



Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins

TODAY

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



GracePoint Plant City, GP Outsiders, & GracePoint Jr.



@GracePoint Plant City & @ GP_Outsiders



gracepointpc, gp_outsiders, gracepointjr

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

December 16, 2018

Love

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only
Son, that whoever believes in him should not
perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

SUNDAY WORSHIP

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER

*“Baroque Christmas Festival” – Christmas Choir

GREETING ONE ANOTHER – LUKE 24:36

THIRD ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

HELEN PARKE, HANK AND SANDEE SYTSMA

CALL TO WORSHIP – ISAIAH 9:2

SONGS OF PRAISE TO OUR EMMANUEL

*“Joy to the World”

*“What a Beautiful Name”

*“What Child is This”

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

NICENE CREED

CHILDREN’S LESSON – MATTHEW 1:21-23

HEAR GOD’S WORD

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 7:10-17

New Testament Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON – MATTHEW 1:21-23 - PASTOR ROBERT OLSZEWSKI

OFFERTORY

“Is He Worthy” – Christmas Choir

*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 Third Advent are Helen Parke, Hank and Sandee Sytsma.

SLEEP WARRIORS

Join us on Friday, January 11 from 6 – 7 am for the kick-off of our study in Matthew. Sleep Warriors is a group of multid denominational men gathering together weekly to pray, study, and hold each other accountable.

NOTICE OF CALL

Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 6
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

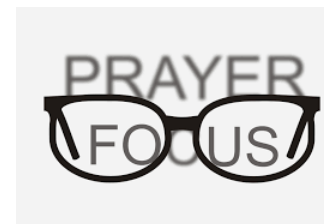
The purpose of the meeting is to come together for a time of fellowship, worship, and a review of the upcoming year. Please join us for this covered dish dinner and vision casting.

LOST AND FOUND DISHES

If you have left dishes at the church following a potluck lunch/dinner, please check behind the kitchen door on the counter or in the cabinet at the end of Mason Hall. We are asking all dishes to be claimed by the end of December.

WHEN HELPING HURTS – JAN. 9TH

Join a 7-week series that will begin to equip you to address poverty. (relationally & physically)



We would like to invite everyone to join Pastor Robert on January 2 at 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm for a time of prayer. We would like to pray for the upcoming year in the life of the church, for our church members and friends, and for God’s leading as we move forward in and for His glory!

THE 3RD ADVENT

The **third candle** symbolizes **love** and is called the “Shepherd’s Candle.” To the shepherd’s great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy

SIMPLE THINGS TO PRAY FOR DURING ADVENT

- Pray for attentiveness to what truly matters, without being distracted by trivial things.
- Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.
- Pray for discernment of how God would like you to set your priorities and the ability to focus on them consistently to fulfill His purposes in your life.
- Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.
- Pray for strong relationships with other people in the bond of loving community.
- Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.
- Pray for an enlivened imagination that helps you contribute to the world in creative ways.
- Pray for freedom from all that burdens you - past mistakes, fears, destructive habits, hurts other people have inflicted, and more.
- Pray for joy and a sense of humor.
- Pray for confidence in God's love for you and trust in His power to work things out for the best in your life.
- Pray for a clear mind and the ability to clearly communicate what you value to others.
- Pray for purity so you can grow as a person and encounter God more fully.
- Pray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and the humility to extend grace to others.
- Pray for a passion to pursue justice.

ANOTHER ADVENT TRADITION

In Eastern Orthodox churches, believers participate in a Nativity Fast that begins November 15 and ends December 24. In this fast, they abstain from meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil. They hope the fast will help them to better fix their eyes on God and His Kingdom.

P2P (PASTOR TO PEOPLE) - CHRISTMAS GIFTS



Do you wait to the last minute to get your gifts for your family and friends like I often do? It has been a pattern in my life that I usually wait until the last minute to get my gifts for family and friends. I have gotten better by purchasing gifts before Dec. 1 but most of my life I prided myself in doing all of my shopping on Christmas Eve day. Yes, I like going right up to that

deadline and finding last minute deals. The problem with this approach is that the gifts are not very thoughtful, and it can be stressful. Here a list of gift ideas you can give to your family to increase your understanding of who we celebrate this Christmas: the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a birthday celebration beyond all celebrations and I look forward to see how the gift of Jesus gives us all that we need. This gift of Jesus propels us to give gifts that will help us to do good works (Eph. 2:10) in Jesus name. The following is a list of Christmas gifts focused on Jesus:

1. **For your children:** [Seeds of Christmas EP](#) - This is an amazing digital download (CD also available) and is not your typical Christmas album- it is a musical journey that endeavors to capture the mystery and majesty of the Christmas Story!
2. **For your husband:** [The Shepherd Leader at Home](#): Knowing, Leading, Protecting, and Providing for Your Family. Great tool to help father's lead in their homes.
3. **For your wife:** [Daily Light Devotional](#). All daily devotional that is all Scripture.
4. **For your friends:** [VineWorks](#). Local MN company that partners with Haiti and other countries around the world to make beautiful handmade gifts.

May Jesus, the gift giver, encourage you as you practice living out the reality of Christ in you.

Much joy,
Pastor Robert

What's coming up

Put these dates in your diary!

Sunday, December 16 – 3rd 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

Monday, December 17

- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Practice

Tuesday, December 18

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

Wednesday, December 19

- 9:30 a.m. Ladies' LifeGroup

Thursday, December 20

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

Friday, December 21 - Office closed

Saturday, December 22

Sunday, December 23 – 4th 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

SERMON NOTES

Gift of Names - Matt. 1:21-23

1. The _____ matters.
2. _____ promises us redemption
3. Next steps
 - a. Study the names of Jesus Christ
 - b. Use and understand people's first names

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.

...Kerry Bergman - For daughters Amber & Christina that they can get some much-needed rest after a very busy holiday season. For Jordon and Hailee as they begin premarital counselling and prepare for their wedding. Leon, her dad, and her sister and niece, Samantha and Taryn as they travel for the Christmas. Also, pray for them as this will be their first without Yvonne.

...Walt Arnold – healing following surgery.

...Ruth Cherup – daughter, Denise, to receive a new kidney.

...Marie Paige – for daughters, Berlyn and Sydney for Godly intervention in their lives.

...Helen Parke – for her son-in-law, Terry Fulton, not feeling well. Pray that the doctors can find the issue and bring healing.

...Denis Weiffenbach - companionship

THE WEEK THAT WAS — FINANCE

Weekly Income Budget	\$ 9,616
Offering 12/09	\$ 26,512

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

Rick Bateman

DEACON OF THE DAY

Allen Bell

ACOLYTES

Peyton McNab
Brock Snyder

TODAY'S WORSHIP

VOLUNTEERS

Special Needs Class

9:30 a.m.

Dawn Kicklighter

11:00 a.m.

Sue Ryals

Sip n' Chat Cleanup

Young Adult Life Group
(Steve Smith)

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.
- Join Sleep Warriors
- 5th/6th Graders can serve as Acolytes