Central Courier

137 Hopson Road
Johnson City, TN 37601
Phone: 928-4421 / Fax: 928-4421
Email: lori.jesusiscentral@gmail.com



December 2026

Minister's Moment—Are Your Gifts Ready?

The Christmas music is already playing. The "best sales ever" are already hitting the commercials, ads, and shelves. The "Top 10" lists are popping up on your feed. It is a full-blown shoppers' paradise out there, and the Amazon and Walmart orders are already being placed. What will we get for our spouse? What will we get for our parents? What will we get for our grandchildren, co-workers, friends, postman, children's teachers, and the gift exchanges? It is a mad dash of spending, checking off lists, ordering, managing debt, and trying to outdo last year. We are at the pinnacle of consumerism—the extent of which will only be known when the credit card bill comes due in January.

Now, before I go any further, please don't hear me wrong: there is nothing wrong with giving gifts to those around you. In fact, I am going to encourage you to give gifts. The question you need to ask is, *Am I focused on the most important gifts?*

> **2 Corinthians 9:15** - Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!
> **Romans 8:32** - He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?
> **John 3:16** - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

The greatest gift, most important gift, eternity-changing gift—and as the Bible describes, the indescribable gift—**is** Jesus, along with all the resulting gifts that stem from His sacrifice. Some of these include forgiveness, grace, restoration, adoption into God's family, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, peace that surpasses understanding, purpose, joy, and the removal of guilt.

The point is, Jesus is who we should be focused on this time of year: what He has done, who we are because of what He has done, and how to show others what He has done. That absolutely might be through a gift, or it might be through a conversation, or it might be through a visible act of forgiveness or service. Jesus didn't just come to give us the greatest of all gifts—Himself; He came to change our relationships with the Father and with each other.

> **2 Corinthians 9:11-13** - You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

We aren't supposed to just receive this unbelievable gift; we are supposed to share it with others. Is that your focus? Are you asking yourself, *Will this gift express my love for Jesus and my love for the recipient?* Whatever you are shopping for, make sure you are intentionally working to give the gift of Jesus to everyone you come into contact with.

> **1 Peter 4:10** - Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

This is a great time to give. Jesus gave us Himself; now it is time for us to give ourselves.

December 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 **5am**-Men's Group	**2** **3pm**-Ladies Bible Study **6:30pm**-Youth Group **6:30pm**-Kid's Christmas Program Practice **6:30pm**-Adult Bible Stdy	3	4	5 **8:30am**-Joy Group Breakfast **5pm**-Adult Christmas Party
6 **9:00am**-Worship/Kid's Worship/SS Class **10:35am**-Worship/Sunday School 5pm-The Great Gingerbread Build Off **6pm**-Bible Study in the auditorium Connection Groups (at various times)	7 **5pm**-Men's Group	8 **5am**-Men's Group **10am**-Ladies Craft Group	9 **3pm**-Ladies Bible Study **6:30pm**-Youth Group **6:30pm**-Kid's Christmas Program Practice **6:30pm**-Adult Bible Stdy	10	11	12
13 **9:00am**-Worship/Kid's Worship/SS **10:35am**-Worship/Sunday School **12pm-2pm**-Kid's (K-5th) Christmas Program Practice **2:30pm**-Homeless Ministry **5pm-7pm**-Youth Christmas Party **6pm**-Bible Study in the auditorium Connection Groups (at various times)	14 **5pm**-Men's Group	15 **5am**-Men's Group **7pm**-Carter Co. Men's Fellowship at Sims Hill CC	16 **5pm**-Kid's Christmas Program Practice **6:30pm**-Christmas Caroling	17	18	19
20 **10am**-Combined Worship (Pavilion) (Followed by Youth Fundraiser meal) **12:30pm**-Deacon's Meeting **5pm**-Children's Christmas Program (followed by reception)	21 **5pm**-Men's Group	22 **5am**-Men's Group	23 **No Bible Study or Kid's events this evening**	24 **5pm**-Christmas Eve Service	25 Happy Birthday Jesus	26
27 **9:00am**-Worship/Kid's Worship/SS Class **10:35am**-Worship/Sunday School **6pm**-Bible Study in the auditorium Connection Groups (at various times)	28 **5pm**-Men's Group	29 **5am**-Men's Group	30 **No Bible Study or Kid's events this evening**	31 **7pm**-Family Game Night	East Tennessee Christian Home & Academy **Needed for December** **Trash bags, 33 gallon/13 & 8 gallons, paper towels**	

