

DECEMBER 2024

THE PURPOSE OF DESERT SHORES COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO SHARE THE LOVE AND SAVING GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST WITH EVERYONE, THROUGH GOD'S POWER, MAKE DISCIPLES WHO LOVE GOD.



“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations” Matthew 28:19

The Beacon



Thoughts from Pastor George

Remembering Christmas All Year Long

Merry Christmas! I hope all of you have a blessed Christmas. This Christmas, we need to give God the glory He deserves. This sounds so easy, but as we get busy doing all the things we have to do, we forget what Christmas is all about. I want to begin this article by asking you to remember this Christmas what the true gift of Christmas is: Jesus Christ, God's Eternal Son, our Eternal Savior, our Light, Life, Truth and Hope.

Many of us will spend time decorating, cooking, traveling, and shopping. I love the cooking part, the shopping not so much. But my point is that we have many things that will occupy our time and energy. Let's not forget the true story of Christmas. About how God left eternity and emptied Himself into a little baby at Christmas.

The best way to do this is by being part of a Cantata, Christmas caroling, or attending a candlelight service. We all need to step out of our busy schedule and just listen to the message of Christmas. I have been known to sing Christmas songs in July. I know we hate to see Christmas decorations on sale in September and we seem to get the commercials for all the goods way too early. But I think it should be “Christmas all Year Long”.

Speaking of Christmas all Year Long, I want to invite you to attend the Cantata this year. It is called, yes you guessed it, Christmas All Year Long. It will be on Dec 14 and 15. As God's children, sharing about our Father and what He did when He sent His Son to this earth to be our Savior should be on our minds all year long.

One of the best ways to remember is to think back to the moments in your life when God and His love for you became real. Think back to how God changed your life forever. For many of us, we have forgotten how Jesus changed our lives. Do you remember what it was that made you realize God's love for you? Remember and share that with your family. Let your grandkids know how Jesus showed His love for you.

We need to remember that God has called us to be messengers, witnesses and lights. It is helpful if we remember this and ask God for ways to share the message about what Jesus did on the cross for us.

One of the ways we can remember Christmas all year long is by serving and showing love to those who are lost and hurt. We all know someone who has experienced a loss this past year. They are experiencing their first Christmas without that loved one. Perhaps this is the first year after having to move into an assisted living place. Maybe this last year caused them to lose everything, and they ended up in a homeless shelter.

Continued on page 4



December Birthdays

12/10
Sandy Potter
12/11
Nancy Beam
12/12
Elon Holmes
Tory Westbrook
12/14
Alayna Hannon
12/18
Tony Baldwin
12/19
Kristine Ramelot
12/20
Rebecca Earnest
12/21
Linda Evans
12/25
Sue Alstrom
12/26
Gerri Huffman
12/29
Timothy Forde
12/31
John Neitz



December Events:

December 6th

Touchstone Angels Meeting
At Sandy Holmes home.
12pm

December 8th

Annual Business Meeting
After service

December 14th

Women's Fellowship
Bring something to go with a Ham
Small gift for exchange
11:30am

Christmas Cantata

6pm

December 15th

Christmas Cantata

10:30am

December 25th

CHRISTMAS!

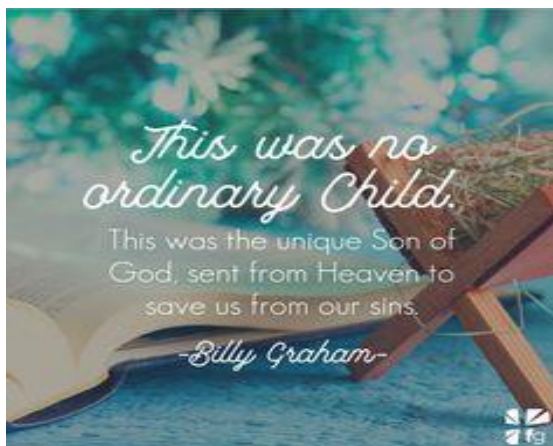
**NO GAME NIGHT
OR MOVIE NIGHT**

Weekly Events:

