





# **Matt's Meanderings**

#### The Path to Christmas

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshiped him.

- Matthew 2:10-11a (CEB)

Advent is here! As the wise men traveled to find the Christ child, so, too, we travel the journey of Advent to find Christ and to worship him as the wise men did. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, I want to remind us of all the opportunities we'll have to worship this Advent season:

November 26, December 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 – Midweek devotions will be livestreamed through our Facebook page each Wednesday. These devotions will focus on Advent and will be opportunities for us to pause each week. I hope you'll join us!

November  $30 - 1^{st}$  Sunday of Advent and our Hanging of the Green service. During both services we will be reminded of the significance of the Christmas decorations and how they point us to Christ.

<u>December 7</u> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent and our Children's Christmas Program at 4pm in the Sanctuary. It is always such a joy to see our children share and lead us to Christ.

<u>December 14</u>  $-3^{rd}$  Sunday of Advent and our Christmas Cantata at the 8:45am service. During the 11am service we will be led in worship through music.

<u>December 21</u> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. At 4:30pm we will have our "Blue Christmas" service in the Sanctuary for those who find it difficult to celebrate during the holidays.

<u>December 24</u> – Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion services at 5:30pm in the Family Life Center (FLC) and 11pm in the Sanctuary.

<u>December 28</u> – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas. We will have one service at 10am in the Sanctuary. There will be no Sunday School this day. This service will be our annual Wesley Covenant Renewal Service.

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THERE

January 4 – Epiphany Sunday where we will celebrate the Magi coming to give their gifts to the Christ Child in

both services.

May we find ways to pause, reflect, and rejoice as we journey to see the Christ Child. I can't wait to celebrate this season with you all!

Merry Advent!



Matt

# DECEMBER 2025



#### **CHURCH CONTACT INFO:**

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#### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Christmas is coming and with Christmas time comes our children's Christmas play. Our play is titled "Christmas In Kid City". The children have been working hard learning the songs and their parts. Please make plans to come out and support our children on December 7th at 4:00pm for the play! A light reception of cookies and punch will follow.



Thank you for all the ways you support our children!



If you would like to be added to our children's ministry mailing list to keep updated of all that's going on with our children. Please let the office or me know!



## YOUTH MINISTRY

Let me begin on a personal note. I find it to be such a huge honor to have the opportunity to serve the students of our church. As with all transitions, it is a little overwhelming right now as I try to get up to speed on all of our events and planning for next year but in the coming weeks and months, by God's grace, I will settle in. I look forward to teaching, leading, and serving our students in 2026!



November has been a full month for our youth. We've had the opportunity to serve through our Christmas Bazaar Fundraiser, at which we raised more than \$800 for ministry and missions, and through our Rake'n'Run event. We learned, with the rest of the church, about the vision of our church in its building campaign vision night. We also celebrated the season of thankfulness with a youth Friendsgiving at the end of the month.

As we come into December we have a number of important dates and events for our youth.

Michael

12/07 No Youth - Please attend the Children's Christmas Play

Progressive Supper (4:30 pm) 12/14

12/19 Ice Skating (Leave church at 6:30 pm)

12/21 No Youth - Christmas Break

12/28 No Youth - Christmas Break



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#### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

What an honor it is to be connecting to God and one another with these

new members.

Picture on left: Patrick and Susan Brown

Picture on right: Gary and Sarah Gunn, Sharon and Willie McElroy, John and Cindy Yonts

Not Pictured: Derek & Liana Sandlin family, Gerri Helms and Jimmy Roberts





## **CHRIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

Purpose: We dedicate ourselves to serve Jesus by our goals, actions, and commitment. May we grow stronger in our faith as we serve others through our missions.

\*Our elected officers for 2026 will be: Michelle Cassady- President; Barbara Hines - Vice President; Christy Twyman - Secretary; and Juanita Cox - Treasurer. We are thankful that these women are willing to fill these roles. Please keep each of them in your prayers in the coming year.



