

# Grace Church of Central Point

100 Oak Street  
Central Point OR 97502

A praying, family-centered congregation that loves Jesus!



GRACE NOTES

VISION 2024 Being a light in a dark world

December 2024

## From the Pastor's Desk

### Keeping CHRIST in CHRISTmas

It seems as we reach the middle of November (which is when I am writing this), Christmas starts appearing in the stores. There are first of all, the aisles and aisles of decorations to pretty up our homes, the tree, and the outdoors. There are also the Christmas clothes that make an appearance as well. And of course, there are the rows of bows and wrapping paper, not to mention the boxes of greeting cards and of course, last, but not least, the array of gifts to give at Christmas. And somewhere in the midst of this holiday bustle, the wrappings and the greeting cards, is the real Reason, the real meaning of CHRISTmas. And that is CHRIST; the Savior of the world, born in a stable, because there was no room at the inn. Come to think of it, things really haven't changed much, have they? We celebrate Christmas and while some spell it out "C-h-r-i-s-t-m-a-s," there are those who abbreviate it as "X-m-a-s" or even "C-m-a-s." No matter how we look at it now days, CHRIST doesn't have the prominence He deserves, especially at this time of the year. As in the inn, there just doesn't seem to be room for Him in people's lives either. But do we just accept that, or do we work to change it? I will choose the latter. So, what can we do to keep CHRIST in CHRISTmas? Let me share 7 suggestions...

1) Make a conscious effort to remember the Reason for the season. It is CHRIST first, last, and always.

2) Say "Merry Christmas" instead of "Season's Greetings" or "Happy Holidays." This will at least give people a reminder of Who and why we are celebrating.

3) Building on number 2, make a conscious effort to counter a greeting given to you of "Happy Holidays" or "Season's Greetings" with a sincere and heartfelt "Merry CHRISTmas."

4) Pick out cards that (or make sure emails) promote the holy message of CHRISTmas, which is not toys, Santa, or gingerbread houses, but again, the Reason for the season; that CHRIST came to offer His life, a ransom for many. You can also include gospel tracts in the cards that you're mailing.

5) Participate in an activity that will promote the CHRIST of CHRISTmas such as doing a daily advent calendar with your children or grandchildren or reading them the CHRISTmas story from Luke 2:1-20. Or try going caroling with your church group and not just singing "Joy to the World" but also sharing the good news of what it means.

6) Volunteer to help in a soup kitchen or other volunteer event. How about assembling and packing shoeboxes that will go around the world with the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ? year, and in the years ahead

7) Invite someone (neighbor, friend, fellow worker) to attend a church service with you.

It is clear that it is up to each of us to do what we can to keep CHRIST in CHRISTmas this year, and in the years ahead.



*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" Isaiah 9:6*

### ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

Sunday: Morning prayer	9:30 am
Sunday School	10:00 am
Worship Service	11:00 am
Tuesday: Women's Bible Study	10:00 am
Men's Bible Study	5:30 pm
Wednesday: Mid-week prayer meeting	6:30 pm
Thursday: Women's Bible Study	6:30 pm

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Dec. 8:	Annual Elections/Budget meeting (Sunday)
Dec. 15:	Christmas Program (during church service)
Dec. 20:	Christmas caroling: 5:30 pm
Dec. 24:	Christmas Eve Communion Service (Tues.) 5:30 pm
Dec. 25:	Christmas Day (Wednesday)
Dec. 31:	New Year's Eve (Tuesday)



### PRAYER NEEDS

Members with health needs  
Israel and its people  
Pastoral Search Committee  
The pastor and family who will be coming to our church  
Spiritual revival in our country  
Newly elected government officials



# 2024 DECEMBER



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Nancy Whetstone	<b>2</b> *Charlotte Bates	<b>3</b> Matt Winchell	<b>4</b> Cathleen Winchell	<b>5</b> Cheryl Young	<b>6</b> Perry Allen	<b>7</b> Carole Allen
<b>8</b> Nina Anselmo	<b>9</b> Steve Ashton	<b>10</b> *Jan Hamilton	<b>11</b> Debbie Ashton	<b>12</b> Mary Ashton	<b>13</b> Terry Bartlett	<b>14</b> Sarah Bartlett
<b>15</b> Roy J. Bates	<b>16</b> Roy A. Bates	<b>17</b> Nance Bates	<b>18</b> *Gary Pence	<b>19</b> *Marie Simmons *Tony Vaccarino	<b>20</b> Kerry Blackburn	<b>21</b> *Bob Blanchard
<b>22</b> Bonnie Blackburn	<b>23</b> Irene Blanchard	<b>24</b> Cleo Caswell	<b>25</b> Marianne Catlett	<b>26</b> *Jessica Speece *Stephanie Speece	<b>27</b> Hunter Cavin Connor Cavin	<b>28</b> Phil Claudson
<b>29</b> *Cynthia Pruett	<b>30</b> *Michael Gray	<b>31</b> Roberta Claudson			 "Love is what's with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen" Bobby - age 7	

Please pray for one another each day – those with a birthday are shown with an \*



### Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry 110 SHOEBOXES!

Grace Church members helped furnish, pack and ship 110 shoeboxes to be sent to children around the world. A special THANK YOU to Bobbie Crammer for coordinating the project.

*Thank you*

to all who helped with the Shoebox ministry this year. Those who donated items, who donated finances to help mail the Shoeboxes, who donated items for and worked at the bazaar at Northridge to help raise funds for the ministry and for those who helped pack the boxes ready for mailing.

The children are thrilled to receive gifts from someone they don't know who loves them. Included in the box is a booklet telling a child how they can come to know Christ. One girl wrote she received a teddy bear in her box. It became her cherished toy. She says she still has it 14 years later.



## The First Gift of Christmas

The first Christmas gift ever given  
Wasn't bought in a mart or a shop,  
And it wasn't encased in gay wrappings  
With a bright ribbon bow on the top.

The first Gift of Christmas was given  
In a manger lowly and bare,  
And a blanket was the lone wrapping  
Of this gift so priceless and fair.

God gave the First  
Gift of Christmas,  
A most Holy  
and Wonderful One,  
When He looked  
down in mercy  
And gave us  
the Gift of His Son!

~ Poet :  
John Gilbert

