



WINTER 2025-2026

**"A Sign, a Son, and a Savior"**

*"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14, NIV*

Isaiah (7:10-16) and Matthew (1:18-25) give us contrasting stories of trust. King Ahaz is called to trust in God during a dark time in Judah's history and Joseph is called to trust in the Lord even though he doesn't understand what God's plan is. With the fear of impending invasion, Ahaz refused a sign, he would trust in himself, in his armies, and in his defenses. But Ahaz would receive a sign whether he wanted one or not, and it would be the sign of a son, Immanuel (7:14). The name Immanuel means "God with us" and this name symbolized God's abiding presence with his people, even in the dark days of crisis between Assyria and Israel. God would not forsake his people, even if their leaders did not lead wisely. The promised son would be a type of the ideal king who would ultimately rule, God incarnate in Jesus, our Immanuel.

Matthew connects the dots of the ancient prophesy and tells us that what was taking place with Mary was to "fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' – which means 'God with us'" (Matt. 1:22-23). While the promise in Isaiah had meaning for his day and time, the promise of God's saving and abiding presence with his people (Immanuel) was uniquely fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, God's Son. Joseph had a difficult time trusting God and for a time, he was planning on walking away from it all! He was on the brink of saying "No!" to God, to Mary, and to his role in the story of the coming Savior. It was while Joseph wrestled with this inner conflict that "an angel of the Lord" appeared to him in a dream, "do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit" (1:20). This settled things for Joseph, and he took Mary home to be his wife (1:24). His fear and doubt gave way to immediate faith and trust. Not fully understanding, he decided to trust in the Lord. And when the child was born, "he gave him the name Jesus" (1:25) which is the Greek form of Joshua meaning, "the Lord saves." Putting the names of Jesus and Immanuel together we have, "God is here and he is here to save!" And isn't that the real meaning of Christmas! The Babe was born in Bethlehem, "veiled in flesh the Godhead see . . . Jesus our Immanuel!" Christmas is about celebrating the Son of God who came to save and who is present with us always.

May this Advent and Christmas season for you and your family be filled with God's love, joy, and peace. And may your celebrations of our Savior bring a deeper awareness of his saving grace, his presence in your life, and the love and joy that Christ desires to bring to our world! As you view this Winter edition of the Good Newsletter aside from our regular schedule of worship and Bible studies you will find seasonal events and activities that represent opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, service, and outreach. Pray for people in your life, and for opportunities to invite people to Bible study, or worship, or one of our special Christmas community events. Thank you for your faithfulness to share God's love to our community this Christmas season.

Pastor Joe

*"I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3*



*Dr. Joe Alain*  
Lead Pastor

*"I thank my God  
every time I  
remember you"*  
*Philippians 1:3*

*Rev. Matthew Singleton*  
Worship & Student Pastor

*Rev. Tom Rives*  
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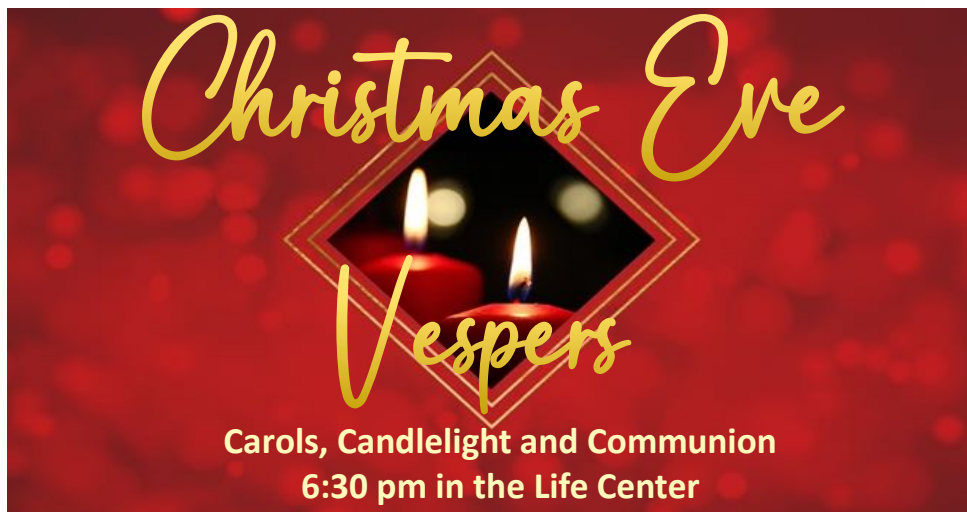
### *Thank You*

On behalf of your pastors, thank you for honoring us recently in worship and blessing us with cards, gifts, and words of thanks. It is a blessing to serve the people of God at CBC!

