

“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...

“We do not find our true self by seeking it. Rather, we find it by seeking God.”

– David Benner

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

Pray for our students in the upcoming Regional Spelling Bee at the First Baptist Church on **Monday, Feb 13th** at **6 pm**. May they represent Christ as they do their best to showcase their spelling skills. We thank God for all He has done and we look forward to the great things ahead at BCS! Please remember to pray for our school's staff, faculty, students, and parents!

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 Lenwood Community Church.

Here's What's Happening:

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.

Women's Breakfast

Come join a group of ladies for food, fellowship, devotions, and prayer at Quigley's on **Saturday, Feb. 11th** at **8:30am**. 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.

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

Stock the Food Closet

This week we're asking for jars of peanut butter and jelly to make a quick easy meal to include in our bags to give to hungry families. Thank you!

Sandwich Sunday Returns

Come join your church family for fellowship, sandwiches, and salad downstairs in the fellowship hall following second service on **Sunday, Feb. 19th**. This luncheon is free of charge--the only thing missing is you!

Men's Breakfast

Come, fellowship and enjoy a delicious breakfast on **Saturday, Feb. 25th** at **8:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$7 donation. Please sign up in the back of the sanctuary. Any questions contact Pastor Carlos at 267-8313.

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.

Youth Ice Escapade

All junior and senior high school students mark your calendars to go ice skating at Ontario Ice Skating Center. Meet at New Life Fellowship on **Friday, Feb. 17th** at **9:15 am** for skating from 11am-3pm. Expect to return by 5 pm. Cost is \$10 and includes skate rental and lunch. For more information and permission slips, contact Glenn Low at 987-6690.

Following the Christian Year...

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

Today's Lectionary Readings: Malachi 3:1-4; **Psalm 84**; Hebrews 2:14-18; **Luke 2:22-40**
(**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

Dying in Silence

“The most simple and spiritual discipline is some degree of solitude and silence. But it's also the hardest, because none of us want to be with someone we don't love.”

-- Author and priest Richard Rohr

As we move forward in Christ, there may be times He calls us to silence and solitude. It's an atmosphere where we're just with God and we listen to Him by ourselves. For many, it's a scary place because that's when all the memories, the fears, the anger, the sadness and the secrets we keep come to the surface. That's when we come face to face with ourselves and with our God. It's a place where we give up control in order to give God control. And giving up control is about trust and if we're honest, do we trust God? Do we even really love Him?

In the silence and solitude we discover the truth. Scripture tells us to love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and soul and love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37, 39). And for some we have to come to a reality -- we have to confess that we really don't love God, others and *even* ourselves.

So what do we do? We surrender to the silence and solitude. We face the truth. We don't love the people we see in the mirror. We don't love others. We don't love God. But there's good news. We can confess it. And when we listen for God, we hear that He forgives us and cleanses us of our sin (1 John 1:9). We then receive His Truth and it's the truth that sets us free (John 8:32). Free to love Him, others, and even ourselves. And so the silence and solitude is no longer a place of fear, but one of restoration, grace, mercy, and love.

--Pastor Carlos

Making a Difference

Back in early December, members of our church went to Elder Haven to give out pillows and pillowcases to the clients, staff, and volunteers. Elder Haven, the local elder daycare center has serviced Barstow for years providing a place where the elderly can fellowship, eat free, play games, and exercise, while giving their caregivers personal time for themselves or to run errands. Our team wanted to show them that Jesus



cares for them through the love and workmanship of the pillowcases. The team especially wanted to let the staff know they appreciate all Elder Haven does not only for their clients but also for the families and caregivers. Thank you church for your support and for making a difference!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 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 Celtic Cross symbolizes the eternal and infinite love of God through the suffering of Jesus on the cross. The circle in the middle of the cross represents the divine mystery of how through Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, our Lord bestows His love and hope of salvation to faithful believers. The symbol also represents balance, honor, faith, unity, temperance, ascension, hope, life, and direction.

Visit Our "Art Corner"

Today's Art Corner features a beautiful print of the Baciccio masterpiece: *St. Joseph and the Infant Child*, c. 1670-1685

Holding a one-month old baby Jesus....can you imagine what that might have been like? Rather than looking into his eyes, maybe he would be gazing deep into yours!



Psalm 84
Epiphany 2012, part 6

Psalm 84
(pg. 540)

Pastor Chris Monroe 02/05/12

Belong. Believe. Become.

Barstow
Free Methodist

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