



Faith Christian Assembly December Newsletter

December 1, 2022

Special points of interest:

- * Pastor Sheri on Hope is Born ~ page 1
- * Earlene's Corner on Joy to the World ~ page 2
- * December Events at Faith Christian Assembly ~ page 2
- * December Calendar ~ page 3

Inside this issue:

Earlene's Corner	2
December Events	2
December Calendar	3
December Events continued	3
Grace International History	4
Letter from Pastor Sheri	4
FCA Contact Info	4

Hope is Born *by Pastor Sheri Leming*

For many of us, December is a favorite time of year. We love the beautiful colors, the lights, and the music of the Christmas season. For some, this is where the season ends. This is incredibly sad because I can't think of a time when people are more desperate for hope...real hope... true hope. We are living in a day when one in five adults experience mental illness each year. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among children ages 10-14. Our world is in desperate need of hope! I was talking to a nurse the other day who was working at a local hospital. She said that half of the patients there were either in the midst of a mental health crisis, or some sort of drug abuse. The world is chasing after death. But we serve the God of life! We know this hope is only found in Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:3 Gives us a glorious promise —

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope...

So what does this mean? The hope that we have is a living hope, which is in contrast to hope which is dead. Our hope has living power. It isn't cold, it isn't inoperative. It isn't dead, but it is active and it is powerful!

Ephesians 2:12 - Talks about people who are having no hope and without God in the world.

Aren't you grateful for the hope that our Savior brings? I love what Hebrews has to say...

Hebrews 6:19-20 NKJV

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf...

Hope accomplishes for the soul

the same thing an anchor does for a ship. It makes it secure. What happens to us when the waves rage and the wind blows in our lives? As long as that anchor is secure the ship is safe.

Romans 15:13 NKJV

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Long lay the world in sin and



error pining...Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth...The thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices...For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

~Pastor Sheri

Joy to the World *by Earlene Leming*

Although many Holidays have passed since my first Christmas inside a prison, a treasured memory returns every year to my mind. I smile as I picture again the old, upright piano and a happy Prison-Chaplain at Christmas. The middle keys were broken and I had learned to "avoid" playing them so the women could sing Hymns in the tiny Chapel. The Chaplain was delighted and decided to have a "Musical Night of Christmas Carols!" I was hesitant. I was afraid it would not be joyful as



Earlene Leming

always. This was my first Christmas of living alone...but God had a plan.

I could sense excitement as I arrived, and I prayed it would be a special time of worship.

After singing two Carols, I realized the women were crying!?! I stood up and spoke softly, "If this music makes you feel sad, we can sing other songs tonight. Immediately one woman said, "Oh no! Please don't stop singing. It's just the

first time we KNOW what the WORDS mean. We accepted JESUS as OUR SAVIOR. Now we have PEACE and JOY every day in here!"

My heart was changed as we ended the evening singing the familiar carol: "JOY TO THE WORLD". We discovered God can bring JOY to us...in any situation!

Luke 2:10 "Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

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December at Faith Christian Assembly

It's hard to believe 2022 is coming to an end, the time has flown! But we still have a beautiful December to enjoy and to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus! Hallelujah!

We look forward to the arrival of Pastor Paul Vaughn, who will be ministering to us at the 10:30 am service on Sunday, December 11. Pastor Paul is a gifted speaker and musician and we are excited to hear from him as he shares about

the faithfulness of God through 2022 at La Bonne Nouvelle in Tahiti. Thank you all for your missions support both locally and around the world!

The evening of the 11th will be our annual Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration at 5:30 pm in the Garden Room. This event is always a congregation favorite!

