

Christmas in July

Volume 6
July 2024

What is your favorite Christmas memory as a child? Mine would have to be that each Christmas we would line up in the hall and all go in the living room together. It was magical. I remember the anticipation as we would wait for my Mom to tell us to come in the living room. I can only imagine this is the way Jesus feels as he waits for us to invite him into our hearts. He is just so excited watching and waiting. Christmas for many families is not this peaceful though, the reality of it is very hard and sad and oftentimes nonexistent. But doing Christmas in July allows us to partner with a church so that families can wake up on that beautiful morning with surprises for their children, all while we are gently sharing the love of Christ.



“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.”

HEBREWS 6:10

Community Serving



Fort Deposit

Christmas in July, Grab a tag off the tree and provide a toy for a needy child in Fort Deposit

Back to school serve days

July 24, 2024- Magnolia Elementary 8:00-12:00, putting out pinestraw and pressure washing

Jana's Kids

Donation of \$20 to provide school supplies to children in Fort Deposit

ELI Thrive

Back to School Bash, July 28th 1:00-4:00

Lovelady Center

Painting crafts day- July 28, 2024, 2:00

Crop Drop Bags

Bring friends, hang out and enjoy snacks while getting bags ready for crop drop.



Local Testimony

Reese Willoughby

In May I had the awesome opportunity to serve in Kenya with the table and foundations for hope. Throughout the trip we visited schools, built a home, visited a few remote villages, fixed roofs, had some amazing fellowship with our Kenyan brothers and sisters. We saw the Holy Spirit move in mighty ways! I was most impacted by the way that the Kenyans live out their walk with Christ. They pray boldly, expecting God to move. Their complete dependence on him was so convicting and inspiring. It was such a blessing and I came home with a new perspective on my life here in America and on my college campus. I will cherish this trip for a lifetime and I pray that I never forget all ways the Lord worked.



Coming Up

- **Back to School Party with a purpose.**
August 3rd 8:00- 4:00

We will be traveling to Fort Deposit to meet with our friends at Bethlehem Christian Church, where we will assemble back-to-school care packages for the teachers of Fort Deposit Elementary School. This will be a fantastic time of fun and fellowship. You don't want to miss it!

- **Crop Drop**
August 17th 8:00- 11:00

What do 38,000 lbs of potatoes look like? If you are dying to know, this is the event for you! We are having 38,000 lbs of potatoes delivered on the morning of August 17th, and we need them to be bagged and tagged. Once they are ready, shelters and organizations from all over the Birmingham area will drive through to pick them up! We need an army of people to help with this! Come and enjoy the social aspect that comes with doing the work and feeding our community!



The impact of your testimony

Have you ever shared your testimony? How did it make you feel? Nervous, excited, uncomfortable, happy? When I share my testimony oftentimes I am sharing small portions of what the Lord has done in my life. Sometimes sharing the raw details of our testimony is tough, scary and uncertain. We all have a testimony, each is unique and its your own. Some have one that is more peaceful while others have one with more twists. But in all of our testimonies each piece can speak to someone in a different way. Sharing your testimony brings Glory to God, it is yours, you lived it. We're not glorifying the struggle. We're glorifying God in it. When you share your testimony, you showcase how God has made you more than a conqueror. You give Him more honor and praise by sharing what He has done in your life. Sharing your testimony not only exposes God's heart on the matter, but it also shows how He feels about us. Indeed, God's love is further demonstrated by our testimony.



2 Ways to Share your testimony
3 Circles Method
15 second testimony



but set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts,
always ready to make a defense to anyone
who asks you for an accounting concerning
the hope that is in you.

1 Peter 3:15

