



Christmas Eve Service Reaches the Unchurched

Take advantage of this incredible opportunity to spiritually impact your family and friends. Christmas Eve is the prime time for the unchurched. Why is that? Here are five key reasons:

1. **The Christmas seasons brings family members together from various locations.** In many homes, there is likely to be a mix of churchd and unchurched family members on Christmas Eve. The unchurched are often encouraged to go to a Christmas Eve service with their Christian family members.
2. **Most unchurched have some sentimental attachment to Christmas.** They may not be overtly religious, but they have some warm memories of Christmas Eve and the entire Christmas season.
3. **Most unchurched know and like the songs of Christmas.** They are confident they can go to a church service on Christmas Eve and hear those songs.
4. **The unchurched are looking for hope in the Christmas season.** Many of them come on Christmas Eve expecting to hear a message of hope or to sing the songs of the hope-filled message of Christ's birth.
5. **Christmas is one of the few times tradition is embraced by most people, especially the unchurched.** Thus the unchurched fully expect to walk into a Christmas Eve service and to sense, hear, and embrace those traditions.

Our candlelight service begins at 7:00 p.m. Come a bit early, because we often have a capacity crowd. Feel free to dress up or dress casually. Just don't miss this powerful worship experience and outreach opportunity.

Les

This Week

Wednesday, Dec. 12

5:15 p.m. - Movin' Up

7:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Dec. 13

6:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 16

9:00 a.m. - Sunday School

9:50 a.m. - Coffee

10:05 a.m. - Kids' Time

10:15 a.m. - Worship Service

Teachers This Sunday

Nursery

Jessica Bynum/ Angie Bynum

Kids' Time

Joyce Evans/ Marcia Liddy

LOL

Michelle Tonner

Stewardship Report

Dec. 9, 2018

Giving Toward:

Current Expenses	\$2763.00
Missions	\$280.00
Building/ Maint. Fund	\$275.00
Deacons Fund	\$85.00
Poinsettias	\$6.00
Furnace & AC	\$160.00

Total: \$3,569.00

BABY BASKET

We are proud to announce that Jack and Erin (Tuttle) Pezo are expecting a baby boy on Dec. 13th. We will have a basket for cards and gifts in The Gathering Place. Erin is registered at Wal-Mart.



NEXT WEEK OFFICE HOURS

Next week, the church office will be closed Monday through Wednesday, Dec. 17-19. Keith will be back from Los Angeles, so Debbie appreciates a few days to spend with family. The office will be open from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 20.

PRAYER ITEMS

Bob and Judy Grove's grandson Jay had surgery on Tuesday to repair a damaged heart valve. Pray for Jay's full recovery.

Orla Kuhn had a knee replacement. After surgery he had a stroke that took away his vision. The prognosis was not good, but God has fully restored his sight. Praise the Lord! Orla is in rehabilitation in our local continuing care.

Phyllis Shady is in rehabilitation in our local continuing care after being hospitalized for a fall and intestinal issues. Pray for her continued strength and encouragement.

WINTER WONDERLAND OF LIGHTS

We have a display at the Ouabache State Park's Wonderland of Lights. The event will be open every day in December from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



CAROLING & PIZZA

We had a wonderful time caroling this past Sunday. Thank you to the thirty-four people who participated. We also appreciate all who donated items to the goody bags we delivered.

I have no idea who Alan Harris is. But I like the way his annual Christmas letter tapped images and icons from our culture to benefit us as followers of Jesus. The art of communication entails starting with familiar stuff in order to teach new truths. Jesus was the master of this method, with His use of parables to communicate spiritual truth.

Make it a great week!

Les



Montgomery, Illinois

Christmas, 1981

Dear Friends and Relatives,

There's a crackle in the air, and cracks are forming in the furniture as winter slides sneakily around our house and empties our humidifier. Ah, winter! The piano goes out of tune, the gas bill skyrockets, and the cats get zapped on the ears when we try to pet them. The sun and the thermometer are both at lowest ebb, and the car either won't start or gets plastered with road salt if it does start.

How lucky it is that our most beautiful holiday comes at the beginning of our bleakest season. Without Christmas to abate our chagrin at the dog-freezing temperatures and the cow-covering snows, we might all move to Florida and cause it to sink into the sea. The beauty of Christmas is that even in the coldest of weather, it can glow warmly within us like a log in the fireplace. The wind won't blow it out, the snow won't quench it, and darkness only makes it glow more brightly.

*And how fitting it is that the warmest person in the world, Santa Claus, is said to live at the coldest, uppermost spot on earth--the North Pole. When we let the Santa Claus spirit, which lives at the top of everyone's inner world, come down the chimney into our hearts, we experience a gift within us that we can share with everyone else. No one gives Santa Claus a gift, because Santa Claus **is** the gift. He is the personification of the Christ spirit that is struggling to be born in all of us, not externally in the crowded inn, but internally, in the quiet solitude of the stable.*

May your Christmas be filled with warmth and mirth and beautiful gifts--but especially full of the Beautiful Gift.

Sincerely,

Alan Harris



Homebound Members

Christian Care

Mildred Huss – Room 219B

Clyde Shady – Room 228B

River Terrace

Eulis West – Room 220

Home

Ed Goetz

Rose McCormick

K Casper Life Center

Judy Bierie – Room 268

Markle Health and Rehabilitation

Larry Gilly – Room 210

As we co-labor with other churches
in our community,
this week we pray for:
Apostolic Christian Church
Pastor Steve Ringger

First Baptist Church

260-824-1558

firstbaptist@adamswells.com

fbcbluffton.com

 First Baptist Church - Bluffton, Indiana

Pastor: Les Cantrell

Cell phone: 260-273-9073

Music Director: Julie Cantrell

Secretary: Debbie Cantrell

Sunday:

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School

9:50 a.m. – Coffee/Tea Time

10:05 a.m. – Kids' Time

10:15 a.m. – Worship Service