

**WORSHIP FULLY**

It starts with Jesus. It ends with Jesus. It's a season where we are called to put down our burdens and lift up a song to our God.

**SPEND LESS**

Spending less isn't a call to stop giving gifts; it's a call to stop spending money on gifts we won't remember in less than a year.

**GIVE MORE**

The most powerful, memorable gift you can give to someone else is yourself. And nobody modeled this more than Jesus.

**LOVE ALL**

By spending just a little less on gifts, we free up our resource to love as Jesus loves by giving to those who really need help.

**THANKS... TO PEGGY KNOEPFLE FOR THE NICE TOUCH OF CHRISTMAS IN THE DECORATING SHE DID FOR OUR FOYER AND AUDITORIUM!**

**FAREWELL**

Help us say goodbye to Dana, Linda, Mia, and Andrew on December 28 as they make a move to a new congregation. We appreciate their valued contributions to JCC the past few years!

**SAVE THE DATE**

Ladies you will want to mark your calendars—  
**Sunday, January 18—**  
**Ladies' Brunch**  
following the morning service at Phylis' home!

Each week everyone will be asked to fill out a Connection Card in order to "MEASURE" our church in five key areas. There will be a summary report each week in the bulletin that identifies those five key metrics.

**Please turn in your card each week. Members, leaders and guests will be asked to turn these in.**



Thanks to **Ken Ridinger** for setting up our coffee bar each Sunday morning!  
Thanks to **Neal Spurlock** for the treats that brighten up our Sundays!  
Thanks to our Praise Band: **Josh Staar, Wes Spurlock, Rob Huerta, Jeremy Stein, Dana Schnabel, Linda Schnabel, Rod Fitzgerald, Ken Ridinger, Phylis Huerta, Noelle Valles, and Darrick Tomlin** for leading us in worship!

CONNECTION CARD

APPRECIATION...

# UPSIDE DOWN CHRISTMAS

★ Rediscovering the Wonder of Christmas ★



- NOV 30 *Upside Down Birth*
- DEC 07 *Upside Down Traditions*
- DEC 14 *Upside Down Gifts*
- DEC 21 *Upside Down Happiness*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Emma Grebenick	▶ Post-Surgery Healing
Lily Metcalf	▶ Dementia
Anabelle Galik	▶ Lung Cancer
John Schreiber	▶ Healing
Andrew Haywood	▶ Health Issues
Noe Figueroa	▶ Health Issues
Linda Loukota	▶ Breast Cancer
Elizabeth Stein	▶ Health Issues
David	▶ Heart Transplant
Abby London	▶ Mersat
Pat Crampton	▶ Healing in Her Back
Ashley Fagerson	▶ Mental Health Issues
Sharon Dost	▶ Colon Cancer
Maria Ashcraft	▶ Complete Healing
Robin Loveless	▶ Lung Cancer
Art Bush	▶ Post-Surgery Healing
Barb Smith	▶ Lower Back Pain
Bobbie Nash	▶ Inner Healing
Kenny Dutro	▶ Skull Fracture
Trevor Walls	▶ Deployed to Afghanistan
Jim Walls	▶ Back Surgery
Keith Knoepfle	▶ Back Surgery
Peggy Knoepfle	▶ Shoulder Sprain
Kevin Knoepfle	▶ Back Issues
Teresa Jean	▶ Newborn: Heart Defects
Paul Sharp III	▶ Health Issues

12/07/14



- 42 ATTENDANCE \$2,771.25 GIVING
- 3 GUESTS 12 VOLUNTEERS
- 0 DECISIONS FOR CHRIST



# UPSIDE DOWN CHRISTMAS

★ Rediscovering the Wonder of Christmas ★



## Upside Down Gifts



Sometimes people see things upside down... a woman from Serbia sees the world upside down because of a rare brain condition called spatial orientation phenomenon.

*What if there is in society, a Christmas spatial orientation phenomenon where people see things upside down?*

*Maybe we need an antidote for this condition. . .*



### UPSIDE DOWN GIFTS

// Oil-free air dryer

- Alarm clock on wheels

// Live video camera drone

- Oscar mayer bacon kit

// Remote control bald eagle

- Hand fitness strength trainer

// Shark bait sleeping bag



## THE DANGERS OF UPSIDE DOWN GIFTS




- 
1. They create stress – looking for the perfect gift.
  2. **They cause debt – buying stuff for the wrong reason.**
  3. They bring disappointment – unmet expectations.
  4. **They cause hurt feelings – gifts given out of obligation.**
  5. They put the focus on the wrong thing – it's about Jesus.



### UPSIDE DOWN DECISION

To move from obligation to opportunity.

- 
- Giving gifts is a good thing.
  - Paul instructs us to “give cheerfully” (2 Corinthians)
  - The first Christmas present was God’s only son.

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

— Matthew 2:9-11 —

# HOW DO WE TURN CHRISTMAS RIGHT SIDE UP?

1

## GIVE GIFTS THAT EXPRESS LOVE

- *The wise men modeled gift-giving*
- *Their gifts were thoughtful and useful*
- *Their gifts were sacrificial*

<sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

— 1 John 4:9 —

Who are the people that truly need my gifts?  
How can I bless these people?

The point: look for ways to bless others!

2

## GIVE GIFTS THAT MEET NEEDS

- *Choice gifts will not break the bank*
- *Well-placed gifts honor the Father's wish (to the least of these... Matthew 25)*



The point: look for opportunities to share God's gift!

3

## GIVE GIFTS THAT POINT TO JESUS (the Matthew 2 model)

- *Gold*
- *Frankincense*
- *Mybrr*



The point: our gift-giving should point to Jesus!

Jesus is the ultimate gift. Christ came to redeem us—to pay the price for our sins. We need to be reconnected with God!

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16













