



Grapevine

From the Pastor's Desk

advent

[ˈadˌvent]

NOUN

the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.

synonyms:

[arrival](#) · [appearance](#) · [emergence](#) · [materialization](#) · [surfacing](#) · [occurrence](#) · [dawn](#) · [origin](#) ·

[birth](#) · [rise](#) · [development](#) · [approach](#) · [coming](#) · [looming](#) · [nearing](#) · [advance](#)

the first season of the Christian church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays.

Christian theology

the coming or second coming of Christ.

It's that most wonderful time of the year! "Kids jingle-belling and everyone telling you 'be of good cheer', parties for hosting and marshmallows toasting, much mistletoe ing, hearts all a glowing" ...or so the song goes. My sister and I joke around because she is a "can't wait for Christmas-it's after Halloween-start playing Christmas Carols- kind of person" and I am a "wait until after Thanksgiving- before any decorations-tree or carols-kind of person."

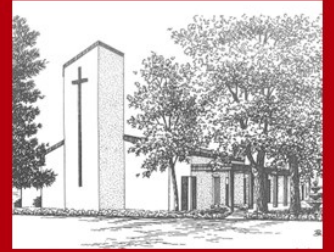
Yes, it's a wonderful time of year, and also that time of year when there is tension between the secular and non-secular world we live in. Christmas displays and gifts were in stores and around before Halloween this year in the hopes that customers would start their frenzied buying early. And yet for the Church, Christmas doesn't start until one second after midnight Christmas Eve and continues for 12 days until Epiphany on

January 6th. Thus, the song "The 12 Days of Christmas". Until that time the church waits. We wait with anticipation and expectation for the ultimate gift for all of humanity. While the world goes crazy, the Church slows down and reflects. While the world goes into debt, the Church is content with a humble manger with a star overhead, a few shepherds, and some smelly sheep. The simplicity of that first Christmas contrasts sharply with the mass consumerism we are bombarded with this season.

Yes, it is that wonderful time of the year. It is that time when we await and celebrate the arrival of the hope, joy, peace, and love of that lowly birth-the breaking in of God into our lives-the coming of the Savior of the world. May we take time to pause in our busyness as we journey to the manger this Advent.

Pastor Claire

GOING ON AROUND NORTHKIRK



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Bring your kids, grandkids and friends

Northkirk will be hosting "Breakfast With Santa" on December 14th from 8 to 11 am. It is an opportunity to open up our church to locals and to our church partners.

There will be a delicious breakfast of coffee, juice, sausage and all-you-can-eat pancakes! A recommended donation of \$5 per person or max \$20 per family is requested.

Santa Claus will be attending to ask kids what they want for Christmas. Parents are welcome to take photos of their children with Santa.

We could really use some volunteers to help out with the set-up, the breakfast, and cleanup. We need cooks (pancakes), servers, cashiers, and

some "Santa's Helper's". We especially need several people who can "be friendly" and talk about life at Northkirk. We also need customers, so come on out after you tell your neighbors all about it. If you can volunteer some time and help out, please contact Daniel Beauvais.

Thank you.



NORTHKIRK HISTORY CORNER



Nativity

Northkirk has been gifted with many beautiful decorations inside and outside of our church and we want to remember the talents and generosity of the creators of our donations. December is a great time of year to point out our two handmade nativity sets. One is inside the church on our piano and the other one is outside in front.

We were blessed to have Ed Rugh as a member of Northkirk. He was the shop teacher at Upland High School and he often offered his woodworking talents to our church. Sadly, he passed away a few years ago. Thelma Campbell wanted to have a nativity set outside in front of our church that we could light up at night and she approached Ed about it. He sourced a nativity pattern and cut out and painted the wood set you see now. It's simplicity is stunning especially as you see it lit up at night with the shapes reflected on the wall.



The second set is smaller and made out of wood. This set was made by the talented Pastor Gary Hindman from Upland Presbyterian Church. He made our amazing large wood cross you see at the front of our church. He wrote a fascinating article about his journey crafting it in our September Grapevine and I hope you got a chance to read it. Gary told me he enjoyed making several of the small wooden nativity sets of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus and gifted them to many lucky recipients. Northkirk was fortunate to receive one before he and his wife retired and moved to Idaho.

As we enjoy this holy season and the lovely decorations inside and outside of our church, let us appreciate the talents and generosity of so many. Merry Christmas!

