

**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.



**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!

**2015**

Get ready for a helpful teaching series that paves the way for some solid footing for the New Year! **"Fresh Start"** is the series—and God is ushering us into a new season!

**FOR THE GUYS**

Don't miss this! Brunch & Bocce. It happens on **01/18/15** following the service at **Pinstripes at the Arboretum in South Barrington**. Get ready to hang out with us!

**SAVE THE DATE**

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

**BAPTISM SUNDAY**

TAKE THE NEXT STEP—GO PUBLIC WITH YOUR FAITH. HERE'S HOW:

**BAPTISM CLASS, 01/11 @ 9:30 A.M.**  
**BAPTISM SUNDAY, 01/25 @ 10:00 A.M.**

Let Pastor Bob know you are ready to say **YES** to Jesus!

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.**



# 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 G.	▶ Post-Surgery Healing
■	Lily M.	▶ Dementia
■	Anabelle G.	▶ Lung Cancer
■	Andrew H.	▶ Health Issues
■	Noe F.	▶ Health Issues
■	Linda L.	▶ Health Issues
■	Elizabeth S.	▶ Health Issues
■	Maria A.	▶ Complete Healing
■	Kenny D.	▶ Skull Fracture
■	Trevor W.	▶ Deployed to Afghanistan
■	Jim W.	▶ Post-Surgery Healing
■	Keith K.	▶ Post-Surgery Healing
■	Paul S. III	▶ Complete Healing
■	Peggy K.	▶ Health Issues
■	Kevin K.	▶ Surgery 12/30
■	Paul S.	▶ Surgery 01/08

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

**"The opportunity of a lifetime must be seized within the lifetime of the opportunity."**

-Leonard Ravenhill

12/14/14

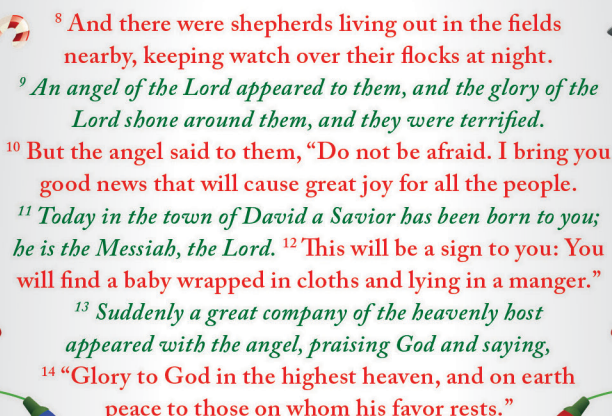


- 36** ATTENDANCE **\$1,509** GIVING
- 2** GUESTS **12** VOLUNTEERS
- 0** DECISIONS FOR CHRIST

# UPSIDE DOWN CHRISTMAS

★ Rediscovering the Wonder of Christmas ★

## Upside Down Happiness

- 
- <sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.
- <sup>9</sup> *An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.*
- <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.
- <sup>11</sup> *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.* <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
- <sup>13</sup> *Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*
- <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

— Luke 2:8-14 —

### HAPPINESS ★ VS. JOY ★

- Happiness is external. JOY IS INTERNAL. ★ ★ ★ ★
- Happiness is based on circumstances. JOY IS BASED ON CHRIST.
- Happiness is based on chance. JOY IS BASED ON CHOICE.

### UPSIDE DOWN DECISION

▶ To move from happiness to joy.


### ★ WHAT IS JOY?

▶ Joy is an internal choice of hope based on my belief in Jesus.



### ★ HOW TO EXPERIENCE THE TRUE JOY OF CHRISTMAS ★

#### CHOOSE TO ACCEPT THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS



**1** <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. — Luke 2:10

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. — John 1:10-13

*The birth of Jesus is an incredible event that God planned to bring great joy to the entire world!*



2

## CHOOSE TO DO WHAT GOD SAYS

*<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." — Luke 2:15*

*Light shines on the godly, and joy on those who do right. — Psalm 97:11*

When I make a decision to fix my hope in Jesus Christ, that's when I begin to experience joy in my life that doesn't change even when circumstances do change.

- Disobedience is an empty way of doing life.
- Doing what you feel like doing is a broken model and always leads to emptiness and loss.
- Obedience is the key.  
Obedience and joy go together.
- As I live in greater obedience, I live with a deeper and deeper joy.



## CHOOSE TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS

*When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, — Luke 2:17*

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. — Psalm 97:11*

- Don't keep your faith hidden.
- Care about the people in your life.
- Help them make that critical connection with God.
- Use Christmas as a reconciliation event.



*Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! — Philippians 4:4*