



*"The Desire for Revelation"*

# Dreams of Christmas

*How to wake up to new hope!*

*9<sup>th</sup> December 2018*

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**Good Morning and Welcome!** You had lots of choices this Sunday, and we are so glad that you are here with us! We want to connect with you at your speed and in your way. Please take a moment to complete a Connect Card from the seatback in front of you, and bring it by the info center to receive a special gift.

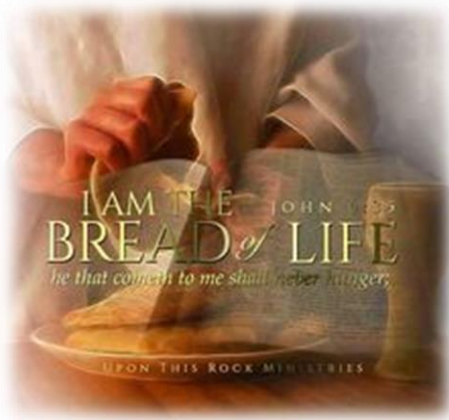


**About Us** ~ We follow Jesus Christ, believing that he not only provided a way for us to have peace with God, but gave us an example of how we should live. Our doors and arms are open humbly and joyfully to anyone who wants to learn with us how to follow Jesus Christ as Lord. As we say, "Grace happens here."

**Kids & Babies** ~ During our Modern Worship service, our nursery is fully staffed to care for children from birth through 3 years old, while kids in pre-k through grade 5 are encouraged to join **Little Eden Kids Church** for a special worship time of their own. Parents can register children in the **Kids Courtyard** beginning at 10:30am. Pickup is immediately after the service.

**Courtyard Café** ~ We offer coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice, and water from 8:30 -11:15 am each Sunday. Please stop by and enjoy a cup O' joe and catch up with friends. Refreshments & hugs are always free!

Did you know....that the town of Bethlehem in Hebrew, is actually two words. *Beth* meaning "house", and *lehem* which means "bread". Not only did the prophet Micah predict that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, but Jesus frequently referred to Himself as the "Bread of Life".



# **This Week @ Sarasota Community Church**

## **Sunday, December 9**

9:00am – Traditional Worship Service

10:05–10:50am – Bible Class en Español – Mod 18

Faith Issues – Mod 17

The Jesus Study – No Class

Winter Friendship Class – Fellowship Hall

Practical Living – Green Room

United – Room 9

*Remembering the Forgotten God* Book Study – Mod 1

10:30am - Kids Church -Room 11 off Kid's Courtyard

10:30am - Nursery - Room 8 off Kid's Courtyard

11:00am – Modern Worship Service

**12:00 – 5:00 pm 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Pageant – Kid's Courtyard**

6:00pm - High School Community Group

## **Monday, December 10**

## **Tuesday, December 11**

6:30am – Men's Faith & Life Group – Der Dutchman

6:30pm – 7:30pm – Open Prayer Time – Green Room

7:00pm – The Gathering – No Class

## **Wednesday, December 12**

8am – Men's Breakfast – Der Dutchman

**6:15pm – Sunnyside Village Caroling – Sunnyside Village Chapel**

6:30pm – Little Eden's Club – Sunnyside Village Caroling

6:30pm – The Faith Group – Green Room

## **Thursday, December 13**

9:00am – Dorcas Circle - Rooms 9 & 10

**11:30 – 1:00pm Living Joyfully "Holiday Cheer" – Fellowship Hall**

6:30pm – Worship Team Practice - Auditorium

**Friday, December 14** – No events

**Saturday, December 15** – No events

*We are here for you....*

If you or your family are in need of pastoral care or visitation please be in touch with Shirley Good, Pastoral Care Minister at 941-254-1653.

## From the Pastor's desk...

I recently ran into an old acquaintance. We ended up talking about the difference between people who are raised in the faith and leave it, and those who stay and believe it.

She said, "Anyone who can renounce Jesus has never experienced the Holy Spirit."

That piqued my interest so I asked her about her personal experience. She said she was raised in the faith, but fell away from it. She began partying and drinking heavily and was getting sick of it all. She felt convicted, but couldn't stop.

Finally, one night she fell into bed totally drunk, and just began calling out to Jesus: "I'm sorry... Forgive me... Save me... I need you..." She eventually fell asleep.

