

3611 E. County Line Rd, Lutz, FL 33559 - 813.909.4646

December 17, 2023



CHURCH OF CHRIST
NORTH TAMPA

Sunday

Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study
7:00 p.m.

**Welcome
Visitors**

We hope you find our worship service enriching and inspiring. Please let us know if you have questions about our church family or how we may serve you in your quest for God.



Peace
ON EARTH



DEACONS

Leading through Serving.

Roles and Responsibilities

New Deacons

Jan Blackwell

Will Harris

Jason Smith

Adult Education

Young Adults

Life Groups

Current Deacons

Lee Chatham

Richard Hammonds

Paul Matches

Neil Pomeranke

Bob Ray

Children's Ministry

**Member Connections
& Involvement**

Shut Ins

Dynamic Youth

Financials

END OF THE YEAR TO-DO LIST:

Check the Digital Church Directory

- ◆ **Is your contact and address information up to date and accurate?**

Please email churchoffice@ntcofc.org with your updated information so the directory can be updated and your 2023 Tax Record of Donations can be mailed to you by the end of January.

- ◆ **Is your church family photo current? Do you need an update?**

Contact Connie Eckstine to have your photo taken on Sunday.

Check bank statements for accuracy of automated donations

- ◆ **Are church donations properly appearing on your bank statements?**

If you give via the Website or Txt2Give, check your bank statements regularly to verify that donations are being deducted as you directed. Errors can occur in these automated systems that may end your deductions without warning. A good rule of thumb is to monitor your statements for any change you did not request.



For December, any canned vegetables and boxes of stuffing are requested. Other non-perishable items are also welcome. Monetary donations allow MOH to buy meats and produce. If you give a check, make it payable to North Tampa Church of Christ and designate MOH in the note section of your check. We will send one check from the church to MOH at intervals, depending on the number of donations. Your generosity is very appreciated and vital to providing meals for hungry people in need.



Sunday, December 24

All Bible classes are cancelled.

Congregational Fellowship Time 9:30 to 10:15am
Coffee & Donuts

Children's Church will meet during worship.



Sunday, December 31

The auditorium Bible class will meet. All other Bible classes are cancelled.

For this 5th Sunday worship, we will have a time of Praises, Prayers, Communion, and Elders' Reflection.

Children's Church will meet during this time.

Peace on Earth

A Christmas Sermon by: Austin Drake

December 17, 2023

The 1914 Christmas Truce: A True Story

One of the most underrated Christmas movies in recent years is *Joyeux Noël* (2005). The film is about the ceasefire that took place between France, Germany, and England during the first year of WWI on December 24, 1914. This story shows how focusing on Jesus through worship brought peace amongst 100,000 men for one very special night.

I. We are more _____ than we think.

Proverbs 22:2 (NKJV)

The rich and the poor have this in common:
The Lord is the maker of them all.

Jeremiah 32:27 (NLT)

I am the LORD, the God of all the peoples of the world.

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Notes:

Acts 17:26 (NIV)

From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NIV)

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the **unity** of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is **one** body and **one** Spirit, just as you were called to **one** hope when you were called; **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism; **one** God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

1 Peter 1:3 (NLT)

Finally, all of you should be of **one** mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude.

II. _____ brings us together

Psalm 100:1-3 (NIV)

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of his pasture.

Learnings from Ephesians 4-5

"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us..." (5:1-2)

- A. Instead of unwholesome talk, we should _____
each other up (4:29)
- B. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, _____
and slander, along with every form of malice (4:31). How?
- C. By being kind and compassionate to _____,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave [us]" (4:32)
- D. Don't be greedy (5:5), nor get drunk because this leads to
_____ (5:18). What should we do instead?

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

Ephesians 5:19-20 (NIV)

Speak to "one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

It is hard to commit the sins listed in ch. 4-5 when we are busy
_____ together.

