

GraceVine



December, 2022 VOL. 49, No. 12



Buckingham Presbyterian Church
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[Click here for streaming service](#)

10:00 am Worship Service

11:00 am Fellowship

Sharing God's Love through Fellowship, Ministry and Worship

Newsletter deadline is the 20th of every month. Items may be sent to Editor,
LeeAnn Burt: leeinkc@hotmail.com or deposited in the GraceVine mail slot in the office.

Pastor's Corner

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." (Matthew 2.42-44)

Yesterday—the day after Thanksgiving (as of this writing)—on his Facebook page a pastor friend of mine (different denomination, different state) posted "Merry Christmas." I commented, "a little early for that, Advent doesn't begin until Sunday."

Also yesterday, in my inbox was the following from the president of the school I last attended. I thought I would borrow his words about Advent and share them with you. Enjoy what Dr. Hart has written:

The Judeo-Christian tradition is rooted in a particular understanding of reality, or beingness found in Genesis 1.1, the doctrine of creation. Everything that exists in this world, exists because God made it and sustains it and is renewing it, even time itself. And we are given the privilege and mission to participate in that renewal of creation with God through Christ. This includes participation in the redemption of time, which we mark daily, weekly, and yearly.

(Sunday, November 27) was the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the Church Year. The word Advent comes from a Latin word meaning coming or arrival. In ancient Rome "advent" was a technical term for the glorious entry of an emperor into his capital city after a military victory. Advent is a translation of a Greek word which means a "present presence," or "a coming to a place." This is the way theologians refer to Christ's second coming.

In Advent we eagerly prepare our hearts in anticipation of the return of Christ in his second coming and expectantly prepare for the celebration of his first coming in the great feast of the Incarnation (Christmas). But, it is a backwards season and a penitential season that begins with an emphasis on the second coming as the context for fully understanding the first coming of Christ. Advent helps us to feel the need for a Savior who has done for us what we can't do for ourselves. Regardless of the way in which our surrounding culture celebrates Christmas during Advent, the purpose of Advent is not to celebrate Christmas, but to expect it. (emphasis mine, ts) The Advent season is prefigured in the liturgical emphases on "second coming" readings in November culminating with Christ the King Sunday. Why does Advent begin with the second coming of Christ? It is because it is the culmination, of the first coming. There are many comings of Christ, not just the first and second. His coming is actually continuous. THE most visceral and experiential continuous coming of Christ in this in-between time is in worship, specifically in the gathering of the Body of Christ, in the Word spoken and sung, and in the Word broken for the life of the world. Every time we gather for worship, we participate in and anticipate this continuous second coming.

Advent emphasizes this "already but not yet" era, the time between the first and second comings of Jesus, between the Kingdom unveiled and the Kingdom fulfilled. In a sense, the "already but not yet" is also the time between our own births and deaths. In Advent we hear anew the call to order our affairs rightly, to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before God. We are reminded not to be mistaken—there is an end coming, both our own and the consummation of all things in the Lord's return. But, the end of our temporal existence leads to a more glorious restoration, a true fulfillment, a transformation or metamorphosis of all creation, including and especially humankind, to a higher and infinitely more radiant plane of existence.

In a world of seemingly rampant self-interest, conflict, dis-integration, violence, injustice, sin, and death, God summons us in Advent to turn our hearts in love toward God and our fellow humankind, to strengthen us in holiness, to please God through detachment from earthly pleasures, and to be free from the anxieties of daily life. We reorient toward what the Lord requires of us, "... to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6.8b)

In the meantime, we wait and watch in active vigilance by ordering our worship, our homes, our relationships, and our lives according to God, his revelation in Scripture and his presence among us. Do that and we will not only participate in the full meaning of Advent, but we will participate in the fullness and joy of the divine life. Thanks be to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

May you and yours have a most blessed Advent! Grace and peace to you,

James R. Hart, President Institute for Worship Studies

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

All Military Overseas & at Home
 All 1st Responders
 All Victims of Hurricane Ian
 All Educators
 Pastor, Church & Officers
 Debbie Anderson
 Lenny Barshinger
 Dixie Battin
 Bourdeau Family
 Harriet Brandt
 Betty Carlisle
 Daughtry Family
 Jeff East
 Scott Gallaway
 Joe Garcia
 Cliff Gridley
 Grace Johnston
 Betty and John Jones
 Phyllis Larranaga
 Gerald Marsh
 Katherine Nolen
 Nolen Family
 John Smith
 Sherry Wilmer

Names will remain on the prayer list for one month, unless requested for longer.

Please call the church office 239-694-2444 if you wish to add or delete a name.



