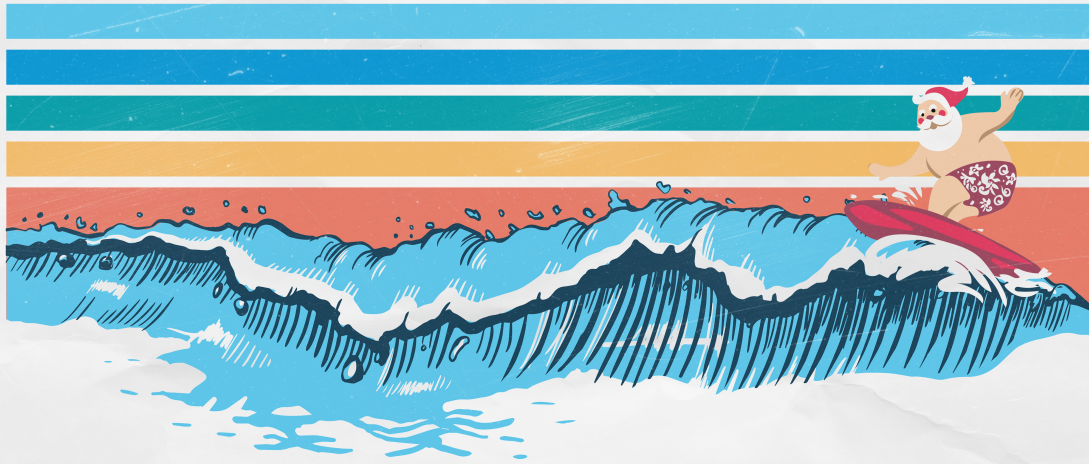


CHRISTMAS IN JULY



GRACE CITY CHURCH

REJOICE ALWAYS

JEREMY BELL, TEACHING PASTOR

LUKE 2:10-11 (NIV)

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

PHILIPPIANS 3:10-16 (NIV)

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends! 2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

NOTES

(THE STUFF THAT STICKS OUT TO ME)

**WE ARE A CHURCH WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME,
AND EVERYONE IS WANTED...INCLUDING YOU.**

GOING DEEPER

(SOME IDEAS TO PUT IT INTO PRACTICE)

QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

When is the “right time” to set up your Christmas tree? What are your favorite things about Christmas? A favorite memory?

Read Philippians 4:1-9. What sticks out to you? Paul has been talking a lot about joy in this letter, what are some things that can keep us from joy? (Hint, verse 2 and 6...)

The word translated “rejoice” here literally means to “lean into grace.” How does this change the way you see joy and rejoicing? What is the difference between being happy and choosing joy?

What’s something you are anxious about lately? Read verses 6 and 7 again. What is the invitation and promise here?

A VERSE TO MEMORIZE:

Philippians 4:4-5 (NLT) - Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!
5 Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.

TAKE A STEP:

Think of what makes Christmas fun...how can you incorporate some of that “Christmas spirit” into this week? (Give someone a surprise gift? A party with family and friends? Sing some songs about Jesus?)

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ALL IN, TOGETHER

GENERAL OFFERING

2023 Weekly Budget:	\$10,187
Given July 23rd:	\$7,688
Difference:	(\$2,519)

2023 Annual Budget:	\$529,724
2023 Budget YTD:	\$295,423
2023 Given YTD:	\$262,421
Difference:	(\$33,002)

BUILD YOUR CHURCH FUND

BYC July 23rd:	\$968
BYC YTD:	\$69,328
BYC Total Given:	\$292,820

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