

Christmas Uncluttered

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Lessons from a Plastic Tree

I have a yearly character building practice that happens in November – putting up the Christmas Tree. I have a love/hate relationship with this. I love our front room at Christmas time because the warm glow of the tree makes sitting with a coffee a bible and Jesus in the early morning hours really special. But to get there I have to wrestle with our tree.

We were given a pre-lit tree about 10 years ago and it's been a battle to keep it lit ever since. I've even cut off all of the attached lights that came with the tree since so few of them worked anymore, and I strung up other ones now. Hours of frustration finding burnt or missing bulbs sucks, and often threatens to ruin the whole mood of the day that I actually look forward to. This year was much better, but as I felt my frustration mounting, and as I knew God was speaking into my heart to learn patience again, a new thought came. What if this process, that doesn't ever seem to get much better, is supposed to be hard. I started to think of the many people I know going through struggles and about my own struggles and that maybe, just maybe, there are things in life that God allows to be hard for a reason. That on the other side of the struggle and difficulty there are deep things like joy, freedom, thankfulness, and spiritual maturity.

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Lessons from a Plastic Christmas Tree continued from page 1

As I think about The Christmas Narrative from the New Testament I can't help but think how difficult it must have been for Mary, Joseph, and the Wise Men who all had their life threatened and had to flee. But in the midst of all that, a Saviour called the Prince of Peace emerged.

May you find Him in your struggle too, and when you feel like throwing your hands up in the air (or the Christmas Tree out the front window) and giving up, remember that not all seasons of life that hurt us will harm us. Remember too that some seasons are meant to be hard because that's what is needed to do the deeper work in our lives and world.

*And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. **Matt 28:20b***



It's not too late to get involved in our

Christmas Blessing Project!

We are making "Transition to Independence Kits" for Monica Place. Monica Place empowers young women who are pregnant, parenting or choosing adoption to make informed and healthy choices for themselves and their children.

You can help young moms as they transition out of Monica Place by donating household items for them to start a home of their own.

Check out the sign up sheets at the back of the church or go to our website to see what items are still needed.

Please have the items you have signed up for at the church no later than Sunday, December 15th

*Please note that we can only accept items that are requested on the list and that are in new condition.



COME VISIT THE CHURCH LIBRARY



ALight on the Hill

New in the Library this month

In the Shadow of Jezebel

- Mesu Andrews (Biblical Fiction)

Verity (Sugar Baron's Daughter; 2)

- Lisa Bergren (historical fiction)

The House of Foster Hill -

- Jamie Jo Wright (suspense)

How the Light Gets In

- Jolina Petersheim (novel)

Heart of Ice (Triple Threat)

- Lis Wiehl (suspense)

The Gryphon Heist

- James Hannibal (suspense)

When Death Draws Near

- Carrie Stuart Parks (suspense)

Am I Messing Up My Kids

- Lysa Terkeurst (mothers)

With Every Breath

Elizabeth Camden (historical fiction)

(Cities of Refuge; 1)Connilyn Cossette

Series:

Whispers on the Moors: Sarah Ladd

The Heiress of Winterwood

The Headmistress of Rosemere

A Lady at Willowgrove Hall

DVDs:

- **Silent Night - The True Story of the Most Popular Christmas Carol**

- **The Nativity: The Life of Jesus Christ**

- **Joseph and Mary** - Kevin Sorbo

- **The Nativity Story**

- **The Young Messiah**

You can reserve books, CDs and DVDs ahead of time and pick them up on Sundays in our Church Library. Just visit our website under Media / Library and follow the prompts!

The Library is always looking for donations. If you have books you have read, movies you have watched or CDs you have enjoyed but no longer wish to keep please consider donating them to our church library so that others can enjoy them too!

The Prayer Chain is available to receive prayer requests and/or for you to join.

Contact Isabel Minaker at 519-503-676 or isminaker@gmail.com

If unavailable contact the church office at 519-578-7275 or office@countryhillchurch.ca

Sunday Morning



Sunday, December 1

"Is Everything Ready?"

Jeremy Shuart

Sunday, December 8

"Uncluttered Life"

Jeremy Shuart

Sunday, December 15

"Uncluttered Story"

Jeremy Shuart

Sunday, December 22

"Silent Night"

Jeremy Shuart

Nursery and Lighthouse Children's Ministry

For all ages up to Grade 6

Register your children downstairs at the

Guest Registration Desk or contact the church office.

519-578-7275 or office@countryhillchurch.ca

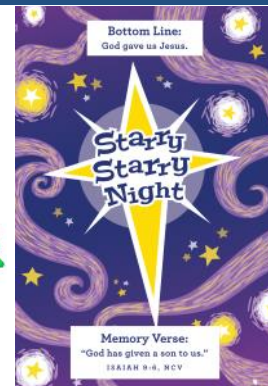
Download the Parent Cue App for ideas and conversation starters to help move your child toward a deeper faith and a better future.



This month in Lighthouse...

Join us for a brief, 30 minute **Parent Meeting** on **Sunday, December 8th**, following the service.

We will be giving you some Children's ministry updates and answering any questions you may have.



Missions Update

Peru 2020

We have been travelling to Peru for 15 years, serving in various short term missions projects. We have led medical teams into extremely remote areas, and have also participated in many other projects there. Many people from Country Hills have joined us over the years. We now feel that God is calling us to give for a longer period of time. We will be serving in Peru from January to April 2020 under the umbrella of Isaiah Projects

(www.isaiahprojects.com).

