

**LIFE**  
together

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Find out ways you can spread some Christmas cheer on pg. 2
- Get the scoop on small groups on pg. 6
- Avoid the Holiday Blues on pg. 9



# GET INVOLVED

We're called to be the hands & feet of Christ; to go out into the world and spread His love. Here are a few ways you can reach out this holiday season!

## *Holiday Food Drive*

We all know food is a huge part of celebrating during the holidays. This year you have the opportunity to spice up someone's festivities that may not have the resources to prepare a meal for themselves or their family. We're asking you to donate at least ONE non-perishable food item in the blue barrels located throughout the church. If each of us brings at least ONE item, we could give over 600 items to our community this Christmas!

## *Sponsor a Christmas Basket*

Every year we provide Christmas food baskets for families in our church that need one. If you would like to donate funds to help support the costs, please designate "Christmas Baskets" on your check or cash envelope. By doing this, you'll be providing a family with all the fixins' for a few great meals this holiday season! The average cost of a basket for a family of 4 is \$80 and any amount given toward this cost is appreciated.

## *Christmas Caroling Dec. 18*

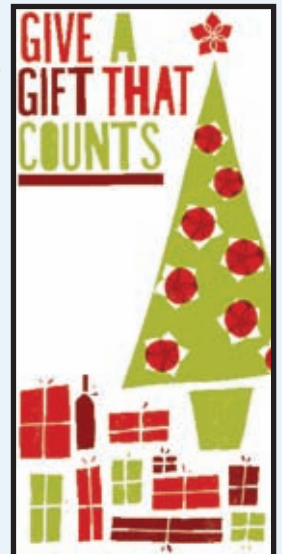
Songs are an amazing avenue for joy, and that's exactly what we intend to spread as we sing carols to residents of our local nursing homes and senior citizen communities! The holiday season can be lonely for those who may not have frequent visits from family and friends and caroling is a great way to show others just how much Jesus loves them! If you would like to join us, meet at Faith at 1:45pm. You can also donate a baked good to give out during caroling. Please sign up at the Information Desk for baked goods. We'll see you there!

## YOUR GIVING SPREADS HOPE

God's love is the essential ingredient to hope. How is your life shining His light?

We all know actions speak louder than words. With that in mind, how often do you consider the lasting impact some of the smallest things have on those who cross your path? Each move you take toward others in God's love leaves a trace of His goodness that can change their life. Listed above are several opportunities for you to step out into the community this Christmas. As you think about where you want to serve, don't forget that you carry His light inside you. One delicious cookie baked and delivered in His love has the power to warm a chilled soul. A Christmas food basket helps relieve a family of financial burden that chisels away at their joy. A friendly face singing happy tunes about our Savior shines love to those who feel isolated and forgotten. YOU have the power to spread His hope this Christmas. How will you do it?

You can also go online to find other opportunities to serve throughout the St. Louis area this Christmas such as the volunteering at the NLEC, Mercy Ministries, and more!



2 "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

forgiveness • sacrifice • courageous • humility • freedom • unconditional • grace • consuming • patient • kind • peace • selfless • wisdom • hope • support • truth • unfailing • fearless • trust • challenging • perseverance • loyalty • adoration • friendship • appreciation • delight • cherishing • fondness • passion • enchantment • captivating • devotion • respect

# Love IS...

## *A Word From Pastor Ed*

*We often hear and use the word “love”, but tend to think of it as a feeling or an emotion. While it may produce feelings, according to scripture it is an “action.”*

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. 5 It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God’s love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. 6 It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. 7 Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. 8 Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. AMP  
How would you complete the definition of Love is ...? John said, “This is how we know what love IS: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. (1 John 3:16)  
Genuine love is the greatest motivational force in the universe today. It moves us from apathy and self-centeredness to action that focuses on God and others. Love for God births a Mary spirit in us as one sitting at His feet; ministering to