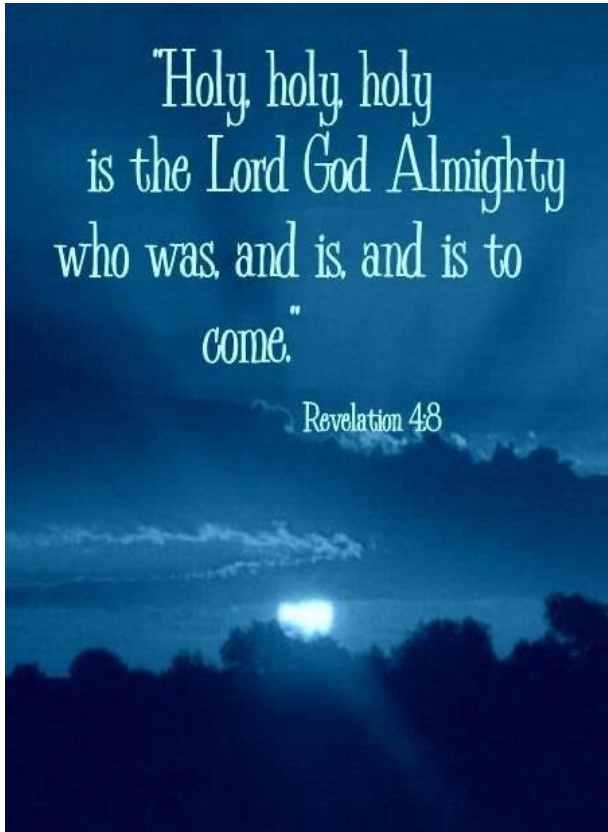
Sunday 9:00am Sunday School
9:00am Faith Builders Class
9:00am Titus Women
10:30am Worship Service
2:30pm SunRidge Village
Monday 5:00pm Choir Practice
5:00pm Creation Series
6:00pm Praise Team practice
Tuesday 9:00am Prayer Team
10:30am Davis Place
1:00pm Silver Creek
2:30 Joshua Springs Memory Care
3:00pm Joshua Springs
6:30pm Men's Bible Study
Wednesday **8:00am Men's Bible Study**
9:30am Women's Bible Study
6:30pm Bible Study - Galatians
Thursday 6:30pm Family Game Night
Last Thursday of the Month
1:30pm Legacy
8:00pm Young Adult Bible Study
Friday 8:00am Men's Bible Study
7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous
6:30pm Movie Night
Last Friday of the Month
Saturday 8:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
First Saturday of the Month
6:00pm Contemporary Worship Serv.

December Anniversaries

2nd
John & Carol Mabus
10th
Ed & Maureen Gernert
15th
Nathan & Emily Young
20th
Debbie & Craig Kincaid
23rd
Rick & Janine Stilt
26th
Dave & Pat Anderson
Laura & Steve Mucahy
27th
Kimberly & John Kearns
31st
Gary & Claudette Konigsmark



CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD



SENIOR MINISTRY

This is the schedule. Please look it over and see what time slot would work for you.

Sunday at 2:30 at Sunridge Village
Tuesday at 10:30 at Davis Place
Tuesday at 1:00 at Silver Creek
Tuesday at 2:30 at Joshua Springs -Memory care
Tuesday at 3:00 at Joshua Springs
Thursday at 1:30 at Legacy

Interested? You may want to join us at a service and make a new friend (or friends), sharing Jesus and filling a void in their day.

Please contact **Rick Bickman** at 928.444.4504 or **Karen** at 928.201.7879 for more information.

SENIOR MINISTRY

We are very appreciative of all the new volunteers who stepped up to help out at the assisted living homes this summer. You were very valuable to the ministry because of your dedication and faithfulness in keeping things going while we were away. We hope you were blessed by this experience if you were new to this ministry, and we invite you to continue coming if you are led by God to do so. The residents have been very thankful and appreciative of you. We have had many compliments for your work. And of course, we thank and appreciate all of our regular volunteers who go to the assisted living facilities on a regular basis. You are an important part of the senior ministry and do a fantastic job!!!

Rick and Karen Bickman

COME PRAY WITH US!

Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan.

John Bunyan

Our Prayer Meeting is at 9:00 on Tuesday Mornings! Please join us!

