

The Winter Parable

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Benny Haught
Rick Hyder
Tim Murray
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons

Jason Bryan
Carl Cobb
Charles Collinsworth
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Jason Giebler
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Darren Pierce
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Preacher

Danny Boggs

Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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How does your family celebrate Christmas? Do you make a special effort to celebrate the birth of Christ, or do you just enjoy the secular traditions? Though it's unlikely that Christ was born on December 25, this date reflects a deep spiritual truth. "It is believed that this date was adopted, possibly in the second century A.D., because it corresponded to the 'winter solstice' — when the daylight period begins to lengthen." (Wayne Jackson)

The winter solstice is the darkest day of the year. Think about what this means for every day thereafter. Each day after the winter solstice, more light reaches our top half of the earth. The sun dawns sooner, it sets later, and the days become brighter. Compare this truth with what Isaiah prophesied about Jesus' birth.

Isaiah 9:2,6. (ESV)

[2] The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

...

[6] For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Our world is dark! Evil and ignorance are widespread today just as they were in Isaiah's time. Read through Isaiah chapter 8, and you'll see people who were trying every-

thing to find light from the world. They looked to the world, specifically mediums and wizards (Isaiah 8:19, KJV), to solve their problems. What were the results? They were thrust even deeper into darkness.

To whom do we look to fix the world, solve our problems, and give us hope? Though our society has largely moved on from wizardry, perhaps we're tempted to see scientists or certain politicians as the solution to evil and ignorance. Some may turn to alcohol or pornography to cope with the darkness. If we look to a dark world for hope or to cope, we'll only find darkness.

The Light of the World (John 8:12) is not from the world (John 17:16). Like the dawning sun, the Son of God is an outside force that brings life, truth, and joy to the world.

Whether or not you make a special effort to celebrate the birth of Christ this month, look to the sky and see the parable given to us by God through the winter solstice. Each day up until December 21 (our date for the winter solstice), notice how the days become shorter and darker. Each time you hear someone remark, "It doesn't feel like it should be this dark outside," think about the dark hopelessness of a world that doesn't know Christ. Then every day following, as the sun shines brighter, remember our Living Hope (1 Peter 1:3), the Light of the World.

Caleb Boggs

Jackson, Wayne. "The Growing Anti-Christian Sentiment." *ChristianCourier.com*. Access date: December 6, 2020. <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/721-the-growing-anti-christian-sentiment>

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Pam Babb, Carol Bessman, Bethany Boggs, Fred and Carolyn Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Eli Dodson, Jaren Dodson, Joe and Teresa Freund, Eli Giebler, Coral Haggard, Ervin and Wilma Hill, Karen Honeycutt, Justin Houston, Nadine Keith, Brylee King, Millie Lyons, Monwell Magee, Sherry Merrill, Cheryl Neilans, Mebyl Privett, Andy Rasbury, Baelyn Rasbury, Rylee Schroeder, Edith Toney, Janell VanSlyke., Miles Wogamott.

- **Monwell Magee** is still in ICU.

We want to express our sympathy to **Virginia Casey** on the loss of her sister-in-law, Judy Anderson.

Every "One" Counts: When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. If you know someone who needs help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.



Devo and Donuts meets every Tuesday at 7:00 in the activities center. Come and bring a friend. Next Tuesday will be the last one before winter break.

Neosho Christian School is in the middle of a "Dream Big, Pray Bigger" fund raising event to make some physical improvements to the property and building. There are more details on the bulletin board. Please help them reach their goal, if you can, and continue to pray for their efforts to provide a Christian education.



This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. (Danny Boggs)

P.M. (Danny Boggs)

If you are not able to be at church, visit our Facebook page, website or YouTube channel to see or hear our services **online**. Services will be at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm on Sundays and 7:00 pm on Wednesdays.

There are only 3 small and 4 large long sleeve **shirts** from the Green Valley Week 2 Weekend on the welcome desk. Take one if you'd like and if you'd like to help with the cost, give \$10 to Coralee or Danny.

Mark you calendar for **Lads to Leaders**. It will be April 1-4 in Little Rock, AR. It is registration time so be watching for more details soon.

Affirming the Faith will not be held next year. It has been postponed until March 4-5, 2022.

The **McClartys** are the couple we currently support at Bear Valley. Their newsletters are posted on the bulletin board. Find out more about them and see what they are doing to prepare for the ministry.

Hillcrest Church of Christ,

Thank you so much for your support with my mission trip to Oregon! This church has had and continues to have a large positive impact on my life. The appreciation I have for this church is too much to put into words. May God bless you,

Courtney Middleton

Thanks for all the prayers on my behalf during my sister's illness.

Lenora Hyder

Dear Church Family,

With the year nearing an end, we reflect on the many blessings that God has provided for Neosho Christian School throughout the year. Our school would not prosper without the kindness and generosity of our many supporters. You are a true blessing to Neosho Christian School and we are so thankful. We pray you will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and my God bless you and your families throughout the coming year. As always we thank you for your continued financial support. We very much appreciate your continued donations and above all we ask for your continued prayers for our school. Thanks again for your support and prayers.

Lowell McInturff

PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, December 13

Wednesday, December 16

AM Opening Prayer: Pete Babb
Communion Prayers: Sam Collinsworth
AM Closing Prayer: Elijah Boggs

Opening Prayer: Ethan Murray
Closing Prayer: Charles Phillips

PM Opening Prayer: Eli Giebler
PM Closing Prayer: Lowell McInturff

RECORDS

12-6-20

12-8-19

Bible Study	117	139
AM Worship	155	189
PM Worship	113	128
Wednesday	105	144
Contribution	\$8,196.13	\$8,676.78
Budget	\$7,864.15	\$7,717.37