Him in the secret place and hungering to hear what He’s saying. It also transitions us to a Martha spirit (Luke 10:38 -41) in that “after” we hear, we realize “doing” is also necessary in being a follower of Christ.  
The Christmas season will soon be here and we’re reminded that God so loved the world that He GAVE. He came from heaven to earth because of love. That same love resonates in each of us who are  
**A cliché I read many years ago is relevant in any generation to those who are God chasers, “Pray as if it all depends on God and then Work as if it all depends on you.” Love is both.**  
His disciples today. It changes our “focus.” The spirit of Christmas is more about love and giving, than gifts. Not everyone can give a gift, but everyone has the potential to love.  
During this season, may we keep a proper focus. Some are focused on politics, government, economy, the newest technology, our private world or prophecy. Yet love is an action and when Godly love is activated, it not only “revives us” by changing our focus, it also becomes an action that makes a difference in the lives of others. The action I’m referring to here is “not” based on busy activities or even the performance of doing “more.” It can be as simple as a random act of kindness manifested through a

word, an encouraging note or a cup of cold water in His name. Love has a way of recalibrating our focus from our current emotion or the latest headline, to what the Holy Spirit wants us to hear and see.  
Just as faith without action is dead (James 2:17), likewise love without action isn’t truly love. It’s an action that is affiliated with a God-given vision / purpose. It’s not just playing it safe. It’s not just about breaking  
even. Do you remember the Parable of the Talents? God expected each servant to do something with what was given to them. True love takes risks. True love doesn’t always make excuses. True love takes responsibility. True love looks for opportunities to find expression. True Love IS!  
Article continued on next page...

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...Continued from page 3

As we leave this year and begin to focus on 2012, may I challenge each of us to consider that Love IS.... and how "practicing" love is what gives meaning to not just the Christmas season, but rather to life itself.

Let's keep our focus on HIM. What is He saying? What vision or purpose has He planted in your spirit? What are we doing with what He's given us? Love IS....

And so faith, hope, love abide [faith — conviction and belief respecting man's relation to God and divine things; hope — joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation; love — true affection for God and man, growing out of God's love for and in us], these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13 AMP

One of the pioneer Christian psychologists, Dr. Karl Menninger said, "Love cures people - both the ones that give it and the ones who receive it."

Pastor's Article Continued

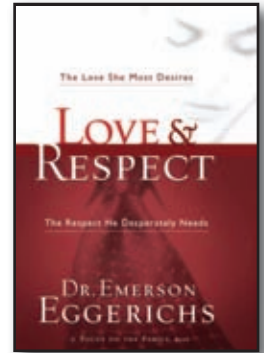
# Looking for a good book?

Pastor Ed recommended a couple of books that you'll want to check out. Here are the details!

## Love & Respect

Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

Touted by leaders as a "classic" among marriage books, award-winning Love & Respect has sold over a million copies! Love & Respect reveals why spouses react negatively to each other and how they can deal with conflict biblically. For more information about the Love & Respect ministry, visit [www.loveandrespect.com](http://www.loveandrespect.com).

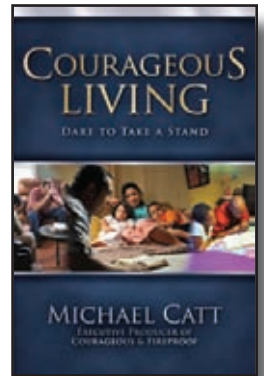


## Courageous

Michael Catt

In the new film COURAGEOUS (from the makers of Fireproof), four police officers are confident and focused when it comes to facing danger on the job. But leading their families at home in a God-honoring way? That takes courage.

Because it is important to take a faithful, fearless stand in so many areas of life, pastor and COURAGEOUS executive producer Michael Catt offers Courageous Living as a closer look at biblical themes and characters that inspired the movie.



# Faith Community Bookstore

Open on Sundays & Wednesdays  
before & after services



Winter is the perfect time to curl  
up with a good book!

We've got a full lending Bookstore available for your use! You can borrow from a great selection of fiction & non-fiction books, movies and resources!

## Get the Latest Series "Desperate Households"

You can order the series  
on CD in the bookstore...



...or download a  
digital copy on  
the web at  
[faith-community.org](http://faith-community.org)

# Souls in Motion

**GET FIT  
4 FREE**  
Tuesdays &  
Thursdays  
@ 7pm

Don't let the winter blahs set in. Do something to perk your spirits up. Join us on Tuesday and Thursday nights in the Edge Center at 7:00pm for a great work out! We will work those abs, legs, arms and everything in between to keep up your energy during the winter months. We welcome people of all ages and skill/physical levels: men, women, teens, children (as long as their parents feel this is a good fit for them). The best part, we start and end each class with prayer giving all the Glory to God. Without Him, this wouldn't be possible!

### Here's what you need to bring:

- Water
- Hand weights: 2, 3, or 5 lbs (We have some available)
- A "CAN DO" attitude
- \$2 for childcare, if needed

Please check out our Facebook page, Souls In Motion Cardio Kickboxing, for updates and information. We will use this source to post cancellations due to weather or events that may come up and it's a great way to stay in touch with the people you work out with each week!