If you have any requests or praises you can email them to

Ljneitz57@gmail.com

**Or text them to
928.201.8924**

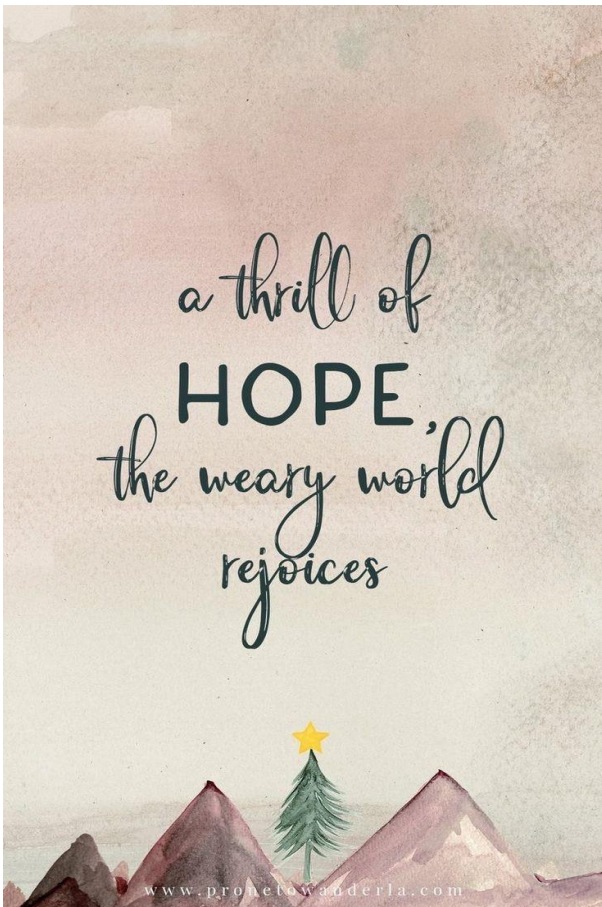
Thoughts from Pastor George continued.....

We show love by our actions. If we aren't showing love by our actions, we must ask what is wrong. Perhaps you have been waiting to get involved. Perhaps you have been hurt and

you don't want to risk getting hurt again. Perhaps you have been holding on to hurt and haven't forgiven that other person or even told them about your feelings. We don't have to be afraid of confessing our sins or sharing our feelings. We are called brothers and sisters in Christ for a reason. We need to remember this. Our willingness to forgive, confess, serve, share, embrace, cry, and be real are all part of remembering that we are God's children and have received His great love.

I could go on and on about all the ways we need to Remember Christmas all Year Long, but for now, please remember God loves you and I love you.

Sincerely,
Pastor George



SIMPLE WAYS TO BE A BLESSING!

Items needed for the BLESSING BAGS:

- Water
- Toothpaste
- Vienna Sausage
- Tuna Kits
- Soap
- Pack of napkins and utensils
(Can pick up at Smart & Final in individual packs)
- Combs
- Assorted Toiletries
- Fruit Cups

Jonathan Brentner Our Journey Home

On the Edge of Suddenly

In just the past few weeks, we have witnessed a dizzying array of signs pointing to the nearness of the Tribulation and thus also to the Rapture of the Church, which happens before this time of judgment begins. The world lies breathtakingly close to the start of the catastrophic conditions described throughout Revelation 6, and yet God's judgments seem mysteriously paused.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8, Paul explains why the world can rest on the edge of cataclysmic events and yet for the moment escape the dire consequences of what surely lies ahead:

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

Revelation 6 begins with the antichrist riding throughout the world on a white horse, but this can't happen until the Lord removes His restraining hand, which for now keeps him from unveiling his true nature. The restricting force is the Holy Spirit's presence in New Testament saints through which He not only holds back the man of lawlessness, but with that the start of all we read about in Revelation 6. After the Rapture, the beast will be free to ride.

Closer to the Edge of Catastrophe

Just this month, we have witnessed events that have brought the world closer to the time when we will watch the Lord open the seven seals from Heaven's vantage point. What follows are but a couple of examples of this.

On Sunday, November 17, President Biden took the world a giant step closer to a nuclear confrontation by allowing Ukraine to fire U.S. missiles into Russia, which has continued to happen since that date. Just this week, the U.S. administration announced that it's considering supplying Ukraine with nuclear weapons while NATO contemplates a direct attack on Russia. Is this not insane?!?!

President-elect Trump recently stated that "we are closer to World War III than ever before" and he is right. I don't know what will happen next, but it appears that America and its NATO allies are doing all they can to ignite a major war with Russia.

And, just this past week, the U.S. debt total passed the thirty-six trillion-dollar mark. There's no rational explanation for why the American economy hasn't completely collapsed with worldwide implications that align with Revelation 6:5-6.

Sudden Destruction

How does this seeming delay fit with Bible prophecy? 1 Thessalonians 5:3 reveals that when the world falls off the edge into the coming series of catastrophic events, it will happen abruptly and unexpectedly:

While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

In a moment, everything will change. The word normal will remain in dictionaries, but any sense of normality will instantly disappear.

