



DECEMBER 2025 / VOLUME 295

SALTSHAKER

Quote of
the Month

The worst gift is a
fruitcake. There is only
one fruitcake in the entire
world, and people keep
sending it to each other.

- Johnny Carson

Lessons & Carols December 14 / 6:00 PM

"For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given."

Our annual Lessons & Carols event will be held on Sunday,
December 14, at 6:00 PM. We look forward to celebrating
Christ's birth through story and song! A reception will
follow in the Fellowship Hall. Please note that doors will
open for seating in the Sanctuary at 5:15 PM. You will not
be able to save seats before this time. Childcare will be
provided through age three during the service.

AVPC NEWS

December Events At Altadena Valley

O come, let us adore Him!

DECEMBER 7 | Children's Christmas Pageant

On Sunday, December 7, children ages 4 - 6th grade will perform the Christmas story for the congregation during the Sunday School hour (9:45 AM) in the Fellowship Hall.

DECEMBER 14 | Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a congregational meeting on December 14, 2025, in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45). We will elect officers at this meeting. A list of the officer nominees is available in the Parlor and Welcome Center.

DECEMBER 14 | Lessons & Carols

Our annual Lessons & Carols event will be held on Sunday, December 14, at 6:00 PM. We look forward to celebrating Christ's birth through story and song! A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

DECEMBER 21 | Carol Sing

Join us on Sunday December 21 for an opportunity to sing Christmas carols and fellowship during the Sunday School hour (9:45 AM) in the Fellowship Hall.

DECEMBER 24 | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

This year, we will have two Candlelight Services in the Sanctuary. The first service will be at 4:30 PM, and the second service will be at 6:00 PM.

Please note: the Church Office will be closed on December 24, 25, 31 and January 1.

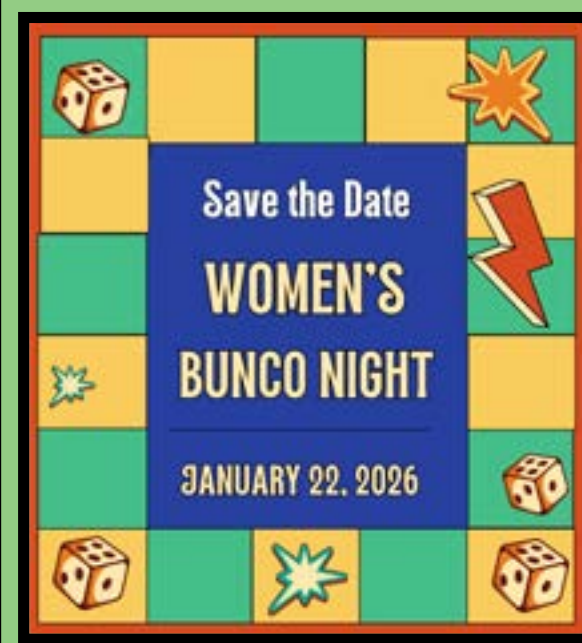
AVPC NEWS

OUR SYMPATHY

We want to express our deepest sympathies to Paul and Vicki Barber after the loss of their nephew CJ.



During the month of November, AVPC small groups created food boxes for refugee families through our local ministry partner, Cross Cultural Connections. Thank you to all the small groups who served in this way!



December Birthdays

12/2 Ashley Hood	12/16 Elijah Putman	12/25 Elizabeth Ward
12/2 Melanie Richards	12/17 Judy Bates	12/25 Kathy Whitner
12/4 Jude Allday	12/17 Michael Bobo	12/26 John Oliver
12/7 Forrest Price	12/17 Zephaniah Putman	12/27 Ellie Joy Peters
12/10 Becky Gray	12/18 Jim Anderson	12/28 Laura English
12/11 Ella Moore	12/18 Steve Whitner	12/28 Heather Tate
12/11 Tatum Popwell	12/18 Katey Windsor	12/29 Leo McGlothlin
12/12 Abi Bostrom	12/19 Becky Cambron	12/30 Alexys Labreche
12/13 Beth Lloyd	12/19 Finneas Ireland	12/30 Russell Lloyd
12/14 Ethan MacCaughelty	12/19 Merrily McCary	12/30 Jamie Lumpkin
12/14 Daniel Williams	12/22 Brent McClenny	12/30 Danny Price
12/15 Ruthie Armstrong	12/23 Amanda Amerson	12/31 Kelly Driggers
12/15 Judy Steele	12/23 Chris Light	12/31 Tom McCallum
12/15 James Tate	12/25 Jason Allday	12/31 Marie Jubinville



Pastor's Pen

Let's task ourselves with a little exercise to motivate a happy holiday to a holy holiday. To frame this exercise, let's start with a few quotes from a funny man who met Jesus a couple of years before his death.

