

Parkside Nazarene Church

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▶▶▶ DECEMBER MESSENGER

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IT'S TIME: TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

By Pastor Don Lain

The time has come!! It's time to turn the page in the wonderful story of God back to page one. It's time to start again a story that miraculously unfolds, beginning now and running through Pentecost. The story of Redemption. The story of unparalleled love. The story of a God who, from the moment of the Fall of Mankind in the Garden of Eden, refused to let us go. Yes, a lot of history took place before the birth of Christ, but time changed for everyone when God set in motion the Redemption Plan He knew would change the world.

I've always loved the way Paul puts it in Galatians 4:4-7. These words come to my mind almost instantly every year when we flip the pages of God's salvation story back to page one. Paul writes, *"But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are a son, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls our, 'Abba, Father.' So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir."*

"When the time had fully come..." The time of Christ's coming was not conditioned by human readiness. In these verses it says that Christ came when mankind was still bound in law. Paul in Romans 5 informs us that Christ came and eventually died: 1) when we were still powerless (v.6); 2) when we were still sinners (v.8), 3) when we were God's enemies (v.10). We are reminded repeatedly in the Scriptures that Christ's coming to the world was not based upon human merit but Divine Grace! Paul simply

says, "It was time." I love that!!

Three days from the time of my writing this article we will push back from the Thanksgiving table, once again feeling too full. Then three days later Advent begins. The first theme of Advent is HOPE. Our hope has a source seen first in the miraculous birth of Christ – the grand entrance of Divine Rescue. By the time Jesus' stay on earth comes to a close, He will rise back to heaven having accomplished everything needed to offer all HOPE. He will wipe out the power and punishment of sin. He will transform those who accept His forgiveness from the status of slaves to sons. He will set in motion the infilling of our lives with the Holy Spirit. And He will announce us as heirs...heirs to God's blessings, provisions, care, comfort, and ultimately Heaven.

"Merry Christmas" doesn't quite capture all the wonder. It's our job to fill in the gaps; to rediscover the wonder and miracle of Christmas. It's our job to in speak the words "Merry Christmas" as more than a simple greeting, but rather a blessing. IT'S TIME!! LET US CELEBRATE!! LET US CELEBRATE JESUS!!



Weekly Services: (services are in person and online)

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Go to: www.facebook.com/parknaz/ or www.youtube.com
Parkside Nazarene Church

Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. (in person)

The December Messenger Continued..

SIGNIFICANT DECEMBER DATES :

- 02: District Christmas Dinner
- 04: Ladies Cookie Exchange
- 05: 2nd Sunday of Advent (Peace)
- 09: Ladies Bible Study
- 12: 3rd Sunday of Advent (Joy)
- 14: Church Board Meeting
- 18: Teen Christmas Party
- 19: 4th Sunday of Advent (Love)
- 24: Christmas Eve Service
- 25: Christmas Day
- 31: New Year's Eve



PARKSIDE CHILD CARE CENTER



We continue to be grateful for all of our families as we celebrate the holiday season! The Christmas Concert will be held virtually this year. All classrooms will participate and perform some of their Christmas and Winter favorites! A link to the Concert will be made available to all families, beginning December 22-31. We are CLOSED December 23, 24, 30, 31. Wishing you all the love and magic of Christmas and Happy 2022!

If you have any questions regarding the Child Care Center, please contact Cheryl or Marcella: 440-333-6643.

LADIES MINISTRIES

Join us for a Cookie Exchange on Saturday, December 4 at 2:00 p.m. at the church. Bring 2-3 dozen cookies to exchange. The idea is to leave with the same number you brought. Please mark your cookies with allergens, for example: dairy, wheat, nuts, soy, etc.. We will enjoy some cookies, Christmas music, and fellowship. Please contact Joanne Murphy in the church office with any questions.



Ladies Bible Study will meet on December 9 at 10:00 a.m. before taking a break for the holidays. Please contact Vivian Kizzee with any questions.



December Birthdays

Carrie Smith	01
Sharon Rayle	03
Michael Smith	09
James Laker	16
Scott Ward	18
Cookie Bruno	20
Joanne Murphy	21
Romeo DeMeo	25



The Teen Christmas Party is on Saturday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Murphy's house. Please bring a gift (\$5 or less) if you would like to participate in the gift exchange. Contact Joanne Murphy in the church office with any questions. *If you would like to volunteer to help or contribute snacks and treats to the party, please contact Joanne.*



Anniversaries

Kellie & Rev. Eric Anderson 07