

Winter 2018

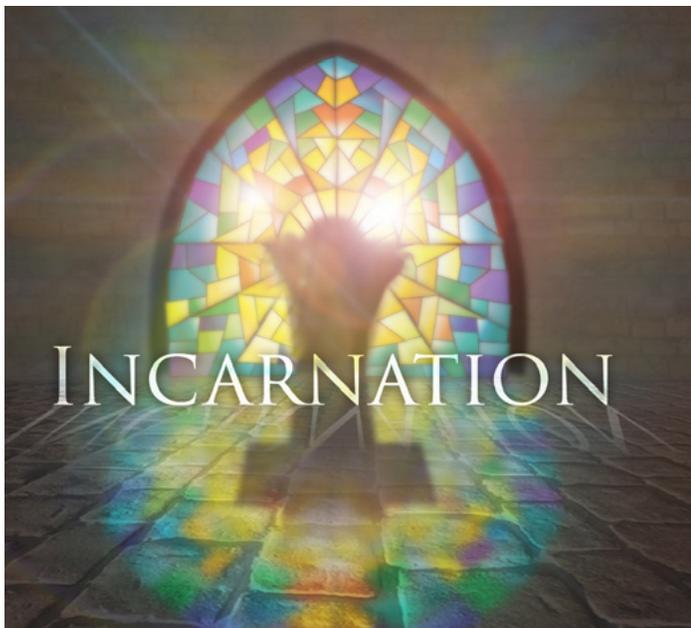
# Ecclesia

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AND GOD'S WORK AT KENWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH



Advent Sermon Series

## The Incarnation



*Incarnation* is considered one of the great short works in Christian theology. Athanasius presents the incarnation with clarity and depth. He also defends the incarnation with insight and power. His writing will expand our thinking and move our hearts to wonder.

In January, we will turn our attention to a series called *Why Church?*, based in Ephesians 3. Many people today believe that they can know God apart from the church because they have been hurt by negative experiences in church. For the apostle Paul, the gathered church is the most recognizable evidence in the world of what God has done in Christ. The church comes into being by the eternal plan of God. The church is the means by which God's manifold wisdom is on display in the vibrant, diverse, and growing family of God. As a people among whom God dwells, the church is the place where God works his immeasurable power and reveals his glory. May we grow strong in faith and humble in our privilege as we adore Christ this Advent and follow him in the upcoming New Year. 📖

This year for Advent we will prepare our hearts for Christmas with a special sermon series, *The Incarnation*. The heart of Christmas pulses with the belief that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, “became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). The profound doctrine of the incarnation explores why it was necessary for our salvation for God to become a man. We will be accompanied in this series by an elder brother in Christ, the pastor-theologian Athanasius, who served the church in North Africa for forty-five years during the early 4th century AD. His short devotional treatise *On the*

*“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

*John 1:14*

*“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”*

*Ephesians 3:20-21*



## A Word from Our Elders

This fall our church affirmed our first group of elders to provide shared, servant leadership that points us to Christ. We are blessed with a remarkable team of godly and gifted people who love Christ and Kenwood. They have been meeting together as a team for two hours each week, spending time getting to know each other, understanding their role as elders, praying for the church, and seeking God's leading for Kenwood. They have been repeatedly drawn to the priority of making disciples -- people who are learning to live the ways of Jesus in the fellowship of a thriving church family.



In the Psalms, it doesn't take long before we start reading about God's arms rescuing us or his ears hearing our cries or his face turning toward us. This is more than just a poetic way of talking. We can't imagine kindness or help without mentally "seeing" a person putting those characteristics into action. In the New Testament, God's love becomes personal in the ultimate form, as a man named Jesus is born, lives, and dies to demonstrate God's merciful and holy character. Christ's incarnation is something we celebrate at Christmas, but it was played out throughout His life.

The team of elders has been talking about how they can help God shepherd the Kenwood family toward fulfilling that same mission. The agenda is God's, not ours. Each of us who knows Jesus is meant to show God's character and speak His truth and do His work. What a call and privilege! Using the gifts, roles, and spheres of influence God has given you, how can you let God's love become personal and incarnate in you so that others can know Him? His Spirit can use our humble lives to do more than we ask or imagine.

