

# COGA NEWS



## WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- December: A Season of Wonder and Worship
- Upcoming Events
- A Little Something to Laugh About



## December: A Season of Wonder and Worship

**DECEMBER** arrives with a beauty all its own. The nights grow longer, the air turns colder, and yet the world seems to sparkle with light. Decorations appear on homes, familiar carols echo in the air, and people begin to gather in celebration. But beyond all the outward signs of the season, December invites us to pause and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas — the gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

This month naturally encourages reflection. As the year draws to a close, we look back on the months behind us and recognize God's hand in every moment. We remember the victories, the challenges, the lessons, and the quiet ways God provided for us. Even when circumstances felt uncertain, God remained constant. Emmanuel — "God with us" — has been guiding us, strengthening us, and surrounding us with His love all year long.

When we return to the Christmas story in Scripture, we find a message that still amazes us. A young Mary, full of faith; Joseph, trusting God's direction; angels announcing glory; shepherds hurrying to witness a miracle. And



at the center of it all, a baby lying in a manger — Jesus, the **Light of the World**. His humble birth reminds us that God chooses ordinary places and ordinary people to carry out extraordinary plans. In Bethlehem, hope entered the world in the most unexpected way, bringing salvation to all who believe.

### A TIME OF GIVING:



December is also a season of giving. We are reminded that we serve a generous God, who gave His only Son for our redemption. As we follow His example, our acts of kindness — whether a warm meal, a thoughtful gift, a helping hand, or a prayer offered for someone in need — become reflections of Christ's love. Giving is not measured by cost, but by compassion. This month offers many opportunities to bless others and shine God's light in meaningful ways.

Within our church family, December is a time of special fellowship and worship. Our services, programs, and gatherings help draw our hearts toward Christ. Whether through Scripture readings, choir selections, candlelight moments, or times of prayer, we are reminded that the heart of Christmas is not found in traditions but in the Savior Himself. May our worship this month be filled with gratitude, reverence, and joy.

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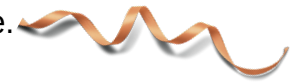


We also recognize that December can be difficult for some. Grief, loneliness, or financial stress can feel heavier during the holidays. If this season is challenging for you, please know you are not alone. God sees you, loves you, and walks with you. Jesus came to bring peace to troubled hearts and hope to weary souls. His presence is our comfort, and His promises are our strength.

As Christmas Day approaches, let us remember that

the story does not end at the manger. Jesus came with a mission — to save, redeem, and restore. His birth points toward the cross, and the cross toward the empty tomb. Because of Him, we have hope that reaches beyond December and into every day of our lives.

As you celebrate this season, may God fill your home with peace, your heart with joy, and your life with His enduring love.



## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BLESSINGS TO YOU THIS DECEMBER!



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### DECEMBER

- 13th > Sothern District Christmas Program
- 31st > Watch Night Service

#### JANUARY

- 1st > Happy New Year!
- 2nd > Begin 21 Day Daniel's Fast

Find more information on [www.cogainc.org](http://www.cogainc.org)



### A LITTLE SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

- "Jesus is the reason for the season — cookies are the reason my clothes don't fit."
- "Mary and Joseph didn't have reservations — yet they still made it work. Be flexible this season!"
- "It's the most wonderful time of the year... unless you're trying to find a parking spot."
- "I tried to 'be still and know'... but my coffee kicked in."
- "Remember: Even the Grinch needed grace."
- "I love Christmas shopping... said no wallet ever."
- "This season, let's all try to be more like Jesus... and less like the people arguing in store checkout lines."
- "This year I'm gifting everyone patience. Mostly because I forgot to shop."
- "I bought all my Christmas gifts early. Now I just have to remember where I hid them... pray for me."
- "If you hear me singing Christmas carols off-key, just know it's joyful noise... very joyful."