A. Psalm - A divinely inspired song (ex: The Book of Psalms)

B. Hymn - A (non-inspired) song of worship praising the Lord directly
Examples: I Love You Lord; Father, We Adore You; Thank you,
Lord; We Praise Thee, O God; Lord, We Come Before Thee
Now; Holy, Holy, Holy; Prince of Peace

C. Spiritual song - a song that deals with spiritual themes

- ◇ Many of the songs we sing are “spiritual songs”
- ◇ Examples: O Sacred Head; Up From the Grave; Blue Skies and Rainbows; Jesus Loves Me; This is My Father’s World; I Know that My Redeemer Lives; Standing on the Promises; The Glory-Land Way; A Wonderful Savior
- ◇ Spiritual Songs Sung on December 24, 1914
 - I. The First Noel, O Come All Ye Faithful, Silent Night
 - II. Based on Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 2

III. Focusing on _____ should bring us peace

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

A. No peace on Earth?

Matthew 10:34-36 (NIV)

Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.

- This refers to Christians vs. _____, NOT amongst ourselves!

- We are to love the Lord with all our hearts, even if that causes strife with unbelieving family members (Matthew 10:37).
- If we are to be divided amongst our households, let it be because of our faith, not because of _____.

B. Love in action

Romans 12:16 (NIV)

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

How did the soldiers on December 24, 1914 do this?

- They _____ those who persecuted them (Romans 12:14)
- They _____ and _____ with each other that night (Romans 12:15)
- They lived in _____ with each other (Romans 12:16)
 - ◇ KJV: Be of the same mind one toward another
 - ◇ They all had Jesus and peace and love on their minds!

Peace on Earth starts with peace in the Church

Philippians 2:1-11 (NIV)

Colossians 3:13-14 (NLT)

Question to consider

What relationships do I need to restore to bring about peace?



Coming Soon!

40 Days of Following the Way of Love

Statistics

December 10, 2023

Sunday School	122
Worship	192
Contribution	\$5,722
Bldg. Fund	\$181,008

TXT2GIVE

**Quick & Easy
Mobile Giving**

Text GIVE and the AMOUNT

813-642-7288

Elders

Monte Betz
615-306-5090

Kris Kent
239-287-0390

John Shackelford
703-798-8632

John Wharton
865-599-6571

Church Office Hours
8:30 to 4:30
Monday through Thursday

The church WiFi
password
NorthTampaGuest

Office Email:
churchoffice@ntcofc.org
Website:
www.norhtampa.church

Deacons

Jan Blackwell
615-775-0387

Lee Chatham
251-533-2924

Richard Hammonds
813-924-6717

Will Harris
931-237-3636

Paul Matches
813-390-0787

Neil Pomeranke
813-500-1779

Bob Ray
440-223-9357

Jason Smith
850-708-4636

Staff

Pulpit Minister
Neal Pharr
813-220-3073

Associate Minister
Austin Drake
706-512-0863

Administrator
Sandy West
813-909-4646

Audio Visual Tech
Joel Ellis
813-333-3578

Children's Ministry
Co-Leaders
Kristi Chatham
251-533-2851

Vikki Minor
210-601-6220

THOSE WHO SERVE

Worship Assignment	December 17	December 24	December 31
Coordinator	Peter Franco	Peter Franco	Peter Franco
Usher	Matt Manzi	Nathan Baker	Logan Pomerence
Greeting & Announcements	Monte Betz	Monte Betz	Monte Betz
Scripture Reading & Opening Prayer	Brent Byrd	Steve Dumas	Bill Collett
Communion & Offering	Jan Blackwell	David Tomlinson	Jason Smith
Closing Prayer	Brian Hassenplug	John Wharton	Nathan Blackwell
Nursery	Alexis Jennings Kathy Blackwell	Vickie Green Sandy Boyer	Vickie Green Sandy Boyer
Coffee Ministry	Mackenzie Tomlinson	John Shackelford	John Shackelford
Greeters	Linda Vines LeeAndra Griffin	Linda Vines LeeAndra Griffin	Linda Vines LeeAndra Griffin