

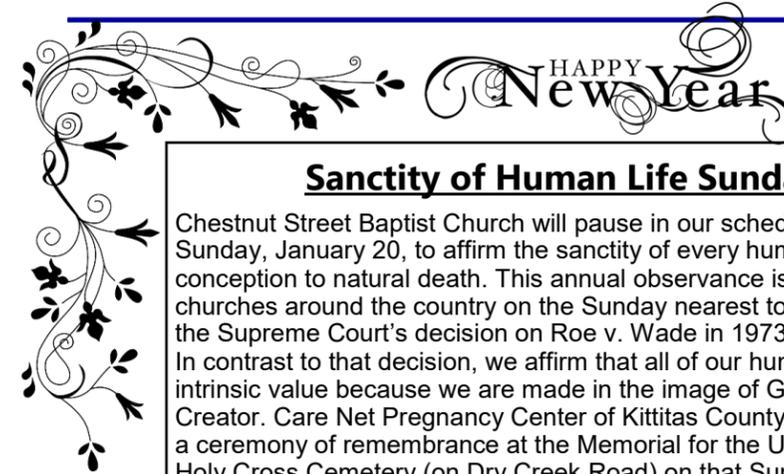


News and Information from Chestnut Street Baptist Church

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The Nutshell, January 2019



Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

Chestnut Street Baptist Church will pause in our schedule on Sunday, January 20, to affirm the sanctity of every human life, from conception to natural death. This annual observance is held by churches around the country on the Sunday nearest to the date of the Supreme Court's decision on Roe v. Wade in 1973 (January 22). In contrast to that decision, we affirm that all of our human lives have intrinsic value because we are made in the image of God our Creator. Care Net Pregnancy Center of Kittitas County will also hold a ceremony of remembrance at the Memorial for the Unborn at the Holy Cross Cemetery (on Dry Creek Road) on that Sunday (p. 3).

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As I See It ... by Pastor Frank Johnson
"Happy New Year?"

In a couple of different conversations lately, friends have said, "I just hope the new year is not like last year." I really get that. A lot of bad experience can be compressed into 365 days: job loss, the breakdown of close relationships, the death of friends or family members, the diagnosis of a serious illness. The list of Bad Experiences can extend *ad nauseum*. We want to say, "Happy New Year!" and then really hope that something that at least reminds us of happiness is really included in the coming 52 weeks.

I remember a mild shock a few years ago when I was looking closely at the book of Psalms for a potential series of messages to present to our fellowship of Jesus' followers. I was planning to present one message each week through the year. So, I was looking for about 50 psalms to study and then to expound for our congregation over the coming 12 months. I wanted to select psalms that represented the variety and power of the whole book. It was a spiritually beneficial process.

And so, I came to Psalm 78. This "Maskil of Asaph" as the Hebrew heading reports, begins with a standard Old Covenant theme. That theme is that every generation is called to receive the truth that God has revealed and then pass it on to the next generation. That plan is mapped out in vv. 1-7, but then, the beginning of verse 8 really caught me: "and that they should *not* be like their fathers, / a stubborn and rebellious generation, / a generation whose heart was not steadfast, / whose spirit was not faithful to God" (v. 8, ESV, my emphasis).

As a New Year statement, Asaph was essentially saying,

"Happy New Year! Now don't follow the example of the past (years), but rather, get it right this time!" The rest of this historical psalm recounts all the ways in which God acted on behalf of His people and how each time they managed to mess it all up. *Negative* example. "Do *not* be like that!" The net result of reading through that recap of history is that, as Asaph notes, no matter how bad the human example had been, God was still faithful. Asaph expressed great hopes for the future under the rule of King David (see vv. 67-72), but we know from the rest of the story that even David didn't get it all right, either.

As I see it, this is the value of a New Year. We are looking ahead to another 365 days in which we can learn to believe in and to trust in and to serve the living God. He has now revealed Himself even more fully through His very Son. "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19, ESV). Even if the past is full of bad examples and hard experience, we still trust in God, Who has demonstrated to us a quality of love that does not require either our perfect faithfulness or that of others (see Romans 5:8). In fact, He is in the business of salvaging life from the wrecking yard of Bad Experience. With that in mind, may God bless this new year before us.

My love in Christ,
 Pastor Frank

PS. Thank you very much for your support in serving God together! We especially appreciate the Christmas gifts that you have given to the staff this year. God bless you all!