## Creating Tradition in Your Family

*Tradition is not for squares. It's a great way to bond your family and create something you all look forward to sharing every year!*

Tradition is an important part of any family. Unfortunately family traditions are becoming a casualty to current times and the "modern" family. Families are more fragmented and disconnected than ever. Given all the distractions that can come, it's more important than ever to be intentional about setting and keeping traditions. It can be as simple as decorating the tree together, watching your favorite Christmas movie with cookies and milk, or reading the Christmas story from the Bible on Christmas morning. Family traditions can be a way to reconnect and create a much needed sense of belonging, and for those no longer part of a "traditional"

family set-up, setting traditions can be even more important. It's worth taking a few moments right now to consider how you might create new traditions in your family. The "what" doesn't really matter so much as just doing it. It doesn't have to be expensive or take a lot of time either. It's simply a way to spend time together as a family, ideally where people are engaging one another. Traditions don't need to be limited to Christmas or the holiday season either. Think about ways you can build tradition into your daily life as well. Be intentional about creating tradition and making memories with your family. You won't regret it!

Here are a few traditions you could start with your family:

- Decorate the Christmas tree together
- Watch "It's a Wonderful Life" or other Christmas movies
- Open one gift on Christmas Eve
- Bake Christmas Cookies with Children and/or Grandchildren
- Reading the Christmas story from scripture on Christmas morning
- Buy presents for a single mom through the Pregnancy Care Center
- Go Christmas Caroling
- Have a family game night
- Hide a Christmas pickle ornament
- Have everyone share what they are thankful for at the holiday meal

### The Christmas Pickle Tradition

If you're looking for a way to throw in some fun, laughter and a bit of competition into your family's Christmas holiday, you may want to consider purchasing a Christmas Pickle this year!

Pick one person to hide the pickle on the tree on Christmas Eve, and whoever finds it first wins a small prize to open that night!

For the story behind the pickle, visit our interactive newsletter online!



**CHECK US OUT  
ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER**

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FAITHCOMMUNITY](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FAITHCOMMUNITY)



# SMALL GROUPS ● GET CONNECTED

Fellowship is vital to our Christian walk. Check out these groups & get connected!

## Parenting 101

Vincent & Allison Newfield

Mason Hall

Sundays // 10:30am

Begins January 8

“How can I raise happy, healthy godly kids?” As a parent or grandparent you may be asking this question. In Parenting 101 we'll cut to the core of the key issues. Get ready for relevant, “hands on” answers to the challenges you're facing. Please sign up at the Information Desk in the foyer. We look forward to learning together!

## What Women Fear

Judy Harris

Fellowship Hall

Sundays // 9am

Begins January 8

This book deals with the true human emotion called fear. You will be challenged to transform your thoughts of doubt and fear into life-changing faith.

## New Beginnings

CR Kersten & Leona Bissell

Fellowship Hall

Sundays // 9am

Lessons on Assurance- This class is geared toward new Christians. There are 5 basic lessons on the beginning steps of discipleship.

## Back To Basics

Randy Harris

Fellowship Hall

Sundays // 9am

This class involves a weekly topical Bible study revolving around a central truth with an outline of daily scripture readings to support the week's lesson.

## Fifty Five +

Kathy Cox

Mason Hall Apartment

Sundays // 9am

This class is designed for those over 55 and is centered around Biblical and topical teachings and discussions.

## Financial Peace University

Keith & Monica Griffith

Mason Hall

Sundays // 5pm

Begins January 15

“FPU” is a class based on material from Christian financial planner Dave Ramsey. In this course you will learn how to live on a budget, dump debt and build wealth.

## Men's Study Group

Steve Neal, Chuck Bogert &

Jack Fambrough

Mason Hall

Monday's // 6:30pm

This group meets and goes through an ongoing study. Currently they are going through the “Courageous” study based on the recent movie discussing how to be better husbands and fathers.

## Ladies Bible Study

Mary Beth Kitta

Mason Hall

Tuesdays // 9am

See pg 10 for more details

## Intercessory Prayer

Joy Laschober

Main Cafe

Tuesdays // 7pm

An open group that meets weekly to pray for the needs in the church, community, and world.

## Souls in Motion

Shelli Wassall

Student Center

Tuesdays & Thursdays // 7pm

See pg 5 for more details.