As New Testament saints, we will vanish in the "twinkling of an eye" (1 Corinthians 15:52). The Lord will instantly change our mortal bodies into ones that will never perish or grow old. We will immediately experience the eternal life that we now possess through faith.

Our departure will cause a rapid deterioration of any remaining sense of calm and result in great chaos throughout the world. I believe that the antichrist will begin his crusade for peace in the weeks or perhaps months after the Rapture.

The Warning and the Comfort

Everywhere we look, we see precursors to the fulfillment of so many things that we read about in the book of Revelation and, in particular, chapters 6 and 13. As a result, some mistakenly believe that the four horsemen of the apocalypse are already riding through the earth. I believe the Lord is allowing the world to see glimpses of what lies ahead as a warning of what's to come.

At the moment, the world is speeding down the path to nuclear war. Could we be days, weeks, or months away from the "sudden destruction" that will inaugurate the Day of the Lord *after* we are safely in Heaven with Jesus?

Or might the Lord continue to restrain the forces that He has allowed to take the world to the edge of suddenly?

If nothing else, the events of the past few weeks should be a wake-up call of just how quickly our lives can instantly change. I know that many in the world still cling to the belief that normality will prevail, but what about the church?

Sadly, many saints plan for their future with no thought of the Lord's nearing intervention in their lives nor with any consideration of the warning that comes from James 4:13-17 regarding their future aspirations. They fail to see that we not only rest on the edge of suddenly, but also at the end of normal.

Our comfort rests in Jesus and in Him alone. He's coming for us just as He promised and that day could be very, very soon.

SANDWICH MINISTRY

A huge thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who will be making sandwiches for the folks experiencing homelessness. Not only are our volunteers continuing, but there were more new volunteers this time!

The new schedules are ready for pick up! If you have not received yours, please check with Kaye in the office, or look on the bulletin board just outside her office. Please make a reminder for yourself so you don't forget your sandwich dates.

Anyone who is not making sandwiches is encouraged to consider bringing water or snack type food items whenever you can. Anything you bring in will be greatly appreciated. God bless!!!

