



*Christmas*  
HOPE HAS COME

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*Whiteland*  
Church of Christ

Sunday, December 22, 2019

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*Order of Worship*

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**Welcome & Greeting** – Ed Tichenor

**Call to Worship** – George Hewitt

*66 Doxology*

**Opening Prayer** – Randy Sowder

**Scripture Reading** – Chris Turnmire (*Isaiah 9:6-7*)

*1018 Joy to the World*

**Message** – Ronnie Hewitt

*“Hope Has Come”*

*1003 Silent Night*

*995 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

*996 O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**Message Continued**

*1001 Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

*998 What Child Is This?*

**Message Continued**

*1028 O Holy Night*

**Message Concluded**

**Invitation** – *Wonderful, Merciful, Savior*

*(Elders & Minister Upfront)*

**Communion & Offering** – Joel Westberry

**Announcements & Closing Prayer**

*Go Light Your World*

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*Merry Christmas*

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*Welcome & Merry Christmas! Christmas is without a doubt one of the most joyous times of the year. We enjoy gathering with loved ones, sharing a meal, exchanging gifts or just giving to others. God gave us a gift...one we didn't deserve. The greatest gift of all-time was that of Jesus Christ. Through Christ we are given hope. Hope of a greater life. Hope of having an eternal home with our Creator. As we celebrate Christmas, don't forget the story doesn't end with His birth. Our salvation comes from the death, burial and resurrection. Hope has come!*

*We are thankful you have chosen to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us, please stop by the Welcome Table in the foyer for additional information and to provide us with a record of your attendance. If there is anything, we can do for you, or any questions we may answer, please let us know. We know you had many options today, so we again, thank you for choosing to worship with us!*

## Upcoming Events

Dec	
25	No Bible Study
28	Women's Brunch
29	Area-Wide Unity Service
Jan	
4	Area-Wide Singing & Chili Supper
11	Men's Breakfast
12	Quarterly Congregational Meeting
14	Visitation Group Meeting
19	New Christians' Class Outreach/Involvement Planning
22	Leadership Meeting
25	Women's Brunch
28	Visitation Group Meeting
31	Family Movie Night
Feb	
8	Men's Breakfast
11	Visitation Group Meeting
22	Women's Brunch
25	Visitation Group Meeting
26	Leadership Meeting
28	Painting Party

## Celebrations

### Birthdays

23 – Heath Price

### Anniversaries

27 – Cliff & Inez Dailey (56 yrs)



## Serving this Week

**Greeters:** Benny & Gayle Stephens  
**Nursery:** No attended nursery today  
**Bible Hour:** No Bible Hour today  
**Shut-in Communion:** Lonnie Shoopman  
**Cleaning 12/26-12/28:** Turnmire & Huesman

## PRAYER REQUESTS

*We are here to pray for you!*



*We believe in the power of prayer & are a praying family. If you have a need, please let us know. You can fill out a prayer request form at the Welcome Table or send us an email at: [prayerrequest@whitelandchurchofchrist.com](mailto:prayerrequest@whitelandchurchofchrist.com).*

GayLee Sutton is scheduled to have four injections in her back tomorrow, Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Gina Sowder is scheduled for surgery in February for a herniated bladder. She has several appointments beforehand.

Stan Davis' friend, Bill Philpot, needs immune therapy; however, due to other issues is unable to begin.

Albert Hunt lost his job and has started interviewing.

Dennis Dussia has congestive heart failure. He is scheduled for a procedure test on Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>.

Joe Lasiter had a biopsy last Monday for a mass in his throat. The results showed the mass is benign.

Wanda Weaver is scheduled for surgery on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Brenda Cochran had a second chemo treatment on Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. She is tired and experiencing headaches. (Submitted thru our website)

Noah Logsdon's brother, Jim, passed away last Thursday afternoon. Visitation is today from 2-5pm and the funeral is Monday at 2pm at Jessen's on Jefferson Street in Franklin.

## Teachers Needed

We need teachers for K-3, 4-6 and toddlers. Please see Angie Turnmire if interested.

## Christmas Day

There will be no Bible study this Wednesday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy the time with your family.

## Hearts for Souls

Now collecting: Hats, Gloves & Scarves (New & homemade welcome), New shoes for all ages, new toys for newborn to teens. Any price range/no used items please.

## Women's Brunch

The next Women's Brunch is Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at 10am over in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will join us for brunch, fellowship and a short devotional.

## Area-Wide Unity Worship

The next Unity Worship Service is scheduled for Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at the Fall Creek Church of Christ. This time around they are having a meal at 4pm then worship at 5pm. We would like to know what the majority would like to do. We have a couple of options on carpooling. If you'd like to go to the dinner, we will need to leave here by 3:15pm. If you are only interested in worship, we will need to leave by 4:15pm. Please let the Elders and/or Ronnie know which you prefer so that plans can be made.