The elders exist as a shepherding team. As part of our upcoming series *Why Church?* in January, the elders will participate in preaching the Word of God and sharing their own testimonies as we seek to grow in faith together. Please pray for this group and seek them out.



## New Member - Gentry Gabbard

Gentry Gabbard and Hannah (Ungruhe) Gabbard have been friends since 2008 when they met at Gentry's youth group.

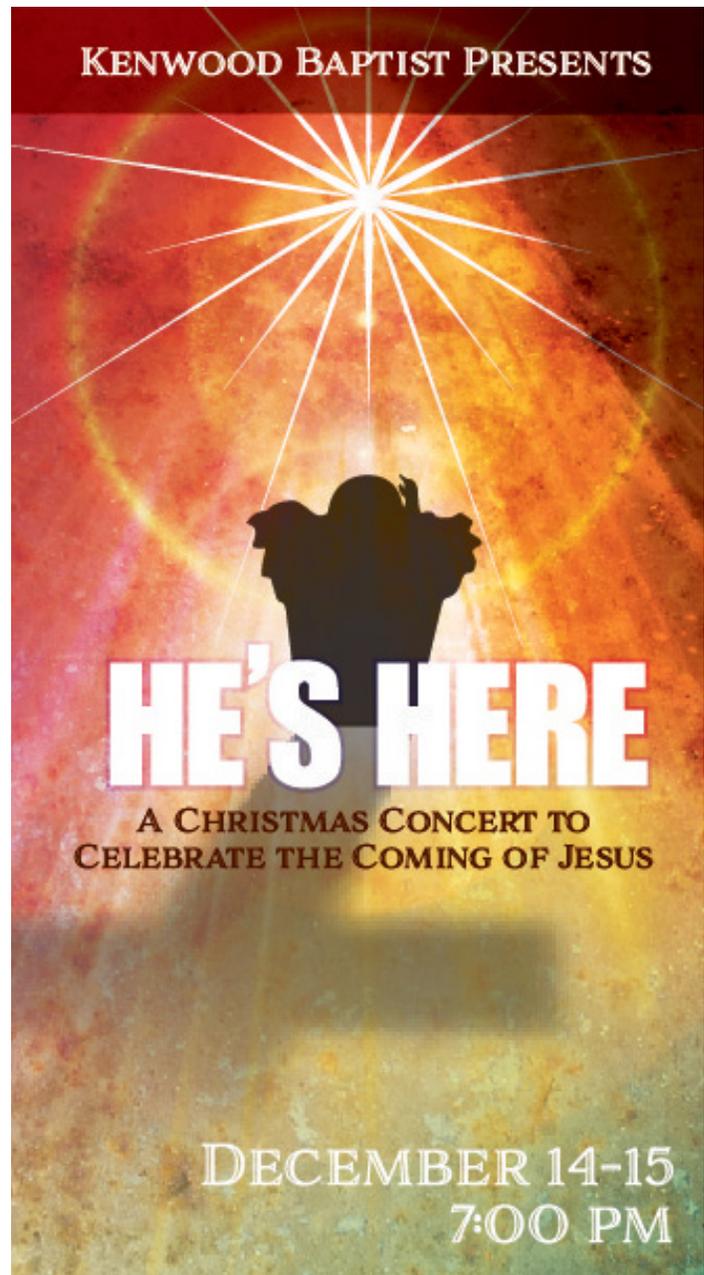
“We are thankful to God for bringing us together and have been blessed to have many wonderful years in each other's company already. Kenwood has been my family's church since I was young. When we got engaged, Gentry and I discussed where we would be getting married and where we wanted to continue to attend church as a married couple. We decided that Kenwood would be the best fit for us to worship God. We like Kenwood because of the Christ-centered teaching, welcoming community, and opportunities to serve. We both enjoy spending time with the young adult group on Sunday mornings, Foreign Fridays, and weekend trips,” Hannah explained.

