



## Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins


Sunday, December 16; 2pm  
See Dawn Kicklighter for more  
information or call the office  
813-759-9383.



For more information and events happening at GracePoint visit or follow us at:  
[www.gracepointpc.org](http://www.gracepointpc.org)

 GracePoint Plant City, GP Outsiders, & GracePoint Jr.

 @GracePoint Plant City & @ GP\_Outsiders

 gracepointpc, gp\_outsiders, gracepointjr

**Church Office hours: Mon. – Thu. 8am-3pm**

December 9, 2018

Light

Behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:1b - 2

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

*All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER**

**GREETING ONE ANOTHER – LUKE 24:36**

**FIRST ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – KAREN PERRY & FAMILY**

**CALL TO WORSHIP – PSALM 89:1-4**

**SONGS OF PRAISE TO OUR SHEPHERD**

\*“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

\*“The Lion and the Lamb”

\*“Waiting Here for You”

\*“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**CHILDREN’S LESSON – MATTHEW 2:5-6**

**HEAR GOD’S WORD**

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-22

New Testament Reading: Matthew 2:1-6

**SERMON – MATTHEW 2:5-6 - PASTOR ROBERT OLSZEWSKI**

**OFFERTORY**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” – Amber Bergman

*We offer ourselves to God, dedicating all to his service.  
Visitors, please feel no obligation to give to this ministry.*

**\*BENEDICTION**

*Elders will be available for prayer following the Service*

*\*Stand as Comfort Allows*

## **ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING**

Our Advent Readers and Lighters for the Second Advent are Karen Perry, Barbara Hendrix and Autumn Love

## **NAME TAG SUNDAYS**

This month at GracePoint we are going to do “Name tag” Sundays. Each week we encourage you to write your name on a name tag provided at the end of each aisle. When we greet one another let’s be encouraged by the fact we will all be “visitors” as we share the peace of Christ.

## **ORNAMENTATION CHURCH FAMILY PARTY-DEC. 12**

or·na·men·ta·tion Party

/,ôrnəmen 'tāSH(ə)n/

*Noun*

1. things added to something to provide decoration.  
Come enjoy a family meal (5:30-6pm) followed by making Christmas ornaments for kids, parents, and friends.



## **ORNAMENTATION DINNER MENU - DEC. 12**

Fried Chicken, Broccoli Salad,  
Mac n’ Cheese, Rolls & Peach Cobbler

## **NOTICE OF CALL**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS TO COME TOGETHER FOR A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP, WORSHIP, AND A REVIEW OF THE UPCOMING YEAR. PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS COVERED DISH DINNER AND VISION CASTING.

## THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ADVENT

The **second candle** represents **faith** and is called “Bethlehem’s Candle.” Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.

### AN ADVENT PRAYER TO REMEMBER GOD’S PROMISES

Lord,  
Advent is here, but so is family tension.  
Advent is here, but so are dysfunctional relationships.  
Advent is here, but so are old habits.  
Advent is here, but gone are people we love.  
Advent is here, but old baggage still exists.  
Advent is here, but fears surface.  
You say, "I see all that, and I can handle all that."  
You say, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."  
You say, "Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid."  
You say, "Tell everyone who is discouraged, Be strong and don't be afraid! God is coming to your rescue..."  
What looks unscalable, You boost me over.  
What seems unbearable, You bring me through unbelievably.  
What can't be managed, You say, "Let down your guard and I will guard you."  
Amen.  
~Edited from Kelly Balarie's "**7 Verses When Relationships Hurt at Christmas**"

### ANOTHER ADVENT TRADITION

In much of the Spanish-speaking world, a custom called “Posadas” is practiced. “Posadas” means “shelter” or “lodging,” and it is done from December 16-24. A group of people re-enact Joseph and Mary’s journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. They plan a route and travel from house to house, asking for lodging. Each home plays the role of “innkeeper” and refuses to host them. At the last house, everyone is invited inside for prayer and refreshments.

## P2P (PASTOR TO PEOPLE) - CHRISTMAS GIFTS



Last week I talked about giving and receiving Gifts. This week as we focus on the Gifts of Christmas, we will examine how gifts can't be earned. Now you might say well isn't that obvious!