Happy Birthday

1-Braylon Vance
2-Mikkayla King
2-Pam Malchow
5-Elynn Turbyfield
6-Blake Ellis
6-Greer Norman
6-Wesley Taylor
10-Olivia Markley
12-Gage Reid
13-Harlow Edney
13-Drew Turbyfield
15-Tim Russo
17-John Pansock
18-Rhoda Baker
18-Jennifer Greene
21-Nathaniel Brown
21-Waylon Price
21-Jim Vance
21-Kiera Wolfe
22-Everett Smith
22-Sharon Winters
23-Ashley Church
23-Laurel Church
25-Hunter Pierson
26-Bob Glover
27-Abby Markley
28-Marley Schmidt
29-Ivan Rice
29-Ashlee Bradshaw
30-Justin White
31-Keith Burchfield
31Juliana Pairman

Happy Anniversary

3-Justin & Becky White
4-Jason & Bethany Markley
7-Eric & Katie Carter
8-Danny & Lori VanDyke
11-Paul & Cindia Jumper Arnold
16-Danny & Kathy Pell
27-Chauncey & Betty Fernandes
28-Bob & Leora Hendrix
30-Nathan & Delanie Winningham



December 2026
Workers' Schedule

Children's Ministries

Preschool/Nursery 1st Worship:

6: Courtney Dailey, Nancy LeMay & Lissy Valentine
13: Becky Kelley, Abigail Kelly & Elizabeth Kelly
20: Sharon Hammons, Lori Whitson Jeremiah McClain, & Elias Norman
27: Theresa King & Mikkayla King & Kimber Winningham

Nursery 2nd Worship:

6: Susie Wolfe & Julie Yunker
13: Sharon Hammons / Lori Whitson
20: Combined Worship
27: Karen Robey & Megan Vines

Preschool 2nd Worship:

6: Leora Hendrix
13: Carolyn Caraway
20: Combined Worship
27: Connie Wade

Preschool Helpers 2nd Worship:

6: Connie Wade
13: Lori Smith
20: Combined Worship
27: Lori VanDyke

Kid's Worship:

6: Janice Greene/Ryan Greene
13: Allen & Tasha Dykes
20: Family Sunday
27: Julie Murphy/Jeremiah McClain

Worship Ministries

Communion Meditations:
Worship #1 & 2

6: Andrew Norman
13: Kemp Haley
20: Jamie Lundy
27: Tom Caraway

Sound Room:

6: Matt Wolfe, Ian Wolfe & Henry Turbyfield
13: Daniel Hill, Josh Carter & Wesley Price
20: Josh Carter, Matt Wolfe, & Wayne Turbyfield
27: Josh Carter, Ian Wolfe & Henry Turbyfield

Brew Crew:

6: Jessica Greene
13: Lori Whitson
20: Combined Worship
27: Larry & Sharon Hammons

Medical Attendant:

6: Needed
13: Janet Wolfe
20: Bonnie Hoover
27: Needed

Worship #1 Greeters:

6: Russell & Megan Vines
13: Steve & Julia Strazay
20: Tom & Terry Turbyfield
27: David & Theresa King

Worship #2 Greeters:

6: Larry & Sharon Hammons
13: Bob & Fetty Judge
20: Combined Worship
27: Alan & Robin Taylor

Welcome Team

6: Chauncey & Betty Fernandes
13: Dan & Nancy LeMay
20: Combined Worship
27: Bryan & Jill Hughes

Van Drivers Schedule

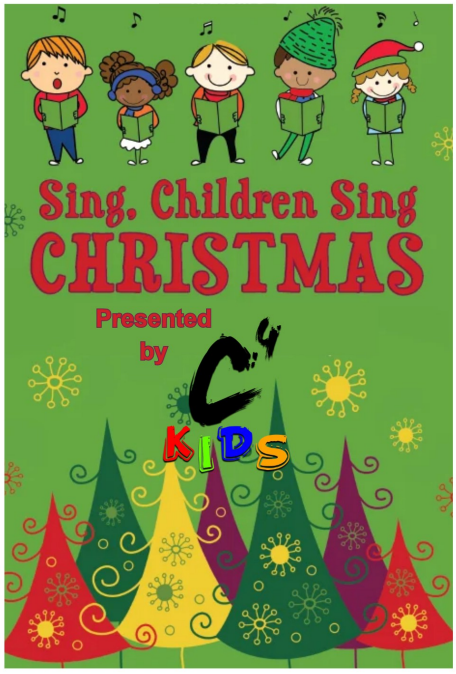
6: Bruce & Karla Hennequinn
13: David & Becky Hays
20: Allen & Tasha Dykes
27: Hallie Butts

