

**10:00 Morning Prayer and Praise**  
**Matters for Prayer/Prayer Matters:**

- to keep Jesus central in our Christmas and to share Him
- health of Diane Bartholic and Conner Reed
- the lonely, left out, looked over . . . and our part
- packages that CCF shipped to Haiti to make it and bless

**CCF's Unifying Mission is to:**  
*Be and make disciples of Jesus who love God and others to His glory*

- Using our Spirit-given gifts and resources
- Relying on His strength
- Serving with His body, family
- Following Him through His Word

**10:45 It's Not For a Lack of Signs, or Bread**  
*Matthew 16:1-12* **Kerry Doyal**

### ANNUAL MEETING TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

We will have reports, vote on the proposed budget, and consider these Deacon nominees—Dan Allshouse, Scott Bailey, Derek Bartholic, Diane Bartholic, Zachary Kennedy, and Rob Schreckengost

### THANK YOU, CAROLERS!

The *Rosebrookers* always appreciate your love in song. We may have more caroling opportunities . . . *ya' better watch out!* . . .

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING NIGHT AT THE SMITHS'

You are invited to join in the **Annual Smith Caroling Christmas Night**, Saturday, December 22, at Matt and Sherri's, beginning at 6 p.m. Please provide some appetizers and Christmas cookies. See Matt or Sherri for more information.

### UPCOMING EQUIPPING AND MINISTRY EVENTS

**December 24**—Christmas Eve Service [7 to 8 p.m.]  
**2019**—Ruminating on Righteousness in Romans

### MEN'S SATURDAY AM BIBLE STUDY

Guys . . . join us for fellowship and growth in the Lord on Saturday mornings, 9:30 a.m., here. We have one final study before the end of this year. That is next Saturday, December 15. Contact—Zak Kennedy.

### YOUTH—MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLERS [7 TO 8:30 P.M.]

- December 12—**play, pray, stud-ay** [7 to 8:30 p.m.]
- December 19—**Christmas cookies, party with Brownies** [6-8 p.m.]
- December 26—**No Youth Group**
- December 30—**Regional Youth Event** [Sunday, 6 to 8 p.m.]

### 2018 BIBLE READ THROUGH

**December 10, 11, 13**  
**December 12**  
**December 14**

Psalms 144, 145, 146  
 Luke 1:1-38  
 Matthew 16:13-21

### OUTREACH TOOLS!

We have literature to help you make disciples. After each description is the cost to CCF [just put it in the box]. However, if your budget is tight, it is **free!**

- **Christmas Word Watch!** We have 100 of these fun, cute booklets for your use. Read it to the kids and the grands. (3 for a \$1)
- **Questions Christians Hope No One will Ask:** We have 15 of these easy-to-read, very helpful “answer books” (\$2)
- **The Essential Jesus:** The Gospel of Luke with a built-in gospel presentation (\$1.50)
- **Chinese Christmas Tract!** Next time you are at a Chinese restaurant . . . (.33)
- **It's Time to Come Home:** A testimony of a prodigal calling other prodigals to come home (.50)

### HOMEGROUP BIBLE STUDY

We meet at the home of Matt and Sherri Smith every first and third Sunday of each month. A shared dinner begins at 5 p.m. with the study to follow. All are welcome; check with Matt or Sherri for details.



## DON'T OR WON'T SEE? DULL IS DANGEROUS

Signs, Bread Aplenty! Beware Blinders and Busyness—from Matthew 16:1-12

**Talk about missing the point!** Jesus' foes would not see, so they turned to testing Him to trap Him. Jesus' disciples were slow to see, so they needed a wake-up rebuke and reminder. “*Not getting it*” often reveals intimate things about one's heart. See if you can see what Matthew was showing us from these two related encounters with Jesus:

“The Pharisees and Sadducees approached, and tested him, asking him to show them a sign from heaven. 2 He replied, “When evening comes you say, ‘It will be good weather because the sky is red.’ 3 And in the morning, ‘Today will be stormy because the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to read the appearance of the sky, but you can't read the signs of the times. 4 An evil and adulterous generation demands a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.” Then he left them and went away.

