



# FREEDOM<sub>CHURCH</sub>

**"...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom."**

**2 Corinthians 3:17**

**Service Time: Sundays at 10 am**

## **Pastor Mark's Remarks**

Hi Friends,

The holidays are upon us, and we have much to celebrate! Thanks to all of you who took part in our Thanksgiving Feast on November 24<sup>th</sup>. The food was delicious, but the worship and testimonies were even better! That night was such a powerful reminder of what is so special about the Freedom family, and I give thanks to God that I get to do life with you.

As always, December will include a variety of special Christmas events for all age groups, culminating with our Christmas Eve Service at 4:00pm, on December 24<sup>th</sup>. That evening is always one of the sweetest and most memorable services of the year, so I hope that you will be able to join us. And keep in mind that this service is always a great opportunity to invite unchurched family, friends, or neighbors to join you as we celebrate Jesus together.

This year we are adding one new element at Christmas which has been on my mind for a couple of years. That added element is an opportunity to give a Christmas gift to the One whose birth we celebrate when we gather on Christmas Eve. This is not a gimmick or a fundraiser. Instead, we are doing this in recognition of the fact that Christmas is about Jesus and is a season of generosity. So it only seems to make sense that our most thoughtful and generous gift each Christmas would be given to honor the One whose birth we celebrate.

We did this at the last church I served, and it just felt really "right." I made it my practice to make sure that the most generous gift we gave each Christmas was the Christmas offering that my family and I gave each Christmas Eve. With each passing year, it seems more and more difficult to dream up Christmas gifts to give to family and friends who already have more than they need. And it feels so right to give a Christmas gift that advances the Kingdom in tangible ways.

I know in my heart that God is calling Freedom Church to bold new steps in 2020, to reach people here and overseas with the gospel. And it gives me joy to take part in this giving opportunity which will help to position us for greater Kingdom reach and impact in the coming year. Would you think and pray about taking part in this special Christmas giving opportunity?

I look forward to celebrating Jesus and His advent together with you throughout the coming month!

You Are Loved!  
Mark



## **December 2019 Special Dates**

- Dec. 8: Children Singing During Sunday Service
- Dec. 9: Leadership Christmas Dinner (6:00)
- Dec. 15: Pancake Christmas Fellowship (9:00)
- Dec. 15-Jan. 11: Small group break
- Dec. 18: Youth to Prodigy Pantry followed by Youth Christmas Dinner (5:45-8:00)
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service (4:00)
- Dec. 25: CHRISTMAS!! (Youth will NOT meet)
- Celebrate Recovery every Thursday at 6:15 pm
- Freedom's youth meet on Wednesdays, 6-8 pm



## Christmas Pancake Fellowship

On Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, make plans to show up for church an hour early (9:00)...and come hungry! On that morning, we will have a church-wide breakfast fellowship with hot pancakes & Conecuh sausages, Christmas music, and lots of good fellowship time. So break out your most colorful Christmas clothes and enjoy a good time of food and fellowship, followed by a great morning of worship!

## Christmas Eve Service

Join us on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 pm, for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Through music, video, Scripture and Communion, we will celebrate the real reason that we celebrate this holy season. This service is brief enough that it will not interfere with dinner plans, but it promises to pack a powerful holiday punch! Bring along your extended family and neighbors for a Christ-centered evening.



## Preschool Ministry

We have entered the busy time of the year! On December 8<sup>th</sup>, our preschoolers will be singing in the morning service. We have been practicing hard each Sunday, so be sure to invite your family members to hear these sweet children sing. We would like to thank Caroline Keener for the time that she has spent practicing with them each week!

**Please note that the plans for our Christmas Party have changed.** We will not be having our party following the service on December 8<sup>th</sup>, but will instead be celebrating with a party during our regular time in the rooms with the children during the morning service.

I pray that each of you have a wonderful time with your family as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and remember what the season is all about.

Merry Christmas,  
Sabrina Ankerson

## Student Ministry

The Christmas season is upon us! On Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, from 5:45 to 8:00 pm, we will be having a volunteer outreach at the Prodissee Pantry in Spanish Fort. Following the outreach, we will celebrate with a youth Christmas dinner! The following Wednesday will be Christmas Day, so no Youth until 2020! Please contact Stone or Caroline with questions about the outreach or the Christmas dinner.

## End-of-year Giving

Thank you for your faithful giving this year! As you review your giving for 2019, if you would like to make an end of year donation, please note that gifts must be given in person by December 29<sup>th</sup>, or postmarked by December 31<sup>st</sup>, in order to be credited for 2019. Giving statements for the year will be mailed out no later than the final week of January. If your address has changed in the past year, please make sure that the church has your new address.

## Operation Christmas Child Update

Freedom Church contributed 77 boxes to Operation Christmas Child this year! Thank you for your generosity. Through your giving, these boxes of gifts will result in evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication, and put much joy in the hearts of children.



*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*

*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

*And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

*Luke 2:9-14 (NIV)*



### Freedom Staff

<b>Pastor</b>	Mark Price	mark@myfreedomchurch.net
<b>Student Ministers</b>	Stone and Caroline Keener	stone@myfreedomchurch.net caroline@myfreedomchurch.net
<b>Worship Pastor</b>	Tony Edwards	tony@myfreedomchurch.net
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<b>Secretary</b>	Beth Osborne	beth@myfreedomchurch.net
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<b>Celebrate</b>		
<b>Recovery Pastors</b>	John Beck	john@myfreedomchurch.net
	Salley Beck	salley@myfreedomchurch.net
<b>Mission Pastor</b>	Butch Hedgepath	butch@myfreedomchurch.net
<b>Media Director</b>	Dave Wilson	dave@myfreedomchurch.net

### Bible Readings for December

<b>Dec. 1-7:</b>	<b>Revelation 2-6 / Psalms 133-137</b>
<b>Dec. 8-14:</b>	<b>Revelation 7-11 / Psalms 138-141</b>
<b>Dec. 15-21:</b>	<b>Revelation 12-16 / Psalms 142-144</b>
<b>Dec. 22-28:</b>	<b>Revelation 17-21 / Psalms 145-147</b>
<b>Dec. 29-31:</b>	<b>Revelation 22 / Psalms 148-150</b>



Love God, Love People, Serve the World!