Heaven's host is laughing a bit harder with him in it!

"You will have bad times, but they will always wake you up to the stuff you weren't paying attention to."

"No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world."

"There is still a lot to learn, and there is always great stuff out there. Even mistakes can be wonderful."

"Being in the same room with people and creating something together is a good thing."

"Real loss is only possible when you love something more than you love yourself."

"Change is not popular; we are creatures of habit as human beings. "I want it to be the way it was." But if you continue the way it was, there will be no "is."

— Robin Williams

Here is the exercise — grab a pen, sit in a comfy chair, hopefully with good coffee, and get going!

1. Who do you admire today that has helped steer your life towards Jesus' grace?
2. What hard circumstance or person in your life did you survive in 2025?
3. What did God teach you about himself through your answer to question 2?
4. List two things about God's grace that surprised you this month.
5. Who are 2 people you praying for? How do you plan to care for them better in 2026?
6. Galatians 5:22 - "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." Which fruit of the Holy Spirit do you need the Lord to most acutely mature you in? How are you seeking his power and wisdom to grow in his grace?
7. What is a prevailing fear you would like to see Jesus address in you? Fear is false evidence appearing real — what we feel is real. However, the gospel works to determine if what we experience is true!
8. If asked to assemble a 'board of directors' for your life, who are the 5-8 people you respect enough to add to it? Prayerfully reflect on them, then communicate to them why they are so important to you.
9. Reflect on people you have lost or lost track of — collect 2-3 things you are grateful to them about and share them with a close friend, spouse, or your kids.
10. What heroic actions is Jesus asking from you in the next year — what I mean by 'heroic actions' those things impossible for you but possible for him to work through you? Share them with a friend to pray alongside one another for opportunities to engage.

Happy & HOLY holidays to you all
— Kyle Parker, Senior Pastor

Women's Ministry

WOMEN'S RETREAT

MARCH 6-8, 2026

Come away with us in March to the Springville Camp and Conference Center. This is sure to be a time of rest, refreshment, and connection. Registration opens in January - be sure to register early!

Guest Speaker: Holly Mackle



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Thank you to everyone who served and helped make this year's Fall Festival a wonderful event! It was a sweet time of fellowship and community.

GOD'S HOUSE KINDERGARTEN



The last few months of the year always fly by as we bustle around with activities like Thanksgiving feasts and all sorts of fun!

SAVE THE DATE:

**GHK Christmas Program
December 17 @ 9:00 AM**



Youth Ministry News



I have been thinking a lot lately about eternity. While we think we have our heads wrapped around it, I promise that if you spend any time at all thinking about it, you will find your mind locked up. Eternity entails being outside of time, so even my previous statement about spending "time" thinking about timelessness already shows how limited our capacity is to understand. One of the oracles Isaiah records for us is attributed to "the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy." Just in case you aren't picking up on the fact that God is far above us, the Lord speaks and proclaims, "I dwell in the high and holy place." (Isaiah 57:15). What an awe-inspiring statement. What a humbling realization. No wonder that most people who describe an interaction with YHWH in scripture only describe His feet or the bottom of the throne He is seated on. They are terrified to lift their face!

However, there is something even more awe-inspiring and humbling about Isaiah 57:15. You see, God's proclamation does not end there, but continues on: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite." The one who inhabits eternity, who does not even exist on the same plane of existence as us lowly creatures is also intimately present with us! This is the gift that we celebrate in Advent. A young woman carried the Son of God to term in her womb, and "the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son." (Luke 2:5, 6). Did you catch that? Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the way that God, who sits far above us outside of time, ultimately arrived like any infant does, when it was time, and dwelt with us in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite. The infinite entered the realm of the finite. Quietly, the fabric of time, the space-time continuum, was shattered in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago. The power of darkness and death began to quietly recede as hope quietly dawned for each one of us. My prayer for each of you this Advent season is that you will find quiet. You will find rest. You will be revived in heart and spirit.