-Teri Smits



HEALTHY LIVING

FAITH

FELLOWSHIP

FITNESS

FOOD

Rosemary Walnuts



Photo: Erin Scott Photography

Ingredients

- 2 cups walnut halves
- Cooking spray
- 2 teaspoons dried rosemary, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper

Directions

1. Place walnuts in a small bowl. Spritz with cooking spray. Add the seasonings; toss to coat. Place in a single layer on a baking sheet.
2. Bake at 350 for 10 minutes. Serve warm, or cool completely and store in an airtight container.

Makes 2 cups

Nutrition Facts

Per 1/4 cup: 166 calories, 17g fat (2g saturated fat), 0mg cholesterol, 118mg sodium, 4g carbohydrate (1g sugars, 2g fiber), 4g protein.

Diabetic Exchanges: 3 fat.

Source: www.tasteofhome.com

Excellent! Different from all the sweet nut recipes and love the kick from the cayenne! Great savory nut recipe that I will definitely make again. Great for gifts for the holidays, too!
—Reviewer



HEALTHY LIVING

FAITH

FELLOWSHIP

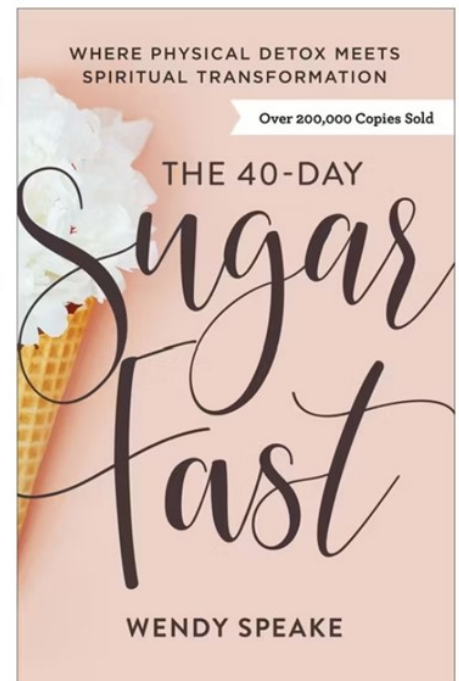
FITNESS

FOOD

December is such a wonderful time of year with lights, music, friends, family, worship and more. How blessed we are to have a church that celebrates December so beautifully and how blessed are we to have Pastor Claire step in to lead us through this joyous season.

And then comes January and New Year's Resolutions! Are you one who joins so many in coming up with one or more resolutions to improve some aspect of your life? I don't want to put a damper on our December plans of joy and fun but January 1st will come before our January Grapevine issue. I want to recommend a book called *The 40-Day Sugar Fast* by Wendy Speake. This is a powerful book "where physical detox meets spiritual transformation". This book will offer wonderful support as you fast from sugar. This is not a diet book. It is a spiritual journey of growth and challenge as you fast from sugar. You can do this 40 day spiritual fast on your own or you can join me and others after church in the library about 20 minutes after fellowship. This is not a study but we can meet to encourage and support each other.

The fast begins Monday, January 6th so our first gathering will be on Sunday, January 5th . There are things you can do to prepare. Be sure to purchase the book-it can be found on Amazon. And if you are on Facebook, you can join Wendy's private Facebook page specific to this fast. Search for "40 Day Sugar Fast" and you will see a link to join the group. I highly recommend you join her Facebook 40 Day Fast page as you will receive extra encouragement from her and others who are participating . Be careful to join her page as other similar titles pop up. We can do this step together on Sunday the 5th on your phone if you need help.



I hope you enjoy all that this holiday season offers and have a Merry Christmas.

Questions? See elder Nona Cabral or Teri Smits.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Pastor's Report

Pastor Claire started us off by talking about RESPECT – how to interact with each other respectfully. Pastor also reported on her current interactions in the church.

Team Reports

Christian Education Would like to start a mid-week youth program, but we desperately need someone to head it up. You will NOT be starting from scratch. We have curriculum and a built-in group of youth. You will also have a lot of great support from Nona and Daniel. Please consider jumping into this service,

We approved the Lake Arrowhead Presbyterian Church Bell ringers to come and perform on December 7 at 3PM. Please bring

a snack if possible as we hear this awesome group perform.

Session agreed to a movie night on January 18, 2025. More details to follow.