Service Attendants:

6: Blue Team
13: Orange Team
20: Red Team
27: White Team

C4 Family Ministry Moments

Jeremiah's Contact info:
Text:833-463-7010 email: jeremiah@jesusiscentral.com



Children's Christmas Program Info

Practice dates:

- **Wednesday, December 2nd** | 6:30pm in the Upper Room
- **Wednesday, December 9th** | 6:30pm in the Upper Room
- **Sunday, December 13th** | Following Service 12pm to 2pm
- **Wednesday, December 16th** | 5pm before Caroling

Program December 20th at 5pm

Scan the QR code to the left to access the playlist of songs for your children to practice



The Family Favorite Event Returns!!

The Great Gingerbread Build Off

Dec 6th | 5pm

In the Pavilion

Gather the family and come build a gingerbread house with us—we'll provide all the supplies!



C4 Students Christmas Party

December 13th | 5PM - 7PM
Location to be determined
Join us for all of the Christmas Challenges, Food, and tons of fun!

December Sunday School Lesson Schedule

Adults/Youth:				
December 6:	—	Unit 15 Session 4	—	God's Nation Fell (2 Chronicles 36)
December 13:	—	Unit 15 Session 5	—	God's Revival Promised (Ezekiel 37)
December 20:	—	Combined Worship	—	No Sunday School
December 27:	—	Unit 16 Session 1	—	Obedience (Daniel 1)
Children:				
December 6:	—	Unit 15 Session 4	—	Judah was Taken Captive (2 Chronicles 36)
December 13:	—	Unit 15 Session 5	—	Ezekiel Gave Hope (Ezekiel 37)
December 20:	—	Combined Worship	—	No Sunday School
December 27:	—	Unit 16 Session 1	—	Daniel Obeyed God (Daniel 1)



Sunday, December 20th
10:00am

(No meal this month)

Wednesdays will look differently in December with the Christmas season. Be sure to check the calendar to find out what is happening each week!

Through December, we will be taking a break from our Wednesday meals. We will resume on January 13th. Plan to join us!

Join the Joy Group for breakfast in the fellowship hall on Saturday, December 5, at 8:30 a.m.! The church will provide biscuits, gravy, and sausage—just sign up in the foyer to let us know what you'd like to bring.

Adult Annual Christmas Party

Join us at the pavilion on Saturday, December 5, at 5:30 p.m. for the Adult Christmas Party! Dinner and childcare will be provided. To participate in the game, please bring a $15 gift for either a man or a woman. Be sure to sign up on the sheet in the foyer!

If you signed up to adopt a resident from Ivy Hall, please have your wrapped gifts, clearly marked and bundled together to the church by December 13th. See Billy Murphy for more info!

rightnow MEDIA

The church provides access to RightNow Media, and everyone in the congregation can set up a free account! It includes Bible studies, movies, kids' videos, and more. Text your email address to Billy Murphy (423) 306-6021 to receive an invitation to create your free account.

On Sunday, December 13th, we will feed the homeless in Johnson City. We will meet at 2pm to prepare the meal. If you would like to volunteer to prepare and/or serve the meal, see Billy Murphy.

Christmas Angel Program

If you signed up to purchase for a Christmas Angel, please have gifts wrapped (bundled together if possible) to the church by December 16th. There are several children left to adopt, see Billy Murphy for info!

Children's Christmas Program



The Children's Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 20, at 5:00pm! There will be a reception following the program. Please bring finger foods to share with our visitors. Come join us!



On Wednesday, December 16, we will go Christmas caroling throughout the community at 6:30 p.m. Dress appropriately for the weather and come join the fun!

Christmas Eve Service

Join us on Thursday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m. for our 45-minute Christmas Eve Service—a special time of worship and celebration!



Everyone is invited to Family Game Night on Thursday, December 31, at 7:00 p.m.! Bring your favorite game and a finger food to share, and join the fun!