### **Family Food Roundup**

As you know there are many people in our church and community that are struggling to meet basic needs. The need for food is ongoing, and the resources of local food banks and ministries are being stretched. We plan to begin collecting food items on an ongoing basis and a list of needed items will be coming out soon. At that time, you will be able to bring food items to any worship service in the Life Center where a designated barrel will be located.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

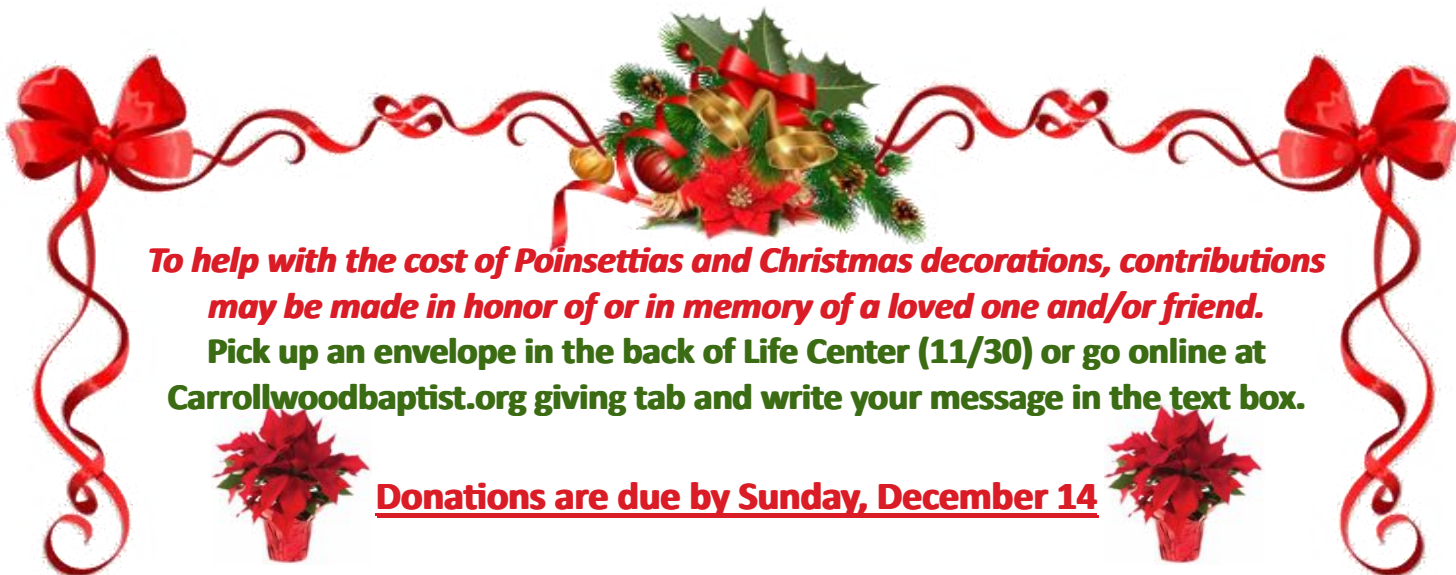


The Church Office will be closed on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Have a Very Merry Christmas!**



The Church Office will be open 9:00 am-Noon on Wed. December 31<sup>st</sup> and closed on January 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
**Have a Safe and Happy 2026!**





## Christmas Card Drop-Off



Insert your cards for the church congregation into the alphabetized slots in the back of the Life Center.

Then, you will check your slot and pick up any cards that you received on your own. No Stamps Required, starts 11/30!  
It's FREE! See Sandra Porter for ?'s.

