



December 30, 2018

### Scheduled Activities

Sunday, December 30

Morning Worship at 10:45 AM

Monday, December 31

New Year's Eve

Tuesday, January 1

Happy New Year 2019!

Wednesday, January 2

Prayer and Bible Study at 6:30 PM

Praise Team Rehearsal at 6:30 PM

### Pastor's Pondering

Without a doubt, I believe that the anticipation of Christmas is better than the reality of Christmas. Just like a coward who dies a thousand times before his death, the excited Christmas reveler, in his anticipation, experiences Christmas so many times that, when it finally comes around, the reality doesn't hold up. That isn't to say that the reality wasn't great, but that it struggles to live up to the anticipation.

One thing that I believe we cannot anticipate enough is Jesus' return. No manner of anticipation of that blessed event can come close to what it will be in actuality. I think this is because we can't conceive of it - no eye has seen, no ear has heard and all that. How can you anticipate an unknown?

As we come to a new year, no doubt we have many anticipations. Many of our hopes, like our hopes for 2018, will most likely not come to pass as we expect. Yet, what God is doing, and what He will do, we can't even imagine. I anticipate great things from God! I just can't anticipate what they will be.

- Blessings, David

### On the Horizon

**Christmas Mailbox** - Please check for cards in the Christmas Mailbox, there are many greetings that have gone un-received.

**Wednesday Evening Activities** - We have concluded our weekday activities for 2018. Prayer Meeting and Bible study will resume on January 2; the Soaring Eagles will resume on the 9th.

**Church Office Hours** - This week, the church will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, for New Year's Day. Otherwise, normal office hours will apply.

### Worship Preparation

As we close the books on 2018, we continue in Luke's nativity narrative as Simeon meets Jesus in Luke 2:25-35. Have you seen the Lord's salvation? Are you ready for what is coming as we let go of what was?

### Sunday Service Teams

#### Lead Greeter

Lindy Hoyt

#### Nursery

Maria Carter & Ali Carter

Alternate: Bonnie Jones

#### Children's Church

Amy Cecil

#### 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 had 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
- Michael Winterrowd is receiving a series of injections for treatment after a stroke in his eye
- Ruth Corley is recovering from blood pressure and heart issues

**In the Hospital:**

- Becky Trotter is receiving rehabilitation after her latest hospitalization

**Praises:**

- Becky Trotter has moved to a rehab facility
- Ruth Corley had been in the hospital, but is now home

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:**

- Sandy Snipes passed away this past Sunday

**Family members in the military:**

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

**Special Days:**

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**Member Notices:**

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