

A word from our Pastor

A group of first graders got together and decided to write their own version of the Nativity. It was more modern than the traditional drama. There were the familiar members of the cast: Joseph, the shepherds, three wise men, the star, and an angel propped up in the background. But Mary was nowhere to be seen. Suddenly behind the bales of hay could be heard some loud moans and groans. Evidently, Mary was in labor. Soon the doctor arrived dressed in a white coat with a stethoscope around his neck. Joseph, with a look of relief on his face takes the doctor straight to Mary, then starts pacing back and forth. After a few moments, the 'doctor' emerges with a big smile on his face. "Congratulations Joseph", he says, "It's God".

The kids got the heart of the message correct. God has come to us. He came in such an unexpected and surprising manner, as a tiny baby born in Bethlehem. This advent season we rejoice in the fact that God loves us enough to come to us in the person of His Son Jesus Christ. He came to offer us the greatest gift we can ever receive, the gift of eternal life. O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Straight Ahead!

Pastor Doug



Gather your family and friends and join us for our annual **ADVENT FAIR on Sunday, Dec. 2nd at 6pm.** This is a great time to celebrate the coming of Christ with worship, food, fellowship and a variety of fun Christmas crafts for all to enjoy. Please bring soup or chili, or a cheese & cracker plate to share. A \$5 donation per family is encouraged to help pay for the craft supplies. **ALL** are welcome!

Church Events

- Dec 2 Advent Fair
- Dec 3 Ladies Night
- Dec 4 Upward Eval
- Dec 5 Lunch Bunch
- Dec 8 Men's Breakfast;
 Safety Team Training
- Dec 9 KIDS Christmas Programs
- Dec 14 Teen Babysitting
- Dec 16 Choir Cantata
- Dec 18 NASA
- Dec 19 Board Meeting
- Dec 23 Family Service Sunday
- Dec 24 Candlelight Service
- Dec 25 Christmas!

Look what's happening...

Single Again Lunch Bunch- You are invited to a Christmas luncheon on <u>Dec. 5th at 1pm</u> in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Bertie 208-800-7541. You are not required to bring anything but yourself!

Bethel Safety Team Training - Sat., Dec. 8th @ 9:30am. We will have training for CPR, First Aid, and using the AED. We are also recruiting new members for the team! Please talk with Pastor Bob if you are interested. Sign-up for the training is at the Welcome Desk.

<u>Christmas Cards!</u> We have the church "mailbox" set in the foyer for you to deliver your Christmas Cards. Check it for ones you receive also!!

NASA - Nazarene Active Senior Adults

Dec. 10th - Join us for a night of Christmas fun viewing the lights from the Boise Trolley. Meet at the church at 6:45pm. The tour starts at 8pm. Cost is \$5 and there is a limit of 24 people. Sign up with Sue Hampton if you would like to go!

Dec. 18th - NASA Cookie Exchange! We will meet at the regular time of 5:45pm for some fun and local entertainment. Please bring 2 dozen cookies...1 to share that night and 1 for someone to take home. The sign-up is at the Welcome Desk.

<u>Ladies Night - Dec. 3rd @ 7pm</u> - We will be getting together for fellowship, snacks and ornament decorating. Everyone is invited! Childcare provided.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast - Dec. 8th @ 8am -

All men are invited to attend this Southern Style Breakfast. Jordan Verner will be the special speaker this month.



Angel Tree



GIVE JOY TO A PRISONER'S CHILD THIS CHRISTMAS!

We will again be participating in the Angel Tree gift giving for children of prisoners. We do this to let children know that they aren't forgotten and that they are loved by God. Every child receives a gift purchased especially for them as indicated on the gift tag as well as an age-appropriate presentation of the Gospel message.

The 'Angel Tree' in our foyer still has tags for donations for food baskets. Please bring the gifts back to the church by **Dec. 9th** wrapped and ready. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Coming in January 2019!

- Financial Peace University begins again Jan. 13 @ 5:30pm ~ We have kits available at discounted price!!
- Liberty Quartet ~ Sunday, Jan. 6th @ 6pm
- Men's Bible Study begins Jan. 8th

SPORTS

UPWARD BASKETBALL & CHEERLEADING

REGISTRATION IS OPEN! EVALUATION IS DECEMBER 4 DROP-IN BETWEEN 3:30-6:00PM

Register online at http://registration.upward.org/UPW67517 or there are brochures on the Welcome Desk.

Early-bird price: \$85 (includes shorts or turtleneck for cheer) until $\underline{\text{Dec. 4}}$. Add \$10 after Dec. 4 & deadline to register is $\underline{\text{Dec. 16}}$.

Call the office if you have questions or would like to coach or ref.

2018 Contribution Reminder:

Only those contributions actually received by Dec. 31 or postmarked by that date may be recorded as given during the 2018 tax year. Checks received in the offering Jan. 6 but back-dated into December are **not** considered 2018 contributions. Donors having given more than \$250 during the 2018 tax year should delay filing their tax returns until after they receive their contribution statement from the church. IRS regulations require that the contribution statement be in hand prior to filing the return. Bethel Church contribution statements will be available by January 20, 2019.