After lengthy discussion, Session agreed to purchase a commercial copier/printer. This will be a great asset to the office. If your ministry needs copies or prints, please ask Abby how to use the machine before doing the “Dan-thing” and just start pushing buttons (just remember: Abby = good, Dan = bad).

Session also started working on some 2025 preliminary budget numbers.

Blessings,

Daniel Beauvais

Average Attendance for Online & In-Person Worship Services For November:

Facebook live:	3 viewers
YouTube live:	4 viewers
In-Person:	70 attendees
Cadence:	13 viewers



Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2024
 Emily Scholz, Church Treasurer



Operational Budget	October Budget	October Actual	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Actual
Giving/Receipts	17,286.53	21,461.25	207,438.34	200,540.08
Expenses	24,271.70	34,524.74	291,260.51	250,059.78
Net Operating Surplus/Deficit	-6,985.17	-13,063.49	-83,822.17	-49,519.70

The net operating deficit is subsidized by saving reserves and investment funds. The session has budgeted a total of \$87,622.87 to be withdrawn from our investments this year. Stewardship/Finance has set a goal of \$80,000 and approved by session to withdraw this year. We have withdrawn \$51,000 so far this year. This amount is 64% of our budgeted total. 83.3% of the year has passed. Our actual contributions are higher than our budgeted estimates, and our expenses are lower than the budgeted estimates.

We have begun our budgeting process for 2025 and our pledge campaign is underway. Please turn in your pledge cards as soon as possible.

If anyone has questions or comments regarding our budget, loan balances, bank balances or investments, please contact the church office at 909-989-4919 and your questions will be forwarded to our church treasurer or to someone on the stewardship/finance team.

-Emily Scholz

Northkirk Elders Area of Responsibility

- Dan Beauvais – Clerk Of Session
- Nona Cabral – Christian Education
- Steven Hanson – Facilities and Grounds
- Jo Simmons – Membership and Fellowship
- Tom Stahl – Missions and Evangelism
- Thelma Campbell – Music, Worship and Arts
- Alan Simmons – Stewardship and Finance
- Chris Maitlen – Northkirk Community Coordinator
- Joyce Brand – Personnel



Electronic Giving Accounts

- events@northkirk.org
- mops@northkirk.org
- giving@northkirk.org
- theatre@northkirk.org
- loveoffering@northkirk.org

These may be used with Zelle. Currently mops@northkirk.org can be used with Venmo, the other accounts cannot.



Northkirk

A D V E N T



DECEMBER 1 | 9:30AM

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8 | 9:30AM

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14 | 8-11AM

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

DECEMBER 15 | 9:30AM

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 15 | 2PM

CAROLS & COOKIES

DECEMBER 22 | 9:30AM


FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24 | 4PM

LESSONS IN CAROLS & COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE





You Are Invited To

**LAKE
ARROWHEAD
BELL
ENSEMBLE**

Directed by: John Grady

Saturday

3pm | 7 Dec

9101 19th St.

Rancho Cucamonga, 91701

MOMCO OF NORTHKIRK

“A MOM COMMUNITY”

MomCo met twice in November and we had great attendance despite it being cold & flu season. At our November 6th meeting, the moms graciously donated enough items to make 21 “Operation Christmas Child” boxes! These gift-filled shoeboxes are shipped to children in need around the world with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We had fun packing the boxes full of school supplies, toys, mittens, and more! We also included a written message with a photo of our group, giving the child a tangible expression of God’s love.

Our next meeting featured a video from MomCo International about Hospitality, a main principle of MomCo. This principle is demonstrated at each meeting. When each mom arrives, she is greeted with a warm welcome and hears comforting words of encouragement and God’s loving presence.

Our group’s Adventure Day for the alternate Wednesdays continued with a Nature Scavenger Hunt at a park in Claremont. The next Adventure Day was an exciting trip to Los Angeles on the Metrolink Train starting from the station in Rancho Cucamonga. It was loads of fun, we made lots of great memories, and it gave true meaning to the name “Adventure Day”!



The MomCo Nov 13th fundraiser at BJ’s Café was a success and we would like to thank all the Northkirk members for coming out and supporting us! Our next fundraiser will be at Richie’s Diner on January 22. If you know of any moms that have Wednesday mornings available, please tell them about our wonderful ministry here at Northkirk. We meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings 9am-11:30am in Baird Hall. Thank you for your continued support of Northkirk’s MomCo program.

