

Faith Community Church of God

December 2011

FCCHOG Schedule

Sundays

9:30 am - Sunday School
10:20 am - Fellowship
10:45 am - Morning Worship

Wednesdays

9:00 am - Women's Bible Study
6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting
6:30 pm - Shaken (All Youth)
6:30 pm - Warehouse252

December Friendly Reminders

Greeters

Marsha Sands
Barb McCarty

Ushers

Sylvia McHenry
Forrest Kramer
Brenda Mudrack
Charlie Brumbaugh
Kyle Hamilton
Don Carpenter

Church Bus Drivers

12/4 - Dan Stults
12/11 & 12/18 - Don Lorton
12/25 & 1/1 - Ron Hammel

Team Meetings

Tuesday, December 6
7:00 pm Christian Education

Tuesday, December 13
6:30 pm Leadership Council

Quick Link

We have revamped our website.
Stop by and see what's new at
[Faith Community](#)

A Note from Pastor Steve

I

love Christmas stories that involve children. One of the reasons is that children have a way of looking past the packaging to the real thing.

The first-grade class presented a Nativity play shortly before Christmas. When Joseph came to the inn and asked if there was room at the inn, the little boy playing the Inn-keeper replied, "You're in luck. We just had a cancellation."

My favorite Christmas story involving children also revolves around a small boy playing the innkeeper. This little boy desperately wanted to be good in his role and he was told that his only line would be, "There is no room at the inn!" He practiced the one line over and over.

In rehearsals everything went fine. But right before the performance, for dramatic effect, an impassioned teacher-director decided to have the character of Joseph make a particularly fervent plea for the need for a room.

When the innkeeper watched Joseph and Mary approach and listened to the moving entreaty by Joseph for a room, he somewhat reluctantly followed through with his line, "There is no room at the inn!"

But the young innkeeper was not prepared for the slump of Joseph's shoulder or the downcast eyes of the little girl playing Mary. As the couple turned to leave, the boy suddenly burst out and said, "But you can have *my* room."

Christmas is always such a busy time of year. There are cards to get out, decorations to put up, shopping to do, presents to wrap, programs and parties to attend - *Whew!* - and before we know it, we realize in the midst of all those things we forgot to pause, to enjoy, and to remember what Christmas is all about.

I know. You had intended to make room for some quiet times at home, a drive to look at Christmas lights, quality time with family baking Christmas goodies and stringing popcorn, observing some special traditions and making some new memories. What happened?

Let me remind you that it's not too late. It's only the beginning of December. Make some appointments now to do the things that are important and don't be driven by the urgent.

AND, like the innkeeper in the stories above, make room for Jesus. It's his birth and life we commemorate. All the lights and decorations will be put away, the tree and its needles removed from the house, and December will drift into a cold blustery January. Yet, when you make room for Jesus, He remains. The joy, hope, and peace of the season continues with Him.

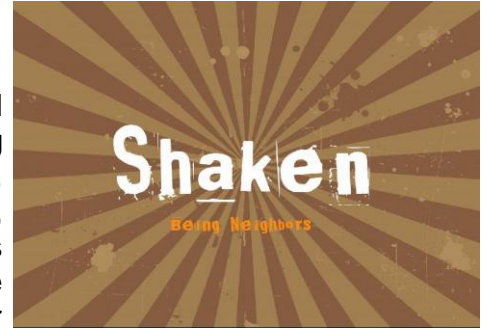
May this Christmas be special because of the choices you make now that will create a difference long past the holiday season.

Pastor Steve

Shaken News

Great things are happening in the children/youth programs here at Faith Community!

First, I want to thank all the volunteers who help with the youth and children's programs. People are stepping up to the plate and volunteering for Warehouse; helping with everything from playing a part in the production, fixing meals for the kids, doing behind the scenes work, giving financially, and picking kids up with the bus. The other exciting aspect of our volunteers is the Sunday morning program. People are helping make costumes for the Christmas play, picking up supplies, and giving of their time. Our volunteer support for Sunday School time is great as well, people are helping teach Sunday School and asking to help wherever needed. It is so awesome to see people giving of their time, money, and resources to help our Children's Ministry here at Faith Community. Thank you again for the patience while we transition.



