

FORT DES MOINES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Love God Love People Serve Everyone

WWW.GODSFORT.ORG



Office:
515-285-1254

Fort Connections

Service Times:
Sunday School- 9 AM
Worship- 10 AM

Mike Demastus

December 2017

Because It Is True...

The Christian Gospel is really very simple: God made us, loves us, and will not — in spite of our sinfulness — leave us to the horrible fate we deserve. He pursues us. He wants us to be saved. He came among us as Jesus of Nazareth and paid the debt we owed because of sin. Now he invites us to belong to him by grace.

Because the Gospel is true, the Christmas story must be told so as to affirm its unique status at this time of the year. It must not get lost among the tales and yarns — innocent as they are! — that we tell our children about imaginary beings. On December 15, 2000, Reuters carried a story from London that British vicar Clive Evans had apologized for telling more than 200 schoolchildren in central England that Father Christmas does not exist. The school's headmaster sent out a letter of apology to the parents of the students. I have a longer list of theologians who should apologize to their denominations, students, and congregants for the biblical truths they have repudiated in their presence.

The things taught in Christian churches are "Important if true" — and otherwise irrelevant and a waste of precious time. I have no interest in repeating the charming story of a baby, shepherds, and Wise Men as foundational spiritual truth unless the story is true. Because I do believe it is true, I can only give myself to telling and retelling it with all the passion I can muster. It is history with theological content. It is setting into motion the purpose of God from eternity past to reconcile men to himself through one who is both God and man. "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all men — the testimony given in its proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle — I am telling the truth, I am not lying — and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles" (1 Tim. 2:5-7).

For me a "white Christmas" is not so much a snow-covered December 25 as it is the prospect of using the Christmas season as an opportunity for recounting the story of God's love for and pursuit of those creatures he originally made in his own image. It is inviting people to come to the Christ of history for salvation through the Incarnation and Atonement he effected. It is an appeal for weary, discouraged, despairing souls to come in the defilement of their sins to be cleansed by the blood of Christ. It is the sacrifice for sin he came to make that cleanses us whiter than snow. Because it is true, this is the most important matter in the world for each of us.

Please sign-up on the Information Table to help with Communion Prep and Clean-up for 2018!

There will be a Cookie Exchange after church on December 3rd! Sign-up on the Information Table if you want to participate.

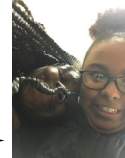
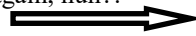


We will take a break from Wednesday night activities on December 20th, 27th and January 3rd.

We will also take a break from Sunday School on December 24th and 31st.



You got a hold of my phone again, huh?!



P E R S  N H O O D
F o r t D e s M o i n e s

PFD will meet on Monday, December 11th at 6:30 to discuss a special "Life" worship service that will be happening in January. Everyone is invited to attend!

Natalie Hoepfner is having a PAJAMA PARTY for children ages 2years-5th grade on December 15th from 6:15-9:00!



There is a sign-up sheet on the Information Table!
If you have any questions, please see Natalie!

Coffee and Donuts

Justin and Lindsay Hunerdosse and Natalie Hoepfner have been providing and preparing breakfast foods and coffee for Sunday mornings. To be honest, the expense has gotten to be more than they can continue to handle. They put out a basket for donations but haven't received very much at all. If this is a ministry that you would like to see continue, would you consider donating a few dollars?



For the month of December our prayer meeting will be on **the 3rd.**

We will be praying for our Church, the ministries and missions we support, and the Families of The Fort.

If you have any questions, please talk to Shannon.

Everyone in the church is invited!

Fort Facts

Total Income for October: \$15,025.01

Total Expenses for October: \$13,525.81



Scripture Memorization for December

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”



The Security Team is asking that when you come into the church either for Sunday School or Worship that you make your way to your classes, the Worship Area or the Fellowship Hall. Please DO NOT congregate in the foyer of the church. It is a security hazard to wait and talk there. There are also people stationed in the foyer to do a ministry and truthfully passing time there gets in the way of their ministries. Please be courteous and abide by this request. You are able to talk **and** have a cup of coffee down in the Fellowship Hall!