Peace,
Clint

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- December 3 - Junior High Christmas Party
6:30 - 8:00 PM
- December 10 - Senior High Christmas Party
6:30 - 8:00 PM

Young Adult Ministry

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

11
DEC

6:30
PM



Come celebrate the season at the home of Katie and Russell Windsor! Wear your best holiday sweater and bring a gift \$10 or under for a game of white elephant with a twist.

MISSIONS NEWS

Meet Our 2026 Missions Conference Missionaries



Mason MacCaughelty - Campus Outreach SERVE

After graduation, God grew Mason's heart for missions and led him to Campus Outreach, a ministry focusing on campus evangelism and discipleship. God now uses Mason's gifts to serve 66+ missionaries in 13 countries worldwide through organizational fundraising and donor communications.



Melanie Rogers - Campus Outreach SERVE

Melanie oversees Campus Outreach's 2-year international missions experience for recent college students (LEAD). She also provides leader development coaching for emerging ministry leaders serving in 12 countries on 6 continents.



FEATURED SPEAKER

Stephen Spanjer IXO Germany

Stephen planted a church in Germany and uses baseball as a means of outreach while the church steadily grows.

Stephanie W.

Stephanie just finished a 2 year apprenticeship in an undisclosed location. She plans to return to the field long term to teach various classes and host events to build relationships and have the opportunity to expand the kingdom.



MISSIONS NEWS

Meet Our 2026 Missions Conference Missionaries

Besi Rajta - CRU Albania

Besi is a dedicated missionary known for her passionate commitment to campus evangelism, discipleship, and missionary care. Her passion is to see followers of Jesus multiply themselves and be sent into missions, either in the marketplace or to the ends of the earth.



Alex and Suzanne Sarran - Mission GO France

The Sarrans lead and serve a church-plant in France. Their desire is to grow their church to self-sufficiency and see many more churches planted in France.



Derek and Lauren Webber - Serge Kenya

Derek and Lauren serve in Chogoria, Kenya. Derek is a Physician's Assistant working in a Chogorian Hospital, leading and training staff. Lauren leads a homeschool co-op for missionary kids and serves the community through hospitality and children's ministry.



SESSION/DIACONATE MINUTES

SESSION MEETING • OCTOBER 21, 2025

- The Session approved the following people for Membership at AVPC: Stephanie Cannada, Tami Johnson, Greg and Becky Kawell, Clint and Karen Medlock, and Ali Tutak.
- The Session approved the following one-time giving requests from the Missions Team:
 - Christian Medical Ministry of Alabama (CMMA) for support of Christina Thomas: \$2,000
 - Besi Rajta serving with CRU in Albania: \$3,000 for projects and \$2,000 for support account
 - Serge Southhall for support of Jeremy and Angel Martin: \$2,000
 - Gideons in memory of the recently deceased spouses of two Mission to the World (MTW) missionaries, Pete Mitchell and Betsy Aeschilman. Gideons "memory cards" of \$50.00 each for a total of \$100.00.
 - Rodney and Jana Davila serving with MTW in El Salvador: \$3,000
 - Grace House: \$3,000
 - Stephen Spanjer travel costs to be the key speaker for our 2026 Missions Conference: \$2,000
 - LOGOI: \$2,700
 - Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) for support of James and Lisa Dougherty: \$3,500
 - Campus Outreach Serve for support of Mason MacCaughelty: \$3,500

DIACONATE MEETING • NOVEMBER 11, 2025

- In an effort to reduce the outsized forecasting risk associated with the estimation of calendar 4th Quarter giving, the Finance Team recommended the Diaconate adopt a fiscal year that begins June 1 and ends May 31. It is noted that the implementation of this change will result in one short budget period of January 1, 2026 to May 31, 2026. This was approved by unanimous consent.

DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, THE FINANCIAL REPORT IS NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.