



CELEBRATE

CHRISTMAS

PEACE  
JOY  
HOPE

EVERLASTING

JOY

A decorative wreath made of numerous small, round, red berries is positioned in the center of the image, forming the letter 'O' in the word 'JOY'. The wreath is dense and has a rich, dark red color. The background is a light gray with a subtle, fine-grained texture. The overall design is clean and elegant, with a focus on the festive theme of the berries.

“...WHEN JESUS SAW THE MULTITUDE, HE WAS  
MOVED WITH COMPASSION...” Matthew 9:36

# Grace Brethren Church Of Norwalk

December 25, 2011



## WELCOME!

We are so glad you are here today on Christmas morning. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us and have a blessed day celebrating our Lord Jesus' birth!

Pastor Jeff Patton

## Today at Grace —

Grace Worship Service: 10:45am

**The Christmas Cantata performs...**

**“The Promised Hope”**

**The Promised Hope**

**Christ is Come**

**Night Before Christmas**

**Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

**Jesus, O What A Wonderful Child**

**Born Where the Shadows Lie**

**Soon and Very Soon**

**Sovereign Lord**

**Gloria**

**Come and Worship - A Celebration**

“...WHEN JESUS SAW THE MULTITUDE, HE WAS  
MOVED WITH COMPASSION...” Matthew 9:36

## Upcoming Events —

Today:

NO KIDMO

NO EVENING SERVICE

This Week:

**No Family Night Services on Wednesday**

DRIVEN Ice Skating from 6:30 to 10:30pm - Wednesday

Church office - open only Wed. & Fri. from 9:00am till Noon

## For those Serving —

**Ushers for the Month of December**

Tim Lansing, Victor Pearce, Eddie Morales, Glenn Wilson

**Ushers for the Month of January**

Don Lansing, Mark Miller, Ron Morrow, Ron Muir

**Nursery – Today 12/25**

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:45 am Dee Muir

Tracy Lansing

**Nursery –Next Week 01/01**

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:45 am Kathy Wingerson

Clansy Cabrera

## For the Record —

12/18/11 Giving:

Weekly Budget:	\$2,594.00	Offering Last Week:	\$1,482.38
S.S./CE Commission:	\$6.05	Grand Total/All Offering:	<b>\$1,741.43</b>
Church Loan	\$62.00		

Patton's – Monthly Need:	\$170.00	Received this month:	\$146.00
O'Dell's – Monthly Need:	\$170.00	Received this month:	\$76.00
Morris – Monthly Need:	\$170.00	Received this month:	\$171.00

# Church Family Announcements

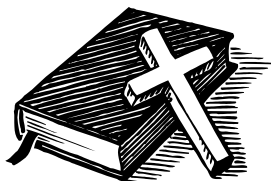
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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**Jesus Christ**

**December 25**

*Please stay and enjoy birthday cake with us today after the morning service as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.*



**READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN  
TWO YEARS/THE END!**

December 25-31:

John 15-21

Zechariah 12-Malachi 4

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## Important Upcoming Events

- Dec. 28 6:30pm DRIVEN – Ice Skating  
Dec. 31 **5:00pm** COMMUNION  
Jan. 22 6:00pm Congregational Business Year End Meeting  
& 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Business Meeting  
Jan. 29 6:00pm CE National Celebration Service - Whittier

**NO WEDNESDAY FAMILY SERVICES ON DEC. 28**

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**CHILDREN'S CHOIR -**

**To begin again January 15, 2012**





# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS  
FROM THE TABLE OUT IN THE FOYER.

Thank you.

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Join us for  
**WE CARE -**

January 28<sup>th</sup>

10:00am

7 Minute Servants

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**THANK  
YOU**

Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for the lovely assortment of gifts. I appreciate your love and support during my past five years in Children's ministry. I look forward to all our Lord has planned for the future! In His Service, Josie Ramirez

# IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN... TIME TO BEGIN PLANNING OUR 2012 CHURCH DIRECTORY AND HOPEFULLY WITH PICTURES!

