

COUNTRYSIDE NEWS

Dec 2015

A Season of Anticipation

Prepare Ye the Way!

Our focus this advent season has been on **preparation**—preparing ourselves, preparing our church, preparing our world for the coming of our Lord. How do we prepare? Let's start with prayer.

Preparing for the coming of our Lord:

- Pray that God would prepare your heart for his coming, that He would help each one of us to be faithful and obedient.
- Pray for our church. Pray that God would use us in a mighty way. Pray that he would enable us as a church body to be faithful and obedient together.
- Pray for our community. Pray that God would use us to share his message of love, compassion, and forgiveness to the hurting and broken people around us.
- Pray for our world. Pray that God would bring healing to broken people and nations. Pray that our hearts would break with the things that break the heart of God.

"Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight and the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God's salvation."

- Luke 3:5-6



The decorations are ready! And now we wait.

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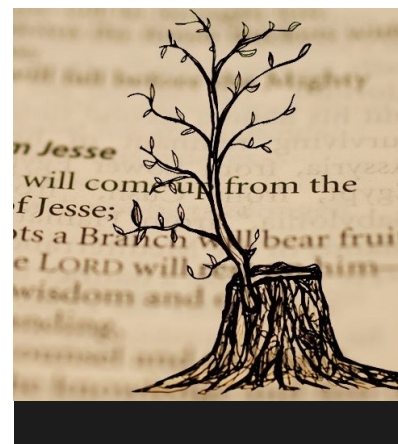
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Pastors' Corner

I love the season of Advent. It is the only time of year when the whole world lives out the beliefs of the church. We put up lights, symbolizing the Light who came into the darkness. We gather together with friends and family in anticipation of the day when the world will be at peace. We give gifts, remembering the gift of God to us in the person of Jesus. We sing songs of joy in faith that joy truly has come to our world even in the midst of turbulence and violence. It is a wonderful time of year!

But for many this time of year is not so wonderful. Some are painfully reminded again of lost loved ones. Some are filled with anxiety at all the busy-ness and frantic activity. Some long for an extra 0 at the end of the checking account balance to be able to give their children gifts they know would be loved and appreciated. Some are missing family members who are deployed or unable to return home or have just chosen to stay away.

As we celebrate Christ's coming into our world this season, let's follow his example and enter into the worlds of the people around us—people who are enjoying this season and people who wish they could wake up in January, people who are enthusiastic and people who are beat down. Let's take the time to listen to their stories and to share the good news of the Gospel that doesn't just end on December 26th when all the presents have been unwrapped. Let's let the transformation of our lives light the way to the saving grace of Christ.



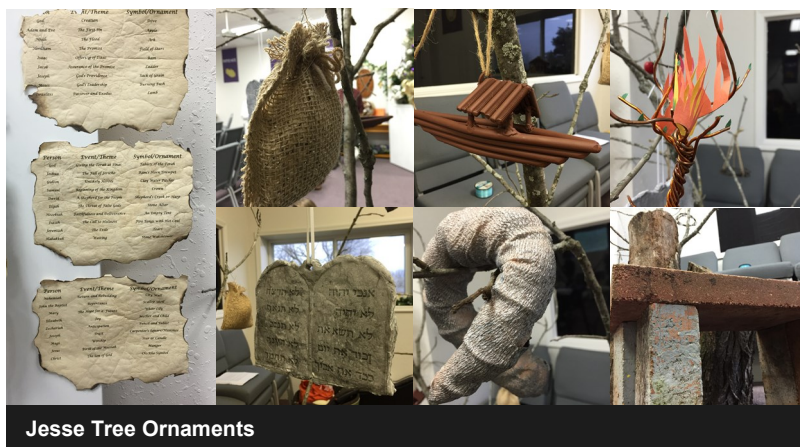
Jesse Tree

Each week leading up to Christmas, we are adding ornaments to our Jesse Tree. Each ornament represents a piece of the story of God's faithfulness to his people. Some of the ornaments are pictured to the left.

There is also a daily devotional to go along with each day's ornament. Booklets are available at church or on our app. (Download by searching "Countryside Nazarene in the app store.")

The Jesse Tree is a unique tradition that helps us follow the whole story of God's people leading up to the birth of Christ.

The ornaments are a great representation of the creativity of Countryside Church. This is only a small number of the ornaments filling our tree!



Jesse Tree Ornaments

Check out our new Website!

We have a new website at www.countrysidenaz.com. This site is especially useful as a resource for visitors:

- Our service times are easy to find.
- We have a description of what visitors can expect in our services.
- We have directions and other information.

We hope to keep improving what potential visitors can learn about us! The website is part of our desire to offer the hospitality of Christ to one another as well as those who are seeking.

We also have resources for current attenders:

- Upcoming events
- Archived newsletters
- A link to our Facebook page

We also hope to keep adding features to our website for regular attenders. This is another way we can stay connected during the week if we miss a Sunday!



Christmas Eve Service, 2015

Save the Date: Christmas Eve Service, Dec. 24th, 6:00pm

Christmas Eve is one of the biggest services of the year for visitors: families like to attend a service together; people considering attending church for the first time might visit a Christmas Eve service. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and family to Countryside!

Christmas Eve is also a wonderful, traditional time to attend church as a family. This year, we will have a simple, beautiful expression of the story of Jesus' birth through songs and readings. Our service will incorporate children and adults as participants. Join us for this wonderful tradition!

A prayer for us to pray together:

"Lord, I don't ask for much today. I just ask that you give me your heart for lost people."

Upcoming Events and Services

Sunday School

10:00am, every Sunday morning

Worship Service

11:00am, every Sunday morning

Mid-week Bible Study

7:00pm, every Wednesday evening

Christmas Eve Service

December 24th, 6:00pm

January Board Meeting

8:30am, January 16, 2016

YES (Youth Equipped to Serve) Conference

January 29-30, 2016

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at
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