

Dear Chapelites,

Christmas Eve Reservations - The Wonder of Christmas 2020 - Mission Opportunities - Sunday Schedule

Christmas Eve

There will be three Christmas Eve services this year. There will be room for you to invite your friends and family to come with you. Especially this year, we all need to celebrate the birth of Christ!



Indoor Christmas Eve services at 5:00 and 8:00 will feature Christmas carols and lighting real candles. We will limit sanctuary seating to 80 for each service. To sign up for your reservation, please call or email the office between December 14-21. Do it now!

In the past, we have had around 200 for our single Christmas service. Currently, our inside worship averages around 65. We don't know what to expect on Christmas Eve, so our sanctuary may not be filled for either service. If you choose not to reserve a place but decide at the last minute to attend, please come. You may or may not have a seat in the sanctuary. We will have overflow seating available.

Outdoor Christmas Eve service will be at 6:30. It will also feature Christmas carols. We will light glow sticks at the end of the service. You don't need a reservation.

Christmas Eve online: One of our indoor services will be live streamed so you can worship live or later. I will let you know which one after a decision is made available.

The Wonder of Christmas 2020

Don't miss the wonder of Christmas 2020!

Two Sundays before Christmas during our second worship service, we normally celebrate the annual Children's Christmas Program. Happy children dressed in festive finery have more anticipatory energy than the adults who attempt to corral them. The sanctuary is filled beyond the brim as relatives from all over come to watch. Excitement buzzes in the air. We hang on each word and hope our children will remember their lines. We are proud, we are moved, and we feel closer to Jesus.

This week as we gathered, some said it. Others just thought it. This is not the same. Too bad. Not only were relatives absent, but a recent surge moved more worshipers to our early outdoor service. The subdued indoor gathering was at one third capacity. We began our worship with the lighting of advent candles. Through masks, we sang "Joy to the World!" and meant it. Then we settled in for the prerecorded children's Christmas

program. And it was . . . awesome!

The children all represented well. They sang their songs. They remembered their lines. I was proud. My eyes sweated with emotion. I felt closer to Jesus! Due to my whining about what might have been, I almost missed the wonder that Christmas is.

Was it the best Christmas program ever? Yes! In the sense that every year's program is the best program ever. We realized that relatives around the area and around the country watched the program on the internet and shared the same feelings and were moved closer to Jesus.

This is a link to yesterday's full worship service including the Children's program: (Our live stream failed. Sorry.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KyEB7hftAk>

This link is for just the Children's program:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRpsj_RlhIA&t=5s

John tells the Christmas story this way: "The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. . . .yet the world did not know him. . . .But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:9-12—English Standard Version)

In the darkest of years, don't miss the wonder of Christ coming into his world. Christ is coming with health and healing and hope. Christ is coming with comfort for loved ones who have passed and for celebrations missed. Christ is coming with joy and love. Christ is coming with a miracle vaccine. Christ is coming into your heart. That is the wonder of Christmas 2020.

The Grinch of 2020 hasn't "stopped Christmas from coming! It came! Somehow or other, it came just the same!" (Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!)

On Christmas Eve, we will all celebrate the birth of our savior! Some will raise a lighted candle in our church sanctuary—or a lighted glow stick in our parking lot. Some will observe family Christmas Eve traditions. We will sing, "Silent night, holy night. . . .Christ, the savior is born!" The Christmas miracle will occur. Christ will enter his world again. Christ will enter your heart again.

Don't miss the wonder of Christmas 2020!

See you Sunday!
Pastor Brad

Mission Opportunities

Our Christmas Eve offering will go to Life Wise Academy. This is a program that provides Bible education to school students during the school day. We hope this will be

available in Liberty Center beginning Fall 2021. This video describes the program:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xz5IKZtwMA&feature=youtu.be>

Sunday Schedule

Option 1: Drive-in/Outside Worship. (8:15 am) - Come to the parking lot, and tune to FM 90.5.

Option 2: Inside Worship. (10:30 am) - Please observe physically distant seating and wear face coverings.

Option 3: Worship online. The service is live streamed at 10:30 am. You can watch it live or later. Liberty Chapel's YouTube channel is
<https://www.youtube.com/c/libertychapelc>

Sunday School. (9:15)

- December 14, 2020