



Perry Church of the Nazarene

news

December 2017



Christmas giving is not easy. It's not the cost that makes it difficult. Most of us really like to give and even sacrifice for others during this season. The problem is more about a lack of imagination or even attention. We long to give the perfect gift, a gift that shows how much we care and demonstrates a thoughtful understanding of the person, but we often come up short. You likely know how it is because we've all received gifts that were perfect — for someone else.

Christmas giving is not easy. Mostly, I give up and ask what people want or buy them a gift card. I'm disappointed in my Christmas giving. The one time I wasn't disappointed was when I bought Sandy a stuffed animal. I told her that I couldn't afford much, so she thought the animal was her Christmas gift. Attached to the stuffed animal was an engagement ring. Although Sandy still expresses her love for the ring, it's not the diamond that made the gift. It was covenanted love.

A covenant is different than a contract. A contract is focused more on "things" and on "benefits." A covenant is person-focused. A covenant is not about what I get out of the deal, but with whom am I united. The goal of a covenant is not reciprocal benefits, but intimacy. Covenant is not reading a legalistic conformity to the fine prints of a

Gift Giving

contract. Covenant is a commitment of personal loyalty seeking intimacy and love.

Every Christmas gift is inspired by the greatest Christmas gift. "For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son." When we failed in loyalty to the lover of our soul, God sent his son to rescue us from our sin and reestablish a covenant relationship with us.

"I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them. - Hos 14:4 NIV

Christ's death on the cross is not contractual love; it shouldn't be viewed as "Christ died for me so now I can go to heaven." Christ's death is covenanted love. The goal is intimacy and union with God. The good news of Christmas is the lengths to which our God has gone to reconcile us. The good news is that Christ has defeated sin and rebellion through his death and resurrection. United with Him, we live a resurrected life, free of condemnation. The greatest gift of all is the love of God that he lavishes on us through the Holy Spirit. The gift of Jesus Christ says everything we need to know about our God, rich in mercy and abounding in love.

Pastor Tim

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Teen Celebrate Life Forms Due	5	6	7	8	9 Jingle Jam
10 KidBit Christmas	11	12	13	14	15	16 Men's Breakfast
17 Teen Christmas Program	18	19	20 Children's Hayride & Bonfire Teen Christmas Party	21	22 Teen Christmas Caroling	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Merry Christmas	26	27 NO SERVICES TODAY	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve						

December Classes and Activities

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 16 at 8am

All men are invited for relevant teaching and good food in Heritage Hall.

Memorial Christmas Tree

Memorial Christmas Trees are in the foyer of the sanctuary. Whether your loss is recent or not, we encourage you to add a Christmas ornament to those already on the tree. Simply fill out a tag and attach it to the ornament.

Children's Hayride and Bonfire Party

Wed, Dec 20 . 4:00pm

Children's ministries is headed to Peacock Family Farms for a hayride and bonfire. All kids in 1st-6th grade are welcome—parents too! Cost is \$8 per person. Sign up with Pastor Lonny today.

Christmas Benevolence Giving

Our church office regularly receives calls from people in the community who have need. Sometimes those needs can be met by other organizations like the food bank. Other times our church meets the need, often providing partial support for heat and electric utility shut-off notices. Individuals who seek help must meet with a representative from our church for an interview and budget counseling to determine whether assistance is appropriate. This gives us an opportunity to pray with the individual and open the door to a relationship. It is only through donations that we are able to provide this support and utilize this opportunity for outreach. As you seek to give this Christmas, we ask you to prayerfully consider making a donation to our benevolence fund. Simply mark an offering envelope as "Christmas Benevolence."



Jingle Jan 2017: The Big Give

December 9 at 7pm in the Sanctuary

It's a Christmas party that you will never forget! The whole family is invited to Jingle Jam. Our program will be focused on telling the Christmas story and sharing the 'big idea' of generosity. We want to encourage families to not get wrapped up in just 'stuff' this season, but to inspire the generosity and celebrate how God was infinitely generous in giving us His son, Jesus. There will be songs, games, fun and a whole lot more! We can't wait to celebrate with you.

KidBit Celebration

December 10 at 10:45am in the Sanctuary

We're celebrating our littlest children on December 10th so get your camera batteries charged. Our children have been preparing a couple Christmas songs to share with us. We're also inviting all of our babies (and their parents) to be introduced and prayed over. If you are able to attend, please contact Pastor Lonny in the church office.

Real Life Student Ministries

District Celebrate Life

District Celebrate Life registration is due December 4th. Celebrate Life is January 26-27. This event helps teens develop and celebrate the gifts God has given them so they can use them for His glory! There are opportunities in team sports, the arts or even things like creative writing, chess and video editing; in other words, something for everyone! Talk to Pastor Aaron if you want a complete list. Registration is online this year, so head to <https://goo.gl/forms/b0ufgCt6cT4z6csp1> to register. Note that although the online form says the cost is \$43, the cost for our church is \$60 for the weekend, which is the district fee plus transportation and hotel stay. I hope you will join us for this unique, exciting weekend!

Teen Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 20 from 6:30-9pm

We will be partying Christmas style on the 20th! Bring a snack to pass if you are able and we will play games and have a great time of fellowship and celebration. Come for any or all of it. Any questions ask Eric. Hope to see you there!

Youth Group Cancellation

Youth group is cancelled on Wednesday, December 27th for Christmas. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Christmas Caroling

Saturday, December 22 at 7pm

We are going to travel around to people from our church family in their homes and brighten their night by singing Christmas Carols to them! Be at the church by 7 pm and we will all leave together to spread some Christmas Cheer in the Name of the One we are cheerful about! We are doing 2 things differently this year. First, after our last stop (Washington Square Apartments in Perry), we are going to play games with the residents. And second, we have asked Men's and Women's ministries to join us for caroling! We will be back at the church by about 10 pm. Seeing the joy and appreciation people feel for us coming to sing to them about the hope we share in Christ always makes us even more blessed than they are to hear us sing. I hope you will join us!





Each Week in December

Sunday morning

9:30 Worship
Adult Sunday School
Children's Church

10:45 Worship
Adult Sunday School
Teen Sunday School
Children's Sunday School

Wednesday evening

6:00 Dinner
6:30 Grief Share
Children's Quizzing
7:00 Men's Bible Study
Women's Bible Study
Real Life Student Ministries
Children's Bible Study

Paid nursery staff is available during all service times.

CHRISTMAS EVE
PERRY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
6PM or 8PM

THE INDESCRIBABLE
GIFT

IT SAYS EVERYTHING ABOUT THE GIVER

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Perry Church of the Nazarene
Mission Statement:
We exist to lead as many as possible to
become devoted followers of Jesus Christ.