The next morning when she woke up, she was a brand new person. Jesus had poured out his Spirit on her and given her a new heart. She never went back to the old ways. She began a new life. She became a new person. There were no other "signs" or "wonders" that day. She simply knew she had received the Holy Spirit because she received a new heart.

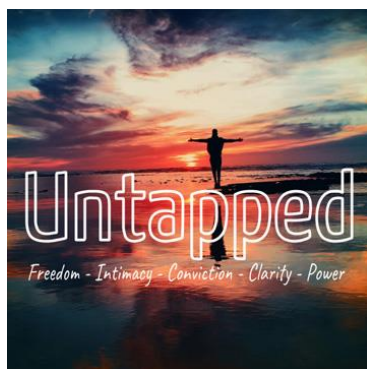
When a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, it changes them. Of course, not everyone who comes into the faith is changed. Some come to Jesus to feel better, but they never allow him to actually make them better.

There's a popular version of the gospel where Jesus sounds like a motivational speaker: "Don't worry if your heart condemns you; I love you just the way you are! Don't change! Unless of course you want to — in which case I will love you the new way you are!"

Wherever people believe that gospel, they will languish aimlessly, without conviction, pursuing things like getting in shape, getting organized, or getting out of debt, and maybe not partying as hard.

We should do those things if we need to. Absolutely. But don't confuse that with the gospel of Jesus Christ that addresses our sin: "Whenever your heart condemns you, turn from your sins! Live out your faith with conviction and I will make you brand new!"

*(Excerpt from "Untapped: Five Transformations of the Spirit-Filled Life," pages 43-44, Roger Shenk. Available at the Info Booth or online at Amazon.com)*



**“The Desire for Revelation”**

Pastor Roger Shenk

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(You can stop by the Info Center & order a DVD or CD for \$3)

## Further Study



If Christmas is just a time for nostalgia to make us feel inspired, we miss its significance. Likewise, if the Gospel is just something we turn to for a feeling of inspiration, we miss out. The gospel is about the fulfillment of God's purpose for us.

In Matthew's telling of the Christmas story, five dreams direct the key characters through threat and uncertainty to the fulfillment of God's promises. When it comes to our faith, God speaks to us through Spirit-inspired longings that answer our fears with courage and direction so that his Gospel can be born and take root in our lives.

Last week we looked at the first dream: the Hope of Redemption. It invites us to accept Jesus as our Savior, to receive him as Lord. When we do that, it changes us. Sometimes people question whether we're being brainwashed, or deceived. The magi faced were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod. God warns us a second dream — the Desire for Revelation — not to go back to our old thinking. It calls us to *"believe the Gospel."* When we do this, we are renewed in our hearts and minds.

This week:

- Read through Part Two of the Christmas story in Matthew 2:1-12. How do you know what is true and what is not? When do you find it out?
- Then read John 4:1-26. Did the woman believe in the Messiah? Was she concerned with understanding? What was Jesus concerned with?
- Then read what Jesus said in Matthew 22:29, John 14:6-7, and Luke 12:8. What did he teach about deception?
- Read what others wrote about deception in Deuteronomy 11:16, 1 Corinthians 6:9, Ephesians 4:17-32, and James 1:16-18.
- Finally, read 2 Timothy 4:1-5. Start becoming aware of what you hope to hear. Is it different than what you wanted to hear before coming to faith?

Hear the words of your desire for revelation: *"Don't go back the way you came! Go forward to new understanding in Christ! Believe the Gospel!"*



# Offering

➤ **Giving at SCC** There are three convenient & safe ways to give at SCC

TEXT TO GIVE	GIVE ONLINE	IN SERVICE
Any amount to	Click "Give" @	Leave your gift in
941.877.5090	<a href="http://www.sarasotacommunitychurch.org">www.sarasotacommunitychurch.org</a>	baskets

➤ **Change for a Dollar** isn't where we help our own or support mission programs. This is where we bring a one-time tangible gift of help and hope to a person who is "one arm's length away" from us. And the cost? **Just one dollar!** Who has God brought to your attention?