During the 4 months we will be working with several iProjects' ministries including La Buena Semilla (The Good Seed), a home for children deemed "at risk" by the government.

<https://www.isaiahprojects.com/puerto-maldonado-peru>. The home is

surrounded by a cacao plantation and Eric will be working with the farm manager to develop a 5-year strategic plan that will see the farm financially viable and able to sustain the running of the home. We will also be working in Trujillo and Pacasmayo with a young pastor, Auden Lujan, and the after-school program run from the church here. Of course, we will be working back in Lima with the Equipo de Suenos team at many of the new churches in the outlying developments.

During our time in Peru we will be offering 4- 3 day Family Ministry Conferences and will work with 12

couples at each conference to begin their training for family leadership in their churches and communities. There are several couples that we have been privileged to help train during our previous 3 years and they will be working with us in Lima. It is also our plan to offer evening study opportunities for other members of the churches and these will focus on The 5 Love Languages, The Five Languages of Apology (both by Dr. Gary Chapman), Boundaries (by Dr. Henry Cloud) and Eric will lead several sessions on financial management. Eric is currently working on an 8 week study on finances that will be utilized by the leadership team in Lima for ongoing training in the 15 churches served by Equipo de Suenos.

Also, while we are in Peru, there will be several other teams arriving, including a children's ministry team and a medical team, giving us the opportunity to serve in other ministry outside of our own.

We covet the prayers of our church family during this time of mission and ministry specifically for the growth, safety and health of both ourselves and those we go to serve. We know that God has many things to teach us as we step out in faith.

Pat and Eric Carlson

Student Ministries

Country Hills Youth Ministry Gr. 7 - Gr. 12

Country Hills Youth Ministry aims to provide a fun and safe environment for students to engage with their faith, build lasting relationships and serve our community.

We meet most Wednesday night's from September to June, and have occasional special events for more information, contact Pastor Mike at mwasyluk@countryhillschurch.ca or via call or text at 519.722.2387

Wednesday, December 18th Youth Christmas Party

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Cost: \$5.00

Make your own Poutine/Nachos, Karaoke and Board Games, Photo Booth and more!

Save the Date!! Winter Retreat

Friday, February 28 to Sunday, March 1

Hidden Acres Camp, New Hamburg ON Cost: \$135.00

More details coming soon!

Lighthouse Pro Gr. 5 & 6

Lighthouse Pro is a Country Hills Ministry for students in Grades 5-6.

We meet once per month for social activities to hang out and get to know each other better. We'd love to have your student join us!

For more information, contact Pastor Mike at

mwasyluk@countryhillschurch.ca or via call or text at 519.722.2387

Friday, December 13 - Lighthouse Pro Christmas Party

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Bring a gift under \$5 for our game.

There will be gym games, desserts, a gift exchange, and Christmas Songs!

Saturday, January 11 - Lighthouse Pro

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

We are having an **Art Attack**

More Details coming soon!

Mark Your Calendar

December

- Thursday, December 12**
Forever Young Lunch (55+)
 12:00 pm
 Cost: \$12.00
- Sunday, December 8**
Children's Ministry Parents Meeting
 11:30 am
- Friday, December 13**
Lighthouse Pro Christmas Party
 6:30 - 8:30 pm
- Sunday, December 15**
Deadline for Christmas Blessing Kit Items to be brought in
- Wednesday, December 18**
Youth Christmas Party
 7:00 - 9:00 pm
 Cost: \$5
- Tuesday, December 17**
Young Adults Christmas Party
 6:30 - 9 pm
 At the Pin - up Arcade
 247 Kings St. N Unit 8, Waterloo
- Tuesday, December 24**
Christmas Eve Service
 6:00 - 7:00 pm

January

- Wednesday, January 8**
Youth New Year Kick Off
 7 - 9 pm
- Thursday, January 9**
Forever Young Lunch (55+)
 12:00 pm
 Cost \$10.00
- Saturday, January 11**
Lighthouse Pro
 6:30 pm
- Sunday, January 12**
Anniversary Sunday
- Thursday, January 16**
Encountering God Journey begins (5 week experience)
 7:00 pm
- Sunday, January 26**
Baptism Information Class
 11:30 am following the service
- Sunday, January 26**
Prayer Gathering
 6:00 pm
- January 26 - 29**
Days of Prayer and Fasting



Featured Events

Forever Young Lunch for those who are 55+
Thursday, December 12 at 12:00 pm
 Cost for lunch: \$12.00

After a wonderful Christmas meal, join us in front of the fire for a Christmas Carol sing - along with the Morningside Ukulele Group

You are welcome to bring a nut free Christmas treat to share with the group after the meal as well

Please contact Lucille Waito, or the church office to let us know that you are coming.

Young Adults Christmas Party
Tuesday, December 17
6:30 - 9:00 pm

Meet us at the **Pin - Up Arcade**
 247 King St N Unit 3 Waterloo

Cost: \$5 for unlimited arcade games
 Food available for purchase on site.

For more information
 contact Pastor Mike

Coming in January 2020
Encountering God

A 5 week journey to help you
 encounter God in a deeper way
Thursday evenings beginning
January 12 - 30

7:00 pm

More details coming soon!

Join us this for a Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve SERVICE

CELEBRATE WITH US

December 24th 6-7pm

Country Hills CHURCH
 countryhillschurch.ca