

Prepare the Way for the Birth of Our Savior

Prepare your hearts for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Invite someone to experience the wholeness and hope that God offers in the days leading up to this celebration. Advent is a period of spiritual preparation in which Christians make themselves ready for the coming, or birth of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

“In the Company of Angels”

Advent Candle Series Dec. 13– Dec. 25

Angels are messengers. Sometimes they sing their message, sometimes they shout, sometimes they play instruments, sometimes they whisper. Advent and Christmas stories are filled with angels. During our Christmas sermon series, we will meet these angels through the lighting of our Advent Candles. We ask that you look for the angels around you, raise your head and listen. Do you hear the angels singing, “Glory to God in the highest?”

8:30, 10, and 11:30 a.m.

Sundays at Madison At the Square

10 a.m. Sundays at Madison At Ford

Celebrate new life on these special days

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 7 p.m.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

No evening worship Dec. 27

New Year’s Eve, Dec. 31, 11 p.m.

No evening worship Jan. 3



Madison Square Church
United in Christ as a Diverse Community

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Madison Square Church

United in Christ as a Diverse Community



December 13, 2009

- ◆ Madison Women
- ◆ Soul Pantry
- ◆ Madison School of Worship Arts

Our Vision: To build a community of diverse people who are being transformed by Christ.

◆ Welcome Guests

We're glad you're worshipping with us today. Questions about Madison? Please call the church office Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 245-7791. For more information go to www.madisonsquarechurch.org.



Advent Candle Series: In the Company of Angels

◆ Worship

Morning

Luke 2:1-14

“Jesus Comes as King”

Square teaching by Pastor Dave

Ford teaching by Pastor Alton

Evening

Luke 1:46-56

“The Ordinary Chosen to do the Extraordinary”

Teaching by Pastor Cisco

Worship at 8:30, 10, 11:30 a.m., and 6 p.m. at the Square; 10 a.m. at Ford

S.O.A.P. Bible Study “Jesus Comes as King”

S=Scripture: Luke 2:1-14

O=Observation: After reading the text carefully, answer the following questions: Notice how often this text indicates that the birth of Jesus was not just a local event. How many times is the entire world (or peoples) mentioned? What titles are given to this baby? Why is that significant? Look up Micah 5:2. How does God use a world-wide event to fulfill prophecy? Why is that important? What is the response of the shepherds to the angels' appearing and their message?

A=Application: Do you treat Jesus as more of a “cardiac” Christ or more as a “cosmic” Christ? Is Jesus large enough in your life? In our culture?

P=Prayer: Write out a prayer based on your meditation on this passage:

Daily Devotionals

Mon.: Isaiah 9:1-7

Tue.: Psalm 98

Wed.: Colossians 1:15-23

Thurs.: John 1:1-14

Fri.: Hebrews 1

Sat.: Revelation 1

Luke 2:1-14 (TNIV)

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. ⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

◆ Today

Nursery

For newborn through 3 years old at 8:30, 10, and 11:30 a.m. downstairs.

Four and Five Year Old Ministry

Downstairs in Room 104-105 at 8:30 and 10 a.m. There is no 11:30 a.m. session.

Children's Church (8:30 and 11:30 a.m.) Sunday School (10 a.m.)

1st through 6th graders meet in the MultiPurpose Room.

Special Needs Ministry

Trained staff provides your child with one-on-one attention in Room 314. Call Ken at 245-7791 ext. 214 for reservations.

High School Sunday School

10 a.m. in Room 203.

Adult Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Men's Addiction Recovery

Meets at 8:30 a.m. in Room 307.

High School Youth Group: 5-7 p.m. Call Katie at 269-330-4963 by 3 p.m. if you need a ride.

◆ This Week at Madison

Children's Praise Dance: Off until Jan. 11

Adult Praise Dance: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mon.

Madison Girls: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mon. for 2nd-6th grade girls.

Cadets: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tues. for 2nd-6th grade boys

Men's Addiction Recovery: 8-9 p.m. Tues.

Men's Bible Study: 8-9 p.m. Tues.

Fresh Fire Prayer Service: 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wed.; noon Thurs.

Madison Moms: 9-11 a.m. Wed.

Midweek Bible Teaching: 7-8:30 p.m. Wed.

Women's Addiction Recovery: 7-9 p.m. Wed.

Middle School Youth Group: Meet at church from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thurs.

◆ Our Attendance Last Sunday

<i>Sunday Morning Services</i>	<i>Worship and Children's Church</i>	<i>Sunday School and Nursery</i>
8:30 a.m.	258	41
10 a.m.	298	98
10 a.m. Ford	168	16
11:30 a.m.	297	18
total	1,021	173

Invite a friend or neighbor to our 8:30, 10, or 11:30 a.m. services At the Square or 10 a.m. At Ford. We have plenty of room for new faces.

