



DECEMBER

NEWSLETTER



Dates to Remember

December 14th, 6:30pm: CDCC Christmas Program

December 24th, 10:00am: Free Methodist Church Advent Service

December 24th, 4:30, 6:00, and 11:00pm: Free Methodist Church Christmas Eve Candle-Lit services (4:30 & 6:00pm family-oriented, 11:00pm contemplative)

December 18th - January 5th: Elementary Schools CLOSED,
Sign up for CDCC Winter Camp


December 25th - January 1st: CDCC CLOSED for Christmas and New Year

January 2nd: CDCC Reopens For the New Year



CDCC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 6:30PM, UPPER PARKING LOT



Join us Thursday, December 14th, at 6:30pm, in our upper parking lot, for our annual Christmas Program! The children have been hard at work learning songs for this special evening. Please drop your children off in their classrooms at 6:10pm, sign them in, and then go find your seat under the tent. After the program, join us for dessert to celebrate the birth of Jesus! There will also be a special guest. Feel free to invite your friends and family, all are welcome!

Since we will be outside, please dress warmly and bring a blanket.

FREE METHODIST CHURCH OF SANTA BARBARA CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES | 4:30, 6:00, & 11:00PM

Come and worship with the Free Methodist Church on Christmas Eve! Since it falls on a Sunday, they will have a morning Advent service at 10:00am in the sanctuary. Later that day they will have three services at 4:30, 6:00, & 11:00pm. The 4:30 & 6:00pm services are family-oriented and the 11:00pm services are more contemplative.

You can find more information at fmcsb.org.



CHRISTMAS BREAK CARE FOR ELEMENTARY CHILDREN DECEMBER 18TH-22ND & JANUARY 2ND-5TH

This year, elementary schools have three weeks off! We will be offering full-day care for two of those weeks. Sign up for our Winter Camp through Brightwheel if you would like your child to attend our program running December 18th-22nd and January 2nd-5th. We will be closed Dec. 25th through Jan. 1st.

December 25th - January 1st CDCC CLOSED for Christmas and New Year



Chapel at CDCC

Cliff Drive children gather every Wednesday to sing songs and hear a story from the Bible.

For chapel we are learning about:

December 6th: An Angel Appears to Joseph - Matthew 1

December 13th: Jesus is Born - An Angels Appear to Shepherds - Luke 2

December 20th: Celebration of Jesus' Birth



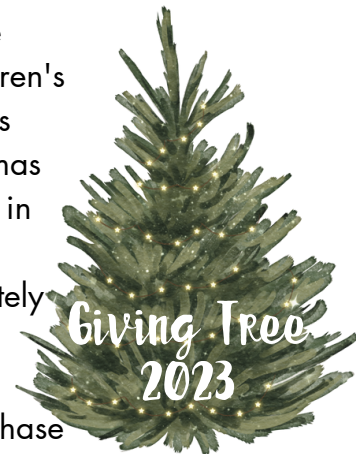
PRE-K STUDENT'S SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

For students attending the Santa Barbara School District for the first time in Fall of 2024, enrollment begins on December 1st, 2023. The deadline for transfer is January 26th. If your child was born between September 2nd and February 2nd, they are eligible to attend T-K. It is not required, though, so if you would like your child to continue at CDCC, we would love to have them. If you have any questions, reach out to Delanie on Brightwheel.

Giving Tree 2023

Cottage Children's Medical Center

For our Giving Tree this year we will be supporting children and their families who are facing the pain, isolation, and terrible hardship of being in the hospital. Cottage Children's Medical Center tries to provide children who have cancer or other debilitating diseases with the most positive, nurturing, and age appropriate environment. During this Christmas season they are asking for donations for gifts that they can give to the children staying in the hospital and gifts that they can use and reuse in the playrooms that they have at Cottage. We marvel at the ways that Jesus always extended his hand so compassionately towards those who were sick, and we are excited to join Him, even in this small way.



We will be sending out ornaments with items that Cottage is asking for. After you purchase an item, bring it back, unwrapped, and we will be taking them to Cottage throughout Advent.



Gifts for Teachers

Every year we are blown away by your generosity towards our teachers. You are incredibly thoughtful in getting them gifts and they are always so appreciative. You definitely don't need to get your child's teacher a gift, but if you would like to, we will have stockings hung near the check in station for you to put them in. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

Devotional

Dear Caregivers,

"Caregiver" is a bit of a funny word because it feels impersonal compared to Mom, Grandpa, or Auntie. But the word caregiver says you are a person who actively and generously gives of yourself to care for another person. And children need so much care!

My youngest daughter was born in December. During that Advent season of 2006, I spent a lot of time waiting and hoping for her arrival (she was due the 26th - Would she come before Christmas? What about my other kids and Christmas morning?). Every Advent, we are reminded to watch and wait for Christ to come again as we wait for Christmas Day and celebrate his first coming. That year, I also related to Mary in new ways, especially thinking of the reality of her traveling to Bethlehem on a donkey. Ugh!

Having an infant in our home at Christmas time also showed me just how miraculous it is that the God of all creation came to us as a frail and helpless baby in need of so much care. He needed caregivers himself before he became our ultimate caregiver by dying on the cross and rising so we could have new life. The hope of every baby is new life, so it was the perfect way for him to come. How amazing that God allowed himself to be so helpless!

I hope and pray that you will see your children and baby Jesus with new eyes of hope and care this Advent season.

The Lord bless you,

Sandy Patterson

FMC Director of Children's Ministries



A Letter from the Director

Hi Cliff Drive Families,

As I adjust to being the new director, I am constantly trying to find new ways to connect with families. One of those new ways is a monthly letter from me that will be included in the newsletter! And what better month to start than in December! For this month I would like to focus on gratitude. Gratitude has played a pivotal role in my life this last year. With the many transitions, changes, learning, and growing that has happened, I am immensely grateful for every person and experience that have helped get me to this point.

A huge reason that the transition from Pre-k teacher to assistant director, to director has been so smooth is in huge thanks to all our CDCC families. You all have been so gracious, welcoming, supportive, and have shown so much love I am overwhelmed with gratitude. I cannot thank you all enough for the love and support not just for me, but for the entire staff as well. It is an absolute honor and privilege to have you as part of our Cliff Drive family, and our entire staff is so blessed to get to work with you and your children each day.

Please know that I am here if any of you need anything at all and want to make sure that we have open communication. Stop by my office, message me on Brightwheel, send me an email or text.

I pray you all have a safe and wonderful Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! I hope this season is filled with faith, love, laughter, and fond memories made!

With Love,

Miss Delanie

Director

*Cliff Drive Care Center Teachers & Staff and Free Methodist Church Pastors
& Staff wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!*