

“Welcome Home!”

Whether you're here for the first time or have been away awhile, it's a pleasure to welcome you home to Barstow Free Methodist Church, where there are always opportunities to grow in your faith, make new friends, or join us in making a difference in our community.

Today's service will flow with a familiar and edifying rhythm while remaining open to the spontaneous ways God sometimes leads and blesses us. We encourage you to open your hearts and lives to Him – He loves you and is glad you're here among His people. Praise Him. Trust Him. And look for His blessings. Welcome home!

“Why Do We...”

...recite the words, “I believe in... the holy catholic Church”?

The Apostle's Creed is an ancient confession of the Christian faith, meticulously formulated by Christian leaders around the year 180 A.D. and enduring as an authoritative standard of what Christians in all places at all times have always believed. The word “catholic” simply means “universal” – that the Church is *one*, regardless of social, political, or other such differences that seek to divide us. It is not, therefore, a reference to Roman Catholics -- arguably not even labeled as such until the 11th century. When we confess that we believe in “the holy catholic Church”, we affirm that ALL Christians are *one*. This includes Protestants, Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians. The Apostle's Creed reminds us of what it means to be “Christian.”

Food for Thought...

“The Holy Spirit has come to abide in you; do not make Him withdraw; do not exclude Him from your heart in any way. He is a good guest; He found you empty and He filled you; He found you hungry and He satisfied you; He found you thirsty and He has intoxicated you.”

– Saint Augustine

Our Rhythm of Worship



Rooted in the practice of earliest Christianity, our worship follows a simple fourfold pattern:

- **Gather** - we prepare our minds and hearts.
- **Word** - we encounter the ancient scriptures.
- **Table** - we partake of Holy Communion.
- **Send** - we go into the world as salt and light.

Scripture and Christian tradition teach us that worship should be characterized by both *structure* and *spontaneity*. This gives our worship times a sense of *familiarity* as well as *mystery*. Our worship services are roughly 90 minutes long.

Our Christian Schools

Barstow Christian School is conducting an emergency food drive for Desert Manna through the month of January. Items needed are pasta, pasta sauce, rice, canned food items, and cereal. May we remember the less fortunate as we drop off items at the school office. Pray for our school and those they are helping.

Barstow FMC Youth

Jr. High and Senior High students – join us on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the Youth Room for a cool time of music, video, discussions, and more! You can also pick up a flyer in the front foyer detailing new upcoming events!

Please Pray this Week... ---

– Ask God to bless the ministries of Vineyard Christian Fellowship.

Here's What's Happening:

Adult Night Out at Juliano's

Friday, Feb. 3rd, join friends for a delicious Italian dinner at Juliano's in Hesperia, located at the corner of Bear Valley and Hesperia Roads near the Christian bookstore. Meet either there at **6:30 pm** or carpool from church at **5:45 pm**. Sign up in the back today!

Jr./Sr High School Winter Camp

Where: Pine Summit in Big Bear
When: Friday-Sunday, March 9-11
Cost: \$130 (scholarship help exists)
Why: Fun, Food, Fellowship
How: Contact Glenn Low at 987-6690
Deposit of \$20 is due **Feb 1st**.

Women's Breakfast

Come join a group of ladies for food, fellowship, devotions, and prayer at Quigley's at **8:30 am** on **Saturday, Feb. 11th**. For more information, contact Yvette Schneider at 221-9567.

Society Meeting

There will be a Society Meeting for all members in the Fellowship Hall **Sunday, Feb. 12th** after second service. Please come out and participate as we do the work of the church.

Stock the Food Closet

This week we're asking for canned fruit and vegetables to give to hungry families. Thank you!

A Night of Ministry

Come out tonight at **6:30 pm** for a time filled with worship, prayer, direction, and healing. Whether you have a specific need or just want to be refreshed, come experience God's love and power. Nursery is not available.

Hour of Prayer

Come out and pray for the church this **Saturday, Feb. 4th**, from **9-10 am**. Meet in the sanctuary.

Deeper Discipleship: Triads

Triads are groups of three people who commit to doing life together weekly with a desire to go deeper in their faith, and develop accountability and connection. Sign up in the back today. Contact Pastor Carlos at 256-3556.

Pillow Jam

Please help us bless a local mobile home park with music, breakfast, and new pillows on **Saturday, February 11th**. New pillows or donations are needed to purchase 120 pillows. So please help if you can this week.

Pillowcase Workshop this Saturday

If you can pin, iron, or sew, please join us this **Saturday, Feb. 4th** from **10am-1pm** in the Adult Training Center. These pillows will go to Desert Sanctuary and the upcoming Pillow Jam.

Following the Christian Year...

