



Port Orchard Church of Christ

• Jesus is Lord • Jesus is Lifted • Jesus is Lived •

The True Meaning of Christmas

The task had barely been finished in time. Those closest to it considered it an unmitigated disaster. The management oversight, upon reviewing the completed project remarked, "My golly, we've killed it." Those footing the bill were horrified and, had there been time, would have demanded it be either redone or tossed out. Yet there was no time. It would be paraded out despite being too slow to attract a following, an unfitting musical score, and containing unprofessional simplistic artwork.

These men missed the message.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, 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 in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



Luke 2:8-14 KJV

These words have been heard by millions upon millions of people. And with that brief message, what man had judged to be a failure instead became an award-winning favorite, remembered by most of my generation as the best Christmas TV special ever, A Charlie Brown Christmas.

The words from Luke continue to be heard every year. For many, it may be the only scripture they ever listen to (other than a "John 3:16" card held behind the field goal net).

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Welcome Guests

We are so glad that you decided to visit Port Orchard Church of Christ this morning! Since you took this step to join us for worship, we would like to extend to you a warm welcome. Wherever you are this morning, as we lift worship to God, we pray that you are able to leave feeling uplifted, convicted, or encouraged in your faith.

We seek to worship God like the first century church did, with a sense of awe and with a fear of the Lord. Some things we do might seem old fashioned or traditional, but we want you to know that at its core, it is for the praise of God's glory.

You are not required to do anything weird or ostentatious. We hope that you feel free to join us in worshipping God to the best of

your abilities. If you have any specific needs, we have a ministry staff that would love to connect with you. Ask the people sitting around you for names of the ministry staff and to point them out!

Once again, we are so happy to have you here worshipping with us and we hope this is a chance to worship God in a deep and meaningful way.

Save the Dates!

Friday 12/14 *Kids & Tweens*
4:30-7:00pm *Crafting for IJM*

Friday 12/21 *Game Night &*
5:00-8:00pm *"Used Elephant"*
 Exchange

**Signup Sheet for
2019
Communion Prep. and
Cleanup has been posted in
the foyer.**

Serving December 16, 2018:

Port Orchard News and Events

Sunday Preview

Darrell Fry will be giving the sermon this Sunday. Service begins at 10:45. We hope to see you here!

Happy Birthday!

December--Charles Nance-01, Cornell Stull-01, Nikole Karn-03, LaDonna Latham-03, Tristen Herbert-05, Sarah Benjamin-08, Elizabeth Herbert-08, Kelli Keagle-12, Erika Wheeler-12, Anna Cartwright, Jedidiah Herbert-17, Bonnie Mitchell-18, Lilli Bell-19, Darlene Woodrow-24, Wayne Hammock-25, Nancy Armenta-26, Gary White-28, Jake Orser-31, Randy vanLeuven-31.

Last Sunday

Vincente Huerta shared a sermon with us last Sunday. If you missed his message, please visit the church website at pococ.weebly.com to listen.

Memory Verse & Daily Bible Reading

A new schedule of memory verses will be dispersed this week.

Prayer Leader: Bob McDaniel
Scripture Reader: Darrell Fry
Offering Thoughts: Troy Hill
Communion Meditation: Gene Gerard
Servers: Brandon Z & Rodney C
Ushers: Rick Velasco & Dan Gross
Greeters: Paula Hill & Sarah Hill
Prayer Partners: Terry & Lisa Bratcher
Sound: Dale Sanders
Slides/Lighting: Isaac Benjamin

Communion Prep: Barbara Chasteen
Communion Cleanup: Rick Velasco
Song Leader: Gene Gerard

Children's 9:30 Teacher: Rachel Karn/Lori Sanders
Youth Worship: Kelli Keagle
Preaching: Darrell Fry

Next Sunday, December 22, we will be celebrating the birth of our Savior with songs and readings from Scripture. The service will probably be a little shorter than usual. Please come ready to praise God for the precious gift of His Son--His birth, life, sacrifice and resurrection.

Kids & Tweens Crafting for IJM

When: Friday, December 14th, 4:30-7:00pm

Where: POCOC Fellowship Hall

What: Kids and Tweens will be making crafts to sell to raise money for International Justice Mission. IJM is an organization dedicated to the abolition of human trafficking. They work in many parts of the world. Our tweens are focusing on child slavery on Lake Volta in Ghana on the African continent. To see their donation meter, go to <https://give.ijm.org/team/170471>

Game Night & “Used Elephant” Exchange

When: Friday, December 21st, 5:00-8:00pm

Where: POCOC Fellowship Hall

Bring: A game or several to share, a snack to share, and a wrapped item from home that you want to get rid of. Items can be whatever you want as long as they do not go against church values. Can be useful, junky, funny, or nice!

