

# Suddenly

People were going about their business, managing daily life, when “suddenly” God showed up. At Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem, the shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks at night when, “**Suddenly** a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God” (Luke 2:13). In a moment God had changed everything.

After Christ’s resurrection the disciples were gathered wondering what was next when, “**Suddenly** Jesus met them. ‘Greetings,’ he said” (Matthew 28:9).

After Jesus’ ascension he sent his promised Holy Spirit and, “**Suddenly** a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house” (Acts 2:2).

Saul was busy persecuting Christians when, “As he neared Damascus on his journey, **suddenly** a light from heaven flashed around him” (Acts 9:3).

Peter was facing a death sentence in prison for sharing Jesus’ message when his rescue began and, “**Suddenly** an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell” (Acts 12:7).

Jesus warned us about his second coming saying, “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you **suddenly** like a trap” (Luke 21:34).

You will experience long stretches of ordinary days but don’t fall asleep spiritually. The shepherds at Christ’s birth were watching. We too must watch. It was an ordinary night until God suddenly burst in and changed everything. They were ready and didn’t miss the greatest breakthrough of hope in history. It has been God’s way to act suddenly.

Don’t be lulled into the same Christmas routine. Is there a way to watch for the Lord this holiday? Do you need to let go of some traditions that cause you to miss the point of God’s greatest gift? What is a new way to honor God this Christmas? Will you let your family see that you, like the shepherds, are watching?

*Mark*

Want to learn more about being a part of  
Collingswood Church of Christ ?

Well... Come to our *NEW Member’s Class*  
**TODAY** right after Worship in the “Teen Room.”  
This brief, no-obligation class includes refreshments.  
Talk to us!

**Our “Christmas Party” is Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM**

The theme is: *“In the Meadow We Can Build a Snowman.”*

**A sign-up sheet for food is posted, and . . .**

**Sign-up to be in the TALENT SHOW**

**A Big Thank You to Sandra Mendez:** for organizing the Great Gingerbread House Building!  
**Thanks to all of our helpers, too!**

**Youth Group: Fri. Dec. 15, 7-9PM** The Living Nativity

**Elders Are Visiting!** The Elders would like to visit each member of the congregation over the next six months, so don’t be surprised if you get a call. Sunday Worship is very busy and our Shepherds want to better know their flock.

**Children’s “Treasure Chest” Needs RE-Stocking:** in our church lobby, so if you have any happy meal toys or other small toys/books that you donate **give them to Karen Mc.**

**Today’s Worship Leaders**

**Worship Leader:** Carl Smith

**Welcome & Scripture:** Rick Boyle (Matt. 2:1-6)

**Opening Prayer:** Tate Perazzelli

**Lord’s Supper:** Henry Duncan, Jay Morris, Lee Graves, Logan

**Scripture Before Message:** Jess Nitla (John 1:9-10)

**Announcements & Closing Prayer:** Tony Ceraso Jr.

**Greeters:** Rich Fabi, Jonathan Cook, Sandie Fabi, Pat Connelly

## **"Giving Tree", Christmas Cards & Stockings:**

- 1. Giving Tree:** Take a paper ornament off the tree in the lobby, put the back portion with "Elf's name" in the dish and return front portion with the gift. These are Specific Kids we know & love whose needs & wishes have been brought to our attention. See Karen or Donna.
- 2. Christmas Cards:** to people in our church can be placed in the box in the lobby. Our kids will deliver them for you!
- 3. Fill a Stocking for the Women's Shelter** for domestic abuse victims. A wish list is pinned inside each Stocking which must be returned to Kathy by Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> or the resident will not get a stocking.

**Our "January Month of Prayer & Fasting" Calendar is Posted!** Just put your anonymous checkmark on the day you will fast and pray for the church. This is how we start the New Year!

## **Next Year's Monthly Volunteer List is Up!**

**Nursery Fay & Elizabeth** Next Week: Sandra M. & Elaine  
**Green: Cleaning Team** Dec. 13-16 Hardee Coordinates

### **OUTREACH/MINISTRY**

Mark Finn – Minister  
Church Office- (856) 854-0197

**Worship ..... 120**

Bible Class..... 82  
Wednesday PM..... 37

### **ELDERS:**

Rick Boyle (856) 986-4876  
Tony Ceraso, Jr. (856) 278-6276  
Bret Goen (856) 996-5267  
Howard Mansdoerfer (609) 790-9969

**Contribution ..... \$3,359**

**Budget Goal ..... \$4,260**

# Daily Bible Readers: 30

# Collingswood Church of Christ

Church Website: [www.ccc123.org](http://www.ccc123.org)

300 White Horse Pike..... Collingswood, NJ 08107  
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"Now faith is being **sure** of what we hope for and **certain** of what we do not see." (Hebrews 11:1)