-Nancy Kwedar (mentor mom)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
**BREAKFAST
WITH
SANTA**

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES
FREE PHOTOS WITH SANTA
\$5 PER PERSON
~OR~
\$20 PER FAMILY

DECEMBER

14

8-11 AM

NORTHKIRK PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

9101 19TH ST., RC

DECEMBER EVENT CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Communion Worship Service 9:30 am 3D Study 11 am	2	3 Prayer Part. 9 am	4 Bible Study 7:30 am Via Jitsi MomCo 9 am	5 Handbells 5:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm	6 Youth Group 7:30 pm	7 Writer's Group Via Zoom 11:30 am Lake Arrowhead Bells 3 pm
8 Worship Service 9:30 am 3D Study 11 am	9	10 Prayer Part. 9 am Deacons Mtg. 6:30 pm	11 Bible Study 7:30 am Pastor's Office	12 Caring Crafters 2 pm Handbells 5:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm	13 Youth Group 7:30 pm	14 Breakfast With Santa 8 am
15 Worship Service 9:30 am 3D Study 11 am	16	17 Prayer Part. 9 am Session Mtg. 6:30 pm	18 Bible Study 7:30 am Pastor's Office MomCo 9 am	19 Handbells 5:30 pm Choir 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm	20 Youth Group 7:30 pm	21 Writer's Group Via Zoom 11:30 am
22 Worship Service 9:30 am	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 4 pm	25 Office Closed 	26	27 Youth Group 7:30 pm	28
29 Worship Service 9:30 am	30	31 Prayer Part. 9 am	1 Office Closed 	2	3 Youth Group 7:30 pm	4 Writer's Group Via Zoom 11:30 am

Prayer Partners Tuesday, 9 am, Mary Lee's home. Call Mary Lee with prayer requests or to be part of the group.

Bible Study at 7:30 am Pastor's Office, Contact Terry Switzer. First Wednesday of the month meets at CoCo's on Baseline and Haven.

3D Study - Sunday, 11 am contact Claire Schlegel 909-240-8049

Happy Birthday!

James Beagle	12/02
Kathy McElvany	12/06
Megan McQuerrey	12/06
Claire Schlegel	12/07
Francesca Walker	12/07
Harold Willome	12/07
Sharon Hayden	12/11
Yoko Sweede	12/14
Diane Vaughn	12/19
David Van Curen	12/29
Cathy Moody	12/30

Happy Anniversary!

Rick & Rexanne Hess	12/14
Diane & Tim Atherton	12/17
Ronn & Thelma Campbell	12/29





During the month of **December** Northkirk is collecting **Cereal** for Inland Valley Hope Partners and to The Home of Neighborly Service in San Bernardino.

Hope Partners has a warehouse where low-income and homeless people of the Inland Valley can receive nonperishable food items.

You can also drop off grocery gift cards in the Northkirk office.

Northkirk Presbyterian Church

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 northkirkoffice@northkirk.org

Pastor Rev. Claire Schlegel
 cschlegel@northkirk.org
Office Manager & Grapevine Editor Abby Thomas
 northkirkoffice@northkirk.org
Custodian Pilar Yarur



December Prayer Calendar

1 Our Schools	2 Emily & Bill Scholz	3 Sue & Guy Sharra	4 Pam Sickman	5 Lazaro & Zoey Silva	6 Jo, Alan, & Ngaire Simmons	7 Pacific Lifeline
8 Local Families	9 Malcolm & Nancy Slack	10 Liza Slaughter	11 Teri & Pete Smits	12 Marty & Terry Sortillon	13 Jacob Stahl	14 Buildings & Grounds Committee
15 California	16 Jodie & Tom Stahl	17 Laura & Phil Stephenson	18 Bonnie Stewart	19 Debra & Michael Stewart	20 Yoko Sweede	21 Prayer Partners
22 United States	23 Marilyn & Terry Switzer	24 Josephine & Paul Syiem	25 Holly Teixeira	26 Lovie Thomas	27 Sheri Tracy	28 Caring Crafters
29 Our World	30 David Van Curen	31 Sarah & Janice Vance	1 Joan Vanecek	2 Tolwe Wah	3 Gary & Kim Wallace	4 First Responders

Deacon of the Month:
 Kathi Hanson