CONNECTION POINT DECEMBER 2024, CONNECT, ALIGN, LIVE

WE ARE COMMITTED TO FOLLOWING GOD TOGETHER CONNECTED WITH HIM, COMMITTED TO EACH OTHER AND PARTICIPATING IN HIS LIFE TOGETHER



<u>Website</u>

YouTube



7

In This Issue

<u>What Is Christmas</u> . <u>By: Kurt Mach</u>	page 2-3
Events and Info	pages 1,4-
<u>Calendar.</u>	page 8





This years Christmas tree will be filled with tags for many of the different ministries supported by PCF and how to give to them this holiday season. There will also be tags for FISH Foodbanks Toy Drive. If you have any questions



feel free to contact the office. Tags will be available through December 22nd.

If you know someone in need this holiday season, please reach out to the church office or the deacon team by email!



What is Christmas?

In a single word or phrase, what would you say describes what Christmas is to you? The first word that popped into my mind was Joy! As soon as I thought of that word a cascade of others poured out, like family, love, feasting, gift giving, God's greatest gift...

What word or phrase would you use to describe it for those who experienced it the first time? This was not only not an established institutional, cultural, all-encompassing celebration... it was unknown by all but a few, and doubted or condemned by some who did know... even though it had been prophesied and believed in for centuries.

Think of the short list of people who were directly involved, believed it was coming and actively waited for it. What describes what it was like for them?

I think maybe Simeon had to wait the longest. His story is recounted in Luke 2:25-35. And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Then one day... So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel."

How long did he have to wait? We don't know, but I get the impression he had been waiting for years and felt he was old enough to die.

After him Mary waited the longest, at least nine months. **Luke 1:26-33** Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."



After Gabriel explained to her how God would pull that off, she was in completely. Then she went and told her cousin Elizabeth, who no doubt told Zacharias. Luke 1:39-45 records, Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

And last, but not least, Matthew 1:18-25 reveals how Joseph learned about it. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

All of these people believed God's promise and ordered their lives accordingly. I think I would describe their Christmas experience as Hope. Do we hope in faith for His coming among His people before His return?

Ephesians 4:13-16, Until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

What are we actively looking forward to from God in the faith of Hope? Are we asking Him for it? Jesus promises that if we will, He will provide. In **Matthew** 7:7-8 He says, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Without that, life can seem dull and uninspiring.

Let's believe God together, and live like it!

Merry Christmas,

CONNECTION POINT DECEMBER 2024, CONNECT, ALIGN, LIVE

connect

Would you like to get to know a bit more about Peninsula Christian Fellowship? Do you want to become a PCF member? Sign up for a **Connect Meet Up.** This 30-60 minute get together can be however you'd like it to be. Would you like to meet with one of the pastors after church? Would you like to go out to coffee with one of them and go over who we are as a church or even do so over dinner? The material is available on our website at welcometopcf.org under the "About Us" tab by clicking "Church Membership." We have the material presented in the video on the page and the printable version under the "Our Essential Beliefs" link. We'd love to have you call PCF your church home. Let us know who you are and to welcome you to PCF!! We're glad you are here and we look forward to knowing you better. To sign up, fill out the **Connect Meet Up** form online on the main page or fill out the form on the information table and place it in the box outside the church office.



Scan the QR code and join PCF's text alerts! You can also send us your prayer requests or ask questions about upcoming events! Text Number: 833-237-9238



Bunco: Night

Join us December 31st 5:15-9pm in the Sanctuary. for a New Years Eve **Family Bunco Night!** All are welcome! We will open the doors at 5:15pm. Food will start at 5:30pm and the game will start at 6pm. We will wrap up the game around 8pm. award prizes and clean up. We plan to celebrate New Years East Coast Time at 9pm with a cider toast and call it a night! Please bring finger food to share. Beverages provided. **Questions? Contact April** Wilder or Trish Weron





PCF Women's Prayer Group On the 1st and 3rd Mondays, meeting at 6:30pm at Diane Smith's home. Contact Diane 253-970-1568 or at markdianewife@hotmail.com for additional information.



Join the Calvary Men's Breakfast on Saturday December 14th from 8am to 10am in the Student Ministries Building. Please bring a breakfast item to share.



Church undecorating will be January 5th after service. We will enjoy a meal together, then take down Christmas decorations.



Join us Sunday December 22nd after service for an expanded coffee corner with a few extra treats to celebrate the season.



If you would like your donation to be considered for the 2024 tax year; please

make sure that your donation is: turned into the office, placed in the PCF mailbox, postmarked or completed online not later than December 31st.



Tithes and offerings can be given at church, by mail or online. At church place your tithes and offerings in the box outside of the church office. For giving by mail; send your check to Peninsula Christian Fellowship at the address below. For online giving; go to the website and scroll down to the "Donate Now" button to give through the Tithe.ly app.