Our Wednesday night youth activities are going great as well. The youth are engaged and asking questions about life, faith and ministry. It is such an exciting time to be a part of the youth program here.

I had mentioned last month about a group of guys I went to college with that are doing youth ministry around Fort Wayne. We got together again this month for a time of fellowship and prayer. It is such a rewarding time for all of us to learn and grow together.

Again, thanks to everyone for the help, time and prayers.

Austin Pettigrew, Minister of Youth and CE

Warehouse252 News



I am SO excited to start Wednesday night programming for Faith Community!! We launched the program November 30th! The evening was filled with activities to get the kids comfortable with their surroundings and our volunteers. Some of the activities included: Speed meet and greet, obstacle courses and questions from a bucket! All geared at getting to know the kids a little better... and for them to get to

know us!

Next month we will introduce the virtue of "Generosity" which is defined by Warehouse as: making someone's day by giving something away. In the spirit of generosity, we have asked that the congregation donate to allow us to give each child a Warehouse t-shirt. If you have not done so, but would like to, please let me or Jillian know!

I cannot express how grateful I am for those of you who have offered your assistance in a number of ways: volunteering, donations, support and continued prayer for the development of the program! I ask that you continue to pray for guidance as we develop the program, for kids/parents to make this a priority, and for the growth in faith/knowledge for all who are involved.

Keely

December News

Bell Ringing

Once again Faith Community will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 10 from 9 am to 8 pm at Owens North. You can sign up for one hour or more. The sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board by the church office.

New2U Toy Drive

Time to clean out kids rooms! Crossroad Connections will be holding a "New 2 U Christmas Toy Drive". It doesn't take a "new" toy to put a smile on a child's face at Christmas. A donation box for toys has been placed in the church lobby. On Saturday, December 10, Crossroad Connections will hold a trade and buy time for these lightly used toys. From 2-4 pm you can trade a toy for another and from 4:30-6:30 pm, you can buy used toys at very inexpensive prices. The event will be held at Faith Community. Children may be dropped off at West Park Skate Center during these hours while parents trade and shop for \$3.50/child. From 4:30-6:30 pm there will also be a Family Skate held as a fundraiser for Crossroad Connections. A shuttle will run from the Crossroad Connection Depot to West Park Skate and then to Faith Community Church for those without transportation from downtown. We appreciate your support by donating toys or volunteering your time for the event. Please, only toys you would give your child. Contact Valerie Fields at 355-7030 for more information.

Christmas Caroling

On Sunday, December 18 we will be traveling to local nursing homes to spread some Christmas cheer through song. We will meet at Faith Community at 5:30 pm.

Christmas Cantata

During the worship service on Sunday, December 18, the Faith Community choir will be performing the Christmas cantata entitled "I Have Seen The Light." The children will also be performing. Please join us for this service of celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christ's Birthday Observance

The theme this year is *Making Room*. "She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7 NIV. "Welcome" was not what the innkeeper said to Mary and Joseph two thousand years ago. Luke's gospel recorded for us the regrettable message that there was *no room for them in the inn*. *Making room* for Jesus has been the primary focus of the Christ's Birthday Observance celebration for more than sixty years. Christian Women Connection, formerly Women of the Church of God, has appropriately developed their theme this year to call our attention to the choices that we have to make this Christmas. Will you *make room* for this global celebration of Christ's birthday in your schedule? In your family? In your budget? There are devotional booklets available on the welcome table for families to use during the Advent Season. We will collect the Christ's Birthday Offering on Sunday, December 18. The offering goes to help spread the good news of Christ's coming around the world.

Special Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 pm we will have our annual Candles, Carols and Communion Service.

Christmas Day

Services on Christmas day (Sunday, December 25) will start at 10 am. There will be no Sunday school that morning.

Wednesday Activities -There will be no Wednesday evening activities on December 28.

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed December 26 - January 3.