The couple has served in children's ministry helping children with special needs participate in Sunday school. Both serve in the youth group.

## The Advent Tree



This Advent season, our church family will anticipate the arrival of the Savior in a special way. A Jesse Tree, or Advent Tree, is a way to get ready for Christmas together and to see the promise of a Savior throughout Scripture. We will be using an Advent Tree this Christmas for each Sunday of Advent and reading Scriptures that point us to Jesus. We will read about the great and miraculous things God has done, and then we will rejoice together in the birth of our Savior! Advent Tree readings, ornaments, and instructions are available to our church family at each entrance, as well as, *The Advent Storybook: 25 Bible Stories Showing Why Jesus Came*. These resources are a memorable way to look forward to Christmas and the real meaning of the season as a family.



## Whiz Kids Ministry Launches at Kenwood



We are a church seeking to be on mission in our city. We are looking for ways to connect with our friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors. One of our goals over this last year has been to seek more sustained relational connections with families in Deer Park. Whiz Kids is a ministry model that allows for these kinds of connections. Whiz Kids is a one-to-one tutoring and mentoring program recognized as a "Best Practice Program" by the Ohio Governor's Office. Connected to City Gospel Mission, Whiz Kids provides literacy tutoring for 1,100 at-risk children in 58 different locations around the Greater Cincinnati region. As a church, we are now one of those locations! Whiz Kids is an openly Christian ministry. Whiz Kids seeks to meet the legitimate and felt need for literacy in our community and to meet that need in the name of Jesus. We can minister to public school kids and freely talk about Jesus with them. Currently, 15 people from Kenwood are a part of the Whiz Kids ministry team. We still need more people to join this effort.

We are aiming for a holistic approach with Whiz Kids. Not only do we want to connect with kids and help them, but we also want to connect with the family unit – with mom, or dad, or the grandparents, or the step-parent. That's why we are offering our tutoring program on Wednesday evenings. Be on the lookout for Whiz Kids and their families!

# Ecclesia

## You're Invited

### NOVEMBER

- 18 Operation Christmas Child Packing Party
- 22 Office Is Closed
- 23 Office Is Closed



### DECEMBER

- 7 A Night In Bethlehem
- 14 He's Here - Choir Concert
- 15 He's Here - Choir Concert
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
- 25-26 Office Is Closed



### JANUARY

- 1 Office Is Closed
- 6 Quarter Congregational Meeting
- 9 Wednesday Night Dinners Resume
- 17 Women's Bible Study Resumes

## Premise Keepers

If you like to clean, paint, fidget or fix, please plan on spending two hours after worship on the 3rd Sunday of the month. You'll meet new friends, have a great lunch, and finally get to paint or repair that spot that's been bugging you! This effort is being overseen by Glenn Perry and the Trustee Team and is open to men and women of any age and skill range.

Mark your calendar:

- **November 18** Kitchen/lobby refresh
- **December 16** Restrooms & hallways
- **January** (off)
- **February 17** Ceiling tile work
- **March 17** Shelter house work
- **April 21-28** Neighborhood Serve Week
- **May 19** Restrooms deep clean
- **June 30** Celebration picnic with GOServe team

Watch the Enews for monthly reminders. Thank you for serving!



## GOServe (Aka: Generous Servants)

If you are looking for hands-on ministry opportunities to serve God & Others, please watch for GOServe announcements. We are mapping out Saturdays and Tuesdays in the upcoming year and will begin this effort in December at Kenwood!

Here are the dates so far:

- **December 16** Food Packing Party with Childhood Food Solutions
- **December 29** Serving dinner at City Gospel Mission
- **January** (off)
- **February 23** TBD
- **March 30** Serving dinner at City Gospel Mission
- **April 30** TBD
- **May 18** TBD
- **June 17-22** VBS week-serving behind the lines
- **June 29** Serving dinner at City Gospel Mission
- **August 31** Serving dinner at City Gospel Mission
- **November 30** Serving dinner at City Gospel Mission