**Senior Singles  
Luncheon**  
Tuesday, December 16  
12:00 - 2:00 pm  
Rhonda Alain's Home  
Sign Up in the Life Center or Call 813-962-3214

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ CBC

### DECEMBER 3, \*10, \*17, \*24, \*31

6:00-7:00 pm Adult Bible Study/Prayer in the Chapel

6:30-7:30 pm Children in Action in room #103  
Youth in the Youth House

7:00-8:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal in the Life Center

7:30-8:30 pm Band, Orchestra and Tech Rehearsal in the Life Center

\*December 10 Children in Action and Youth have Christmas Parties

\*December 17, 24 and 31 No Activities

### JANUARY \*7, \*14, \*21, 28

6:00-7:00 pm Adult Bible Study/Prayer in the Chapel

6:30-7:30 pm Children in Action in room #103  
Youth in the Youth House

7:00-8:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal in the Life Center

7:30-8:30 pm Band, Orchestra and Tech Rehearsal in the Life Center

\*January 7 All Regular Activities Resume except Adult Bible Study

\*January 14 Adult Bible Study will Resume

\*January 21 MEMBERS MEETING, No Bible Study/Prayer, other activities meet at regular times

### FEBRUARY 4, 11, 18, 25

6:00-7:00 pm Adult Bible Study/Prayer in the Chapel

6:30-7:30 pm Children in Action in room #103  
Youth in the Youth House

7:00-8:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal in the Life Center

7:30-8:30 pm Band, Orchestra and Tech Rehearsal in the Life Center



Agape Bible Study Class & Whoever Else Wants to Go

SATURDAY  
December 6<sup>th</sup>  
1:30-3:30 pm

**Let's Go  
Caroling**

We will carol at Northdale Rehab and Pruitt Health, Sunlake Blvd.  
See Edwin Morris for ?'s

**STEADFAST**  
Bible Study Class  
**Christmas Party**  
Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 am  
Pat Shepperd's house

**GRIEF SHARE**

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>  
1:00-3:00 pm, Carpenter Hall  
See Cheryl Barlow or Rusty Walker for ?'s

presents: *Surviving the Holidays*

## MEN'S MINISTRY



### ALL MEN WELCOME!

We meet on the third Saturday of the month at 8:00 am in Carpenter Hall for a time of *breakfast, fellowship* and *prayer*. See Doug Earle for questions; sign up in the Life Center.

**Saturdays: NO Meeting in DECEMBER; JANUARY 17, Deacons Meeting after Breakfast; and FEBRUARY 21**

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY



### *Ladies* Prayer Brunch and Bible Study

is a great monthly gathering for the ladies of the church, usually held on the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 am in Carpenter Hall. See Betty Morris for questions; sign up in the Life Center.

#### **SATURDAYS:**

**DECEMBER 13**, *Reflections of Christmases Past* by Jeannie Hernandez;  
and there will be a **Gift Exchange \$10-\$12**

**JANUARY 10 and FEBRUARY 14**



# CBC KIDS



**Children in Action**  
(1st - 5th Grades)  
**Wednesday Nights**  
6:30-7:30 pm



**AMY KIEFER, LEAD**

Children in Action

## Christmas Party and Activities

Wednesday, December 10  
6:30-7:30 pm



**Children in Action**  
**Saturday, February 14**  
**Deliver Goody Bags to Shut-Ins**  
9:00 am-2:00 pm

Vacation Bible School      June 15-19, 2026



**VBS Key Leader Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**11:45 am - 1:00 pm**  
Light Lunch Provided  
See Rhonda Alain for ?'s



## MINISTRY TEAM SCHEDULE

December 2025 - February 2026

Rhonda Alain (KidsTime/Preschool/Nursery Lead)

Sundays: 10:30 - 11:30 am

DECEMBER	Ministry Team
7	Carol Wade / Rusty Walker / Rhonda Alain
14	Heidi Barlow / Jenna Hogberg / Rusty Walker / Rhonda Alain
21	<b>FAMILY SUNDAY</b>
28	<b>FAMILY SUNDAY</b>
JANUARY	Ministry Team
5	Carol Wade / Beth Gonzalez / Lauren Gonzalez / Rusty Walker / Rhonda Alain
11	Heidi Barlow / Jenna Hogberg / Rusty Walker / Rhonda Alain
18	Robin Singleton / Kate Roberts / Fernanda Aguiar Santos / Rhonda Alain
25	<b>FAMILY SUNDAY</b>
FEBRUARY	Ministry Team
1	Carol Wade / Rusty Walker / Rhonda Alain
8	Heidi Barlow / Jenna Hogberg / Rusty Walker / Rhonda Alain
15	Robin Singleton / Fernanda Aguiar Santos / Susie Wright / Rhonda Alain
22	<b>FAMILY SUNDAY</b>

# STUDENT MINISTRY

## Student Christmas Party!

Come out and enjoy a night of fun at our Student *White Elephant* Gift Exchange Party on **December 10 at 6:30 PM!** Unwrap the laughter and surprises as you exchange quirky gifts with your fellow students (\$10 gift limit). Don't forget to bring something sweet to share in the spirit of the season. Hot Coco will be provided! Join us for a jolly good time and let the Christmas cheer begin.







