

Christmas SHINES ITS *miracle* IN OUR *hearts.*

December 2017

Merry Christmas!!!

I can hear our daughter, MaKenna, sweetly singing "Away in a Manger" as she plays in the living room. She sings this song frequently at our home, and not just at Christmastime. It's her favorite! She loves babies and she loves Jesus! Hearing her sing this song reminds me that this is a season of giving.

So long ago, in that manger, Jesus was given to us to rescue us from our depravity and hopelessness. He came and gave joy and life to all and ultimately gave His life in exchange for ours. Christmastime is such a prime opportunity for the Church to follow the example of the Man whose Birthday we are celebrating. He gave and so should we! The world has turned Christmas into a self-absorbed holiday that has forgotten the selfless act of giving. Instead of giving of ourselves and our hearts in order to share this precious gift with others, we get literally wrapped up in things, presents, and a commercialized Christmas that has forgotten the true reason for celebration.

Maybe try something new this year. How can we come together as a Church family and remind our community of the "Real Gift?" How can we give so that others might see Him? This time of year, we can really have an impact being the hands and feet of Jesus! We all get the "nudge" by the Holy Spirit to give or serve in some way. I guess the real questions are: "Are we listening?" "Are we going?" "Are we giving?"

Isaiah 9:6 tells us, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

We have many great opportunities to celebrate Jesus' birth here at FCC this Christmas season!

December 10th:

6pm-8pm All Church Annual Youth Christmas Experience and Tasters Party
(Please bring your favorite Christmas Treats for the Tasters Party).

December 17th (Christmas Caroling at the Nursing Homes):

(Guest Homes 2:30pm Residential Living 3:15pm Parkview Heights 4:00pm)

December 24th (Christmas Eve):

8:00am	Traditional Christmas Service
9:15am	Sunday School
10:30am	Blended Christmas Service
5:00pm	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service (In the New Building)



*When they saw him,
they worshipped him.*

MATTHEW 28:17

Enclosed is a special offering envelope if you would like to make a special Christmas end-of-the-year tax exempt donation through the church. We suggest the following for your gift: The New FCC Addition (100k Remaining), Life Center Sound System (\$4500), The FCC Benevolent Fund (Helps people in need within the FCC family), or The Ministerial Alliance Fund (Helps with local needs through the unified efforts of Anderson County Churches), Hidden Haven Refurbish the Waterslide Project (\$7790).

I wonder what would happen if we as a Church family decided rather than investing into tons of unneeded things for our own family, what if we looked for opportunities to share the joy of Christ into our community and others in need. Our family has adopted an idea we heard from someone. Each child will get 1 thing they want, 1 thing they need, 1 thing they can read and one thing they wear. Keeping the piles of presents and cost down. We then as a family are looking for needs people have that we can secretly meet as a personal family mission. We want the tradition of Christmas to be about others as I believe Jesus would want. I hope you will take some time to share the Love, Hope, Joy & Peace of Jesus this Christmas Season! Together we can make a difference as we let the Light of Christ Shine through us! From your FCC Family Let's make Jesus the real meaning of the season!

Blessings, FCC & The Goetz Family