We live in a culture that tells us we,

- can get what we want when we want it. Think instant satisfaction.
- deserve it
- earned it

God's word tells us the exact opposite of what culture teaches. Gifts are by nature something you receive and give without any connection to earning it, deserving it, or wanting it. Let's think about the gift we receive in Jesus Christ. John 1:12 tells us, "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." So, what does it mean to "receive him" and how this makes us "children of God." Paul's words in Ephesians 2:4-9 clarifies this by telling us that "it is my grace you are saved, through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God," which means we receive Him (one part of what a gift means) not based on earning it but based on being given to us freely. You become a child when you are born into a family (can't earn that!). You identify with that family because you receive who you are within that family (i.e., son, daughter). In God's kingdom you can't earn it, won't ever deserve it, and can't happen because I want it. It is all by God's grace (unmerited favor) thus an amazing gift. As you continue to learn about and worship Jesus Christ this Advent be reminded that it is all a gift.

Much grace,  
Pastor Robert

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, December 9 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent

- 8:45 a.m. Prayer Group in Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 10:45 a.m. Sip 'n Chat
- 11:10 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 12:00 p.m. Chorus Practice  
(Practice ends at 3:00 p.m.)
- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Dinner Party

### Monday, December 10

- 4:00 p.m. Friends in the Park
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Practice

### Tuesday, December 11

- 6:00 a.m. Prayer Group
- 5:00 p.m. Exercise & Praise
- 6:30 p.m. Deacon's Meeting

### Wednesday, December 12

- 9:30 a.m. Ladies' LifeGroup
- 5:30 p.m. Fellowship Dinner &  
Ornamentation Church  
Family Party
- 7:15 p.m. Chorus Practice

### Thursday, December 13

- 10:30 a.m. Exercise & Praise
- 7:00 p.m. Acts 242 LifeGroup

### Friday, December 14 - Office closed

### Saturday, December 15

### Sunday, December 16 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent

- 8:45 a.m. Prayer Group in Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 10:45 a.m. Sip 'n Chat
- 11:10 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 2:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling  
to shut-ins

## GRACEPOINT PRAYER LIST

If you have a prayer request or would like to be added to our email prayer chain, please email:

***kbergman@gracepointpc.org.***

- ...for Cheryl Kuck
  - Continued prayers for health and discernment (God's will) for herself and family: Kevan, Kristy, and Eric.
- ...for Chuck Doepeke
  - Continued healing following back surgery.
- ... for Sue Ryals
  - Ruth Ann Lopinto (sister) is ill.
  - Jessica & Dave (daughter) for the sale of their home
  - Joel (son) for family reconciliation.
- ... for Jennifer Harnage
  - Mildred (Jen's mom) a widow and lonely
  - Zack (son) health, safety, spiritual walk, work and finances.
  - Melissa (daughter) conflicted in her spirit. Engaged to marry in July 2019
  - David (son) college choices, personal decisions, and spiritual life.
  - Tavyst (grandson) health, safety, and his journey with the Lord
  - Terry (husband) health and encouragement
  - Jennifer - health and her service to family and others.

#### THE WEEK THAT WAS — FINANCE

Weekly Income Budget	\$	9,616
Offering	12/03	\$ 10,176

## SERVING LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY



**January 6,** Ed and Nan McCallum will give a brief update in the service and prayer. During the Sunday School all classes will meet in the Sanctuary to hear a full report on God's work in EPC World Outreach for Theological Education.

Ed McCallum has served the Evangelical Presbyterian Church for 19 years as the Assistant Stated Clerk. In his new role as ITEN's Associate for Site and Program Development, Ed will serve on the executive leadership team helping to cast vision while supporting the development, management and implementation of site goals. Nan McCallum currently serves as the Child Safety Officer for EPC World Outreach. She has been a regular coordinator for Perspectives on the World Christian Movement classes and has taught English as a second language. A lifelong educator, Nan has taught in public schools and serves ITEN with her husband.



#### ELDER OF THE DAY

Alan Kicklighter

#### DEACON OF THE DAY

Brian Grady

#### TODAY'S WORSHIP

#### VOLUNTEERS

#### *Special Needs Class*

9:30 a.m.

Donna Howard

11:00 a.m.

Missy Bell

#### *Sip n' Chat Cleanup*

Eric Johnson LifeGroup

### **SERVING LOCALLY**

Here are several ways to serve at GracePoint! Contact the Church office to serve.

- Support the Deacon's Fund
- Join us for prayer on Tuesday mornings at 6 a.m. or on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m.
- Usher & Greeter
- Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins
- Connect with the Dorcas Circle to make scarves for the homeless and much more.
- Lydia Guild, who make dresses for the Guatemala Mission Trip.