In the Coming Month: January 2019

Sundays	9 a.m. Bible Study Hour, and 10:15 a.m. Worship
Tuesdays 6:30 p.m.	LIFE Group at Johnson's, 808 E. Capitol
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.	Prayer Group at the church's facilities, room 202
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.	Cornerstone Kids Club
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.	Ignition (youth group, grades 6-12)
Thursdays 6:30 p.m.	LIFE Group at Jim & Laura Bisonnette's, 2406 N. Ellington
Thursdays 7:00 p.m.	LIFE Group at Boudreau's, 1001 E. Mountainview
Thursdays 7:00 p.m.	Crosswalk (Collegiate students and young adults)
Fridays 4:30 p.m.	LIFE Group at Briarwood Commons, 1001 S. Chestnut St.
Sunday, Jan. 6, 10:15 a.m.	Lord's Supper Observance
Saturday, Jan. 12, 8 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
Saturday, Jan. 12, 2 p.m.	Wedding
Saturday, Jan. 19, 9 a.m.	Women's Breakfast
Sunday, Jan. 20	Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
Sunday, Jan. 20, 2 p.m.	Memorial for the Unborn

Stacia's Notes: Youth Ministry Update

Ignition

Ignition will keep on trucking through the Winter and we hope that it will be a highlight for each one involved, providing light and encouragement for every student and leader. God is so good to bless us with time together! Our times of gathering are always fun! And, I pray, beneficial for growth towards the Lord.

I will be taking some time off towards the end of January, or whenever our little one arrives. I plan to take 13 weeks off. During that time Ignition will continue, being led by Bryce and Aren, who are already faithful helpers and loved by our youth. We have a few different four-week series' that we will learn from throughout the Winter and Spring, starting with a series called "Big Dreams." We will explore four different characters throughout Scripture and how God spoke to them through dreams. I hope that these lessons will help us to hear God's voice in whatever way He is speaking to us! Join me in praying for this!

Sunday School

For the Advent season our youth and children's Sunday School classes joined together and it was a great time for all. I loved seeing our youth, new and old, being great helpers for the younger kids. It was so awesome to get to encourage them in this experience! I think this was beneficial for the kids, but maybe even more so for the youth, who got the chance to serve and be consciously aware of the impact they are having on someone else.

Please be in prayer for our youth Sunday School which is in need of a few faithful people to lead and teach during my time off. We have a good and fairly regular group of teens who gather on Sunday morning for prayer and Bible Study. I have a curriculum picked out that I think will be a good fit for that time so now we just need to ask God to provide workers for the harvest! He is faithful and I trust that He will for the good of these young believers and for His own glory!

Highlight Story

I love celebrating Christmas and doing so with family and friends. I count celebrating with our youth as one of these wonderful times for the holiday season! During our Bible Study lessons at Ignition through December we looked at different Christmas carol lyrics each week. We split into groups to discuss the song given (i.e. O Holy Night, Joy to The World, I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day), determining where we saw hope, or joy, or peace, or love in each of the works. On our final Ignition of the year I had some songs picked out for our groups to look at but decided to see if they would like to sing them together instead of just talking about them. Even our small group of 7 was eager to sing the songs together, declaring the beautiful truth of God's gift. This was my December youth ministry highlight. Sometimes singing together is a funny thing to do, and often teenagers are too self-conscious to eagerly, willingly do so. But that Wednesday night we all recognized together they worth of praising God for what He has so generously given to us. May this sentiment continue throughout the year!

With hope in Christ,
Your Youth Director, Stacia Harmsen

Collegiate Ministry Pastor Jeremy's Update

Easter and Spring Choir

We are so thankful for the opportunity to sing praise to God and celebrate what He has done. Rehearsals for our Easter choir will begin the first part of February, so keep a lookout in the bulletin for details, or talk with Jeremy any time. Sharing music along with the Sunday School and preschool/daycare kids was such a blessing and a real highlight at the start of the Christmas season. Thank you to all who came to listen and participate!

Collegiate Ministry

Winter quarter is upon us, and with it new opportunities to serve and grow. Pray with us for the team from Tarleton State University with us January 6-10. Pray that God would be preparing the hearts and ears of the team of four, and those of us here reaching out to CWU that week. And pray that we will be able to follow up with the great connections made! Thank you to those who are providing housing and food for the team while they are with us. It is inspiring to be on the receiving end of college students on mission. May God multiply their efforts among us!

