

Bible Readings

The Bible Readings for the week of December 4th - 8th: Monday: Psalm 33:16-22, Tuesday: Isaiah 40:28-31, Wednesday: Jeremiah 29:11-13, Thursday: Matthew 12:15-21, Friday: Romans 15:12-13.

Backpack Program

Packing backpacks this Wednesday at 11:45 am will be Priscilla Jamison, Gary & Carole Judy and Beverly Shotwell. Gary Judy will deliver them.

Youth Group

Youth (6th - 12th grade) are invited to join us Wednesday, December 6th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm for Youth Group. We will enjoy dinner before our Bible study and practicing music for the Christmas Eve service.

Our Youth Christmas Party will be Sunday, December 10th from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. Bring your favorite dish or dessert to share and a \$5 wrapped gift to exchange. Hope to see you there!

Saturday, December 16th at 9:00 am we will meet in the Anderson Arena of the Virginia Horse Center to pack Christmas baskets for families in the Rockbridge and surrounding areas. Come help us make the holidays special for these families!

On Monday, December 18th at 6:30 pm we will enjoy dinner before a service project at The Community Table.

Casserole & Cake Ministry

We will meet Saturday, December 9th at 9:00 am to prepare casseroles and cakes. Please join us!

Children's Musical

The Children's Choir and Drama Group will present "A Red-Letter Christmas" on December 10th during the worship service. Join us to see and hear the colors of Christmas come alive!

WMU Dinner At The Community Table

On Monday, December 11th at 6:30 pm, WMU will be dining at the Community Table and leaving donations for our meal.

Adult Choir Cantata

The adult choir will present Lloyd Larson's *Sing Joy to All the World* on December 17th, during the morning worship hour. The message of Christmas is one of deep and abiding joy! It is a message filled with the assurance that no matter how difficult the journey may seem; no matter how hopeless the situation may feel; no matter how long and dark the night may be, joy will eventually come! That is the promise of God! (Psalm 30:5b)

2018 Church Offering Envelopes

The 2018 Church Offering Envelopes are available and ready to be picked up. They are located on the table outside of the choir room.

The Season of Advent

Today is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. The word advent comes from a Latin word meaning "a coming or arrival". In Advent, we thank God for Christ's first coming, anticipate his second coming at the end of time, and celebrate his presence among us today through the Holy Spirit. In worship each Sunday of this Season, we spiritually prepare ourselves to worship and serve him who was born King of Kings and Lord of Lords on Christmas Day.

Wise Men's Journey

You may have noticed that the Wise Men are not under the Chrismon Tree in the sanctuary but rather are located on a window sill. This represents the fact that they were not present for the birth of Jesus but arrived at a later time. Each Sunday they will make their way around the sanctuary until they finally arrive under the tree on January 7th.

International Mission Offering

Remember, as you give to our International Missions Goal of \$2,500 you can choose which Baptist Missionaries and Mission projects you wish to support. You may give to the Alma Hunt Offering of Virginia Baptists which helps fund the International Mission Projects which Virginia Baptists sponsor, the Global Missions Offering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering of the Southern Baptist Convention. Your gifts to any of these will be added to help us reach our International Missions Offering goal. Let us generously give so that others may hear the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ!

Benevolence Offering

The ushers will be stationed at the exits this morning to take up the offering for those in need in our community.

Christmas Poinsettias

Today is the last day to place your order for a Christmas Poinsettia! You may dedicate your poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. The cost is \$12.00.

Deacon/Staff Christmas Party

The annual Deacon/Staff Christmas Party will be held today, 5 pm at the Raymond's home. If you need directions, please contact Dale or Alysyan Raymond.

Christmas Eve Service

It has been a Manly tradition to gather with family and friends on Christmas Eve for a service of carols and special music. **Our service will be at 5:00 pm this year.** Please let Pastor Mike Wilkins or the church office (463-4181 or office@manlybaptist.com) know if your family would like to sing a Christmas hymn!

Wednesday Fellowship Meal

Our church fellowship meal this week will be fried chicken, mac and cheese, green beans prepared by Effie Wallace with bread and desserts donated by volunteers. The cost is \$7.00 per meal. Please contact the office (463-4181) by Monday at noon to sign up.

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