

DECEMBER 8, 2019

WELLSPRING CHURCH



LOVE

COME
THOU LONG EXPECTED
JESUS

wellspring
church

WELCOME TO WELLSPRING!

THANKS FOR BEING OUR GUEST! New to Wellspring Church and need some information? Grab a **Connection Card** from the Connection Center outside the sanctuary or meet us there after the service for a brief guest's reception. We'd love to take a moment to get to know you and your family, and provide a small gift to you as a token of our thanks for visiting!

SERVICE TIMES

9:00am + 11:00am

WORSHIP SERVICE & CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Infant thru Age 2 - First Floor Nursery
2 thru Kindergarten - Upstairs
1st-4th Grade - Downstairs

WELLSPRING at a GLANCE



WORSHIPING GOD **TOGETHER**

Gathering in Unity
Giving God Glory
Crowning Him King



DOING LIFE **TOGETHER**

Spending Time Together
Filling Each Other's Needs
Encouraging One Another



SERVING OTHERS **TOGETHER**

Sharing Time, Treasures and Talent
Sharing Who Jesus Is
Sharing What Jesus Does



SHARING JESUS **TOGETHER**

Proclaiming the Gospel
Inviting People into the Kingdom
Building God's Church

CURRENTLY

COME
THOU LONG EXPECTED
JESUS

HOPE LOVE JOY PEACE

ADVENT SERIES • WELLSPRING CHURCH

Throughout the month of December, we will celebrate the advent of the most incredible gift ever given, the Redeemer. He is Jesus, and He will save His people from their sins. Creation waited for so long, and the Savior is here with us today!

CONNECT

We look forward to hearing from you and interacting with you. Let's keep in touch.

PHONE: 616.662.8955

EMAIL: church@wellspringcc.org

MOBILE APP: wellspringcc.org/app

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/wellspringccmi

INSTAGRAM: [@wellspringccmi](https://www.instagram.com/wellspringccmi)

Send us a note at church@wellspringcc.org if you'd like to receive our twice-a-month email newsletter with news, events and encouragement.

NEED PRAYER?

Please reach out if you have any prayer needs. You are welcome to meet us up front after the service, or email any requests to prayer@wellspringcc.org.

TODAY

9:00 + 11:00AM
STEVE GIBSON, Lead Pastor

10:15 + 11:00AM
TIDE BRUNCH
North Youth Room

6:00 - 7:30PM
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sanctuary

GIVING UPDATE

Your gifts help provide for the work of the ministry of Wellspring Church, and we thank you. Online giving is quick, easy and secure. You can set up one-time or automatic recurring giving, using ACH or a Credit Card by going online to wellspringcc.org. Simply click "GIVING" to get started.

DONATIONS from DECEMBER 1
GIVING: **\$17,631**
BUDGETED: **\$48,520**
SHORTAGE: **(\$30,889)**

2019 DONATIONS TO DATE
GIVING: **\$1,188,327**
BUDGETED: **\$1,235,960**
SHORTAGE: **(\$47,633)**
DATA AS OF DECEMBER 3, 2019

GROWING GOD'S KINGDOM
**GIFTS DESIGNATED FOR WELLSPRING'S BUILDING PROJECT, GROWING GOD'S KINGDOM, CAN BE SELECTED VIA THE APP OR WRITTEN ON YOUR CHECK OR ENVELOPE.*

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Not able to attend the meeting tonight? Please make sure that you complete an absentee ballot and return it to the black mailbox outside the main office before you leave. Absentee ballots will be available in the Connection Center.

THIS WEEK

TUESDAY 10
TIDE OFFSITE BIBLE STUDY • 6:30-9PM

WEDNESDAY 11
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY • 9:15-11:30AM
WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING • 7-8:30PM

THURSDAY 12
LADIES CONNECT • 7-9PM
wellspringcc.org/ladiesconnect

COMING UP

DECEMBER 15
YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES • 5:30PM
KIDS ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL • 5:30PM

DECEMBER 16
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY • 7-8:30PM

DECEMBER 18
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY • 9:15-11:30AM
VERTICAL GIRLS BIBLE STUDY • 6:30PM
KIDS ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL • 6:30PM
wellspringcc.org/ensemble
WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING • 7-8:30PM

DECEMBER 19
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY • 6:30-8AM

DECEMBER 22
KIDS ENSEMBLE WITH WORSHIP • 9+11AM

DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE • 6PM

NOTICE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs and/or videos may be taken at Wellspring Church events and services for informational and promotional purposes. Please contact us if you do not consent to having your likeness appear in any of these platforms via email at jgamble@wellspringcc.org.

