

DECEMBER THE WORD

2020 Newsletter for the Ministry & Fellowship of Manly Memorial Baptist Church



Since cleaning supplies are so hard to find these days, we are asking for Lysol or Clorox wipe donations. The next time you are at a store and see these, please pick up one and drop it off at the church. Thank You



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- 1 Sandra O'Connell
- 5 Sue Seaman
Noah Campbell
Gladys Crist
- 10 Lee Higgins
- 15 David Campbell
Janice Oyler
- 17 Brian Kave
Jennifer Fuller - Spears
- 22 Don Heckman
- 23 Roger Williamson
- 25 Rick Cruze
- 28 Vickie Kave
- 29 Jeannie VanNess
- 30 Beth Lollis
Addison Moore
- 31 Ursula Rochelle

Daily BIBLE READING

HOPE

December 1 - Psalm 33:20-22
December 2 - Isaiah 40:28-31
December 3 - Jeremiah 29:11-13
December 4 - Romans 15:12-13

PEACE

December 7 - Psalm 34:8-14
December 8 - Isaiah 9:6
December 9 - John 14:27
December 10 - 2 Corinthians 13:11
December 11 - Colossians 1:19-20

JOY

December 14 - Nehemiah 8:10
December 15 - Psalm 100
December 16 - Romans 12:9-21
December 17 - 1 Peter 1:8
December 18 - Luke 2:8-10

LOVE

December 21 - Zephaniah 3:17
December 22 - 1 Corinthians 13
December 23 - Ephesians 2:4-5
December 24 - Romans 8:35-39
December 25 - John 3:16

December 28 - 1 John 4:7-12



- 3 Scott & Brandee Hartbarger
- 21 Ronnie & Sherry Miller

Celebrating a birthday or anniversary? Share it with us!

Out of My Mind

While the Pandemic will make this Christmas different than any other we have experienced before, one thing that will stay the same is the giving of gifts. Despite all the restrictions and limitations of these days, people will find a way to give gifts to each other. And I'm grateful for gifts that have already been given to me.

I'm grateful for the gift of participation.

So many in our church family have stepped up during these months that we haven't been able to gather together. Don Heckman has worked hard to make sure my messages and all the music gets recorded and ready for posting. Molly Kay Moore, Erica Turman, and Barbara Heckman have posted messages and music to the Website, Facebook and Instagram. Lucy Wilkins, Alysan Raymond, the members of the Quarantine Quartet, the Praise Band and other soloists, duos and trios have provided us with inspiring musical selections.

The Fellowship Class has continued to meet via Zoom under the direction of Dale Raymond and Curtis Caylor. As a result they have formed an even closer bond. Laura Jones and Lee Higgins have continued the Ladies Fellowship online. Patsy Paxton and Deborah Caylor have prepared and coordinated the Thanksgiving meal, cookie distributions and other efforts to minister to the needs of our community during this time.

Many others have made donations to various projects while still others, whether through calls, emails, texts, or visits have made the effort to make sure that we stay connected as a church family. Forgive me if I fail to mention you by name, but I am grateful to each of you who have stepped up and participated during this time.

I'm grateful for the gift of leadership.

I'm grateful for all the church staff who have worked hard during this challenging time to find new ways to carry out their roles. I'm grateful for Dale Raymond and all of the deacons of our church who have provided important leadership and guidance in this unusual time and have kept the church moving in a positive direction. Rick Lollis and his team have also worked hard to prepare us for that coming day when we will, finally, be able to gather safely together again for worship.

I'm grateful for your financial gifts.

Despite not being able to attend and physically place your offering envelope in the offering plate on a Sunday morning you have found ways to contribute financially. Thank you! Without your faithful financial support we could not continue to function as a church. Because of your generosity, the good news of Jesus Christ is being shared, youth and children are receiving guidance, encouragement and support, and people in need in our community are being assisted. Your gifts are making a positive difference in people's lives.

I'm also grateful for the gift of Jesus.

