

Announcements

WORSHIP

Welcome to North Fresno Church! Today is the third Sunday of Advent. Our focus is on joy. In the 1st Service, Pastor Milt and choir lead worship and music. Pastor Steve and worship team lead worship and music in the 2nd Service. Pastor James preaches.

Next Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Advent and our focus is on love. The NFC Christmas Choir and Worship Team will lead in worship with a Festival of Lessons and Carols at 10:00 a.m.

If you are a guest with us today, we're so glad you're here! Please complete a Connecting Card and drop it in the offering bag.

CONNECT

Next Sunday, December 24 is Christmas Eve and we will have one morning combined service at 10:00 a.m. The NFC Christmas Choir and Worship Team will lead in worship with a Festival of Lessons and Carols. Everyone is welcome!

The Christmas Eve Candle Light service is next Sunday, December 24 at 6:00 p.m. All are invited! There will be nursery for children up to the age of 35 months.

Join in the Advent Conspiracy with others at NFC as we 1) worship fully, 2) spend less, 3) give more, and 4) love all. By giving one less gift this Christmas, we can use the money we save to love others who have less. **Come, 3rd graders to adults, to the Advent Conspiracy Sunday School class at 10:00 a.m. TODAY in Room 309 (ROCK Room).**

Grief Share, TODAY, December 17 is at 5:30 p.m. (the usual time) in the NFC Conference Room. We will not meet on December 24 or December 31. Grief Share will resume on Sunday, January 7. Anyone can join at any time.

Quilting has been cancelled for December 20 and 27. Quilting on will start up again on Wednesday, January 3 at 9:00 a.m.

There will not be any Wednesday evening programs this Wednesday, December 20, except the NFC Christmas Choir will rehearse. No Wednesday evening programming will happen on December 27 and January 3. Wednesday evening programs will start back up on January 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast is this Thursday, December 21 at 6:30 a.m. All NFC Men are invited to the Men's Breakfast at Jeb's Blueberry Hill Restaurant (3851 N. Blackstone, Fresno). Matt F is leading.

Women of Worth (NFC Widows' Group) will meet on Sunday, January 7 at 12:45 p.m. at the home of Grace W. Please call Grace to RSVP. We will discuss the book, *Widow's Might* chapters 1-3.

Rejoice! Devotionals are in the Lobby for the quarter starting in December. The cost is \$5.75. The box for donations is above the devotionals.

A Parent/child dedication is being planned for Sunday, January 21. If you are interested in dedicating yourself and your child, please contact Jamie M., interim Children's Ministries Director.

If you would like the 2017 annual Christmas photo of the NFC pastors and staff or Micah Project interns, you can pick them up in the Lobby.

NFC is joining other Fresno/Clovis churches to start the 2018 year with 21 Days (January 8-28) of Prayer and Fasting. Prayer and fasting guides are in the Lobby with information

Coming Events:

Next Sunday, December 24, 10:00 a.m.: Festival of Lessons and Carols with NFC Christmas Choir and Worship Team

Next Sunday, December 24, 6:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

SERVE

Thank you to all who served, helped, and donated socks to the Soups, Sweets, and Socks supper last Sunday evening.

Interested in serving or joining a ministry team at NFC? We need people to serve in a number of our ministry areas. Contact one of our pastors for more information.

Experience Israel and the Holy Land with Pastor James and Dr. Tim G. The tour is from May 18-28, with an additional 4 day conference option in Bethlehem. Brochures are in the Lobby, or contact Pastor James.

If you shop on Amazon.com, you can go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1728463> and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to North Fresno Church by Amazon.

The NFC Office will be closed on Christmas, Monday, December 25 and on Tuesday, December 26.

Financial Update – As we near the end of 2017, please consider how you can give financially to Kingdom ministry here at North Fresno Church. This year we need to receive \$96,000 in December to meet our budget. To date, we have \$59,833 remaining. For contributions to be tax deductible in 2017, the IRS requires that gifts be received in the church office or postmarked by December 31. You may give online by going to our website www.northfresnochurch.org.

Attendance for December 10, 2017: 370

Offering for General Budget for December 10, 2017: \$17,759

A Place For YOU To Connect!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE

All classes are in the Education Building.

