



We Strive to Be: A church devoted to making disciples of Jesus Christ, growing together in knowledge and relationship with God and each other.

Today's Events

Children's Christmas Program 6:00 pm
Followed by Candlelight Vigil

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 24,25**-Office Closed
- Dec. 26**-No Wednesday night class
- Dec. 30**-5th Sunday Fellowship
- Jan. 1**-Office Closed
- Jan. 2**-Wed. Meal: Chicken & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dessert
- Jan. 8**-Ladies' Class 10:00 am
- Jan. 15**-Ladies' Class 10:00 am
- Jan. 12,13**-Logan Hackworth Youth Minister Try Out
- Jan. 13**-Elders/Deacons Meeting 8:00 am
- Jan. 19**-Mercy House 4-8 pm
- Jan. 19**-Sew-In 9 am to 12 pm
- Jan. 20**-Teachers Lunch & Meeting-After Services
- Jan. 22**- Ladies' Class 10:00 am
- Jan. 29**- Ladies' Class 10:00 am

Life Group sign-up are on the welcome center. There are three to choose from.

Order of Worship

Song Leader	Danny Powers
#997	O Come, All Ye Faithful
#1002	Angels We Have Heard on High
Welcome/Scripture: Luke 2:10-14	Erik Granberg
Opening Prayer	Terry Sherrill
#995	It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
#382	Why Did My Savior Come to Earth
Communion Talk	Brent Dittmeyer
Brent Dittmeyer	Dee Plummer
Mike Armour	Zach Guymon
	Joe Williams
	David Burford
	Roger Unruh
	Brett Thornton
.....	Dismiss Children
#410	He Leadeth Me
#538	My Hope is Built on Nothing Less
Sermon: Gifts from Above: Hope	Sean Sellers
#555	Seek Ye First
Welcome/Announcements	Gordon Jantz
Shepherd's Prayer	Jerry Rogers
Children's Worship	Mary Raloff
Nursery	Jamie Rogers; Jo Ann Rogers
Sound Booth	Dudley Darrow
Slides	Terry Sherrill
Lock Up	Terry Sherrill; Wayne Williams

Sermon Scripture: Romans 8:18-30

Sermon Thought: We concluded our, "Gifts From Above," series today with, "The Gift of Hope." We looked how desire leads to hope. Hope in turn leads to a few different results including peace and strength

Sermon Questions:

1. Take a few moments and reflect upon the tremendous power of hope.
2. What times in your life has hope helped you and how?
3. Thinking back through the gifts in this series (life, Holy Spirit, grace, hope), which do you think about most/least?
4. Which gift may be needed most in our culture today and why?

New Prayer Concerns

Tom Raloff-pray for resolution of his left arm issues

Debbie Martin-sinus infection & ongoing knee problems

Rustin Osburn-searching for a new job

Youth and Family Minister Search

Loretta Ball-at home recovering from health problems

Carol Jantz-recovering from carpal tunnel surgery Friday

Record for 12-16-18

Bible Class.....	81
Morning Worship	145
Contribution	\$4,005.25
Budget	\$6,634.62
2018 YTD Cont.....	\$271,573.88
2018 YTD Bdgt.....	\$331,731.00
Served at Pantry.....	66 families
.....	245 total people

Birthdays

December:

24 th	Carolyn Reith
28 th	Erik Granberg Bill Spencer
29 th	Shane Holderly Tammi Long

My thanks to all the ladies of the church for their thoughtfulness & gifts. Also, to Gordon & Carol & everyone for their prayers & visits. God has blessed me with good friends & my sisters & brothers in Christ. May God's blessings go to each & everyone! Your prayers mean so much to me. My love to all,

Pat Hart

Thank you so much to the Tuesday morning ladies' bible study group for the surprise visit the morning of the 11th. The gift bag was such an unexpected sweet surprise. Again, thank you very much. And thank you to my church family here at North Garland for being so loving towards me. Love,

Phyllis Haws

Hope for the Future

This time of year, there is a lot of hope going through people's minds. Hope for a certain something all wrapped up under the tree, that the mail service makes up for your procrastination by getting your package to its destination in time, or that 2019 is a better year. Still others hope for a job offer, freedom from addiction, safety in dangerous places, or the healthy birth of a child.

An interesting characteristic of hope is that it only arises out of desire; the desire for something better or desire for something needed. Think of it this way, if there were no hungry people, if there were no wars to cause fear, if every person had everything desired there would be no cause for hope. In the scriptures, the writer Paul puts it this way, *"hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."*

Living in a fallen world has times that are difficult, but a positive approach to cultivated is one of hope. Hope for a better future. I firmly believe that a life of faithfulness to God provides hope not only for future eternity, but also in for our future this life. Listen to what Paul wrote in Romans 5:5, *"we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."* The first few words there are important, *"we have peace...."* That peace comes from hope, not an unknown hope, but a hope that is eagerly anticipated. Because of that hope, we have peace during joblessness, homelessness, hunger; peace in the midst of sorrow, pain, and hurt.

Take time this week to reflect upon these words of hope from David in Psalm 25, *"In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. I trust in you... No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame...show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."*

Erik Granberg

Children's Program/Candlelight Service

Tonight, we will be having a Candle Light Service starting at 6:00 pm. We will begin with a short Christmas Story inspired program, performed by the children and youth of the church, followed by the Candle Light Service.

For the parents and children in the Christmas Program: please have your children at the church at 4:30 pm. We will have a program rehearsal, then the children will be fed a meal at 5:00 pm, followed by a dress rehearsal at 5:30 pm, then the program at 6:00 pm.

Thank You

Dear NGCC,

How can we express our gratitude for your prayers, calls, visits, food & support during our illness & surgeries? There is no doubt Christ lives in you. We have never felt more cared for or loved. Our special thanks to all who helped with the Modern Woodmen dinner & auction. We were truly touched by your generosity. In Christ,
Joe & Cissy Duarte

Shhh. . . It's a Surprise!

There will be a retirement party for Steve Long, Saturday, December 29 in the fellowship building. It will be come and go, from 12-2 pm. Come celebrate and eat BBQ sandwiches and sides! (Don't worry, he doesn't read the bulletin.)