It would be easy to focus this Christmas on what is not happening – the times of worship not occurring, the special services not taking places, the families and friends we won't be able to see, in other words, all the things which we miss and we have lost.

But while it is true that this Christmas will lack some things, it will still have what matters most, Jesus! Despite all that is wrong in this world, the good news is still that the savior has been born. Jesus who is Emmanuel, the God who is with us always, and is for us always, is here. His gifts of hope, peace, joy and love are still ours to claim. We still receive his salvation and his grace. And most of all, we still experience his presence with us. May remembering that, make your Christmas truly merry this year.

Your Pastor,
Mike



MISSION NEWS

November 29 thru December 6, 2020, is the Week of Prayer for International Missions. From Naivasha, Kenya, to Thailand, to Italy, foreign missionaries are working to share the Word of God with unreached people groups. Our support through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering helps make this work possible. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to make this happen.

Thanks to Molly Kay Moore who delivered our shoeboxes. She delivered 43 shoeboxes, 22 from Manly and 21 from two other churches. We know this has been a difficult year but lets plan to at least double that number next year. When we are able to meet together again we will schedule a workday to cover shoeboxes for 2021.

With Lib Bowyer's passing we lost one of our most dedicated workers. Our hospital ER doll ministry is in danger of being discontinued. If there are some who would like to continue with this project, please let us know.

For our December project we made a donation to the Western State Hospital Christmas gift program. This program provides some Christmas cheer to the patients at that facility.

THANKSGIVING DINNER REPORT

We cooked and packaged take out dinners for a total of 72 residents at Windemere and Lexington House. Deborah and Curtis Caylor and Patsy Paxton prepared the meals and Curtis Caylor, Brian and Vicki Kave, Joel Snow and Roger and Patsy Williamson delivered the meals. Thanks for all the workers and also to all who contributed money to make this possible.

Patsy Paxton



The family of Minnie Belle Jenkins Moore wishes to express our gratitude for the many expressions of love and sympathy during her illness and death. She loved her Lord and this church.

Bill and Zora Jenkins



We have journeyed into the period of Advent. The next 4 weeks are a time to prepare our hearts for when the baby Jesus entered the world. What does that birth mean to you? How do we prepare?

Our path may include doing some intentional acts of kindness. Or, we might expand our prayer life during this season. Prayer makes us more aware of God's presence. Be mindful to pray for others – perhaps for people you do not normally include. You may choose to adopt habits that build a renewed sense of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. What if you have your own advent wreath?

As you read through the Christmas scriptures, try meditating on the verses more than normal. What are the verses saying to you? Sing Christmas carols and think about the words. *Nehemiah 8:10 says, "The joy of the Lord is your strength". Let that strength grow in your life.*

May you have a gentle and peaceful Advent season.

Dale R Raymond, Deacon Body Chair



During this holiday season, I encourage everyone to continue to financially support our church as they are able. These have been a frustrating several months for many of us, but we continue to move forward, trusting God for His faithfulness. In our gratitude we share our blessings. One way is by financially supporting the church. The deacons are praying and working for all of us to regather at the church just as soon as we can be reasonably safe. In the meantime, we are the church, the body of Christ. Stay safe, and may God bless you!

Curtis Caylor, F & S Committee



Due to the recent decision for RCPS to go 100% virtually Molly Kay Moore's in office days will change. Starting Tuesday, December 1, she will only be in the office on Wednesday's from 8:30 am -1:30 pm. All other days she will be working from home. You may still contact her by email (office@manlybaptist.com) or phone (540-461-6074) with any questions or needs.



Since we cannot be physically together this year to celebrate the advent season, why not make your own advent wreath to use at home? Advent is a time to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming again even as we remember his birth. Setting aside a time to worship will enrich your spiritual life and make Christmas come alive with meaning. Each night (or each Sunday beginning November 29) take a moment to light the advent candles, read a scripture from the congregational Bible readings, sing a Christmas carol and say a prayer. A new candle is added each week. On Christmas Eve, the fifth Christ candle is added so that all five are lit.

