

The Astoria Christian

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You Are
Welcome At
Our Services!

Sunday

1st Morn. Worship.....8 a.m.
Sunday School9 a.m.
2nd Morn. Worship10 a.m.
Wed. nights.....6-7:30p.m.

December

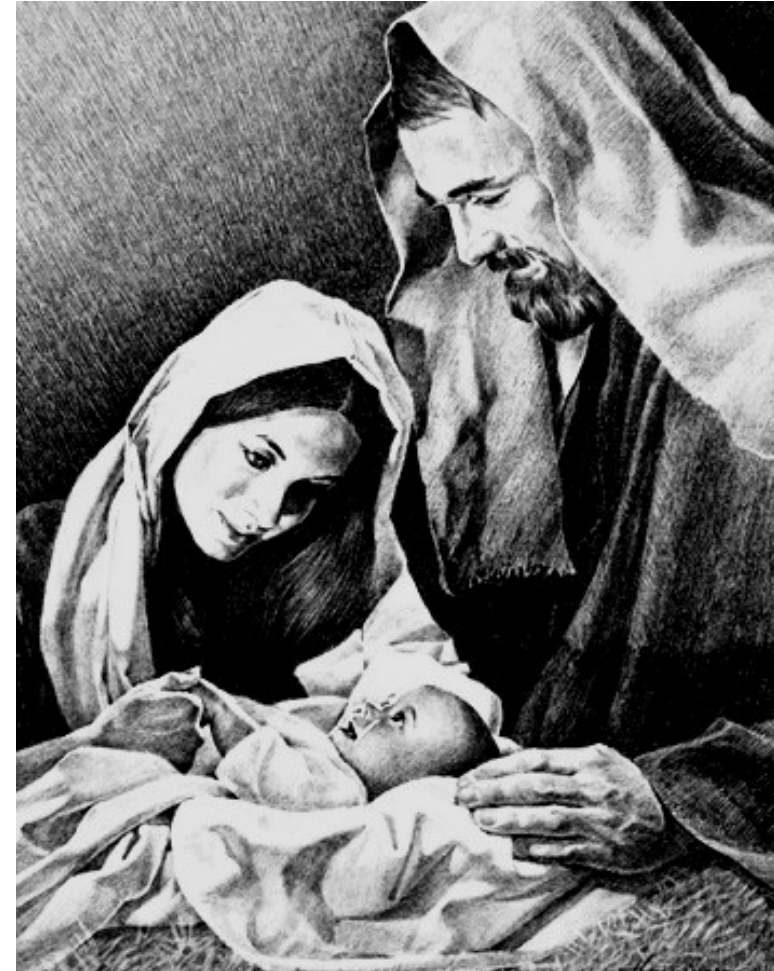
Tuesday, 6th	6:30 p.m. Man Up group meeting at Bill Palmer's
Wednesday, 7th	6:00 p.m. Family Night
Sunday, 11th	6:00 p.m. Board Meeting
Wednesday, 14th	6:00 p.m. Family Night Christmas Celebration
Thursday, 15th	6:30 p.m. Soul Sisters Meeting
Friday, 16th	5th Quarter after basketball game
Sunday, 18th	5:30 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting
Saturday, 24th	5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, 25th	Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. Second Service

Dates and times are subject to change. Please check your weekly bulletin for updates

Did you know you could receive a paperless monthly newsletter in your e-mail or check it out on our church website? Please send Matt an e-mail at the church with your preferred way for getting your monthly newsletter if you wish to change it. We will also be updating the newsletter address list for 2017 soon, so if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter by mail or your address has changed please let us know. Church website: astoriachristian.com near the bottom of the front page OR email - office@astoriachristian.com



Astoria Christian Church



There are so many things about Christmas that make it 'the most a wonderful time of the year.' And the great thing is that there are so many wonderful Christmas events and distractions that nearly every single one of us can love it for a different reason. Maybe you like the holiday movies from 'It's a Wonderful Life' to the instant classic 'Elf'. Maybe you like Christmas parties with coworkers, family and friends. Maybe you love the food: fruit cake, divinity or candy canes. There are so many wonderful things to love about Christmas, and one of my favorite things is the music.

It's amazing to me that we can play the same songs over and over again, year after year, and not get bored of them. I've never tired of singing the old carols, though I do love hearing new songs or old ones with a new twist! Even hearing my kids singing the classic 'Jingle Bells' with the Batman lyrics (the one where he smells) is reminiscently enjoyable. But what I always love to hear around Christmas time are the songs with a haunting minor chord giving me chills but are somehow comforting as well.