NURSERY, 8:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m.
Ages 0-35 months

CHILDREN, 10:00 – 10:50 a.m.
3rd-6th Grade: Room 309

CHILDREN, 10:00 – 10:50 a.m.
Ages 3-5 years: Room 103
Kind.-2nd Grade: Room 102

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL
10:00-10:50 a.m.
Room 309

3RD GRADERS THROUGH ADULTS, 10:00-10:50 a.m.
Advent Conspiracy: Room 309 (ROCK Room)

ADULTS, 10:00-10:50 a.m.
Book of Jeremiah: Room 207

THIS WEEK AT NFC: DECEMBER 17 – 23

TODAY

Grief Share, 5:30 p.m.

Monday

Young Men's Basketball, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Bread & Basketball, 5:30 a.m.
Worship Team Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.
A.A. Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Christmas Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Men's Breakfast, 6:30 a.m.
Women's A.A. Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Friday

Bread & Basketball, 5:30 a.m.
Men's Prayer Meeting, 6:00 a.m.

Prayer Connection

NFC FAMILY

Pray for the following people: **Eric F, Lisette, Zelene, Royal, and Amy; John and BJ F; Leo and Minnie F; Ivanna F; Steve F; Anne F; and Kevin F.**

Pray for those who are in retirement or nursing homes and cannot attend Sunday worship services here: **Anne F, Mary Helen H, Addie O, and Moira S.**

NFC MINISTRIES

Pray for Pastors **James, Loren, Vanna, Rhonda, Steve, and Milt** and their families as they give leadership at NFC in many ways. Pray that God will give them wisdom, strength, love, and energy during this preparation time before Christmas.

The pastors and the Congregational Care Team host a time of healing prayer in the Conference Room at 9:45 a.m. on the last Sunday of every month. If you want to join in this prayer time, just come.

COMMUNITY AND WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES

Pray for other churches in our neighborhood, **Community United Church of Christ** (on N. Fresno St., just south of NFC) and **Mountain View Community Church**, a sister Mennonite Brethren church that meets in the Fresno/Clovis area. Pray that God would bless and use both these churches for effective Kingdom work and to help meet the needs of the community.

Pray for the many Christmas outreaches our NFC partner missionaries, **Greg and Sara A, Bob D, Otto and Marjorie E, Doris G, John and Geri E, and PK and C** have planned for and will have soon. Pray that many people would learn the truth of who Jesus is!

Prayer requests written on NFC Connecting cards and put in the offering bag are prayed for by the staff each week. If you wish to put a prayer request on the NFC prayer chain, please call Thea D, or the e-prayer chain by emailing the office or post on NFC's Facebook page.

First Service

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

8:30 A.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

Everyone is invited to use the Connecting Cards to share your prayer requests, or give other information. **Guests** are also invited to use the Connecting Cards and place them in the offering bag. Thank you.

PRELUDE: *“Still, Still, Still”* Rosalee B & Evelyn K

“Angels We Have Heard on High” Hymn #132

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Joy

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” Hymn #143

WELCOME & GREETING Pastor Milt

“Sing We Now of Christmas” Choir

“God Christians All Rejoice” Hymn #151

PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Rhonda

OFFERING: *“What Child Is This?”* Rosalee B & Evelyn K
“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

*Children, 3 years through 2nd grade, are invited to Children’s Church.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

MESSAGE: *“Advent III: Joy”* Pastor James

“The Birthday of a King” Hymn #162

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *“Go Tell It on the Mountain”* Rosalee B & Evelyn K

Infants and toddlers through age 35 months are cared for in the nursery on the 1st floor of the Education Building. Pagers are provided to parents in case their child has a need. *Children from 3 years through 2nd grade are invited to Children’s Church in Room 101 on the 1st floor of the Education Building.

Second Service

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

11:00 A.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

Everyone is invited to use the Connecting Cards to share your prayer requests, or give other information.+ **Guests** are also invited to use the Connecting Cards and place them in the offering bag. Thank you.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC *“Hosanna”* Worship Team

CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Joy

OFFERING

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

WELCOME & GREETING

*Children, 3 years through 2nd grade, are invited to Children’s Church**

PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Rhonda

COMMUNITY LIFE: Children’s Pastor Search Jill B

WORSHIP AND MUSIC *“Come As You Are”* Worship Team

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

MESSAGE: *“Advent III: Joy”* Pastor James

WORSHIP AND MUSIC *“Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)”* Worship Team

SENDING

+ Prayer team members are available after 2nd Service to pray with you at the front left of the Sanctuary.

Infants and toddlers through age 35 months are cared for in the nursery on the 1st floor of the Education Building. Pagers are provided to parents in case their child has a need. *Children from 3 years through 2nd grade accompanied by a parent or a guardian are invited to Children’s Church on the 1st floor of the Education Building. Children in 3rd – 6th grades are invited to stay for the whole service.

