

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADVENT WORSHIP AND PRAYER NIGHT

DEC 1ST | CHURCHWIDE

Kickoff the Advent season with a Worship and Prayer Night on Sunday, December 1st from 4:30-6pm. We look forward to a time of setting our minds and hearts on the reason for the season.

### ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

DECEMBER | CHURCHWIDE

Advent Devotional booklets will be available for your personal reflection and family time this season. This devotional will walk you through the four weeks of preparation for Christ's coming. Each week will have daily Scripture readings and a fun activity you can do with your kids to reinforce the importance of this season. Please stop by the Connections Desk if you have not received your copy.

### DRIVE-IN-MOVIE NIGHT

DEC 6TH | CREEK KIDS

Join us for an awesome night of family fun! Bring your lawn chairs, quilts and kids in PJs to our back parking lot on Friday, December 6th at 6:30 pm. We will be watching *The Grinch* and serving popcorn and hot chocolate. We will have a donation box for you to be able to give a pair of new children's PJs to The Vault Fostering Community. Let's help them give new PJs to families who need them for their newly placed foster children.

### FOSTER ADOPTION PARENT NIGHT OUT

DEC 14TH | 4PM-7PM

Currey Creek is hosting our fourth Foster Adoption Parent Night Out on December 14th from 4-7pm. Volunteers are needed to make this a successful event. We need adults and teens 15 years and up to help with this event. Please contact Kendall at [kellis@curreycreek.com](mailto:kellis@curreycreek.com) to volunteer! If you are a foster parent and would like to register for this event, please visit [curreycreek.com/fapno](http://curreycreek.com/fapno).

### BREAKAWAY

FEB 15-17 | HIGH SCHOOL

This February, High School Upstream will have our first Breakaway winter retreat! We will have fun, grow in our relationship with Jesus, be refreshed and prepared to be sent into our school on mission. Early bird registration is NOW OPEN! Visit [curreycreek.com/studentevents](http://curreycreek.com/studentevents) for more info.

### CAMP WINIWACA

JUNE 22-26 | MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are returning to Camp Winiwaca this summer! We will be packing up and heading to camp for a week of worship, teaching, and fellowship wrapped into a full-blown summer camp experience for our middle school students! Early bird registration is NOW OPEN! For more information please visit [curreycreek.com/studentevents](http://curreycreek.com/studentevents).

### GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION SERVICE

JAN 5TH | CHURCHWIDE

Please plan to join us at Currey Creek on Sunday, January 5th at 9am or 10:30am as we have a Grand Opening Celebration of our new building! It will be a special time of worship, prayer, teaching, thanksgiving, and celebration as a family. All ages and stages will stay gathered together for a short service followed by a tour of the new building, refreshments, and a gift for everyone. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this very special Sunday morning.

### CHRISTMAS BREAK

DEC 22, 29 | KIDS & STUDENTS

Creek Kids and Upstre(am) will not meet on Sunday, December 22nd and 29th. Nursery will be available on these dates. Wednesday night Middle School and High School will celebrate their Christmas parties on Wednesday, December 11th.

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

BEGINS JAN 22ND | WOMEN

"Becoming a Woman After God's Own Heart - Life of David Study" begins on Wednesday, January 22nd from 9:30-11:30am and Wednesday nights at 6:30pm.

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

BEGINS FEB 2ND | MEN

Our Men's Bible Study "Unfolded: The Story of God" begins on Sunday morning, February 2nd at 7:30am- 8:30am.

### SPRING SEMESTER

BEGINS FEB 2ND | CHURCHWIDE

Our Creek Institute class and Small Groups will begin on Sunday, February 2nd. This semester we will study the Apostle's Creed.

### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

DEC 25 - JAN 1

We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





# Family Advent CALENDAR



It's our favorite time of the year. Follow along with us during this Advent season to make sure you don't miss out on the fun!

DECEMBER

1

**HOPE** | 1 Peter 2:9-10  
Join us at Worship & Prayer Night

2

Pray for & invite a friend to church this Christmas!

3

Read Isaiah 7:14

4

Shop together for PJ's to give at Drive-In Movie Night

5

Read a Christmas book together

7

Play holiday music & decorate for Christmas

8

**PEACE** | Isaiah 9:6-7

10

Write Christmas cards to someone special

6

Join us at Drive-In Movie tonight at 6:30pm!

We'll have hot chocolate and popcorn, don't forget your PJ's!

9

Read Luke 1:26-38

Read Luke 1:39-45

11

13

Take a walk or ride to look at Christmas lights

**JOY** | Luke 2:1-12

17

Hot chocolate night. Stir this delicious drink with candy canes!

12

14

Make Christmas cookies. Give some as gifts!

Read Luke 2:13-21

16

Read a holiday book together & eat Christmas cookies

18

Read Matthew 1:18-25

20

Go on a manger scene hunt in your neighborhood

Wear Christmas PJ's & watch a Christmas movie

21

**LOVE** | John 3:16

22

Pray for missionaries who are away from their families this Christmas

19

19

23

Have a dinner by candlelight

Read Isaiah 9:2

24

Attend Christmas Eve Service (3pm | 4:30pm | 6pm)

25

*Rejoice! Jesus is Born!*

# ADVENT

Christmas 2019

Church Family,

He was born in Halle, Germany, into a religious, affluent household. His father, Georg Händel, a celebrated surgeon in northern Germany, wanted his son to study the law. But an acquaintance, the Duke of Weissenfels, heard the prodigy, then barely 11, playing the organ. The nobleman's recognition of the boy's genius likely influenced the doctor's decision to allow his son to become a musician. By 18, Handel had composed his first opera, *Almira*, initially performed in Hamburg in 1705.

George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* was originally an Easter offering. It burst onto the stage of Musick Hall in Dublin on April 13, 1742.

This year, the 250th anniversary of Handel's death, has been a boon to the Baroque composer and his best-known work. Handel composed *Messiah* in an astounding interlude, somewhere between three and four weeks in August and September 1741. "He would literally write from morning to night," says Sarah Bardwell of the Handel House Museum in London. The text was prepared in July by the prominent librettist, Charles Jennens, and was intended for an Easter performance the following year. "I hope [Handel] will lay out his whole Genius & Skill upon it, that the Composition may excel all his former Compositions, as the Subject excels every other Subject," Jennens wrote to a friend.

But *Messiah* offered the loosest of narratives: the first part prophesied the birth of Jesus Christ; the second exalted his sacrifice for humankind; and the final section heralded his Resurrection. Dublin was one of the fastest-growing, most prosperous cities in Europe, with a wealthy elite eager to display its sophistication and the economic clout to stage a major cultural event. "So it was a great advantage for Handel to make the voyage to Dublin to try out his new work, and then bring it back to London," says Keates, comparing the composer to Broadway producers who tried out plays in New Haven before staging them in New York City.

*Messiah*'s success in Dublin was in fact quickly repeated in London. It took time for *Messiah* to find its niche as a Christmas favorite. "There is so much fine Easter music—Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, most especially—and so little great sacral music written for Christmas," says Cummings. "But the whole first part of *Messiah* is about the birth of Christ." By the early 19th century, performances of *Messiah* had become an even stronger Yuletide tradition in the United States than in Britain.

In Christ,

*John D. Free*

Senior Pastor | Currey Creek Church