CONNECTION POINT DECEMBER 2024 CONNECT, ALIGN, LIVE



Key Peninsula/Port Orchard

Leaders: Jason & Trisha Weron *Tuesday 6:30-8:00pm Meeting @ Eric and Wendy Pierson's* Contact Trisha Weron: 253-514-0696

<u>Tacoma</u> Leaders: Peter & Betsy Smith **Tuesdays 6:30-8pm Meeting** - location varies Contact Peter Smith: 253-732-6018

<u>Gig Harbor</u> Leaders: Ted and Diane Wilder *Thursday 6:30-8pm Meeting - location varies* Contact Ted Wilder: 253-225-0487

<u>Gig Harbor</u> Leaders: Trisha Weron and Peter Smith **Wednesday 630-8pm Meeting** - PCF Coffee Corner Contact Trisha Weron: 253-514-0696



December 1st there will be a meal after church. Everything will be provided. Join us for fellowship! On the 3rd Sunday of every month we will have a potluck after church. Join us for this on December 15th. This month's theme is: Holiday! Bring a favorite holiday dish to share sweet or savory is welcome.

PCF will provide the plates, utensils, water and ham. Looking forward to sharing meals together!



Are you between the ages of 18 and 28? You're welcome to join THRIVE. They meet Thursdays at 6:45PM in the Sanctuary for a snack, worship, a message, and discussion groups! For more information about Thrive go to

their website: www.thriveharbor.com



Directory Update Time

If you have a change to your mail, phone, email, name, etc. Please let the church office know by filling out the "Update" flier on the information table in the entry way and putting it in the box

outside the office. If you wish to be added to the churches directory and or mailing lists please fill out the flier as well! We would love to include you if you call PCF home!

CONNECTION POINT DECEMBER 2024, CONNECT, ALIGN, LIVE



The annual budget presentation will be December 8th. The budget vote will be December 29th.

FINANCIAL RECAP Monthly Budget	\$14,479.00
November	\$19,158.87
+ or (-) Budget	\$4,679.87
Total Budget Year to Date	\$159,269.00
Actual Income to Date	\$162,667.46
+ or (-) Total Budget Year Income	\$3,398.46



PCF Soulfire Youth

Sunday after PCFs service on the **1st and 3rd Sunday**, roughly a start time of 12:15-12:30pm we will have youth small group time with lunch! Join us for about an hour after service as we discuss a bible story and enjoy a meal together. See Charles or April Wilder for info.

Calvary Youth Wednesdays:

Join Calvary on Wednesday from 6-8pm in the Student Ministries Building for Youth Group. There will be worship, messages and games.



Calling all PCF youth grades 6 to 12 grade! Join us on Sunday December 29th at Charles and Aprils home starting at 3pm until 7pm. We will start with snacks and group games, then have a meal together and enjoy two gift exchanges. One will be a round White elephant with a "puzzles, board games and fidget items" theme. Please bring a gift following that theme. The next one will be white elephant style, but new gifts from PCF youth ministry. We really hope you will all join us for this time together. Early arrivals are ok.



Generally office hours will be Tuesday 9am-1pm and Wednesday from 1-4pm. If you have a specific need to see me in the office, please call or text me at: 360-710-9206 or email the office to schedule and appointment. <u>office@welcometopcf.org</u> During December 23rd through January 3rd, please make an appointment, as the office will be manned at odd days/hours.

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
I 9am Calvary Worship Service I I am PCF Worship Service Youth Group after PCF Service and MEAL	2 6:30pm Women's Prayer Group	3 PCF Office Hours Life Groups	4 PCF Office Hours Life Group @PCF 6pm Calvary Youth	5 Life Groups 645pm Thrive @ PCF	6	7
8 9am Calvary Worship Service I I am PCF Worship Service Budget presentation after service	9	10 PCF Office Hours Life Groups	II PCF Office Hours Life Group @PCF 6pm Calvary Youth	12 Life Groups 645pm Thrive @ PCF	13	14 8am Calvary Men's Breakfast
 15 9am Calvary Worship Service 11am PCF Worship Service Youth Group after PCF Service and MEAL - potluck 	16 6:30pm Women's Prayer Group	17 PCF Office Hours Life Groups	18 PCF Office Hours Life Group @PCF 6pm Calvary Youth	19 Life Groups 645pm Thrive @ PCF	20	21
22 9am Calvary Worship Service I I am PCF Worship Service Expanded Coffee Corner After Service	23	24 7pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas	26 Life Groups 645pm Thrive @ PCF	27	28
29 9am Calvary Worship Service Ham PCF Worship Service Extended Worship and Prayer Budget Vote Youth White Elephant	30	31 5:15pm BUNCO		1	1	1



15-Nathalie Pierson

Budget Vote Youth White Elephant

> 20-Don & Pat Drew, 1952



Do you have a need we can help with? Email the office: <u>office@welcometopcf.org</u> Or the deacons: <u>deacons@welcometopcf.org</u> Or the elders: <u>elders@welcometopcf.org</u> Or the pastors: <u>kmach@welcometopcf.org</u> <u>cwilder@welcometopcf.org</u> <u>psmith@welcometopcf.org</u>