Christmas Card - To save on postage this holiday season, bring your Christmas cards to members of the congregation to the church. Cards can be distributed in the mailboxes located by the church office.

Laundry Ministry

On Tuesday, December 6, the 509 community is opening its basement for a laundry ministry. The idea behind a laundry ministry is to provide an essential household service at no cost in an attempt to lighten the financial burden of people in Huntington. For the time being, they'll be open only on Tuesdays from 10 am to 10 pm. People will be able to come in during those hours to do laundry at no cost. They will, however, need to provide their own laundry detergent, and there will be a two-load limit per day. There will be two people there to help out, answer questions, and chat with folks as they come in. The laundry ministry is not just a "509 thing". They have a deep desire to partner with other church communities in Huntington, so they want to communicate to you that they would love for you to be involved in this ministry, if you'd like to be. Here are some ways that you could partner with them:

- Volunteers to work part of the 12-hour shift on Tuesdays
- Donate dryer sheets, fabric softener, or stain remover
- We're in need of at least a couch, possibly other furniture to help furnish the Laundromat
- Monetary donations to help offset the monthly utilities cost of the Laundromat (checks payable to 509 Community)

We would appreciate your support in whatever way you feel led to give it, whether it's through prayer, donation, volunteering, or just spreading the word to people who need to do laundry for free. We're so thankful to be working and living alongside each of you in Huntington as we all seek to be part of the redemption and reconciliation of this town. If you have any questions, please feel welcome to contact Seth Lochmueller at (260) 446-1052 or sethlochmueller@509community.com. Thank you for loving and serving the community of Huntington.

Current Adult Sunday School Electives (9:30 am)

- John Wagner is leading a class on the book *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan.
- Connie Anderson & Ed Robbins are teaching a class focusing on 2 Corinthians.

Ladies Wednesday Bible Studies

- * The morning women's Bible study is meeting at 9 am in the church library to study the book "30 Days to Taming Your Tongue" by Deborah Smith Pegues.
- * The Wednesday evening Bible study group finished their study and are taking a break through the holidays. Meetings will resume in January.

Love In the Name of Christ

In December, we will be collecting noodles, canned vegetables and laundry soap for Love In the Name of Christ's food pantry. Donations can be placed in the collection box in the church lobby.

Aluminum Cans

Please collect and bring in your aluminum cans the last Sunday of every month (December 25). Faith Community volunteers take the cans to Clark's where they are exchanged for cash and put into the General Fund.

Thank You

Faith Community Church of God,

We appreciated using your beautiful church for our October senior community fall party! Wow! It was like 'Heaven'. Close, handy, and spacious. Thanks to Pastor Steve for all of his help in setting up and helping! --
Thanks again, Kathy Knecht, Norwood Health & Rehabilitation

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5:00 pm Choir Practice		7:00 pm Christian Educ. Meeting	9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Prayer Meeting, Shaken (Youth) & Warehouse 252			9 am - 8 pm Ringin Bells @ Owen's North 2 pm - 6:30 pm New 2 U Christmas Toy Drive
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
5:00 pm Choir Practice		6:30 pm Leadership Council Meeting	9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Prayer Meeting, Shaken (Youth) & Warehouse 252			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Christmas Cantata 3 pm - Church Building Reserved 5:30 pm Christmas Caroling			9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Prayer Meeting, Shaken (Youth) & Warehouse 252			7 pm Christmas Eve Service
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 am Morning Worship			9:00 am Women's Bible Study No Wednesday Evening Activities			

Faith Community's Staff

Steve Stull - Senior Pastor - cell phone (260) 224-1169 - steve@faithcchog.org
 Austin Pettigrew - Minister of Youth and Education - austin@faithcchog.org
 Keely Oswald - Weekday Evening Children's Leader - keely@faithcchog.org
 Zach Pattison - Music & Worship Leader - zach@faithcchog.org
 Jillian Parsons - Administrative Assistant - info@faithcchog.org

The "mission" of the Faith Community Church of God is to inspire
 ordinary people to become fully devoted followers of Christ