Men’s Meeting

Will reconvene in January on *Thursday* evenings.

IJM Fundraiser

There are spider ornaments on a tree in the foyer. Please leave a donation for IJM in the piggy bank and take home a spider. Suggested donation is \$1. The kids and tweens made these spiders as a fundraiser for IJM. Some of the spiders were sold at the sale last weekend where tweens made \$98 for IJM. Also, pick up a Christmas Spider legend card to go with your ornament!

Our Prayer List

Healing:

Dale Sanders, Tammy White

Encouragement:

Keagle Family in loss of their cat,
All Children Participating in the
new Memory Verse/Bible Reading
program, All Church
Family Members, Family Caregivers,
Tiny Village Team

Traveling:

Whites

Other:

For those who fear the possible
Tiny Cabin Village.
Our families, nation, President
Trump and leaders.
Our ministries, Deacons &
Congregation.

December 9, 2018

Worship: 66

Class: 41

Offering: \$1,964.41

(Continued from Front Page.)

The message that the TV executives missed out on, that the Coca-Cola advertising department did not see, was the message that mankind had looked for since the days of Eden.

It was presented not just by Linus reciting the ancient writing of the physician. It was also present in the "secular" plot lines. [Spoiler alert, if you've lived under a rock and have never seen it, stop reading right now, and go watch it first.] Charlie Brown can't find the "Christmas Spirit", instead dreading the holiday. Lucy pushes him into a director's role for the play, because then he will find it. Instead he runs into conflict, personal agendas, and failure. Part of the failure is the picking out of a shabby, dying stub of a pine tree for use in the play. A tree that falls over when one ornament is placed

on it.

Then Linus finally delivers the true meaning of Christmas. And with the blessing and love of God, all is made better. With love, the little broken twig of a sapling is transformed into a beautiful tree. With love and forgiveness, the entire gang recognizes the need to dwell on God's gift to the world. And with love, even Charlie Brown finds a warmth that leaves him grinning as the whole crew breaks out in praise to the Lord.

And all of America saw this (well, 45% of it the first night). And we admitted that whatever the frustrations, however the holiday stressed us, what we really need is the love of God.

So how about yourself? Are all the packages wrapped and shipped in

time to get to Jonesboro USA before the 25th? Is the tree properly garlanded? Do you have the entire dinner menu planned and purchased? Or are you drowning in a sea of Christmas cards that might get there by New Years. Is the turkey never going to thaw in time? And the sweet potatoes actually yams of the wrong color?



Take a moment, read Luke 2. Wrap yourself in the blanket of love that is the Christ child, a blanket that the cold never penetrates. And feel blessed.

-Dale Sanders

Message from Our Teachers

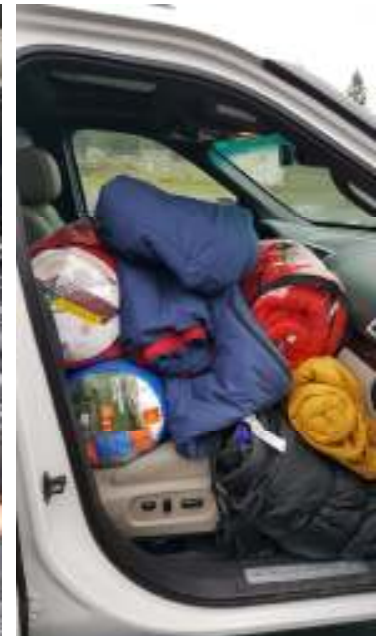
Our Bible class young people are excited to invite the "whole congregation" to participate with them in gathering items to help those less fortunate stay warm this winter!

We have made a plan to gather **new** heavy duty warm socks for men, women and children!

However after contacting Helpline today there is so much more; yes they need socks to give away but **they tell us that they have no heavy coats, no waterproof jackets, no tents, no sleeping bags and they desperately need all of those things. Gently used or new!**

We had an amazing outpouring from our congregation to help keep people warm this year! Good job Bible school team!

We had 13 sleeping bags, 14 large white bags of socks and clothing, 2 big boxes of socks and shoes, and 3 extra large black bags of coats and warm clothing donated so far!! It could barely fit in the car.



Thank you all who have given. Let's keep it up. Let's keep blessing people by keeping them warm this winter!