



# December 16, 2018

## Scheduled Activities

### Sunday, December 16

Morning Worship at 10:45 AM

### Wednesday, December 19

Prayer & Adult Bible Study at 6:30 PM  
 Children's Christmas Party at 6:30 PM  
 Praise Team Rehearsal at 6:30 PM

### Thursday, December 20

Cecil Family Open House from 5:00–8:00 PM

## Pastor's Pondering

I realize last week's Pondering might have left you scratching your head with its quick direction change, so let me continue the concluding thought this week:

We rarely question when we see positive changes in our lives, and we may even give glory to God that He has brought about the improvements we see. Things are different when we see ourselves getting "worse," because we think we are supposed to always be getting better. However, the Christian life isn't about getting better, it is about coming closer to God. For instance, Jacob had an experience that left him crippled for the rest of his life, yet he limped away with a new name—Israel.

The Apostle Paul considers this situation in his own life in regard to his thorn in the flesh. God's answer is that His "power is perfected in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:9) Elsewhere, failure to minister in one area led Paul to new areas of ministry and different strategies that saw success.

Maybe we need more failures in our lives to get us where God wants us, as opposed to where we want to be. - Blessings, David

## On the Horizon

Children's Ministry Christmas Party – Wednesday, December 19 at 6:30 PM.

Cecil Family Open House – Thursday, December 20 from 5–8:00 PM. Ask for the address at pastor@embcmail.com.

**Advent Season** – This season of worship is a wonderful time to invite your family, friends, or neighbors to join you in worship. Draw closer together as we draw closer to Jesus.

**Christmas Specials** – Be sure to get a special Christmas portrait done in the photo booth, and deposit or check for cards in the Christmas Mailbox. Both are in the back of the sanctuary.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** – Monday, December 24 at 5:00 PM.

## Worship Preparation

We continue our Advent focus with the candle of Joy, and turn to the joyous proclamation from the angels in Luke 2:8-25. Do you ever wonder what life was like for these shepherds after that night?

## Sunday Service Teams

### Lead Greeter

James Rollins

### Nursery

Maria Carter & Ali Carter  
 Alternate: Linda Musick

### Children's Church

Debra Sawyer

### Counters

Ed Hudson & Amy Cecil

**Physical Needs:**

- Louie Lapointe's friend, Richard, is on waiting list for liver and kidney donor
- Dan Jansen, a missionary to Rwanda, is receiving treatment for depression caused by a vitamin deficiency
- Trish Raney will undergo surgery and chemotherapy for breast cancer
- Ginny Greenwood is receiving treatment for cancer
- Louie Lapointe's friend, Alison Butler was recently diagnosed with cancer
- Amy Cecil's friend, Amanda Officer, is undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer
- Linda Wells, wife of Tom Beaman's friend, Jerry Wells, is being treated for breast cancer
- Pat & Ricky Ladner's multiple health problems
- Darin Walker is receiving medication to mitigate his dementia
- Jerry Wells will have surgery to repair an abdominal aneurysm
- Ryan Dignum, Bill Goggans' grandson, is receiving treatment for cancer in lymph nodes
- Becky Trotter is receiving chemotherapy for Stage 3 multiple myeloma
- Michelle May is recovering from knee surgery
- Lindy Hoyt is recovering from hip replacement surgery
- Eura Franklin's nephew, Riley Ligon, has a broken foot & ankle, and a head injury, from an auto accident

**In the Hospital:**

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**Praises:**

- Jonathan Simpson is home from the hospital

Thank you for your prayers. We know that many of our praises are due to the prayers of our fellowship.

**Personal Requests:**

- Those who are seeking employment
- Unbelieving family, friends, and acquaintances
- Loved ones struggling with broken relationships
- Unspoken prayers carried in our hearts
- For family members to endure the consequences of their actions with a positive spirit
- Chris is facing struggles with depression

**Ministry Requests:**

- Hailes Family in Madagascar
- Meagan Clark - in India with CSJ
- Opportunities to strengthen relationships with people who don't know Jesus

**In Nursing Care:**

- Bonnie McFarland (Azle Manor)
- Oletha Oldham (Azle Manor)
- Charlene Bagby (Eagle Crest)
- Roy Trotter (Azle Manor)

**Families who have recently lost loved ones:**

- Earl Winterrowd passed away last week

**Family members in the military:**

- Matthew Beaman - Army
- Michael Britt - Navy
- Stephen Cecil - Air Force
- Andrew Cecil - Army
- Alexander Cole - Air Force

**Special Days:**

- Jennifer Lalonde's birthday is on the 16th
- Jordan Johns' birthday is on the 19th
- Philippe & Jennifer Lalonde celebrate their anniversary on the 19th
- Maria Carter's birthday is on the 20th
- J.L. & Nita Coleman celebrate their anniversary on the 21st

**Member Notices:**

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Please send new prayers or updates to [pastor@embcmail.com](mailto:pastor@embcmail.com). Thank you for keeping us up-to-date with your updates!