



THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

For many—myself included—who did not grow up in Christian homes, our first glimpse of the true meaning of Christmas may have come from the annual Charlie Brown Christmas special. In the story, Charlie Brown becomes increasingly discouraged by the commercialism surrounding the holiday. During a chaotic Christmas program rehearsal, his frustration finally spills over as he cries, “Isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?” In that quiet, tender moment, Linus steps forward. The lights dim, a soft spotlight settles on him, and he recites Luke 2:8-14. The words of Scripture shift the entire atmosphere. The children’s hearts soften, their priorities realign, and they rally to help Charlie Brown rediscover the deeper joy of the season—through simple service and shared purpose.

For Christians, Christmas is a profoundly sacred celebration—not merely because of gifts, decorations, or familiar traditions, but because it marks the birth of our Savior. Jesus entered our world to bear our sins, to redeem all humanity, and to show us a new way of living marked by humility, service, and sacrificial love. He became fully human, experiencing our struggles, joys, and pain, so that He could teach us what it means to deny ourselves and follow the Father wholeheartedly. This time of year naturally invites us to reflect more intentionally on His teachings and to offer goodwill toward others. Yet we might imagine Jesus gently asking, “Why only at Christmas?” The compassion, grace, and generosity we highlight during the holidays were meant to shape our lives every day of the year. So, in the spirit of Linus and Charlie Brown, may we carry the true meaning of Christmas into our daily lives—living out Christ’s love in every season, not just the festive one.

~ Reggie Wardle

FALL SERVICE PROJECT

"Praise Yahweh. Give thanks to Yahweh, for he is good; his love endures forever." (Ps 106:1). And so it has been, it is now, and will ever be! Joyful hearts, feet and hands willing-to-serve were greeted by grateful brothers and sisters in Christ and pleasant work weather, yet again, during the Fall Service Project on November 22. Servants, younger and older, female and male - 20 in all - ministered to one another and to 14 households in cleaning gutters, raking leaves, performing other needed winterization, and demonstrating their care for fellow believers. There were reports of unbelieving neighbors recognizing our uncommon love for one another, glorifying our Lord and Savior, Jesus. To the church family, please connect with the Men's Ministry team if you have any household needs surface this winter and spring - we would be glad to assist if we can. *"Give thanks to Yahweh, for he is good; his love endures forever."* (1 Chronicles 16:34).

~ Craig Crandall



A PLACE AT THE TABLE

On November 1st, 47 women joined together to claim their place at the table. It was an outstanding time of helping each other to listen well, and to rehearse what that looks like in real life. Each woman had the opportunity to practice listening well, as well as the chance to truly be heard.

After a short snack break we dived right into how we might encourage each other in our daily lives, as individuals and as a group of caring women. Each table host was given a different scenario of a social situation and the attendees worked through how to handle each situation. There was laughter, encouragement, and hope spread throughout the room as "tools" were developed to show Christ's love even when we're in a tough spot.

If you've never attended one of our "A Place At The Table," it is not too late. We look forward to our next event in May 2026.

~ Danita Hunter



On November 9, we held a Veterans Honor Celebration, where we were able to thank our veterans and hear some stories about their time in the military.

FOLLOWERS OF THE WAY

We had 17 of our high school and young adult students start Followers of the Way this month. They've committed themselves to a 6-month intensive discipleship program, which requires them to abandon common distractions and focus on Christ. They'll be investing in prayer, scripture reading and memorization, service, reading Christian nonfiction, and meeting with discipleship groups. This is an exciting development for our church. I highly recommend praying for and giving encouragement to these young people for their efforts. We should all strive for this level of concentrated devotion.

-Patrick Vestal

HOME TO HEAVEN



KAZUKO
DAHLKE

September 17, 1934 -
October 30, 2025



LOIS
YOUNG

October 27, 1935 -
November 13, 2025

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

BLOCKED
FOR
PRIVACY

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

