxes of pudding for the Baptist Center's Christmas Food Baskets. Please bring your pudding donations to the Welcome Center by Sunday, December 14.

ENGAGING GROWING SERVING

IN WORSHIP IN GROUPS IN MINISTRY

Contact Information

Church Office: 317-255-6692

Fax: 317-257-9168

Website: NorthsideIndy.org

Editor: bcross@NorthsideIndy.org

Sunday Morning

Groups and Classes - 9:15 AM

Worship - 10:30 AM



Our Staff

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Facility Director

Welcome, New Members!

Levi & Kimberley Bernstein

ONLINE GIVING
Text GIVE to
317-659-6348



COMMUNITY GROUPS: SUNDAYS AT 9:15 AM

The Journey

Alex Darnall

B201

Bible Studies for Life

Parents & Professionals

Couture, Donaldson
& Kern in B203

Bible Studies for Life

Moran Group

Jim Moran, Mark West
D114

Various Topics

James 1:22

Pittman/Dickerson

D110

Explore the Bible

Living Stones

Christie, Schlotterbeck
& Greenly in D109

Bible Studies for Life

Legacy Ladies

Gail Bland

D100

Various Studies

Senior Women

Donna Kreke

D102

Explore the Bible

The Brethren

Jim Myers/Nick Laurino
D113

Various Studies

Grades 6-12

Upstairs CLC

Elementary/Preschool

Kids Wing