## **Mark Your Calendar!**

**Student Life Missions Camp : July 25 - 31, 2026; See Pastor Matt for ?'s**



## **ROCK THE UNIVERSE**

A youth event set to ignite the spirits of our students, is scheduled from **January 23 to 25**.

Be in prayer for our students and leaders as they travel to Orlando for an unforgettable, electrifying, and worshipful experience.

Parents, Pastor Matt will send out important details regarding our trip soon after the new year begins. Stay tuned!

## **Winter Ice Skating!**

Students! On **Monday, February 16** (Presidents' Day), we will celebrate your day off from school by heading over to the *Advent Health Center Ice* arena in Wesley Chapel, FL, for a fun time of ice skating! Details to come, but be sure to go ahead and mark your calendar!



# MUSIC MINISTRY



## **Wednesday Night Rehearsals**

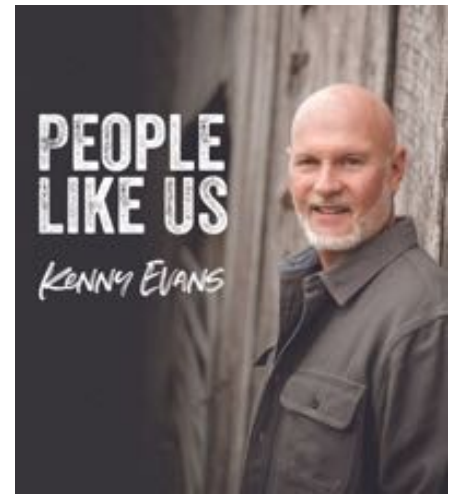
Reminder: Our music ministry will take a break from rehearsals starting December 17 - 31.

We will kick off in the new year, starting January 7, as we continue to prepare for our Easter Musical.



## Special Guest, Kenny Evans!

We are excited to announce **Kenny Evans**, a gifted *evangelist*, *entertainer*, and *sportsman*, will be joining us at Carrollwood Baptist Church again on **Sunday, February 15, 2026**, during our regular worship time at 10:30 AM! In addition to sharing a powerful message, Kenny will also bless us with his musical talents, combining inspiring words and uplifting music for an unforgettable worship experience. This is a Sunday you won't want to miss! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come and be encouraged through Kenny's dynamic ministry. Come ready to worship, sing, and be inspired!



## MISSION NEWS

### WOM Quarterly Update: All Women are Welcome



First of all we would like to thank all of you for helping Carrollwood Baptist Church meet our Maguire State Mission Offering goal. We would also like to thank all who packed an Operation Christmas Child box. We were able to turn in 78 boxes on November 17, 2025. Time does not stand still and it is time for planning winter activities. **Our winter meetings are December 9, January 13, and February 10. We meet monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 10am till noon.**

#### DECEMBER

Celebrating Joy in the Lord by telling HIS story by looking beyond the manger as well as the tinsel and twinkling lights to International Missions, in particular, the work spreading the word in Belgium and funding International Missions with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This year's goal is \$4000.00. We will be sending Christmas cards to shut-ins and others who need extra love and encouragement this time of year.

#### JANUARY

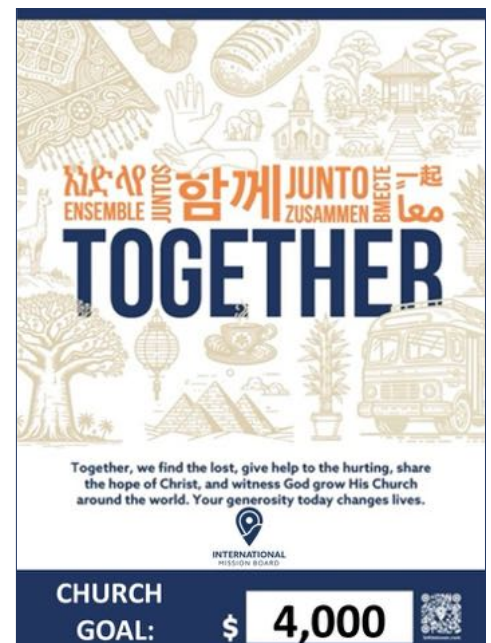
Human trafficking awareness.  
Recognizing we all have faith stories to tell.