## TaeKwonDo

Ken Zimmerman

Fellowship Hall

Mondays // 5:30pm

Begins January 9

See the article on page 8

## Just Among Moms (JAM's)

Christy Reeves

Fellowship Hall

Monday // 6pm

JAM's meets monthly and is designed for Moms to have fun and share and learn from one another's experiences.

## Golden Ager's

Sara Snodgrass

Fellowship Hall

Mondays // 9am

A group of senior citizens who meet weekly and enjoy a meal and do various activities in the church and community.

## Scrapbooking

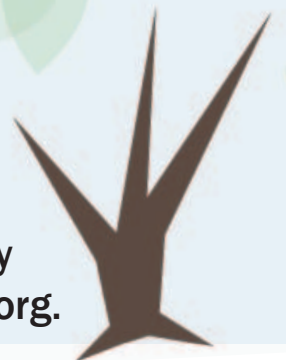
Tamara Zimmerman

Mason Hall

Fridays // 7pm

An open group that gets together monthly to “scrap the night away”. They've also been known to have all night scrap sessions!

Would you like to start a group? Find out more by contacting Pastor Jon at [jshirrell@faith-community.org](mailto:jshirrell@faith-community.org).



# 1 Fellowship One

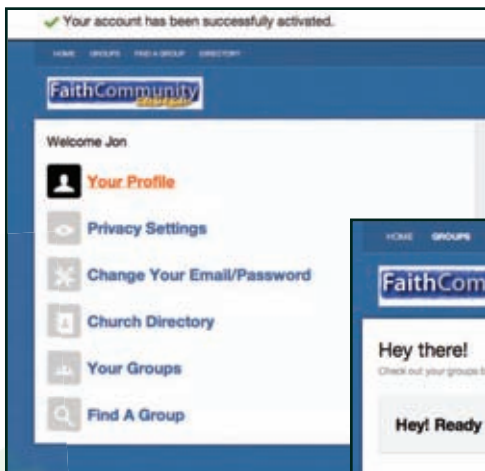
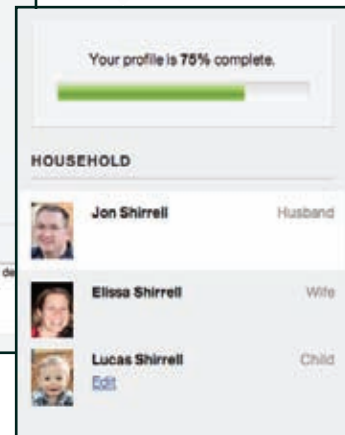
Fellowship One is a new system here at Faith to help you get connected faster & easier!

This online system is coming in January, and will allow you to find out more about what small groups are available and which ones you might best fit in. You'll see an online church directory, opportunities to serve and give back in our church, in the community and more! Many people have asked about giving online. Fellowship One will enable you to give to the church online or set up recurring gifts as well as pay for camps and events online. Make sure to watch for this great new tool coming in early 2012!

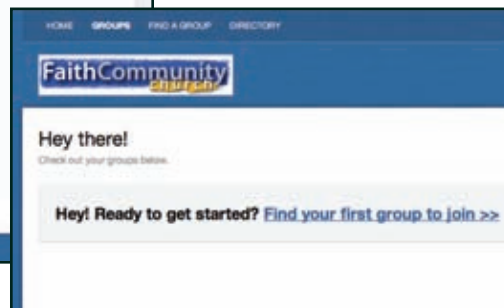


Your profile will look like this.

This column will show the members of your household.



This is the homepage, where you'll be able to navigate between your profile, your groups, the church directory and find new groups to join!



Here you'll be able to check out the available small groups and find the one that best fits you!

We're excited about this new tool that will connect you to others at Faith! Stay tuned for more details.



## The Newsletter is Now Online

Make sure to check out the interactive newsletter now on the church website. With links to videos, articles and other online content, this is a whole new way to experience the newsletter.

Check it out today @ [faith-community.org](http://faith-community.org)



# TKD AT FCC TAEKWONDO

## Mondays @ 5:30pm

### New session begins Monday, January 9!

Classes will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30-6:15pm for a beginning class, followed by an advanced class from 6:15-8pm. A beginning student may attend advanced classes after the first four classes. Testing will be conducted at the end of each session for qualified students.

Beginning classes will cover

the basics of Taekwondo to prepare the students for advanced classes. Advanced classes will consist of a warm up, weekly focus like walking drills, timing drills, sparring, etc., as well as a question and answer period.