\*Our Christmas Gathering will be held on Monday, December 15, 2025 at 6pm. If your last name begins with A-M, please bring an appetizer to share. If your last name begins with N-Z, please bring a dessert to share. In lieu of a gift exchange, we ask that you bring a gift card (any amount) to be given to the Mary Kendall Children's Home for Christmas. These can be purchased from Walmart (preferred), Shoe Stop, Target or Meijer.

#### \*Save the Date: (This is in place of the Jan. meeting)

Christ Women's 2026 RETREAT will be January 23 & 24. The retreat will be held at the church this year! There will be five sessions beginning on Friday evening and continuing on Saturday. Speakers will be women from our church. The Retreat theme is based on the book, The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry by John Mark Comer The book is not required to be purchased, but is a great read. Registrations will be available soon.

#### YOUNG AT HEART MINISTRY

Young at Heart has had a great year filled with many fun activities! We would love to have you join us for our Christmas Celebration December 12th at 5:30pm in the FLC. We will have a catered dinner from Split Tree. Cost is \$12 per person. Christy Richards and Linda Lohmann will be taking reservations at the coffee bar on November 30th and December 7th. Menu will be brisket, chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans and coleslaw. Please bring a wrapped UGLY ornament. We hope you will join us for an evening of fun, food and fellowship!

We are looking forward to another exciting year in 2026! Watch email for upcoming events! Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

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On Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> over 600 people came thru the doors of the FLC to attend the Christ Women's Christmas Bazaar. They ate breakfast prepared by the Men and enjoyed lunch made by the Youth of our church. They shopped with the many vendors that were present as well as looking for treasures in Grandma's Attic. They discovered their sweet tooth at the Bakery and bid on Silent Auction Baskets; all the while listening to Christmas music played for us by a number of talented performers, (some older and some younger) on the piano! With a volunteer force of more than 50 people, our event was a huge success!

Below is the recap of each individual area: Women's Craft Booth- \$546.47, Grandma's Attic- \$1166.56, Bakery- \$1525.14, Silent Auction \$3,459.05 and Vendor Booth Rental- \$1,880.00; all for a Grand Total \$8577.22.

A huge thank you to our Christ Church family for donating, baking, crafting, performing, volunteering to work by setting up or cleaning up, and of course for supporting Women's missions.

God Bless you & Merry Christmas!



# Longest Night:

# A Blue Christmas Service

4:30 pm, December 21, 2025

A service of hope for those

who are grieving, hurting, and heartbroken.



# In Christian Sympathy

Our Deepest Condolences are given to:



David Hartman and family in the passing of Sandy Hartman

Lynda Mulcahy in the passing of her sister

Mary Guthrie in the passing of her brother

IN MEMORY OF Patty Wintuska Jo and Larry Byrd

IN MEMORY OF Sandy Hartman Bill and Joyce Buckman David and Linda Bragg





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### **FAITH FOOD PANTRY**

Since we have been so busy this past 3 weeks, we are asking for ANY and ALL food items in December. We served approximately 120 different families during the month of November so we have gone through a lot of food.



Some suggested items include:

Pasta sauce

Pasta (spaghetti, macaroni, rotini, egg noodles)

Canned meat (chicken, spam, treet, tuna, beef stew, ravioli)

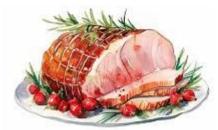
Rice and Rice side dishes

**Dried Beans** 

Canned Vegetables (no corn, please)

Boxed or dried milk

Instant or Boxed Potatoes



### SATURDAY MEALS

First, we want to thank everyone who brought in boxes of stuffing. We do appreciate your generosity!



We would also like to extend a big "thank you" to Linda Tidwell and Lana Compton, who represented our church as volunteers during Thanksgiving weekend (Nov. 30).

December is a very busy month, with three dates of serving opportunities. I am happy to report that we already have our volunteers for these dates. We are so grateful for those who will be giving their time and energy.