Today is: **Fifth Sunday of Epiphany** *Season We Are in:* **Epiphany**
Liturgical Color Being Displayed: **Green** (symbolizing growth and life)

Today's Lectionary Readings: **Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28**
(**Bold** = passages being read during worship this morning)

The season of Epiphany begins at sundown on January 5th (The Epiphany) and ends the day before Lent. It is a season which begins with the Magi's encounter with Jesus: God-become-flesh, and then continues to recall Jesus' manifestation of himself as God (the word, *epiphany*, is Greek for *manifestation*).



The **Lectionary** is a collection of Old and New Testament Scripture lessons, organized to guide believers through the Christian Year, and exposing them to all parts of the Bible. This maintains our connection with historical Christianity, while at the same time, leaving opportunity for God's Spirit to lead in fresh, new ways.

Pastor's Corner

An Oasis of Life

“Those who drink the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

– John 4:14

Many of us carry emptiness in our souls. We struggle to tell anyone the true nature of our hearts. We're anxious, controlling, and impatient. Many of us suffer from loneliness and don't know it or won't admit it. We pour ourselves in work, activities, and family obligations. We're gifted, talented, and admired by our peers. Individuals pat us on the back for being reliable and encouraging. We pray and go to church.

But if we're *really* honest, we come to know that past pain and current heartbreak leaves us angry, confused, and stressed. We try to medicate the ache by escaping through lustful thoughts, unhealthy eating habits, working more, and the list goes on. We find ourselves trapped in a desert of isolation and we're spiritually dying. We keep trying to make life work doing the best we can with what we have, but we can have so much better. We don't have to suffer from dehydration of the heart any longer.

As Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well who was married many times and living with a man who wasn't her husband that He is the Living Water (John 4). Jesus desired to fill the hole in her heart. And know that Jesus desires to quench your thirst and revive you as the heat of guilt and shame wear your weary soul. Spend time with Him through the Word and prayer and see your life change. And allow Him to touch you through the Body of Christ -- other Christians growing in the Faith -- and may you find an oasis of believers who can walk with you as you come out of your desert. There are triads, home groups, Wednesday Night Service, spiritual direction, 12 Step Study, and other groups to guide you to a place where you can find relief. Join an atmosphere saturated with grace, mercy, and hope so you can find encouragement and support, and receive connection to fill the dryness in your heart.

And as you and your fellow brothers and sisters get closer to Jesus, our Living Water, may you find healing and new life. This water is available for all, you'll never run out, and you'll never thirst again.

-- Pastor Carlos

Making a Difference

There's a rising global scourge in this century. It is the slavery and trafficking of children and youth. Today, millions of young people are being held against their will and used for forced labor, commercial sex trafficking, and to pay down family debts. International Child Care Ministries is linking arms with anti-trafficking advocates around the world and invites our friends and sponsors to join with us to wipe out this terrible reality and bring freedom to those in bondage. ICCM is initiating “Stand for Children” with the Free Methodist Church in India in 2012. This project raises critical awareness of trafficking; teaches children their rights; empowers children and adults to speak up; mobilizes intervention resources; and seeds an abolitionist culture of vigilance and proactivity among Free Methodist Churches in India. Thank you for your support and for making a difference!



SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2012

Week-at-a-Glance

Today

9:00 am
Worship Service
Kids' Reaching Our Community

10:30 am
Adult & Kids' Cafe

11:00 am
Worship Service
Children's Sunday School

** Small Groups meet at various times

Monday

6:00 pm
1212: The Next Step in Recovery
– Adult Training Center

Wednesday

6:30 pm
“A History of Christian Worship”
– Adult Training Center

6:30 pm
Baptism Class
– Church Offices

Wednesday

7:00 pm
Youth Meeting

Thursday

12:00 pm
Women's Bible Study at Del Taco
– Mountain View

7:00 pm
Sewing & Quilting Group
– Adult Training Center

*Nursery care is provided for Sunday services
located at the church*

***This Month's Ancient
Christian Symbol***



The IHS monogram is an abbreviation or shortening of Jesus' name in Greek to the first three letters. Thus, *Ιησους*, in lower-case Greek, is shortened to *ΙΗΣ* in upper-case Greek (iota-eta-sigma), sometimes transliterated into Latin or English characters as IHS. This ancient symbol was reportedly found in the catacomb of Priscilla and the atrium of the Capella Graeca, and has been widely used ever since. You'll even find it here, on our own church's altar cross.

Visit Our "Art Corner"

Today's Art Corner features the deeply moving "Kissing the Face of God", by renowned artist, Morgan Weistling. Moved by his faith in the Lord, Weistling is inspired to portray unforgettable images from the Bible including this piece. As we view this work, imagine being an eyewitness to Mary kissing her son, Jesus, Immanuel – God with us. May the Holy Spirit fully engage our hearts and minds.



Behold Your Curriculum
Epiphany 2012, part 5

Mark 1:21-28
(pg.912)

Pastor Carlos Dawson 01/29/12

Belong. Believe. Become.

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