On Sunday, December 17th after worship Jacob Demastus will be doing CPR and AED training. If you are interested please sign the clipboard on the Information Table.



The Church is in need of a new security door in the CIA room , a couple of more security cameras, and a tablet (I-Pad, Galaxy Note, Kindle Fire...). If you could donate money to the cause or, if you have a tablet laying around your house that you don't use but would be willing to allow the church to have it, we would be grateful!

ADOPT-A-NEED

Please sign-up to adopt needs that the church has for 2018! The list will be on the Information Table!

Missions Ministry



Blessings Hearts International is a non-profit organization that partners with international Christian ministries in order to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through church leadership training, spiritual discipleship, community development, and education. We will be visited by Shaina Ascone during the Sunday School hour on December 3rd. Please mark your calendars and prepare to be blessed by this wonderful mission.

Mary Rowedder

Because Christmas Eve is on a Sunday we will only be having our morning service. It will be a very special service, so please make plans now to attend and bring your family!



Birthdays

Ramona Powell 12-4
 Henry Abel 12-6
 Lonnie Hoodjer 12-7
 Cleo Meisch 12-9
 Don Sieberns 12-9
 Makya Miller 12-17
 Kirk Bates 12-31

Anniversaries:

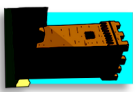
Mark and Paula McClintic 12-1
 Mike and Shannon Demastus 12-21
 Doren and Rosie Hulet 12-26
 Don and Tina Sieberns 12-26
 Bob and Jodi Oltrogge 12-31

Dates to Remember

12/3 Prayer Meeting @8
 Shaina Ascone @9
 Cookie Exchange @11
 12/10 Board Meeting
 12/11 PFD @ 6:30
 12/14 Elder/Deacon meeting @6
 12/15 Pajama Party @6:15
 12/17 CPR and AED Training @11
 12/20 No Bible Study
 12/24 AM Christmas Eve Service
 12/27 No Bible Study

Server Schedule

	12/03/17	12/10/17	12/17/17	12/24/17	12/31/17
Greeters	Bill/LeAnn	Charity	Nate/Deanna	Kirk/Ashley	Teressa
Scripture	Julie	Lindsay	Ashley	Miles	Mary
Praise Team	Mary/1	Abel's/2	Jacob/1	Tina	DVD/2
Communion Meditation	Nate 2	Kirk	Miles	Jacob	Kevin
Server	Forrest	Justin	Kevin	Natalie	Matt
Closing Prayer	Lonnie	Jim	Richard	Doren	George
Stewardship	George/Kevin	Lonnie/Shawn	Jim/George	Doren/Terry	Dale/Nate 2
Nursery	Justin/Lindsay	Nate/Deanna	Ben/Makya	Forrest/Emily	Melissa/Tammy
Junior Church	Cleo 1:30	Justin 1:31	Ashley 1:32	No Jr. Church	No Jr. Church
Communion Prep	Jennie	Jennie	Jennie	Jennie	Jennie
Communion to the Sick	Richard	Miles	Nate/Deanna	Jim	Lonnie
Security	Jacob/Doug/Jim	Austin/Miles/Forrest	Kirk/Bruce/Lonnie	Mike/Richard/Terry	Shawn/Jacob/Terry
Offering Security	Shay	Jacob	Mike	Shawn	Kirk
Van Ministry	Richard	Terry	Nate 2	Kevin	Richard
Welcome Wagon	Patty	Patty	Patty	Patty	Patty



December 2017



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1	2
3 Prayer Meeting Shaina Ascone @SS Cookie Exchange	4	5	6 Bible Study @6	7	8	9	
10 Board Meeting	11 PFD @6:30	12	13 Bible Study @6	14 Elders/Deacons Meeting @6	15 Pajama Party 6:15-9:00	16	
17 CPR and AED Training	18	19	20 No Bible Study	21	22	23	
24 Christmas Eve Morning Service only!	25	26	27 No Bible Study	28	29	30	
31							