

NOWTHEN ALLIANCE CHURCH

Equipping people to find Life and Faith in Christ

This edition of the NAC eNews will focus on Christmas, including a preview of the many events occurring at Nowthen in December. Please take note of the Elder's benevolent "give the gift of Christmas to a family" opportunity - below. We will begin with the Christmas sermon series and Christmas Eve service times:



Christmas Services 2017: Beginning December 10th we will be looking topically at the hope God's People in the Old Testament were waiting for, leading up to Christmas Eve where we will celebrate that Hope Has Come. Join us for these messages this holiday season as we remember where our hope is found. This year, Christmas Eve happens to fall on a Sunday. There will be services 8:30am, 11:00am, and at 3:00pm. All three services will be similar with the same message. The 8:30am service will be in the sanctuary while the 11:00am and 3:00pm services will be held in the lower worship center.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in approximately 2 BC. Bethlehem is located five miles south of Jerusalem and in 2 BC it was a tiny town of less than 1000 people. Yet 700 years prior to His birth, God told the prophet Micah (Micah 5:2) that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Perhaps more striking, the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 7:14) foretold the virgin birth of Jesus. In fact, the Old Testament records hundreds of prophecies concerning Immanuel, God with Us! Invite a friend and learn more about why we know that "**Hope Has Come.**"



Give the Gift of Christmas to a Family: It has been a tradition of the Elders to provide funds to families in our service area that have struggled during the past year. If you know of a friend or neighbor that has struggled in 2017 and is in need of a blessing this Christmas submit their name and mailing address to Pastor Bruce. Those submitted will receive an encouraging word and a Visa Gift card. Names must be submitted to Pastor Bruce by Sunday, December 3.



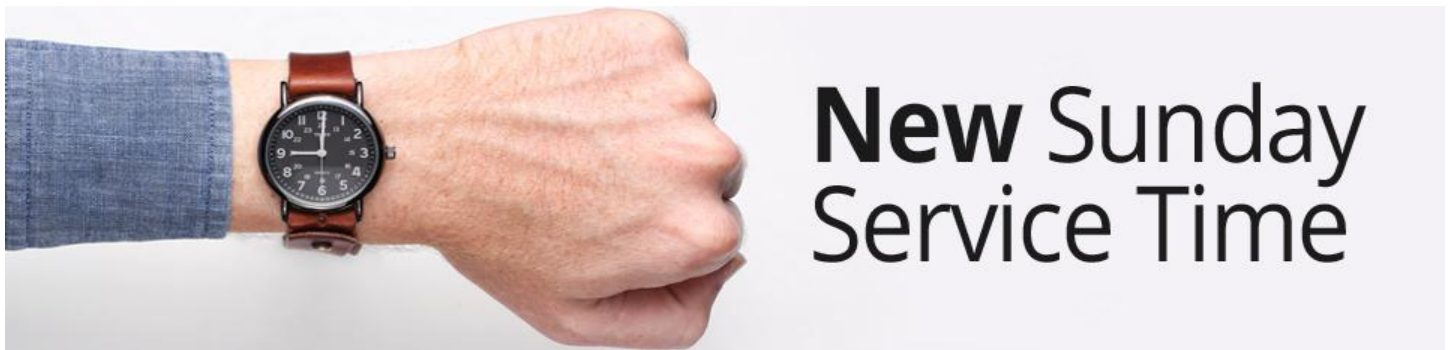
The Women's Christmas Brunch: will be held on Saturday, December 9, beginning at 9:30am, in the café. Join us as we hear from Kate Fonseca, who has served as an International Worker in Cambodia, share about her experiences. There is no charge for this event and all ladies are invited. Please invite your friends and neighbors for this time of fellowship.



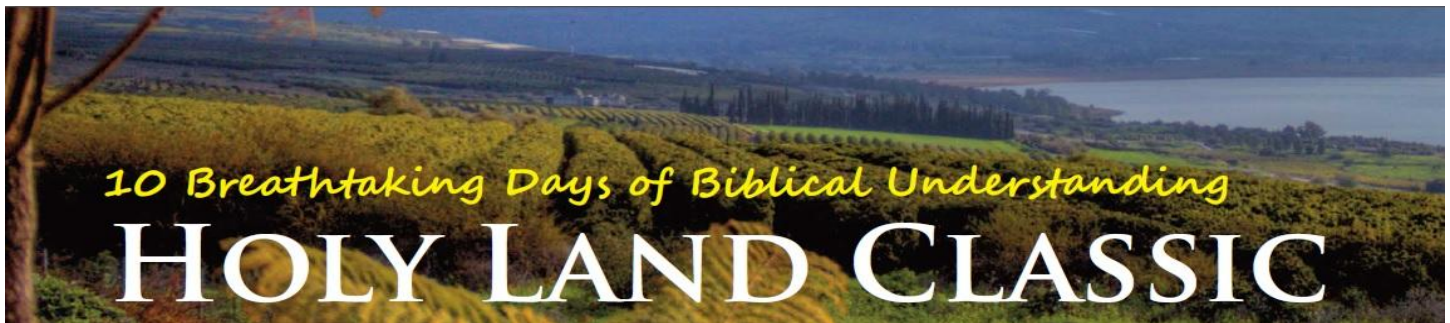
Jingle Bell Beach: will be presented by the Nowthen Kids Choir on Sunday, December 10, at 4:30pm in the lower worship center. A potluck meal will follow the concert and everyone is invited! Contact the Kids Choir directors or the church office if you have questions.



Martin Luther: The PrimeTimers will be hosting a Special Christmas event on Thursday, December 21, in the café. Join us for a potluck lunch at 11:30am followed by a presentation of Martin Luther's story by Gary Ries. This year marks the 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of his 95 theses on the door of the Catholic Church in Germany, sparking the reformation and the Protestant movement. Everyone is invited and there is no charge for this event. Contact Helen Peterson or the church office if you have questions.



New Sunday Service Schedule: Beginning January 14, 2018, there will be three worship services at Nowthen. The first (traditional) service will meet in the sanctuary at 8:00am. The second (contemporary) service will meet in the lower worship center at 9:30am, and the third service (contemporary) will also meet in the lower worship center at 11:00am. The Elders made this change to accommodate the growth that we have experienced in 2017. Pastor Nate and the ministry leaders request your prayers as we continue to implement this change.



Israel tour 2018: Nowthen Pastors are hosting a ten-day tour of the Holy Lands in October of 2018. Highlights include: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Galilee, and the Dead Sea. The final information session for this tour will be held December 3 in the conference room at 9:45am. Information brochures are also available in the literature racks near doors A and B. We would love to have you join the group in this amazing tour!



Taiwan 18: The dates have been set and we will schedule an information session in January. A team from Nowthen will travel to Taiwan on September 3 and return home on September 14, 2018. This short-term team will have two primary tasks: assist the O'Dells with remodeling the second AROMA coffee shop, and conduct ministry and Outreach in Taipei.



Usher Team Meeting: A meeting for all ushers has been scheduled for Sunday, January 7, during the Sunday School hour. More information will follow but please mark your calendar for this important training session.



Nowthen Emergency Team (NET): A few weeks ago we had a medical emergency during AWANA which required the use of an AED (automatic electronic defibrillator). We are fortunate to have a number of health care professionals in our congregation and because of quick action (and the AED) I am happy to report that a life was saved! It is important that all congregants know the location of the AED units, the first aid kits, and telephones to call 911. Take a moment next Sunday to note the locations near the Sanctuary and the lower worship center. Based upon this incident the NET team is updating protocols and equipment to better protect you!