

Not just an imitation, but the love the Father has for the Son and the Son has for the Father becomes the love we have for the Son, so the love we have will also be for all peoples. Paul said in Galatians 2.20, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." Of course, this "Jesus living in me" and "love for all peoples as Jesus" is very abstract and insignificant if we are not actually loving the people who are in most respects difficult to love who we are in contact with individually.

Christmastime is a season when love of God and of our fellowmen and women fills us all, but the real challenge is to continue feeling and showing that love when Christmas is over so that it fills the entire year. In Jesus, we see that Love is constant and sacrificial— it never changes, fails, or keeps a record of wrongs. It always perseveres, it always withstands our greatest failures and successes, and reminds us we are loved because of who we are – not what we do. Jesus is ready to take your imperfections and mistakes into his healing hands right now if you will just surrender to his love. That is the true story of Christmas – that Christ's love for you can teach you to love more fully than you've ever known. Love permeates every aspect of the Christmas story. God knew that love, real Love, modeled for us, revealed to us, touching us, filling us, and changing us, would fix the love-problem of the human heart. Thus the incarnation! 1 John 4.10, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." Romans 5.8, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." May we be the demonstration of Christmas, very literally being God in someone's life.



If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one, please see the order form in your Worship Guide. All proceeds will go to Youth Missions & Camp.

# Tupos

STUDENT MINISTRIES

## Upcoming Opportunities

**Dec 22nd Prayer Night**  
7:00 PM at the church

**Jan 5-6 Workday/Lock-in**

**Jan 13-Winter Jam**

**Jan 19-21 ReVerb**

If you have chores to be done at home, the Tupos students are ready to work!

You can Rent-a-Youth on Saturday, January 6th.

They'll raise money for camp and you'll be chore-free!

It's a win-win!

RENT  
A  
YOUTH

If you're attending the Passion Conference, the remainder of your balance is due.



We are in need of four families who are willing to open their homes to our Jr/Sr High School students during the weekend of ReVerb, January 19-21, 2018.

If you would like to host these students, please see Marc for more details.



## WORSHIP GUIDE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

### Morning Worship Service

# 94 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*  
THE CANDLE OF LOVE  
# 89 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
*One Small Child* - Adult Handbell Choir



### Wonder and Glory

Let the People Sing Joy

A Child Is Born

The Story of Christmas Medley

Love Will Make a Bethlehem

We Believe

### Evening Worship Service

An Old-Fashioned Christmas Pageant

Tonight at 6:30 pm



All children who would like to participate should be in the sanctuary at 5:15pm.

Perhaps there is not a more used or misused word or idea circulating than "love". We use this word to refer to food we like, things we like, something we fall into or out of, and then in the same breath will refer to our spouse and God with the same word. Overuse of a word or idea can easily cause us to lessen the importance and the meaning which is clearly demonstrated in our society and to some extent in our lives. Let's rediscover the driving force and meaning of Love.

Genesis 3 God sought out Adam after he sinned, "the Lord God called to Adam, "Where are you?" Since the Garden of Eden, we human beings have been looking for our own way, our own benefit, in the short years given to us. We hurt each other and take from each other (even in our homes) when all along we were designed to experience God's "giving" love and to then redistribute that same love to others – even those who are very different from us. So God in His love pursued us. John 3.16, "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."

Love is a big idea, and most of us would like to believe we understand it (even though we're not so good at actually doing it). We love those closest to us or who are good to us, but then struggle to love those who hate us (as Jesus did), who are not like us (as Jesus did), or those who place a demand on our lives (like refugees or people in distress). In fact, the term "love" is used so loosely in our time that it simultaneously expresses affection, affinity, preference, physical attraction, emotional connection, and (perhaps least of all) – mutual commitment.

Love is not a feeling, it is a determination of the will and an action which results from a willful decision demonstrated by Jesus. But more than an obvious, "I am only loving you cause Jesus says to..." when our whole countenance says I don't like you and I don't want to be here is not what Jesus had in mind. Mom used to say, "it's how you said it" indicating our non-verbal communication speaks loud and clear. Jesus' goal was not merely to demonstrate His love for us... the entirety of His goal is that we be able to love with the same love with which He loves. Jesus prayed for this, John 17.26, "I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

# NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED!

PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY

The nursery needs volunteers for Wednesday nights.  
Usually there's just two or three babies.  
*Who doesn't love babies?*  
See Julie or MaryAnn to sign up.

Surely there can be no greater joy than that of saving souls.  
LOTTIE MOON

New Hope's Goal: \$6500  
Given to date: \$425

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

## Happy Birthday!

**TODAY!**

Marty Taylor  
Talmadge Albritton



Dec 19-Brenda Cullins  
Kimber Davidson  
Jake Pendergrass  
Dec 20- Jacob Davidson  
Hannah Jernigan

### Sunday Services

SS Enrollment .....  
Children's Church ..... 19  
Nursery ..... 22  
Morning Worship ..... 124  
Evening Worship ..... 52

### Wednesday Services

Adult Bible Study.....9  
Students.....21  
GA/RA (elementary).....40  
Mission Friends (pre-s).....13  
Nursery.....3  
Women's Study.....12  
Leaders.....18  
Total.....116

### Giving Record

Tithes & Offerings .....\$6858.00  
Designated .....\$910.00  
Budget Needs Each Week ..... \$7056

**1999 State Road 64 East - Wauchula, Florida 33873**  
**(863) 773-2101 - www.newhopewauchula.com**

Rev. Christopher M. Bishop - Senior Pastor - 781-5572 (Cell)  
Rev. Marc Pollard - Student Pastor - (318) 286-5032 (Cell)  
Rev. David E. Radford - Minister of Music - 781-9675 (Cell)

# Dec 2017/Jan 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>Advent: LOVE</i> 11am Christmas Musical 6:30pm Old-Fashioned Christmas Pageant	18	19	20	21 Meal Delivery: Sue Mannery	 23	
<i>Advent: JOY</i> Candlelight Family-led Lord's Supper Christmas Eve 4:00pm - 6:00pm	 26	27	28	29	30	
31 	 2	3 House & Grounds Meeting 7PM	4	5 		
7 Guest Speakers Shannon & Elizabeth Bradley	8 7pm Deacon's Meeting	9	10	11 Meal Delivery: Linda Smith	12 	
14	15	16	17	18 Meal Delivery: Helga Shackelford	19	20

### COUNTING COMMITTEE - DECEMBER 2017

Johnny Trammell, Alma Durrance, Debbie Wheeler

### WEEKLY CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

#### Sundays

9:30 A.M. Media Center Open  
9:45 A.M. Sunday School - Education Building  
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship Service - Sanctuary  
Kids' Church K-5  
6:30 P.M. Evening Worship - Sanctuary

#### Wednesday

5:00 P.M. Women's Bible Study  
6:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Live (TUPOS)  
G.A.'s, R.A.'s, Mission Friends - Kids Bldg.  
Women's Bible Study  
Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study - Ed. Bldg.

### USHERS OF THE WEEK

Adam Bunch  
Damon Hughes  
Scott Henderson  
Jake Pendergrass

### DEACON OF THE WEEK

December 17-December 23  
Kord Robertson 781-5383  
December 24-December 30  
Johnny Trammell 781-0444



If you're visiting us for the first time, we invite you to fill out a visitor packet in the pew in front of you and drop it in the offering plate.  
**We're so glad you're here!**

## Christmas Eve

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship

4:00-6:00pm Candlelight Family-Led Lord's Supper

## New Year's Eve

9:45am Sunday School

11:00am Worship

5:00pm Service@ the Creek