**Fees:** Classes are \$10 a month for an individual or \$15 for a family. Fees are collected on an honor system and turned into the

church office weekly. If you experience a financial hardship and do not have money for classes, come anyway. The testing fee below black belt is \$10.



## CHECK US OUT Christian Homes Educating Christ's Kids

September 29, 2011



We enjoyed an apple picking good time with a field trip to Eckerts in Millstadt.

October 28, 2011

Fall Class Party



CHECK families enjoyed a hayride, bonfire, cotton candy, games, prizes, great eats & treats and a chili cook-off contest.

The C.H.E.C.K. (Christian Homes Educating Christ's Kids) homeschool group had 62 kids from all over Jefferson, Franklin and St. Louis Counties register on Aug. 26 for the 2011 Fall co-op classes held at Faith Community Church.

Wow! Fall Co-op classes were held Sept. - Dec. on designated Fridays.

Keep your eye out for Spring registration dates!

For more information about the CHECK Homeschool Group, please contact Jana Marr at [jmarrus2011@yahoo.com](mailto:jmarrus2011@yahoo.com)

# AVOIDING THE HOLIDAY

# BLUES

Every time I hear Elvis croon a few bars of Blue Christmas, several memories begin to fill my thoughts.

First, I think about how that song completely confused me when I was a child. I analyzed it against Bing's White Christmas, and wondered if somewhere in the world they had blue snow. I was a very analytical child by the way. Imagine my disappointment when my mom explained it had nothing to do with snow, but was instead about the lovelorn. How boring!

Secondly, I remember how my youngest son used to belt out the lyrics while twisting and contorting his little chin and mouth. You had to be there I guess, but trust me, it was incredibly cute.

Lastly, I remember my oldest son's experience of working in a discount store during the Christmas season. It seems he worked near the "Winter Wonderland" area, where a certain "Elf" had that particular tune on loop. It was several years before he could hear it without wanting to stick his head in a bucket of wet cement.

But for some, the holidays really are blue, and it has nothing to do with Elvis. Sadness, loneliness, depression and anxiety have become deeply attached to the holidays. For many, mid November through the New Year is the darkest time of the calendar. What can we do to help avoid those dreaded holiday blues? Although I'm no expert, I believe there are a few things we can do that will get us out of the blue and into the pink.

## *Change Your Focus*

Nothing brings on the symptoms of self-centeredness faster than focusing on me. The world says if you pamper yourself enough, you'll eventually feel better. But true joy comes from concentrating on the needs of others instead of ourselves. George McDonald said "The love of our neighbor is the only door out of the dungeon of self." Do something for someone else.

## *Give a Great Gift*

The greatest gift you can give anyone is your time. Go caroling, visit a shut in, offer to babysit for a single parent; the list is limitless. Who knows, you might get so caught up in the thrill of being a blessing that you forget all about your own problems. It's also possible that your issues could even take on a whole new perspective in the light of another's hurts.

## *Choose to Forgive*

If the thought of being around certain relatives or people stirs up pain, anger and bitterness, it's time to forgive. Let go of past hurts and disappointments. People will never be able to meet all of our needs or measure up to all of our expectations. But God will never leave you nor let you down. Forgive them for the sake of you.

## *Worship the King*

At the announcement by the angels to the shepherds of the birth of Jesus, they wasted no time in getting to the stable to worship Him. The wise men of the east risked their lives to worship Him. Worshipping Jesus for willingly stepping from

the perfection of heaven to walk the road of humanity seems like the smallest of requests, but it yields powerful results. Worship changes us! It recalibrates us from the inside out. Psalm 29:2 says, Honor the Lord for the glory of his name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness. Make worship your goal through the holidays and every day.

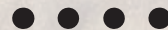
As we go into the holidays, look for ways to be a blessing. Concentrate more on what you have and less on what you don't have. Choose not to waste another Christmas being sad or withdrawn. Take steps to break free from whatever holds you back. Turn that blue Christmas into the best Christmas!

John 10:10 I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.  
The Message

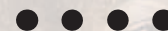
*By Judy Harris*

ATTENTION ALL WOMEN

Join us for the Women's Ministries Meeting



Sunday, January 29  
@ 6pm Fellowship Hall



We'll be discussing several things for the upcoming year like goals, Project Pink, as well as a Q&A session with our sectional rep., Lisa Manning

Hot Chocolate will be provided, please bring a snack to share

(Babysitting is available)

Tuesdays  
**9am**  
Mason Hall

# Ladies Bible Study

Join the ladies on Tuesday mornings for a great time of learning, support and fellowship! And don't forget to bring a friend! Here are a few more details about this group of lovely ladies.