Please fill out one form for each family, even if you did one last year. Please print clearly. Thank you. Please put in offering bag or church office.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse** \_\_\_\_\_

**Children** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Birthdays:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Anniversary:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone numbers:**

**Home:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell numbers:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email addresses:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Beginning Thursday, January 19, Pastor Jeff will be teaching a Bible study called **Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible.**

This Bible study will meet every Thursday morning at 10 a.m. at the church for 24 weeks. There is a mandatory textbook and an optional workbook for this course.

The stated purpose of the study is to understand the Bible by properly interpreting it by observing the small details and the overall design of texts.

This course is designed for those who want to “roll their sleeves up and get their hands dirty” with concrete examples and practical assignments accompanying each chapter. It is designed to teach how to study the Bible and how to apply and use the Bible in life.

This study is for anyone who:

1. Wants to learn how to study the Bible;
2. Is ready and willing to make a commitment to attend every week, and complete homework assignments;
3. Is committed to changing and growing in faith and discipleship to Jesus Christ.

Contact Lisa Patton or the church office to sign up. Thank you.



## Heaven's Announcement

Great joy abounds  
throughout the earth!  
The orbs of heaven's night  
rejoice!  
This is no quiet silent  
eve!  
Great anthems route the  
hills with voice!  
The glorious news awakes  
the world!  
Oh, hear the angels'  
choirs sing!  
The announcement to a  
troubled world,  
Oh, mankind rush to meet  
your king!"

phyllis fisher

## Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

### The Back Story

*"The fruit of the Spirit is love, JOY, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control; against such things, there is no law."* **Galatians 5:22-23**

The author of "Joyful, Joyful" was Henry van Dyke. He was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania, in November 1852. Brethren historians will take note that Germantown is the American home of the first Brethren who came from Europe. Van Dyke was a renowned Presbyterian preacher in America. But he was so much more! He was a literature professor at Princeton University, a Navy chaplain in WW I, and an ambassador to Holland and Luxembourg for President Wilson. He wrote many devotional books that became best sellers during his day. Van Dyke said about "Joyful, Joyful," "These verses are simple expressions of common Christian feelings and desires in this present time, that may be sung by people who know the thought of the age, and are not afraid that any truth of science will destroy their religion or that any revolution on earth will overthrow the kingdom of heaven. Therefore this is a hymn of trust and hope." Van Dyke wanted "Joyful, Joyful" to be a joyful interplay between God's created world, and the creative spirit in the life of the Christian. We see this in such words as "hearts unfold like flowers before Thee." Van Dyke wanted this beloved Christmas carol to remind the singer that all creation speaks of God's glory and in so doing, directs our worship to the Creator Himself. He wanted all people to find the encouragement needed for any circumstance in life by inviting them to join the mighty chorus of joy begun at creation (Job 38:7). Van Dyke wrote "Joyful, Joyful" while a guest speaker at Williams College in Western Massachusetts. He said the Berkshire Mountains inspired him to write it. When he gave it to the college president as a gift, he insisted it be sung to Beethoven's "Hymn of Joy," from his Ninth Symphony. This was Beethoven's last symphony and considered to be his greatest. It took him six years to complete it! Beethoven was inspired to write his great symphony for instrument and voice after reading the poem "Ode to Joy" written by his friend Friedrich Schiller. We all marvel and stand in awe of this because Beethoven wrote this, his greatest work, after age 30, at which time he was completely stone deaf! Eyewitness accounts say that at the first performance of the Ninth Symphony in Vienna, Austria, in 1824, the soloists had to come down from the stage and turn Beethoven around so that he could recognize the thunderous applause he was being given. How true it is that "music is God's gift to man, the only art of heaven given to earth, the only art of earth we take to heaven."

*"Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, hail Thee as the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!"*