TOP THREE

ANNUAL MEETING

TONIGHT • 6PM

Plan to attend for updates on personnel, budget and the renovation, a Q & A, and to vote on incoming board members. Child care will be provided up through 4th grade.

SMALL GROUPS

GOING ON NOW

If you are ready to get connected to Godly community, you'll be able to sign up beginning today for Small Groups! You can sign up on the iPads in the Connection Center or online at wellspringcc.org/smallgroups.

SERVING

SIGN UP TODAY

If you are interested in serving at Wellspring and getting involved in a ministry, please sign up on the iPads or online at wellspringcc.org/getinvolved

**FOR A COMPLETE EVENTS CALENDAR,
PLEASE GO ONLINE TO
WELLSRINGCC.ORG/EVENTS**

WELLSPRING MOBILE APP

We are excited to make available this incredible new ministry tool.

Features include sermon audio, video and sharing, notifications to keep in touch, events calendar and complete ministry and program info.

Scan the code below or go online to wellspringcc.org/app to find the download links for your device.



ADVENT WEEK TWO: LOVE HAS A NAME

With swaying shadows of bristling branches dancing across the moonlit landscape a baby is sleeping. Wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, Jesus, now with blood and bones, is at rest. His existence preceded time itself, yet He condescended to take on a human nature. In this surprising act, the God who created all things was now Himself part of the created order.

Imagining how that first Christmas might have been, I'm astonished. The simple idea of God asleep on dirt is breath taking. How could the righteous and holy God of the universe come to live among us? The answer is love. This Immanuel, God with us, was love manifested in human form. The lyric from Silent Night captures it best in the line, "Son of God, love's pure light." The light of the world was born, and the Son was given, in love. Christ, in the flesh, savior of the world, taking on humanities skin.

Paul describes it this way:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. Philippians 2:5-7

There is no greater act of love than God giving of Himself. On that first Christmas, God spared no expense and gave His son. When Jesus took His first breath, the world saw love animated. And when Jesus took His last breath, on the cross, the world saw the heart of love. The giving of Jesus shows that, in love, God will give us everything.

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? Romans 8:32

For God so loved the world that he gave. God, who is love, gave to humanity. We, as a people set apart, give to others what we have been given in Christ—love.

As we focus on this advent season, celebrating the Christmas child, we are reminded that the greatest gift of love is not to be hoarded but shared. We ought to reflect on the first Christmas morning, when

God took on flesh, God's love was shared, and God indeed was with us.

This week, may we meditate upon the glorious truths that love was given, love is to be given, love lives, and love has a name—Jesus!



WHAT IS LOVE?

The Bible tells us that God is love. It's not just that He acts in a loving way, though He does, but that His essence is love, His very nature is love. And because God never changes, that means He cannot stop being love. That's great news for you and me, who have placed our trust in Jesus because we can rest knowing that His love for us will not run out or be taken away! His love toward us is not fickle, or fading like our feelings or emotions can sometimes be.

As we ponder the Love of God we possess through Christ this week, and what the Bible has to say, let's agree to not keep that to ourselves. Look up the verses. Ponder the text. Find ways to share God's love with those around you this week.

MONDAY LOVE DRIVES OUT FEAR

1 JOHN 4:16-18

TUESDAY LOVE DOESN'T INSIST ON IT'S OWN WAY

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

WEDNESDAY LOVE COVERS

PROVERBS 17:9

THURSDAY LOVE LAYS DOWN ITS LIFE

JOHN 10:14-18

FRIDAY GOD'S LOVE IS EVERLASTING

PSALM 103:13-17

SATURDAY GOD'S LOVE IS SECURE

ROMANS 8:38-39