## Area-Wide Singing & Chili Supper

Let's start the new year off by singing with brothers & sisters from area congregations. Mark your calendars now for January 4<sup>th</sup> at 5pm for our Annual Area-Wide Singing & Chili Supper. If you're interested in helping with the chili, please see George Hewitt.

## Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 9am over in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a time of food, fellowship and devotion.

## Congregational Meeting

Our quarterly congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, immediately following AM Worship. We will not keep you long so that you can have lunch. We will not have our normal 5pm Bible study this day.

## Visitation Group

The next visitation group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We'll meet at the Tichenor's.

## New Christian Class

We will be starting a class for new Christians on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. More information will be given in the weeks to come.

## Outreach & Involvement Planning

If you have any ideas or suggestions for outreach opportunities and our church involvement, please plan on joining us Sunday evening, January 19<sup>th</sup>, following Bible Study. We'll meet over in the Fellowship Hall.

## Leadership Meeting

The next monthly leadership meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, following Bible classes.

## Family Movie Night

Our next Family Movie Night will be on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 7pm. The movie is *Overcomer*. *Overcomer* is from the creators of *The War Room*.

## Looking Ahead...

## Painting Party

Mark your calendars for Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for a Painting Party with instructor Julie Miller. The cost will be \$25 per person and will include your canvas and paint. More info to come...

## First Christmas

by Boyd Bailey, Wisdom Hunters

*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Luke 2:11-12*

The focus of the first Christmas was Jesus. It was His day. There was no competition from commercialism seeking economic gain. The gifts were given to Him. God was the recipient of gratitude and generosity. He was glorified on this day of salvation for all who would come to believe in Jesus as God's only Son. There was an appreciation for the Almighty's descent into the decadence of humanity. There was no feuding from other faiths jockeying with each other for time in the Savior's spotlight. On the contrary, there was a religious respect and humble worship from those who traveled great distances from their diverse origins of belief. On this day, Jesus unified sincere seekers of truth.

The first Christmas, however, was not without controversy. Politically, Jesus was a lightning rod (some things never change). Government leaders felt threatened as if a traitor had infiltrated their influence over the masses. Involuntary spies were sent to validate His presence. Once His birth had been verified, the powers that be went to work. Insecurity and fear drive people to commit irrational acts, and it was no different back then.

So what started as a celestial coronation for the Prince of Peace ended with jealous leaders taking severe and deadly action. The Christ-child was driven from their pitiful, but powerful presence. They destroyed other God-fearing people in the process. The community was cast into chaos when Christ was removed from their culture.

From the first Christmas we can learn to keep Christ central in worship and society. He is the wonder of our worship. He is the reason for our giving gifts. It is because we celebrate His birthday that we pause to pray, reflect, and plan to follow His will in a more robust and intentional manner. Our Master came to earth and made Himself like man. He took on the form of a servant, though He could have crowned Himself as King. He pointed us to the love and forgiveness of His heavenly Father. The Christ-child was born of a virgin. He was God who dwelt among us, but sometimes we forget Him, even on His birthday.

One reason we have failed to keep Christ in Christmas is that we have failed to keep Him in some of our churches. Why should the culture embrace the Christ of Christmas when some of our churches have marginalized their Master? Let's start by inviting the Almighty back into our churches with fresh and revitalized reverence in worship, evangelism, and discipleship. Let's prayerfully and responsibly "lay hands" on leaders who fear God, hate sin, love people, and teach the Bible. Christmas is losing its luster for the Lord because Christians have forgotten to fear God.

*Continued page 6...*

*Elders*

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*Minister*

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*Schedule of Services*

Bible Study  
Sun 9:30am, 5pm & Wed 7pm  
Worship  
Sun 10:30am

*Connect*

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Scan for Church Website

**First Christmas**

by Boyd Bailey, Wisdom Hunters

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His birth is only significant if His death and resurrection are significant. The Christ of Christmas becomes compelling when we, as followers, flock to Him in faithfulness and obedience. Let all who name the name of Jesus revisit Him in the awe and worship of that first Christmas. Let's exclaim with enthusiasm to a hurting world that He has come to heal broken hearts and revive sick souls. We unapologetically celebrate His birthday with passion because God is with us.

He is transforming us into the likeness of His Son. Let's make this Christmas like the first Christmas. Let's invite the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with forgiveness, joy, hope, peace, and love while we worship our Lord together. The first Christmas fuels our faith and recalibrates us to Christ.

**For the Record**

## Last Week's Attendance

Sun AM Bible Class	37
Sun AM Worship	110
Sun PM Worship	17
Wed PM Bible Class	33

## Last Week's Contribution

\$2,564.50

**Facility Use**

Did you know you can use the building for special occasions or borrow tables & chairs? To check on availability, and to reserve a time, please see George Hewitt or email him at george@whitelandchurchofchrist.com.