The four weeks before Christmas are usually divided up into four emphases with a candle to represent each one: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The Pastor will be preaching on the corresponding theme each week. Our Quarantine Trio and Quartet has also prepared anthems to accompany those sermons that correspond to each theme.

How to Make and Advent Wreath

An advent wreath can be as simple as five candles. One candle for each week of advent and a central candle representing Christ as the light of the world. Traditionally, the church uses tapers; purple for the three weeks of hope, peace and love and pink for the joy week. Purple is the color of royalty representing Christ as our King and Lord. Pink is for the joy of that promise. The Christ candle is usually white representing the sinless nature and purity of Jesus. You don't have to use tapers or traditional colors. Votives, pillars or even electric candles are fine. Growing up, my family used four red candles, representing Christ's sacrifice and a white Christ candle. The evergreens represent the hope of eternal life that Jesus brings.

Here is how to make a traditional advent wreath. You don't have to do it this way. You can be creative or as simple as you like. The point is to take the time to worship. Materials you need: five candles, four candlesticks, wet floral foam, a round tray, evergreens (picked from your yard) Soak the foam in water for a few hours ahead of time or overnight. Cover the inside of your tray with plastic wrap to protect it. Place your foam block in the middle and press the Christ candle into the middle of it. If it doesn't look stable, put the candle in a candlestick and put it on the top of the foam. Place the other candles in candlesticks on the tray at the four corners of the foam. Insert your greens into the foam so that they fan out around the candlesticks. Add a decorative piece of ribbon if you like. No evergreens in your yard or apartment? Substitute fake greens from Walmart and insert them into dry floral foam or just use the candles.

Take a picture of your advent wreath and share it with the congregation on Instagram or Facebook. That way, we can celebrate together! Happy Advent!

Lucy Wilkins



Our various musical groups are working hard to create opportunities for worship for you this Christmas season. The Quarantine Quartet has recorded musical offerings to accompany each of the pastor's Sunday sermons during Advent. Alysan Raymond is recording Christmas hymns and carols and the Praise Band is working up a very special piece, "Christmas Canon Rock" for the Christmas Eve service. Starting December 13 the Christmas cantata from last year, "Have You Heard?" will be available on our website for you to enjoy at a time that suits you.

Please see my suggestions for advent worship in this newsletter. In addition, plan a time to listen to the Christmas cantata-perhaps with those in your pandemic pod. In addition to "Christmas Canon Rock", the Christmas Eve service will feature solos by Lucy Wilkins and Cori Beth Christoph and the traditional "O Holy Night" duet by Anita Cruze and Jennifer Spears. The words to the carols will be on the screen for you so you can sing along. Make this a memorable, joyful Christmas Eve by celebrating communion and in your own home knowing that many of your fellow believers are doing the same.

We are so grateful to Don Heckman for the hours of work he has contributed to make these services available to you online. I would also like to thank Tom Spears for stepping in to substitute for Brian Kave as a member of our Quarantine Quartet.

Merry Christmas! And may the joy of the Lord fill your heart this Advent season,

Lucy Wilkins

ADVENT WORSHIP CALENDAR

Use the readings in this newsletter as guides for nightly (or weekly) advent worship around your advent wreath.

November 29 – HOPE "Jesus, God With Us" Quarantine Quartet

December 6 – PEACE "Christmas Around (and A Round) Quarantine Trio

December 13 – JOY "Tell It On the Mountain" Quarantine Quartet / Christmas Cantata available on website, "Have You Heard" by the Adult Choir

December 20 – LOVE "God In This Child" Adult Choir

December 24 – CHRIST HAS COME Christmas Eve Service

"Christmas Canon Rock" The Praise Band

"In the Bleak Midwinter" Lucy Wilkins

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night" Cori Beth Christoph

Christmas Carols by Alysan Raymond and others

"O Holy Night" Anita Cruze and Jennifer Spears

December 27 – "Make Me A Bethlehem" Lucy Wilkins

January 3 – The Light In Our Darkness - "Lift Your Light" The Adult Choir