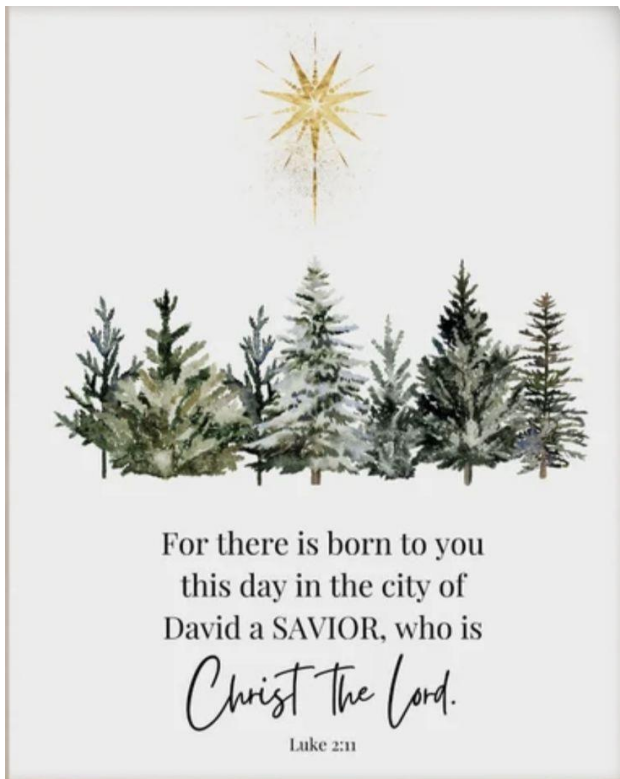


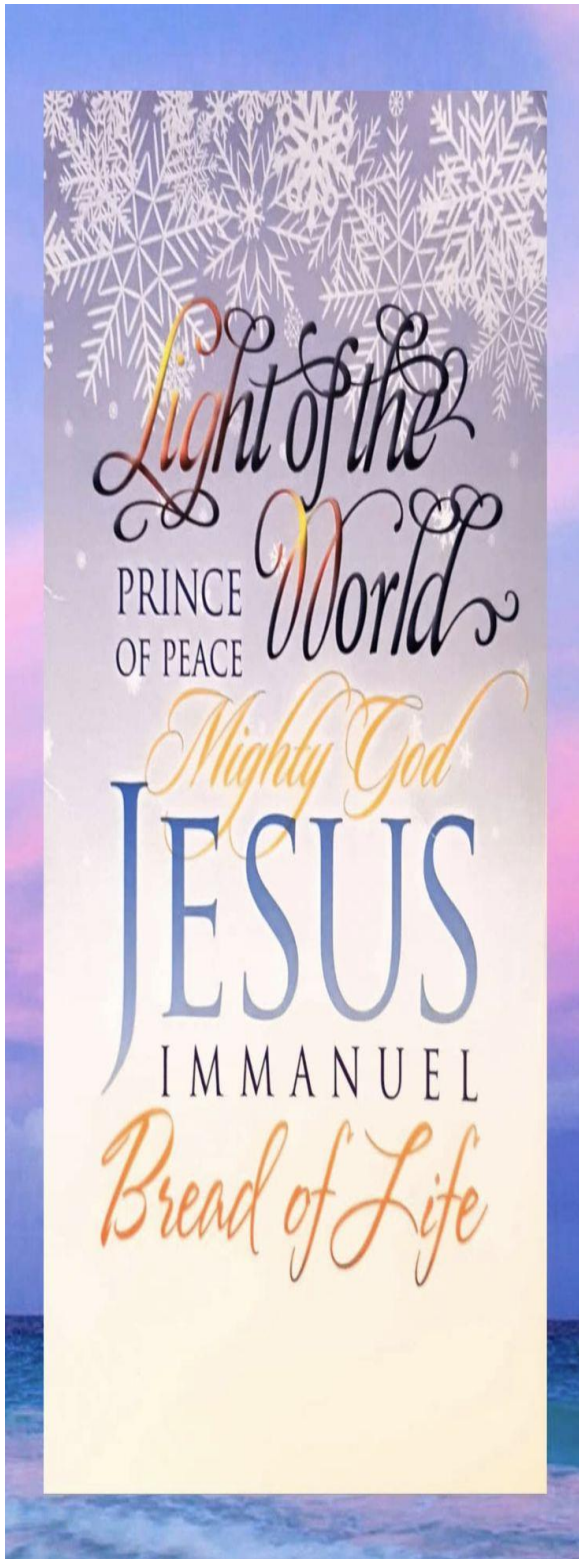
We Are Growing Help Wanted!

The online ministry continues to grow and needs volunteers who are willing to commit to long term service. No experience is needed as Brandon will train you in the specific equipment you'll be handling.

We would all love to have Brandon honoring God with his musical talents as he has showed us over the last few worship services. But that can't happen until he gets more help producing Saturday and Sundays' services.

See Brandon or leave a message in the office if you can help, please.





FIRST LOVE, COLD LOVE, AND GOD'S LOVE

On this morning's prayer walk, I had a concentrated time of prayer focused on the love of God. Part of the reason for this prayer focus stems from the fact that I've been studying and meditating on Revelation 2:4, where Jesus told the church at Ephesus that they had "left their **FIRST LOVE**." Determined that I didn't want to fall into that category, I prayed earnestly that I would continue to grow in the love of God and to share His love with others.

It was about 4:45 a.m. and I had been praying along that vein for about 15 minutes. The words, "Lord, help me love like You do" had just left my lips when something amazing happened. There was a bright flash in the sky above me. A large shooting star streaked across the sky with a long tail of brilliant sparks in its trail. It was unlike any shooting star I had ever seen before. A chill went down my spine. It was as if the Lord had responded to my prayer request by lighting up the darkened sky above me. And, isn't that what the love of God is supposed to do in our lives? It's supposed to bring light to the darkened world we live in. It's supposed to create a sense of awe and wonder in our hearts. How could He, the Creator of the Universe, love us so passionately? Why would He sacrifice the life of His holy son to restore us? His love is amazing and awesome!

As I contemplated what had just happened, this verse from 1 John 4:19 rose up inside my heart: "We love Him because He **FIRST LOVED** us." How can we avoid being like the church at Ephesus? How can we keep from losing our **FIRST LOVE**? We remind ourselves that He **LOVED FIRST**. Romans 5:5 tells us that the **LOVE OF GOD** has been poured out into our hearts." So, I can't conjure up love in my heart ... not for God and not for my fellow man. What I can do is take the love he **FIRST LOVED** me with (that He poured into my heart) and reciprocate it to Him and to others.

Jesus prophesied that in the last days "the love of many will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12). Every human being's love has limitations. If you're trying to love God or people with your own human love, it will eventually grow cold. The only remedy for **COLD LOVE** is to be saturated with **GOD'S LOVE**.

My morning walks with God FB 11.20.24