## ➤ Last Week

Attendance.....366  
 Offerings & Contributions.....\$13,924  
 Change for a Dollar      \$292/ \$13,711 YTD / \$124,690 Since 12.14.2011

## *Please lift them up in prayer...*

➤ **PLEASE PRAY FOR SARAH** ~ Her mom Cindy asked if we could pray for her daughter Sarah Koment, who is having major surgery on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the University of Minnesota Hospital. She will be having her pancreas, spleen and appendix removed due to severe pancreatitis. There are only 3 hospitals in the US that perform this surgery. Please pray for comfort for Sarah and guiding hands for the medical team.

➤ **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR** ~ Paul Bobbette, Doug Carlson, Bernie Christner, Cydrus Family, Roy Davidson, Jenna Detweiler, Ann Eichelberger, Billy Gentilman, Jan Graber, Nelson Graber, Bryan Gray, Marilyn Guenther,



Verda Hershberger, Betty Kauffman, Ada Kennedy, Peggy Kilmer, Glenn King, Debra Kuykendall, Maggie Latham, Lorraine Maust, Dan Miller, Dorothy J. Miller, Roman Miller, Victoria Nussbaum, Shannon Osborn, Queena Phu, Emma Rauschenberger, Rhonda Royer, Barbara Schlegel, Jake & Leah Schwartz, John Schwartz, Milton & Carol Yoder.

➤ **REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS** ~ Who are part of our congregation but cannot worship with us on an ongoing basis because of health issues. This includes: Betty Beachy, Leo Cummings, Helen Cydrus, Dave Gerber, Ed Helmuth, Sandra Jamieson, Vi Kauffman, Emma Mullet, Atlee Schlabach, Del Serrano, and Dave & Catherine Schrock.

➤ **PRAYER REQUEST FOR** ~ Dave Schlabach, long-time friend of SCC and Loving Hands Ministry passed away November 29 and his service will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The service is 2:00pm at First Brethren Church, 150 North Shade Ave, Sarasota. Prayers for families who have recently lost loved ones: Ben and Sue Sprunger (brother-in-law), Shirley Hostetler (husband, Herman) and Lorraine Maust (brother, Leslie). David Kniss had gallbladder surgery Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> and still receiving therapy and rehabilitation.





## CHURCH EVENTS

➤ **BREEZE INFO UPDATE!** For the next few weeks we will be updating our Breeze database. We will be taking new photos and asking you to update your information.

➤ **6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND PARENT'S DAY OUT!**

**Today, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 12:00 - 5:00pm** Hey parents! You won't want to miss this unbelievable all-in-one day Christmas Pageant! Why go to weeks of rehearsals when you can drop off your kids and have the afternoon free to shop? Then come back and enjoy an AWESOME Christmas Pageant all in one day?! There will be hot cocoa and treats after the show so make a plan to join us! Registration is required, you can grab a form at the Info Center or online at SCC.org

➤ **JOIN US ~SUNNYSIDE VILLAGE CAROLING Wed December 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:15**

Come join us caroling! This is open to all ages so bring your kids! We meet at the chapel entrance at 6:15 and walk around singing holiday songs. A trolley will be provided for those who need assistance. Hot cocoa and refreshments will be served on the Sunnyside Village Veranda after caroling about 8:15.

➤ **LIVING JOYFULLY "Holiday Cheer" Christmas Celebration!**

**Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30-1pm** We share personal stories and experiences so we can be challenged to live joyfully and age well! Salad lunch is just \$5, for more info or to reserve your spot, email Nancy B. Yoder at yodernb@gmail.com.

➤ **PINE RIDGE MOBILE HOME PARK CAROLING! Wed, Dec 21st**

Join us for an evening of caroling with friends. We will meet here at SCC at 6:00pm and car pool to the park. We will carol from 6:30pm until 7:30pm and then have refreshments. Everyone is invited, please sign up at the info center. Any questions check with Dennis B.

➤ **ARE YOU TRAVELING TO EPHRATA, PA?**

~ Dorcas Cirle would like to ask if you have room to take a few boxes of supplies to Mennonite Central Committee. If you are traveling that way, please get in touch with Marlene Beachy mmgjohnson@juno.com or call 941-371-1092.

➤ **"SINS OF THE PARENTS" SERIES**

This series will make a wonderful gift for a loved one at Christmas. We have dvds and cds available for a \$10 donation at the Info Booth.