◆ Our Giving

Year to date giving for General Fund:

Last week: \$4,343 over budget

Year to date: \$24,310 under budget

Today's morning offerings:

1. General Fund 2. Missions' Fund

This evening's offering:

World Communion of Reformed Churches

Next week's morning offerings:

1. General Fund 2. Christian Education

Next week's evening offering:

World Communion of Reformed Churches

Madison Women

Save the date of Jan. 8 and join us in the Sanctuary for the viewing and discussion of the movie "One Night With the King." The doors open at 6 p.m. and the movie begins at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your favorite pillow to sit on. There will be some chairs for those who would like that option too. Concessions will be sold in the lobby with the proceeds going to Youth Mission trips. For more information, please call Larisha at 452-1504.

Soul Pantry

Are you doing some shopping in Christian book stores this Christmas? We have children's and family Advent books, plus many more discounted books and gifts, and we pay the sales tax! Looking for something we don't have? Ask and we will do our best to meet your request.

Madison School of Worship Arts

In late January we hope to offer training in vocalization, instrumentation, and worship leading for 6th grade through adult.. To make this happen, we'll need three gently used acoustic drum sets and three keyboards. If you can donate these instruments for 10 weeks, please contact Nick Hopkins at 717-1353.

◆ Our Ministries

Baptisms

This morning we'll celebrate the baptisms of Gwyneth Jane and Sophia Elizabeth, daughters of Dan and Meghan Aupperlee; Brandon Michael and Levi Micah, sons of Brian and Mandy Taylor; Elijah Elton, son of Stephanie Meeuwenberg; Landon Elliot, son of Stephen and Anna Anderson; and Lydia Joy, daughter of Mary Casey.

Adult Sunday School Begins

Adult Sunday School Classes begin Jan. 10 including foundational courses and one new option. Beth Moore Bible Study, Focus on the Jewish Rabbi, Newcomers' Class, and Network Spiritual Gifts Training are our classic topics, and Women's Talk is a new way for women to bring issues for discussion in a new social setting. Watch for more details.

Middle School Youth Group

All families of middle schoolers are invited to attend a great night of food and fellowship from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Dec. 17. RSVP with Marisol by calling 245-7791.

Sunday School Teacher Needed

Our winter semester is approaching and our High School Students would love to have a Sunday School Teacher. Can you help? Call Christy at 340-3742 for more information.

Guest Speakers

Today, the "Business with a Mission" class will be joined by Doug Seebeck, author of "My Business, My Mission". On Dec. 20, Lou Haveman from Partners Worldwide will speak to the class.

Youth Ministry

Our youth will hold a fundraiser for youth mission trips on Jan. 8 and they need help gathering donations of food to sell. We are asking for: cases of canned soda, candy for concessions, bottled water, and a popcorn machine. Call Larisha at 452-1504 for more information. Please place your donations on the lobby table marked "Youth Ministry Donations" from Dec. 13 to Jan. 3.

20s and 30s

We will have a Christmas Cookie-Coffee time at Restorers' at 11:30 a.m. today. See you there!

Bulletin Deadline

Please submit all announcements for the Dec. 20 bulletin by 5 p.m. on Dec. 15 to bill.wiarda@madisonsquarechurch.org.

Staff

Bill Wiarda, Director of Communications, will be out of the office from Dec. 16 to Jan. 12.

◆ Joys and Concerns

A black wool women's coat was lost during last week's 10 a.m. service. If found, please call the church office at 245-7791.

Pray that our church makes its worship services a place where unchurched neighbors and guests feel comfortable and welcome, so that they will want to stay and join God's family.

Pray that parents may be unified as they teach and discipline their children and create a God-glorifying harmony in the home.

Pray for God to put his special protection around staff and leaders of our church, so that Satan will not be able to bring division through misunderstanding, pride, or self-interest.

Pray for churches in racially mixed neighborhoods. Pray that their witness and harmony may be so powerful that they draw unbelievers of all backgrounds into God's family.

Prayer servants are available after the service at the altar. You may also pray privately in the Prayer Room off the Lobby.

If you have prayer requests for the prayer chain, contact Marty Meyne at meynman@sbcglobal.net or 241-5027.

Prayer Request Form

Please check. I would like to:

- Give my life to Christ
 Recommit my life to Christ

Please Pray for: _____

Do you wish to have your request in:

- The Bulletin
 The confidential Prayer Chain

If you would like us to, how can we best reach you? _____

Name

Address

Phone

E-mail

Date

Please tear off and place in the offering basket. You may also call Paula Seales at 245-7791 ext. 212.