

DECEMBER 15, 2019

**Today @ Central Church**

9:45–10:45 am      **Life Enrichment Groups ~ All Ages**

10:30-10:45 am      **Worship Team**

11:00 am–12:15 pm      **Family Worship**

**Offering of Praise and Prayer**  
Hark the Herald Angels Sing      #137

**Welcoming**

**Children's Special**  
C.A.K.E.

**Worship in Giving**  
O Little Town of Bethlehem      #128

**Closing Prayer**

**Postlude**  
Feliz Navidad

**Coming Events**

**Children's Christmas Program**  
December 15<sup>th</sup>      11:00-12:15 pm

**Deacon Ministry Team Meeting**  
December 15<sup>th</sup>      12:30-1:00 pm

**Advisory Board Meeting**  
December 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30 pm

**Morning Connections**  
December 18<sup>th</sup>      8:00-9:30 am  
Central will host the Grandview Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday morning, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-9:30 am. There are volunteer opportunities to help serve light refreshments. See Pastor Alan for details.

**Christmas Eve Service**  
December 24<sup>th</sup>      6:00-7:00 pm  
We hope you will join us for this special celebration as we join together in worship and prayer with a time of reflection during our Candlelight Service and sharing of the Lord's Supper.



Scan this QR Code to access the online sermon audio podcast via iTunes.

**Prayer Requests**

Spiritual Needs

Unspoken  
Victory FWB Church pastor search  
Pray for our country!  
Pray for our shoeboxes!

Material Needs

Bill Weeks, job  
Steve Pool, job

Our Armed Forces

Landon Koonce  
Brock Koonce  
Nancy's granddaughter, Alex

Health Needs

Margaret Starnes  
Anne & Rod Rule  
Allene Yearta  
Kathy Yokley  
Greg Griffie  
Wynona Dodd  
Amy's friend, Jessie

**Prayer Family of the Week**

Mathew & Krystal Williams, Kairyn, Karson

**Advisory Board**

Amy Smith ~ Chairman  
Gary Breshears ~ Treasurer  
Bill Weeks ~ Secretary  
Brett Daire  
Laura Griffie

**Deacon Ministry Team**

Larry Starnes ~ 872-6838  
Max Breshears ~ (913) 948-0010  
Tim Smith ~ 806-1992  
Gary Breshears ~ 518-8691  
Brett Daire ~ 778-1786

**Facility Board**

Tim Smith  
Max Breshears  
Mathew Williams  
Nancy Branham

For Prayer Chain requests please contact Pastor Alan at (816) 868-2080  
or Nancy Branham at (816) 588-5418

## **Christmas Spirit**

What is a “Christmas spirit?” Is it just saying, “Merry Christmas,” to everyone you come across? Is it making sure all of your family has a present underneath a Christmas tree? Is it smiling every waking moment of every day in December up until the 25<sup>th</sup>? What is it?

Well, I think the Christmas spirit is much more than any of these other things. First, the true Spirit of Christmas is the Spirit of God. It is the Spirit who is the principal agent in the miracle of a virgin giving birth. It is the Spirit who enabled the shepherds to see and hear the miracle of angels announcing that birth. It is the Spirit who speaks to Simeon and Anna when the baby, Jesus, was being presented in the temple after his birth. The Spirit of Christmas is, and always has been, God’s Spirit.

So, for anyone to exemplify the Spirit of Christmas requires them to know the Spirit of God. There is no

shortcut to this. All of the food, the celebrations, the decorations, the gifts and the Hallmark movies do not embody the Spirit of Christmas. We can celebrate without any of the external trappings if we know the Spirit of God, because then the Spirit of Christmas is alive within us. Without knowing God’s Spirit, we can **never** truly celebrate this day.

Speaking of all the external trappings, which of them is essential to truly celebrating the birth of Jesus? Nearly everything we do to celebrate Jesus’ birth is of human origins. The lights, the trees, the wreaths, the bells, the songs, the garlands—all of it is of human origin. Now, I’m not saying we should throw all these away. What I am saying is that our celebration must not become dependent on these external things. Our celebration should come from the inside, from a heart that is connected to God through His Spirit. If we are dependent on external, man-made devices in order to celebrate Jesus’

birth, we have a serious problem.

So, as we enjoy the festive spirit with all of the lights and tinsel, let’s not forget the real reason for the season. We celebrate the birth of a baby who was destined to become the sacrifice for our sins. We celebrate the majesty of our God as shown through His agency in our world and His provision for our redemption. Enjoy the presents and the laughter and the smiles and the food. Just don’t lose sight of the purpose for which this little baby came to our world. It wasn’t so we could have a party once a year. It was so we could share eternity with Him. So, let your joy go beyond the external, let your joy show forth because you know the true Spirit of Christmas, the Spirit of the One, True, Living God. Let your joy overflow because you know the little baby who died for your sins, Jesus. Let your celebration shine because you know you have been redeemed!

**Merry Christmas!**

### **Nursery Worker**

Life Enrichment                      Gary Breshears  
Community Worship                Nicole Breshears

### **Toddler’s Church**

Nicole Breshears

### **Audio-Visual Technician**

Brett Daire

### **Security**

Gary Breshears

### **Greeters/Hosts**

Tim & Amy Smith

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Mason Daire ~ December 15<sup>th</sup>

Payton McGill ~ December 18<sup>th</sup>

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Bill & Michelle Weeks ~ December 18<sup>th</sup>

WE WILL LABOR TOGETHER TO LOVE GOD,  
LOVE OTHERS AND SHARE THE TRUTH OF  
SALVATION THROUGH KNOWING JESUS IN THE  
GRANDVIEW AREA AND AROUND THE WORLD.

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