
TIMBER RIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

December 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- DEC 2 - CRYSTAL SPAID'S BIRTHDAY
- DEC 3 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
DECORATE SANCTUARY (SEE ARTICLE)
- DEC 5 - BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
- DEC 7 - PEARL HARBOR DAY
- DEC 9 - MEN'S BREAKFAST - 7:30 AM
HAYFIELD FAMILY RESTAURANT
- DEC 10 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
- DEC 11 - PACKING BACKPACKS 9 AM
BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
SHELVA SWITZER'S BIRTHDAY
JEANIE SPAID'S BIRTHDAY
- DEC 14 - PRAYER MEETING (LARUE'S) 4 - 5 PM
- DEC 16 - CHRISTMAS CAROLING 5:30 - 8 PM
- DEC 17 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
SUSAN CLARK'S BIRTHDAY
- DEC 18 - BIBLE STUDY 10 AM
- DEC 20 - LAST DAY FOR COLLECTION OF TOYS
FOR TOTS
- DEC 21 - PRAYER MEETING (CHURCH) 6:30 - 7:30 PM
- DEC 22 - BETTY WINGFIELD'S BIRTHDAY
- DEC 24 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7 PM
(SEE ARTICLE)
- DEC 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY
NO BIBLE STUDY
- DEC 28 - PRAYER MEETING (LARUE'S) 4 - 5 PM
- DEC 30 - JANET FRIES' BIRTHDAY
- DEC 31 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
HOME MISSION OFFERING

*Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year*

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The annual Christmas Candlelight Service will be held on Sunday evening, December 24th at 7 pm. Light refreshments will follow the service.

Christmas Caroling

We will meet at the church on December 16th at 5:30 pm to embark on a 'Caroling Tour' for those who currently can't make it to church. If you like to sing - and even if you don't - come out and enjoy some fellowship as we bless others in our congregation!

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

As has been the case for the past several years, we will be decorating the church and Parish Hall for the Christmas season on the first Sunday in Advent, which is December 3rd following the worship service. Everyone is asked to bring their own lunch.

We welcome any comments and suggestions.
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Page 2

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PASTOR'S PEN

The Four Last Things

It was the practice in days gone by to preach yearly on what was called "The four last things." These last things were not surprising in and of themselves. They were subjects most people would have understood and believed. The subjects were death, judgment, heaven, and hell. And although few were taken aback when the preacher spoke on these subjects, today, most people are shocked to hear 'when' these subjects were broached. That's because these "four last things" were the yearly subjects during the Christmas season of Advent.

If you've been listening to Sinclair Ferguson's *'Things Unseen'* podcast this past week, you've already been introduced to these subjects. (The link is posted on our Facebook page each weekday). As someone who looks for Advent sermons each year while trying not to repeat last year too closely, I may have to try these subjects one Advent season! Of course, initially, these subjects don't seem very festive or Christmassy. However, maybe that's the point! As our society becomes more affluent and materialistic, it becomes more difficult to truly appreciate the wonder of Christmas as the celebration of the coming of the Messiah. Why? Because with every need supplied and almost every want fulfilled, it's hard to believe we need Jesus.

Death, then, is a reminder that our present state will not last forever. The death rate has remained the same since the fall. Beginning with Abel, 100% of humans have died. OK, there were Enoch and Elijah. But those exceptions prove the rule. The death rate, then and now, remains the same. Each of us, should the Lord tarry, will face the death of our mortal bodies.

When death comes, each will then await the final judgment. Some will await that judgment in paradise, while some won't. But everyone will one day sit before the judgment seat of God. Revelations 20:12-13 reads, "And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. **13** And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done." Each of us will face judgment.

Some will go to heaven, and some will go to hell. Heaven is the dwelling place of God. Jesus told the thief on the cross that he would be in paradise that day. It's a place of wonder where you will be in the presence of the Lord forever! A place of perfection where you will see Jesus face to face, and there will be no more possibility of sin. Hell, on the other hand, will be a place of torment. Those who don't trust in Jesus won't be separated from God per se, but they will not receive blessing, comfort, or forgiveness. Instead, they will receive the full measure of God's wrath forever.

The four last things may not seem like Advent topics. But, looking to the finality of God's judgment reminds you how much you need a Messiah. Just how desperate you are without Him. And that should prepare you to celebrate Christmas with great joy as you rejoice over the arrival of Jesus, born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger. The King of kings and Lord of lords left heaven and came to live among us. So that, that when death comes with judgment to follow, you will be safe. Christmas is a reminder that for those who put their faith in Jesus, death, judgment, and even hell will never separate you from the love of God found on that first Christmas morning!

~ Pastor Mike