

Prayer List

Morriss Barney	Jerry Norman
Dora McDougald	Vivian McDougald
Connie Fox	Mabel Harmon
Waylon Carter	Annette Thomas
Laurie Grawl	Easton Evans
Paige Broach	Jeri Hitt
Connor Helgren	Hattie Mae Teel
Sue Rice	Wade Ross
Bob Sparkman	Patsy Harmon
Sue Isbell	Clare Hendricks
Billie May	Ally Arnold
Will Dowling	Jerry Stephens
Kyle Wolff	Tom Hitt
Cheryl Luce	Sue Kline
Shirley Essman	Wayne Rucker
Ella Vee Mayes	Bill Dodson
Joe Denman	Jerald Brown

Non Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Iola, Texas 77861

Permit #1



The Ruth Class is once again hosting the Autumn Project to collect cake mixes, brownie mixes and cans of icing for holiday sweets which will be distributed by the Food Pantry.

Donations will be accepted October 1st - **December 15th** and can be placed in The Ruth Class Room. Help us sweeten up the holidays for others!



Iola Missionary Baptist Church

P.O. Box 220
Iola, Texas 77861

Address Service Requested

**YOUTH OUTING
SANTA'S WONDERLAND
Sunday, Dec. 3 - Leave Church 5PM**

**Lottie Moon Week of Prayer
December 3rd - 10th**

Observance of IMBC
100th Anniversary followed by
Christmas Dinner
Sunday, December 10th
After Morning Worship

*Food Pantry
Saturday, December 16th, 9-11 AM
(Food Delivery Friday 12/15
1-2 PM, Volunteers Needed)*

**Vote for 2018 Budget
Sunday, December 17th, Upon Conclusion of
Morning Worship**

**Annual Christmas Candlelight Service
Sunday, Dec. 17th, 6 PM,
Dessert Fellowship to follow**

**NO SUNDAY NIGHT SERVICES
on December 24th,**

***MERRY CHRISTMAS
December 25th***

**No Wednesday Night Services
December 27th**

His Birth Gives Us New Life Right Now!

Life sure has a way at throwing curve balls at us sometimes doesn't it? Anything can happen and how we "choose" to process it will determine our happiness and our destiny. There are people in this world that are born to poverty, abuse, and illness.....yet there is always hope. When we experience pain of any kind, this is the prime time that satan will set his snares to trap us into dwelling on the negative and living in a life of defeat. The pain may be physical, emotional, spiritual, or even financial. Pain is pain.

During this time it is crucial to keep your eyes upon Jesus because He is the One that will help you recognize things for what they truly are. He is the only One that can truly help us discern a situation and make choices that will put our feet on solid ground. The devil has a way of planting bad seeds in our life that grow really bad fruit and everything that we were born to be can slip away if we choose to allow bad seed to grow within us.

Reflecting on the birth of Jesus is not just about celebrating a Savior that makes it possible for us to have eternal life. It is also about freedom through Him right now in this very dark world. In today's world, everywhere we turn we can find evil, however, because of Jesus, darkness will not be able to defeat THE LIGHT! I know several people that live in fear because of the condition of our world today which is not demonstrating real faith. God never intended for us to live in fear! Instead, He tells us that the joy of the Lord is our strength and to live life abundantly. Our God is able to move mountains, heal disease, mend broken hearts, and make a way where there is no way. Believe it because it is true.

This year as we decorate, feast, and celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us not forget that He is risen and very much alive in our everyday lives and is just waiting on us to "choose" to include Him so that we do not have to navigate solo. Focus on the good.....our battles have already been won. We just have to remain vigilant in keeping our hearts and minds lined up with the Word of God regardless of how hard the world tries to pull us away! If we can do that, we can live in victory **NOW** and **ETERNALLY!** sj

FROM THE PASTOR

We are in danger of losing Christmas. Even the language that many are using nowadays is language of "holidays" instead of "Christmas." A subtle but sure erosion is eating away the season's true significance, no doubt about it.

What Christmas is really about is the birth of Jesus – Immanuel, God with us, the promised Messiah – who came to save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). We dare not romanticize the story or settle for some fanciful legend that renders the story meaningless.

Mary and Joseph were real people. The manger in which Mary laid Jesus must have reeked of animal smells. So did the shepherds in all probability. But that makes the scene all the more incredible. That baby in the manger is God Himself!

That is the heart and soul of the Christmas message. There were not many worshipers around the original manger – only a handful of shepherds. But one day, every knee will bow before Him, and every tongue will confess He is Lord (Philippians 2:9-11). Those who doubt Him, those who are His enemies, those who merely ignore Him – all will one day bow before Him, even if it be in judgment.

How much better to honor Him now with the worship He deserves! That's what Christmas is!! Please notice the opportunities throughout the month of December to worship Jesus with your church family.

My prayer is that as you worship Him this Christmas season, you will come to see the truth of Christmas and all its richness in a way you've never seen it before. May this be the most wonderful Christmas you have ever celebrated!
Bro. Tim

Happy Birthday



Chad Mallett, 12/1	Amanda Fox, 12/2
Rodger Watkins, 12/4	Sue Isbell, 12/5
Melba Bammel, 12/8	Mike McKown, 12/8
Monica Moore, 12/12	Edna Mae Reed, 12/15
Jeri Hitt, 12/15	Chris Watts, 12/16
Julia Crosby, 12/18	John Luthe, 12/19
T.J. Braaton, 12/23	Mitchell Moore, 12/24
Jacob Moore, 12/24	Elaine Sheffield, 12/27
Mable Harmon, 12/28	Trett Willis, 12/28
Leona Bess, 12/29	Alex Dowling, 12/29
Destiney Reina, 12/30	Dennis Pollard, 12/31

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.



Sunday School
9:45 A.M.
Sunday Service
11:00 A.M.
& 6:00 P.M.
Youth 6:00 P.M.
on Sundays
Wednesday Services
Dinner, 6:00 P.M.
Bible Studies
6:30 P.M.



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Iola Missionary Baptist Church

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