## ➤ CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE Monday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

Spend Christmas Eve with your church family! Make plans now to come worship and participate in a beautiful candle lighting service here at SCC. Pastor Roger will conclude his *"Dreams of Christmas: How to Wake Up to New Hope"* series with a message about *"The Dream of Relationship"*. Just another great opportunity to bring your friends and family to celebrate the reason we LOVE this season!

➤ **COME TO THE TABLE!** Tuesday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup> at 12pm Are you on your own for Christmas lunch? Shirley Good is hosting a potluck luncheon on Christmas Day at SCC. If you would like some company on Christmas Day, we hope you'll join us. We are providing the main course, all you need to bring is a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Please RSVP at the Info Center as soon as possible. No need to dine alone this Christmas. Come to the table. We'll be waiting for you!

➤ **NEW ADA RESTROOM** – located between the Children's Little Edens room and the Fellowship Hall. The door is operated by push button to open and automatically closes.

➤ **DORCAS CIRCLE'S** ~ needs dark colored hand towels, 4 oz bars of hand soap, finger nail clippers, and single toothbrushes.



## Advent Week 2



The Second Advent Candle is purple, the Bethlehem Candle. Advent is the season of preparation, of expectation, and waiting, but it is not always hot cocoa by the fire with soft carols and a shining tree in the background. More often, it is the groaning of the whole of creation and humanity and yearning for redemption and renewal.

# Save the Date

## **Pastor**

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## **Executive Minister**

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## **Pastoral Care Minister**

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## **Seniors' Minister**

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## **Youth Coordinators**

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Samantha's cell: 859.621.2534

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## **Creative Director**

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Belinda Jobe  
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## **Facilities Director & Executive Asst.**

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## **Administrative Assistant**

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Kathy Cydrus  
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## **Prayer Team Leaders**

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Gilberto & Elizabeth Perez  
prayer@sarasotacommunitychurch.org

## **Church Office Hours**

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Tue, Wed & Thu | 9a-3p or by appointment

## **December 2018**

9 Christmas Pageant/Parent's Day Out  
12 Christmas Caroling @ Sunnyside Village  
13 Living Joyfully – Holiday Cheer  
17 Overseers Meeting  
21 Pine Ridge Christmas Caroling  
23 BP Checks  
24 Candlelight Service  
25 Christmas Brunch with Shirley  
25 Office Closed ~ Merry Christmas!

## **January 2019**

1 Office Closed- Happy New Years!  
10 Living Joyfully  
11 Senior Carry-in Meal  
24 Living Joyfully  
26 Caring Sisters Tea  
27 Blood Pressure Checks  
28 Coffee with Leaders  
28 Overseers Meeting

## **February 2019**

9 Bethel Mountain Band  
17 Aaron Stutzman  
25 Overseers Meeting  
25 Coffee with Leaders

Bulletin submission deadline is every Wednesday @ 10am. Send your requests to the church office for consideration.

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## Jesus Is After Her - And You

The story of the woman by the well is timeless. It is as relevant today as it was then. You may move through sexual partners like she did, or through friends, or jobs, or churches, or hobbies, or hairstyles, or wardrobes, or cars, or locations. Never able to settle with a kind of deeply contented identity in Christ, satisfied daily with the ever-springing water of his fellowship.

I don't mean that the Christian life is static. But there is a difference between the confident movement of faith and the craving movement of frustration. On the one hand, there is restless movement from one thing to the next because we have no solid, satisfied identity in Christ. And on the other hand, we have Christ as our fountain of life and we move with purposefulness and creativity in the life and power that this living water gives. There is a difference between the jumping from one thing to the next out of frustration and the moving purposefully out of faith. Jesus is teaching us about ourselves as well as about his glorious sufficiency as water, prophet, savior, and Messiah. What we have seen today mainly through the penetrating words of this prophet, who is more than a prophet, is that the reason this woman cannot grasp the living water that Jesus is offering is that she cannot see the cavernous thirst in her own soul for Jesus. She is desperately trying to fill up the void by moving from one man to the next and, in the process, is becoming more and more hard and blind to her own real need — the need for living water, for Jesus. Jesus is after her. He intends to break through and give life and light in the core of her being. And he is pursuing that with you as well. Has he awakened you by his word and his Spirit to see your own need? Do you see the addictive substitutes that keep you from drinking the living water?

I say with [Revelation 22:17](#), "Let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price." *Resource by John Piper*