#### FEBRUARY

The Pure Water, Pure Love Program  
How scouting for unreached people groups happens.  
Remembering to share love year-round and not just Valentine's Day and special holidays.

Again we want to extend our appreciation for all of your support of missions, prayers for missions, and actively sharing God's love along with us.

Sylvia Russell and WOM





# JOY MINISTRY

## **January 14, 2026 (Wednesday) - St. Petersburg Pier**

Waterfront district of 26 acres featuring several attractions including:

- stunning views of the picturesque Tampa Bay
- multiple restaurants, shops, an education center and a playground
- boardwalk, spa beach park, family park; walking and trolley tours
- several artworks that were made by American and International artists
- music, sports, theater, or comedy events; other special events (workshops, festivals, etc.)

**DEPART FROM CBC:** 10:00 am

**COST:** \$25 per person for food plus money for shopping PLUS an additional \$15.00 per ticket for possible visit to Museum of Glass Art

**WEBSITE:** [stpetepier.org](http://stpetepier.org)



## **January 28, 2026 (Wednesday) – Tampa Cigar Factory Tour and Columbia Restaurant**

The hour and fifteen-minute tour is a top to bottom exploration of El Reloj, the only cigar factory still in operation in Cigar City, (Tampa, FL). This tour takes guests through the process of cigar making both by hand and on antique cigar machines, the Newman family legacy, the history of Cigar City, and much more. Three stories high, and one city-block long, this historic cigar factory will please cigar enthusiasts, history buffs, and those with interests in manufacturing and technology.

**DEPARTURE FROM CBC:** 10:15 am

**COST:** \$12 per person for Seniors plus \$20-\$30 for food at the Columbia Restaurant

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.jcnewman.com/el-reloj/>



## **February 11, 2026 (Wednesday) - Tarpon Springs Aquarium and Lunch at Rusty Bellies**

The Tarpon Springs Aquarium offers a variety of shows and interactive encounters with animals. Get to hold an alligator, hand feed a stingray, and more. Family owned and operated since 1990. This family-run business caters to healing hurt animals. They have many kinds of turtles, iguanas, alligators, a HUGE alligator-snapping turtle, snakes, boas, etc. Petting zoo and educational shows on the hour.

**DEPARTURE FROM CBC:** 10:15 am

**COST:** \$25 per person for tickets plus \$20-\$30 per person for food at Rusty Bellies

**WEBSITE:** [tarponspringsaquarium.com](http://tarponspringsaquarium.com)



## **February 25, 2026 (Wednesday) - Henry B. Plant Museum and The Oxford Exchange Restaurant**

Henry B. Plant Museum is a **National Historic Landmark**, commemorating its role as a military headquarters during the Spanish-American War. Unlike most museums dedicated to lifestyles of the past, it contains the actual furnishings enjoyed by the first guests to visit here. The Museum accurately reflects the extravagance of the Gilded Age's industrial elite and the vision of shipping and railroad magnate Henry B. Plant. Exhibits, including "Tampa at War" and "Plant's Southern Empire" as well as special collections and programs, are among the museum's offerings.

**DEPARTURE FROM CBC:** 10:15 am

**COST:** \$12+ per person for tickets plus \$30-\$50 per person for food at the Oxford Exchange

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.plantmuseum.com/>



# OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

## Christmas Season Volunteer Opportunities

Consider giving back to your community this Christmas season. There are a variety of worthy ministries in our area to consider. Here are just a few. You can get all the details at their websites, and it is easy to sign up too.

**Metropolitan Ministries** ([metromin.org](http://metromin.org)). Receiving donations, tent volunteer, food distribution, etc. Locations in Tampa and West Pasco.

**Feeding Tampa Bay** ([feedingtampabay.org](http://feedingtampabay.org)). Serving meals to persons in need. Locations on Nebraska and Bush Blvd.

**Faith Café** ([faithcafetampa.org](http://faithcafetampa.org)). Serving meals in South Tampa.