Continued Page 3



Pastor Paul

December Calendar

SUNDAYS

Service Times:

10:30am and

5:30pm

Pre-service prayer 5:00 pm

December 4 -10:30 am Communion service

December 25 — Christmas Day service 10:30 am, no evening service



MONDAYS - Office Closed

TUESDAYS

Church Office/Library Hours

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Call for appointment

WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study 11:00 am

THURSDAYS

December 15 -1:00 pm

Touch of Love Women's Ministry's annual Christmas potluck in lieu of meeting. Joined by Mens' Ministry

GriefShare—5:30 pm weekly in Garden Room

December 15 only, Thursday, no GriefShare

FRIDAYS

Church Office Hours

10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people!
Luke 2:10b

December at Faith Christian Assembly *continued from page 2*

We'll enjoy music and fellowship, with a great coffee/tea bar and delicious desserts. During this time we are also excited to bring our financial gift to Jesus, a gift to honor and commemorate Him, the greatest gift of all! These gifts go directly to our Grace International missionaries, Samaritan's Purse, Orange County Rescue Mission, and We Care Family Support Center.

On Thursday, December 15th at 1:00 pm, Touch of Love, FCA's

Women's Ministry, will hold their annual Christmas potluck lunch in the Garden Room in lieu of their regular monthly meeting. The men will be joining in for the festivities. An RSVP in advance is a must, please contact Linda Hernandez at (562)743-6654.

As Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, please note that our morning service will be at the usual time, 10:30 am. What a perfect time to be in the House of the Lord, on Christmas day, the day we celebrate the birth

of our Lord and Savior Jesus! It promises to be an exceptional time! NOTE there will be no evening service on the 25th.

GriefShare will continue to meet weekly at 5:30 pm in the Garden Room through December, as scheduled, with the exception of Thursday, December 15th when it will take a brief, one week pause. Meetings will resume the following Thursday on December 22.

Questions? Please call the church office (562)598-9010.





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Faith Christian Assembly is a member of the Grace International Churches and Ministries, Inc., which was originally organized as the California Evangelistic Association in 1934. Beginning with one church, Colonial Tabernacle, located in Long Beach, CA the organization has since grown to include more than 4400 churches in the United States as well as in many nations of the world. It is now headquartered in Houston, TX, and overseen by an Executive Team and a Board of Directors, including as President Pastor Steve Riggle. Pastor Sheri Leming serves on the Grace International Missions Board and on the Grace SoCal District Committee.

From the Desk of Pastor Sheri Leming ~ December 1, 2022

So, is your Christmas shopping done? Don't you love that question? I do not. Usually because I'm not finished. I'm still refusing to believe that Christmas is swiftly approaching. This year has sped by so quickly. It is so good to know that we serve a God who has made all things beautiful in His time! This is why Galatians 5:25 commands, "If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."

We invite you to join us this coming Sunday for our 10:30am service as we partake in Holy Communion together. This is such a rich time to partake together and in this way we can be obedient to Scripture as we obey Jesus instruction to, "Do this in remembrance of Me."

This month, we are completing our rich study that we have enjoyed this past year each Wednesday at

11am in the Main Sanctuary. Many continue to join us as we journey through 12 Historic Doctrines of Scripture. In our current culture, it seems too often that we don't realize that Doctrine - what Christians believe, directly influences how we live. But what happens if we fail to connect the dots between what we say we believe and how we actually live? This is why it is vital to know what Scripture has to say about how we are to live, and then we put these truths of God's Word on display for all the world to see. We encourage you to invite someone to join you for this important time together.

A December tradition we enjoy here at Faith Christian Assembly is to welcome Paul Vaughn from Tahiti! He will be ministering in the Word and in song for us Sunday, December 11 in our 10:30am ser-

vice. That day we will also have our Happy Birthday to Jesus Party, which will be at 5:30pm. This is a fun time of fellowship, food, and a time when we bring our best financial gifts to Jesus - which go to support outreach, both locally and to bless our missionaries around the world.

We invite you, as always, to join us for Pre-service Sunday Night Prayer at 5pm.

"True prayer is a way of life, not just for use in cases of emergency. Make it a habit, and when the need arises you will be in practice." - Billy Graham

1 Chronicles 16:11, "Look to the LORD and His strength; seek His face always."

Can't wait to see you Sunday,
Pastor Sheri (and Gary) Leming