As a new year is upon us, many are reevaluating their schedules and habits. We are seeking for those whom God would plant here in Chestnut Street Baptist Church. Will you join us in that prayer, and in being both inviting and encouraging hosts? Crosswalk is back on for every Thursday through Finals week, and we will be engaging the Bible around the theme of Staying Strong Through Hardship. Putting on God's full armor will be the first few week's focus, followed by some weeks on relationships: We will ask ourselves, what does Scripture teach us about dating, and how can we practice contentment in our current circumstances? (Among other things.)

If you like to bake, we'd love to have some treats for after Crosswalk. Each week after our time of worship, we like to gather around and visit and have some snacks. Talk to Jeremy or Lacey if you'd like to provide one or two weeks this quarter.

On a personal note, thank you so much for your continued ministry to my family through providing such a wonderful job for me to do. My hope and prayer is that 2019 will see tremendous growth in each participant here at CSBC, and I am so grateful to play a small part.

Yours,
Jeremy

New Logo Adopted by Church



Making Your Case for Christ

A new Bible Study Class will be offered by Mark Oursland starting January 6, 2019. The title of the study is *Making Your Case for Christ*. It will feature Lee Strobel and Mark Mittelberg, who have collaborated on a variety of good studies for Christian growth and witness. The class will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. All you need to do is show up and join in! The workbook materials for the class will be available (possibly with a minimal cost).

Business Meeting Highlights

In our recent business meeting (December 16, 2018), the church made several decisions and plans for future ministry. First, we decided to produce a new Pictorial Directory in winter or early spring of 2019. Lydia Gross and Lacey Myers will head up that project.

We also adopted a new logo (see p. 2) that retains the lighthouse theme. We also agreed with hearty approval to grant Stacia Harmsen 3 months (13 weeks) of paid maternity leave. The leave will begin when she feels it necessary. Her baby is due January 21.

We affirmed three members of the Nominating Team (2 to be added later), and heard reports from ministry leaders, team leaders, and Chestnut Preschool and Daycare.

The Upper County Project Team reports that remodeling the upstairs of the Ronald building is moving forward. They reported a need for help to prep one of the rooms for painting. The painting is scheduled for January 5.

Finally, the 2019 budget proposal from the Financial Stewardship Team was discussed and approved. The overall budget will be decreased by about \$8,000 for 2019 while still allowing for a 5% increase in staff support. God has blessed us! The building payment was decreased this year from the recent refinancing through the NW Baptist Foundation. It is now \$4,257.40/month.

Also, we have recently had a new dishwasher donated that is now installed in the kitchen. We are having a video surveillance system installed.

Deacons Coordinate Practical Ministries

In the next few weeks, the deacons are hoping to put together a list of ways to meet people's needs in the Church. A survey will then be created for church members to fill out who are willing to assist when needs arise. Once compiled, the deacons will maintain and reference this information to better help those in our Church family. Watch for the survey to be distributed soon.



Cold Weather Shelter

The Cold Weather Shelter is in full swing! Seven different churches are hosting the shelter each week for one night each. Our church hosts the shelter on Friday night. We use trained volunteers to serve during the three shifts: evening, overnight, and wake-up. If you have been thinking about being involved, contact Jordan and Lydia Gross or Bryce Harmsen for more information about upcoming training sessions. Those who are already trained should use sign-up.com to schedule their times to volunteer.

The shelter has come under the oversight of FISH Food Bank, which is administering a grant provided by Kittitas County for the next three years. The grant makes possible the hiring of a director and the provision of morning and evening boxed meals. Ben Harbaugh is the new director of this ministry that goes from mid-November through mid-March.

Women's Ministry Events

Our regular Women's Breakfast will be on Saturday, January 19, at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a light breakfast, conversation, and a short devotional.

New Message Series in Late January

Pastor Frank will begin a new 8-week sermon series from Ezra beginning January 27, 2019. The theme is *Becoming Agents of Spiritual Renewal* and will explore the contemporary application of the book of Ezra.

Ceremony at Memorial for the Unborn

On Sunday, January 20, Care Net Pregnancy Center in Ellensburg will hold a special ceremony of remembrance at the Memorial for the Unborn at Holy Cross Cemetery (Dry Creek Road). This brief service will begin at 2:00 p.m. and will affirm the sanctity of every human life, from conception to natural death. Chestnut Street Baptist Church will celebrate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on January 20, as well.



Men's Ministry Events

Monthly Breakfast

All Gentleman are invited to join together Saturday, January 12, at 8:00 a.m. for a time of Scripture, food and fellowship.