One song, originally done by Leonard Cohen, was redone to be sung in the context of the Christmas season. It's a beautiful song covered by the band Cloverton called 'Hallelujah Christmas'. The song itself is rather simple with five verses, each followed by the chorus of the word 'Hallelujah'. Despite the simplicity of the repetition, the song has a wonderful flow and an emotional melody that walks through the Christmas story, until the final verse. And unlike many other Christmas

songs we sing, it doesn't end with a baby in a manger. No, this song, in its final verse, reaches beyond the Christmas season into the purpose and meaning behind Jesus coming to earth. The final verse goes, "I know You came to rescue me; This baby boy would grow to be; A man and one day die for me and you; My sins would drive the nails in You; That rugged cross was my cross, too."

And so as we approach Christmas, it's so easy to get caught up in the wonderful 'trimmings' that surround this season. It's easy to just flow through the season with all the activities and travels that need to be done. And even if we can focus on Jesus, we often just look at the tiny, helpless baby. And as important as that is, it's also so very important that we look at the reason for Christmas. The song says, 'My sins would drive the nails in you, that rugged cross was my cross, too,' which I pray helps us to take time this season to not only celebrate the joys of Jesus' birth, but look ahead to the power in his death and resurrection as well. Serving Him and you, Matthew

Christmas Eve Service will be hosted by ACC on December 24th. If you are interested in helping with a reading or with lighting of candles, please contact Matt soon.

Kids' Trip to Snowman's Reindeer Farm

On Sunday, November 13th, a visit to Snowman's Reindeer Farm was enjoyed by 17 children. It was truly a blessing to see

the smiles and hear the laughter of the children as they made their crafts, fed and petted the reindeer, and played in the leaves. Thank you to Nicole, for heading this up.

Soul Sisters

Soul Sisters will meet Thursday, Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m. We will be filling stockings with fruit and candy. All ladies are asked to bring a bag of hard candy to add. Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship! All ladies of the church are invited.

Also, thank you to those who purchased poinsettias in memory of loved ones. What a beautiful way to pay tribute this time of year!

Operation Christmas Child

The OCC offering that was collected to help with postage of the boxes was \$188.00. When all was said and done, there were 78 boxes packed! Thank you to everyone who packed their boxes at home and brought them to church, to those who helped pack the boxes during Sunday school hour at church, or donated items for the boxes. And a special Thank You to Dusti, for all her hard work and dedication to such a wonderful cause.

Attendance/Offering for November

Date	1 st	S.S.	2 nd	Offering	Needed
6 th	18	34	56	\$1,490	\$1,685.56
13 th	20	34	66	\$1,805.26	\$1,685.56
20 th	18	33	56	\$1,299	\$1,685.56
27 th	20	34	57	\$1,571	\$1,685.56
Totals	76	135	235	6,165.26	6,742.24
Averages	19	33	58		

Prayer list (11/27/2016)

Please let Matthew or Marcia know prayer list updates. Thank you

Olivia Anaganostopolus - cancer
 Donald Anderson - cancer, surgery then chemo Pam Shaw's B.i.L. (10-16-16)
 Doris Baker – Alzheimer's, fractures, seizures
 Patricia Barnes - dr released/ cardiac rehab done (11/20/16) Sharon Jones's niece
 Alisha Belville - POTS, passing out (11-27-16)
 David Belville - Hip surgery (10-30-16)
 Joyce Belville's niece, JoAnn, more cancer found
 Betty Bucher - congestive heart failure, hospice
 Jack Danner - hospice
 Linda Danner - fall (11-27-16)
 Andrea France - surgery (11-6-16)
 Sharon Griffith - heart, breathing problems
 Rick Heller - kidney transplant recovery (5-22-16)
 June Hickle – broken leg in car accident (11-20-16)
 Lenard Kaufman - cancer (10-30-16)
 Rachel Koenig – high risk pregnancy
 Verna McCormick (9-25-16)
 Shirley Molenbruck - heart attacks, not doing well (Kay Mathewson's mother-i-l)
 Bob Mummert - bladder problems 11-27-16
 Loretta Mummert- hip 11-27-16
 Dan Palmer - cat scan 11-28-16)
 Rodney Parks - skin grafts complete, 2 places yet to heal, doing well (11-20-16)
 Mary Ann Pitman - stint problem 11-27-16
 Joel Rittenhouse (4-10-16)
 Karen Sager - chemo and surgery (9-25-26)
 Judy Wilson - needs kidney transplant
 LaMoine Christian Camp - building updates and personnel