



Merry Christmas

CHRISTmas Eve TONIGHT at 6:30

December 24, 2023

CHRISTmas at NORTH STREET

Multiple people have made teasing comments to me about the Christmas manger scene we have outside this year. Those people noted that the Wisemen didn't belong in the scene but should be off at a distance somewhere as they were traveling. That got me thinking about the entirety of the manger scene. We have accepted this scene as an image of the birth of Christ in our minds but it's far from what the Bible gives us. The Bible doesn't tell us that there was a stable at all, it just tells us that Mary laid Jesus in a manger. That manger, wherever it was, wouldn't have been pleasant. The manger would have stunk like animals. We do know that there were shepherds in the fields that made their way to go see the newborn baby. Those shepherds would have also stunk. The Bible doesn't tell us how many shepherds came, or if there were any animals present at all. Luke's gospel doesn't even guarantee that Joseph was there. It says that Mary brought forth her firstborn son and laid Him in the manger. While that doesn't mean Joseph wasn't there, it does emphasize Mary's aloneness through the process. Joseph couldn't do it for her and would have been clueless as to what to do. The real-life Christmas story is one of very few people being present. There weren't more than a handful of people worshipping at the birth of Jesus Christ. But one day, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Christmas should inspire us to give Him the honor he is due and worship Him now.

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 6:30 Bible Study	Merry CHRISTmas 6:30 Men's Bible Study	7:30 Prayer Meeting (Zoom) (1st & 3rd Tuesday)	6:30 Adventure Club 6:30 Rooted	10:30 Sr. Bible Study 7:00 20's & 30's Bible Study	7:00 Bible Study	5:00 Community Meal (2nd & 3rd of every month)

Life Choice Bake Sale Summary



Thank you to everyone who generously supported the bake sale the last couple of weeks. With your help, we were able to raise \$1500 for Life Choices ministries! Life Choices is a pro-life ministry committed to upholding the sanctity of human life by assisting and educating individuals facing unplanned pregnancies, as well as by teaching sexual integrity education courses in the schools and prisons. They have also recently begun providing a “community closet” ministry to provide free material goods to clients at their clinics. One of their clinics is right here in Butler, just blocks from our church, and in the past year that clinic has seen 108 clients, provided 34 ultrasounds, and had 85 spiritual discussions.

We delivered the money to the Butler clinic on Monday, and while we were there, they mentioned that donations are down. The ministry is currently facing a \$9,000 deficit for 2023 and budgets have been tight. They receive no government or insurance funding, and all of their services are offered free to their clients. If you feel called to support the work of this ministry, you can talk to Matt or Lacey Eckert on how to go about that, or go to <https://www.yourlifechoicesinfo.com/> and click on the white “Donate” box at the top right of the screen to find instructions for multiple giving options.

BASIC INFO FOR NSCC

1. Prayer needs for the PRAYER SHEET need to go to Pastor Jake or fill out a prayer card & put it in the offering plate.
2. Prayer chain needs to be sent to Greg Simpson at 724-496-1924 ~ please send by TEXT ONLY.
3. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please send your request to shannon@northstreetchristianchurch.org

NSCC'S COMMUNITY MEAL MINISTRY



Community Meal Ministry reaches out locally by offering a free dinner the second and third Saturday of every month. We need volunteers willing to plan and prepare the meal and others to help serve. Come join us for friendly fellowship while we cook, pray, serve and share the good news of Jesus Christ. To volunteer please see Kelly McDeavitt or call the church office for more info at 724-282-7700.



**VIEW OUR
CHURCH DIRECTORY
ON
YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!**

Our church directory is a great resource tool to get to know our church family better!

If you are a member of NSCC simply go to the App Store or Google Play, search for *Instant Church Directory* and download the FREE app to begin. You will need to CREATE A LOGIN. If the church does not have your email, or you are having trouble logging into the app, please reach out to Shannon Hartman and give her that info at shannon@northstreetchristianchurch.org



If you would like to tithe to NSCC, there is a very easy way to do that. Just download the Tithe.ly giving App to give online using the app [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly). Your gift is safe & secure and goes directly to your church. Plus, you'll be able to create an account to track your gifts, setup recurring giving, and more!