

# Tithes and Offerings



## In-person

Place in the blue offering bins in the lobby.



ACH

## Online

[tablelifechurch.org/giving](http://tablelifechurch.org/giving)

ways to  
*give*

or text GIVE  
to 717-420-1600



## Mail

617 16th Street  
New Cumberland, PA 17070



## Auto pay

Send directly from bank.



TABLELIFE  
CHURCH

CHURCH OF  THE NAZARENE

## CHURCH STAFF

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717-774-6444



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[table\\_life\\_church](https://tiktok.com/@table_life_church)



Order of Worship  
December 21, 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

## **We Gather to Worship God**

Welcome  
Call and Response  
Worship in Song  
Advent Reading  
Lighting of the Christ Candle  
Worship in Song

## **We Listen to the Word**

Sermon: "Week #4: Opening Love"

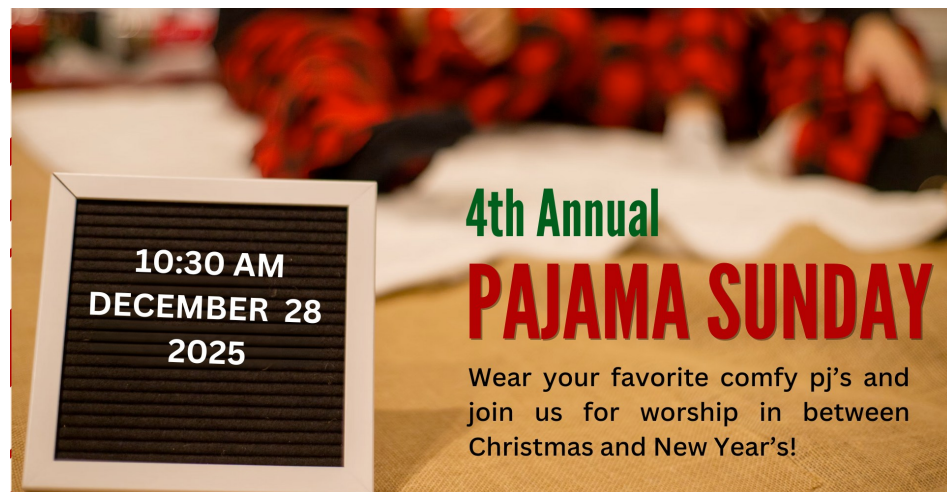
## **We Come to the Table**

Prayer of Confession and Consecration  
The Lord's Prayer  
We Eat and Drink Together  
We Celebrate the Eucharist in Song  
Prayer

## **We Go to Live in the Reign of God**

Community Life  
Doxology  
Blessing and Sending

\*Words to music, responsive readings and  
The Lord's Prayer will be on the screen\*



## Doggy Bag-

### Some questions to chew on:



1. Do you have a family situation that makes Christmas difficult? To what extent is Christmas a reminder that there are problems you can't solve, people you can't control, and expectations you can't meet?
2. When was the last time you leaned in toward a difficult person instead of keeping your distance? What happened?
3. When was a time you experienced Jesus' love for you? Have you fully accepted his love as a gift? How easy or difficult is it for you to accept his love?
4. What does John show you about who Jesus loves? What does that mean for others? For you? For your interactions with others?
5. Do you tend to lean more toward grace or more toward truth? Why is it so important that Jesus never dumbed down the truth and never dialed back the grace?
6. The difficulty of loving others often becomes more apparent at Christmastime but is an opportunity for us to follow the example of Jesus by drawing near anyway. What would it look like for you to follow Jesus in this area and take a step and show love toward someone in your life that you might shy away from because it's not easy or comfortable?

## NEW HERE? NEED PRAYER?

**TABLELIFE CHURCH**  
Connection Card

☐ I'm new here    ☐ I'm a returning guest  
☐ I have new contact information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us?  
☐ Friend said    ☐ Online  
☐ Social Media    ☐ Invited by \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to know more about or help with:  
☐ What it means to follow Jesus  
☐ Connecting in prayer  
☐ Serving  
☐ Kids & Youth Ministry  
Prayer Request \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out a  
connection card located  
in the seats in front of  
you. Or you can fill one  
out online.



SCAN ME

TABLELIFE CHURCH

If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/Pastor Kris about your relationship with Christ, please email [pastorkris@tablelifechurch.org](mailto:pastorkris@tablelifechurch.org) or call

717-774-6444

## Opening Christmas Week #4: Opening Love Pastor Kris Beckert

For some of us, Christmas is a reminder that there are problems we can't solve, people we can't control, and expectations we can't meet.

But at Christmas, we celebrate an event that removes our excuses not to move in the direction of complicated or uncomfortable. Because you are too.

### Two Truths about Love:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ are not always easy to love
2. \_\_\_\_\_ are not always easy to love

But Jesus came to us because of \_\_\_\_\_

*John 3:16 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.*

### The Gospel of John

- Written by \_\_\_\_\_ who was a disciple of Jesus
- Wrote his gospel to document his experience

- Begins not with Jesus' birth narrative but with how in the worst of times, when people thought God was absent, God \_\_\_\_\_

*John 1:14a The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.*

## I. What does Christmas show about love?

### #1. Christmas shows us \_\_\_\_\_

- The truth about John, the gospel writer:

*Mark 3:17 James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder")*

- Jesus' nickname for John and James: \_\_\_\_\_ writer
- John was an imperfect and \_\_\_\_\_ person

*Luke 9:54-55 When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" <sup>55</sup> But Jesus turned and rebuked them.*

- But Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ John

*John 13:23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved...*

*John 19:26 The disciple whom [Jesus] loved ...*

*John 20:2 The other disciple, the one Jesus loved ...*

*John 21:7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter ...*

### #2. Christmas shows us \_\_\_\_\_

*John 1:14b We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

- Love = \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

### #3. Christmas shows us \_\_\_\_\_

*John 1:16-18 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.*

- If perfection didn't keep his distance, then \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus removes our excuses to \_\_\_\_\_ others

*1 John 4:19-20 We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.*

### Big Idea:

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