Finally, we want to say how much we value every person who participated in Saturday MEALS in 2025. We could never have done it without you! Your support of this food ministry is amazing and inspiring. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Sean & Val Kinder

### **ANGEL TREE MINISTRY**

Once again I am struck by the generosity and compassion of Christ Church. This is the 20th year we have served the families of incarcerated parents. Over 50 children will receive two gifts with notes from their parent who cannot be there with them. One mother spoke with one of our volunteers and expressed how excited the children were their Dad had remembered them.



Thanks so much for the phone calls, angel tags and shopping for these children. Please bring the wrapped gifts to church with the angel tag by Sunday, December 7. Packages will be distributed to delivery teams for delivery before Christmas.

### **MOUNTAIN MISSION**

Click the links below to see the Mountain Mission newsletter and urgent needs list. The next pick-up scheduled at Christ Church is on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Messenger

Urgent Needs List

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"The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it" (John1:5).

find myself longing for Christmas. It's one of those odd things that surprises me. There is so much of celebrating Christmas that seems over top, making my exposed nerve endings recoil at the mere thought of pulling out tinsel or braving Scottsville Road traffic. And truly, that's not what I long for.

Sami

I'm longing for a quiet night, pierced by a single, bright star. The midnight hour of heartache that is suffused with hope. A baby cooing in a young mother's embrace. And she's so new to it all that she is washed in exhaustion and confusion and . . . Wonder.

Let's just face it—life is exhausting. And it's confusing. And sometimes I think we have lost our capacity for wonder. But in this season of Advent and Christmas we are invited to experience wonder in a whole new way. Not because everything is Martha Stewart perfect. But because in the middle of the mess, God comes to us. He meets us where we are, and He offers us Himself.

Goodness it rocks my world every time I consider this truth: The Holy God of the universe wants to be with me. He sees all of me—all of my mixed up emotions, all of my heartaches, the grief I carry from my own hurts, the grief I carry because I love folks who are hurting, my failures, my awkwardness, my sin. There isn't a part of me (or you) that falls outside of His comprehension. And He knows how to speak a word of relief to every burden that weighs us down. His word says: "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God" (Luke 3:5-6). God knows how to minister to our insecurities and depressions, the mountains of grief and regret, the things within us that get all wonky, our rough edges and anxieties, even our most deeply cherished flaws. God knows everything that can prevent us from beholding His glory in our lives, and He is fully capable of making His salvation real within us. I just love that. And I love that the way God accomplishes this wonder—full thing is through Jesus. The very babe held close to Mary's heart.



If the tinsel and traffic have spoiled it for you, if your heart is too broken to be merry, if you are just too exhausted by life to care—this message is for you: the Light of Jesus is shining for you, upon you, and (when you are ready) within you.

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	O .
12/1	Bill Buckman
12/1	Richard Garden
12/2	Ron Best
12/2	Josh Creek
12/3	Abby Orr
12/5	Kathy Alexander

12/5	Conner Burklow	12/23	Holly Jones
12/6	Norma Burton	12/24	Merry Bond
12/8	George Gootee	12/25	Leon Winquist
12/11	Justus Creek	12/26	Mea Taylor
12/11	Linda Lohmann	12/27	Betsy Kullman
12/13	Diane Fleenor	12/27	Eli Lovell
12/14	Jenny Lou Pierce	12/27	Abby Seel
12/14	Emily Romans	12/28	Kory Twyman
12/15	Nancy Pollock		







# **Stewardship and Attendance**

Budget for the Year \$593,336 Building Fund Received Mo. \$340 Needed Per Week \$11,410

Robert Conrad

April Taylor

Tabitha Foley

Jo Byrd

12/17 12/17

12/19

12/19

Stewardship:

Nov. 2 \$14,798 Nov. 9 \$16,153 Nov. 16 \$20,444.86 Nov. 23 \$TBD Nov. 30 \$TBD Attendance:

Nov. 2 253 Nov. 9 226 Nov. 16 235 Nov. 23 259 Nov. 30 TBD



**Traditional Service 8:45 am**Sanctuary

Sunday School 10:00 am

Contemporary Service 11:00am
Family Life Center

Watch Online

https://www.christchurchbg.org/online/

**Past Services** 

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCA\_hizimRxRkTXwdpEMk0w?





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