5 The disciples reached the other shore, and they had forgotten to take bread. 6 Then Jesus told them, “Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” 7 They were discussing among themselves, “We didn't bring any bread.”

The

Vine



## DON'T OR WON'T SEE? DULL IS DANGEROUS

Signs, Bread Aplenty! Beware Blinders and Busyness—from Matthew 16:1-12  
[continued]

8 Aware of this, Jesus said, “You of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves that you do not have bread? 9 Don’t you understand yet? Don’t you remember the five loaves for the five thousand and how many baskets you collected? 10 Or the seven loaves for the four thousand and how many large baskets you collected? 11 Why is it you don’t understand that when I told you, ‘Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees,’ it wasn’t about bread?” 12 Then they understood that he had not told them to beware of the leaven in bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” (Matthew 16:1-12 –CSB)

### Don’t or Won’t See? Doubt, Dullness is Dangerous

**Unified Foes = Focused Fools. Testing Isn’t Truth Seeking** (vs. 1)

- Strange bedfellows are a sign of ill motives, ungodly methods
- Demanding our terms is a damnable power play, control ploy

**Beware Willful, Selective Hearing / Seeing** (vs. 2-4a)

- Discerning the physical, but ignoring the spiritual (cf. Revelation 16:9, 11)
- Not a matter of IQ, but “I Will!”—the Proverbial “fool” (Psalm 14:1)
- A sign of willfully wickedness, spiritual adultery (Romans 1:18-24)

**Jesus’ Resurrection is Ultimate Sign, Our Faith Focus** (4b, cf. 12:39)

- Grace: “none . . . but sign of Jonah.” WOW! The Greatest Sign
- “If they do not listen to . . . the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.” Luke 16:31 (1 Corinthians 15:1-9; Romans 1:4)

**It’s Dangerous to be Spiritually Forgetful, or Dull** (vs. 5-11)

- *They had one job!* What’s yours? Distraction can lead to deception (Colossians 2:4-8)
- Humbly hear Jesus: “O you of little faith . . . Do you not yet perceive? Do you not remember . . . how many baskets you gathered? How is it that you fail to understand . . . ?” (vs. 8-11) **OUCH!**
- Set eyes on, look to Jesus (Colossians 3:1-3; Hebrews 12:1, 2; John 15:1-5)

**Better a Late “Ah, Ha!” than Never** (vs. 12; John 20:26-31)

- Beware subtle, contaminating influence of self-righteous pride, or arrogant “liberty”
- False teachers tickle, and tempt us to turn from Jesus (2 Timothy 4; 2 Corinthians 11:1-4)
- Let Jesus bring application to His Teachings (cf. Matthew 7:21ff; James 1:22)
- How are you testing God? What terms and conditions do you set for the Almighty?
- What are you avoiding hearing, doing? Repent, re-love, re-do (Revelation 2:4, 5; 3:19, 20; John 13:17)

## Christ Community Fellowship

160 Singleton Road \* Sarver, PA 15065 \* 724.353.1001



DECEMBER 9, 2018

### “After Jesus was born . . .

“ . . . in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

“When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.” [cf. Micah 5:2-4]  
(Matthew 2:1-6 –NIV)

**Welcome, Guests!** We are honored to have you with us. Please let us know how we can be of help. Also, please fill in an information card and put in the offering box.

**Children** are dismissed to classes after our shared time of worship. **We also have a nursery.** Infants are welcome in the service. Please be sensitive to the distraction those cute, squirmy ones can be. **Thank you.**

**Let’s connect!** Visit our website at [ccffriends.org](http://ccffriends.org) and Facebook at [facebook.com/ccffriendssarver](https://www.facebook.com/ccffriendssarver). Pastor Kerry’s number is 724-664-9193 [call or text]. Connect via e-mail at [kerry.doyal@gmail.com](mailto:kerry.doyal@gmail.com) or Facebook.