

Announcements

WORSHIP

Merry Christmas and welcome to North Fresno Church! Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. Our focus is on love. Pastor Milt, Pastor Steve, Christmas choir, and worship team lead worship and music.

Next Sunday, our regular 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. services resume. Pastor Vanna is preaching. The Scripture for reading and reflection is Exodus 1:1-14.

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

The Christmas Eve Candle Light Service is THIS EVENING at 6:00 p.m. All are invited! There will be nursery care for children up to the age of 35 months.

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

There are no Wednesday evening programs these next two Wednesdays, December 27 and January 3. Wednesday evening programs for all ages will start back up on January 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Young Adults group will meet at the home of Randy and Jamie M. this Wednesday, December 27 at 6:00 p.m. for soup. Please bring a side dish if you can. Then, at 7:30 p.m. we will head over to Fresno State to go bowling. Please contact Pastor Vanna for more information.

Next Sunday, December 31, the two Adult Sunday School classes at 10:00 a.m. are *The Book of Jeremiah* in Room 207 with Donn R teaching and *Praying for the New Year* in Room 309 with Pastor Loren facilitating.

EDGE (Junior High) and ROCK (High School) students, meet at Aerozone (4155 E. Ashlan Ave., Fresno) on Thursday, January 4 at 10:45 a.m. Bring \$12 for 2 hours of jump time. Pizza will be provided. Contact Pastor Vanna for more information.

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.

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. 21 Days of Prayer and fasting guides are in the Lobby.

Coming Events:

Wednesday, January 3, 9:00 a.m. – Quilting resumes in the Family Center
Wednesday, January 10, 6:30 p.m. – Wednesday Evenging Programs
Restart for all ages

SERVE

The Board of Administration is organizing a team to help plan NFC's 50th anniversary celebration in 2019. If you want to be involved, or have someone to recommend participate on the planning team, please contact Randy M, Moderator.

Missionary letters from Doris G, and Otto and Marjorie E are in the Lobby.

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.

Reading the Bible in 2018 – There are two different Bible reading plans on a table in the Lobby for those that want to use them in 2018.

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.

“Thank you for the meaningful cards, thoughts, and telephone calls during Jonas’ illness and after his home going. My love to all of you.” Jennie H

The NFC Office will be closed on Christmas, tomorrow, Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26. The office will also be closed on Monday, January 1.

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 \$37,800 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 17, 2017: 272
Offering for General Budget for December 17, 2017: \$13,792

A Place For YOU To Connect!

NEXT WEEK'S 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.

5th-6th Grade: Room 208

CHILDREN, 10:00 – 10:50 a.m.

Ages 3-5 years: Room 103

Kind.-2nd Grade: Room 102

3rd-4th Grade: Room 203

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

10:00-10:50 a.m.

Room 302

ADULTS, 10:00-10:50 a.m.

Book of Jeremiah: Room 207

Praying for the New Year: Room 309

THIS WEEK AT NFC: DECEMBER 24 – 30

TODAY

Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service, 6:00 p.m.

Monday

Christmas

Office Closed

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

Tuesday

Office Closed

Bread & Basketball, 5:30 a.m.

Worship Team Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.

A.A. Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Young Adult Group at Mack's, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday

Missions Committee,

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: **Marvin and Mary Ellen F; Milt and Bendta F; Mel and Vicki F; Pastor Hajimu and Kayoko F; Luisa F; and Desiree G, Aalyiah, Zaire, Michael and Brayden.**

Pray for the many NFC people travelling during this Christmas time.

Pray for those who are homebound and cannot attend Sunday worship services: **Ethel R and Garth S.**

NFC MINISTRIES

Pray for **Pastor James and Marcy and family** as he gives leadership at NFC. Pray that God will give Pastor James wisdom, strength, love, and energy.

The pastors and the Congregational Care Team host a time of healing prayer in the Conference Room at 9:45 a.m. next Sunday and 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, **Sierra Heights Church** (at the corner of N. Fresno St. & Sierra Ave.) and **Mountain View Community Church – Sunnyside**, 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 **PK and C, our partner missionaries with MB (Mennonite Brethren) Mission in Southeast Asia** and for the many pastors and church planters they mentor. Pray for wisdom for them as they provide training and resources for these leaders.

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.

Worship Service

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

10:00 A.M. DECEMBER 24, 2017

PRELUDE: "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing" Stephen V
"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" & "Sing We Now of Christmas"

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" Carol #145

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Love

WELCOME AND GREETING Pastor Milt

OFFERING/OFFERTORY Larry Warkentin, piano

Children 3 years through 2nd grade may stay for the whole service;
they can also go to the Lobby for some quiet crafts.*

Festival of Lessons and Carols

(see other side for program)

DIRECTOR Pastor Milt
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Pastor Steve

NFC CHOIR

INSTRUMENTALISTS

PIANO Larry W
ORGAN Stephen V
BASS Aaron K
DRUMS Daniel R
GUITAR Pastor Steve

TECHNICIANS

SOUND Aaron W
VIDEO Paula W
..... MaryLyn J-W

Infants and toddlers through age 35 months are cared for in the nursery on the 1st floor of the Education Building. Pagery are provided to parents in case their child has a need.
*Children ages 3 – 2nd grade may stay for the whole service; they can also go to the Lobby for some quiet crafts. Children in 3rd grade and up are invited to stay for the whole service.

Festival of Lessons and Carols

PRAYER

"The Lord's Prayer" Choir
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Worship Team & Congregation

1ST LESSON – Genesis 3
"Advent Trilogy" Choir

2ND LESSON – Genesis 22
"Sing We Now of Christmas" Choir

3RD LESSON – Isaiah 9
"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" Choir

4TH LESSON – Isaiah 11
"Joy to the World" Worship Team & Congregation

5TH LESSON – Luke 1
"The Little Drummer Boy" Choir

6TH LESSON – Luke 2:1-7
"Silent Night!" Choir

7TH LESSON – Luke 2:8-16
"O Holy Night" Worship Team & Congregation

8TH LESSON – Matthew 2
"What Star Is This" Choir
"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Worship Team & Congregation

9TH LESSON – John 1
"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" Choir
"Joyful All Ye Nations Rise" Choir & Congregation

PRAYER AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE: "Angels We Have Heard on High" Stephen V