This past fall, the Ladies of Faith Bible Study studied *Living Beyond Yourself* (exploring the fruit of the Holy Spirit) by Beth Moore. The ladies were truly blessed by this study. Each week they learned so much about what the Holy Spirit wants to do in and through them. They learned they cannot produce the fruit on their own. It comes only by allowing the Holy Spirit to fill them day to day, moment by moment. He is the One who develops His fruit in us.

The ladies are eager to learn and are growing so much in God's

precious word, in their relationship with the Lord and in fellowship with each other.

The Ladies Bible Study is on Tuesday mornings at 9:00am in Mason Hall. *The next study begins on January 10.*

The topic will be Daniel: Lives of Integrity, Words of Prophecy with the first portion studying Daniel's life as he faced the kind of pressures and temptations Christians encounter today. The second portion explores thrilling prophecies from the time of Daniel through the second coming of Jesus Christ.

A sign up sheet for the new study will be at the Information Desk. Look for information in the bulletin!

Newcomers are most welcome and you will discover that you won't be a newcomer for long. The ladies are friendly, loving and enjoy making new friends.



## QUICK & Easy Cookie Recipes

### Russian Tea



Cookies

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup butter or margarine, softened
  - 1/2 cup powdered sugar
  - 1 tsp. vanilla
  - 2 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
  - 3/4 cup finely chopped nuts
  - powdered sugar for coating
- 10

#### How to make & bake

1. Preheat oven to 400°
2. Mix butter, 1/2 cup powdered sugar & the vanilla in large bowl. Stir in flour, nuts and salt until dough holds together
3. Shape dough into 1" balls. Place 1" apart on ungreased cookie sheet
4. Bake 10-12 minutes or until set but not brown. Remove from sheet and cool on a wire rack
5. Roll warm cookies in powdered sugar; cool. Roll in powdered sugar again and serve

#### Ingredients Goopy Butter

- 1 8oz package cream cheese
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 egg
- 1/4 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 package yellow cake mix
- 1/4 cup confectioners' sugar



Cookies

#### How to make & bake

1. Preheat oven to 350°
2. In a medium bowl, cream together the cream cheese and butter. Stir in the egg and vanilla. Add cake mix, and stir until well blended. Roll into 1 inch balls and roll the balls in the confectioners' sugar. Place 1 inch apart onto an ungreased cookie sheet
3. Bake for 10 to 13 minutes in the preheated oven. Remove from baking sheets to cool on wire racks.

**Fun Tip:** Swap out the yellow cake mix for another, such as chocolate or strawberry, to get a whole new cookie with the same easy recipe!

Enjoy!



# CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- DECEMBER 10: HOUSE SPRINGS CHRISTMAS PARADE @ 7PM
  - DECEMBER 18: KID'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM // CAROLING @ 2PM
  - DECEMBER 23: OFFICES CLOSED
  - DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE
  - DECEMBER 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS! ONE SERVICE @ 10AM
  - DECEMBER 26: OFFICES CLOSED
  - DECEMBER 30: OFFICES CLOSED
- 
- JANUARY 1: REGULAR SERVICE SCHEDULE

## SNOW DAY

If the weather outside gets frightful, we may have to cancel church services or activities for your safety.

## But wait, what about CHURCH?!

Here are a few places you can find out if church is canceled

page as soon as cancellations are made: [www.faith-community.org](http://www.faith-community.org).

- If a wintery storm roles in, check KMOV Channel 4 or KSDK Channel 5 for the rolling list of closures at the bottom of the screen.
- We will always update you on Facebook & Twitter as soon as we make a decision to cancel a church service or activities.
- Our church website will post an update on the main

• The offices will also place an automated message on the phones to let you know if there are any changes to any services scheduled at church: 636.671.4190.

# Faith Community Church Of House Springs, MO

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[WWW.FAITH-COMMUNITY.ORG](http://WWW.FAITH-COMMUNITY.ORG)

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4824 Scottsdale (HWY 30)

House Springs, MO 63051-2103

The generous will prosper;  
those who refresh others  
will themselves be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:25 NLT



**FAITH COMMUNITY**

4824 Scottsdale Rd.  
House Springs, MO