DECEMBER

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER 6	WAYNE NICHOLS
DECEMBER 9	STAN BUCHER
DECEMBER 11	FRANK ORRIS
DECEMBER 15	CHASE MAYHUGH
DECEMBER 17	TIM GERBRACHT
DECEMBER 17	NICHOLAS ROESCH
DECEMBER 28	GRACE JOHNSTON

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER 4	RODNEY & LEEANN BURT
DECEMBER 13	KURT & JOANNE WAGNER
DECEMBER 15	JOHN & BARB MITCHELL
DECEMBER 18	FRANK & KATHY ORRIS
DECEMBER 28	JOHN & BETTY JONES
DECEMBER 31	JOE & MARGARET ELYARD
DECEMBER 31	JOHN & KELLY GRAHAM



SAVE THE DATES!

Sundays at 11:00 am—Fellowship follows each worship service. Please come and join us!

Wednesdays at 4:00 pm—Choir Practice

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm—Wednesday Night Connection

Friday, December 2 at 4:30 pm—Fish Fry

Sunday, December 11 at 11:00 am—*A Very Thankful Christmas Brunch* following Worship. The Church will provide the entrée, please bring your favorite holiday dishes to share.

Saturday, December 24 at 6:30 pm—Christmas carols sing-along

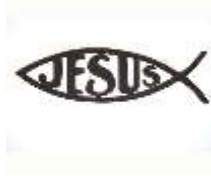
Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 pm—Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 am—Christmas Day Service



December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 Labor & Landscape 9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff	2 4:00 Fish Fry	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:00 Worship	5	6	7 9:30 -11:00 R&R 11:00 Mission Committee Meeting 4:00 Choir 6:00 Connection	8 9:00 Labor & Landscape	9	10
11 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:00 Worship 11:00 Brunch	12	13	14 9:30 -11:00 R&R 4:00 Choir 6:00 Connection	15 9:00 Labor & Landscape 9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff	16	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent 10:00 Worship	19 6:00 pm Session Meeting	20	21 9:30 -11:00 R&R 4:00 Choir 6:00 Connection	22 9:00 Labor & Landscape	23	24 7:00 Christmas Eve 
25 Christmas Day 10:00 Worship 	26	27	28 9:30 -11:00 R&R 4:00 Choir No Connection	29 9:00 Labor & Landscape 9:00 Stitch 'N Stuff	30	31 



Christmas Angels

Thank you for meeting our goal of 50 children for the Christmas angels. As a reminder, please have your wrapped gifts with the tag of the child's name and teacher attached to the gift and return to the church by December 16. Thank you very much for your kindness! This will be the only gifts some of these children will receive.



Stitch N'Stuff

Charity sewing can fill all kinds of needs in our communities. Many people from sewing circles can turn charity sewing into a real community event. If you're a crafter looking to make new friends this is a great way to go about it. Please check us out every other Thursday from 9:00 - 12:00 pm in Clayton Hall. Any questions, please call Betty Carlisle at 239-728-1101.

Sometimes people don't notice the things others do for them until they stop doing them.

Doing more for others makes your life more abundant. Richelle E. Goodrich

Misión Peniel

While Misión Peniel is still not accepting clothing, the following is a list of their needs at this time: baby diapers sizes 3, 4, 5 and 6, baby wipes, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, disposable razors. Their food needs are rice, beans, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta, spaghetti sauce, dry cereal and oatmeal. You may drop these items off in the church narthex .



A Very Thankful Christmas Brunch

Don't forget to join in our all church Christmas brunch on Sunday, December 11 following worship. The church will provide the entree and the congregation will bring their favorite holiday side dishes, salads, desserts, etc.

There are sign up sheets in the kitchen.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a very brief congregational meeting on Sunday, December 11 immediately following worship. We will be approving our nominated session members for the Class of 2025.

Fish Fry

Don't forget to come support our first fish fry of the season on Friday, December 2. Drive-thru service begins at 4:30 pm and continues until we run out of food. The cost is \$13 per person or \$25 for two. It includes a fish filet, Cole slaw, salt potatoes, roll, butter and a cookie or brownie.



Session Members

Class of 2022

Mary Edmonds
Margaret Elyard
John Jones
Roy Lipsett

Class of 2023

Rodney Burt
Rodney Green
Kathie Saum
John Graham

Class of 2024

Cal Brown
Grace Johnston
Vicki McWhorter
Bob Peterman

Vicki McWhorter,
Session Clerk

Random Acts of Kindness

Our local community, Verandah, opened its hearts and wallets to help its extended family – 37 families of the Club and Veranda Community Association staff who were hit hard by the hurricane. The Club was closed for a week to give those affected some time to handle their losses and affairs. During that week the Club Management hosted a hot lunch for all staff and the first round of supplies were available for the taking. The staff were truly touched to learn Verandah Strong had been formed and that they weren't in it alone and had assistance.

What was lost?

- Some lost everything – house, cars, and possessions.
- Some have significant damage to their homes and need major repairs.
- Some lost furniture, clothing, appliances and must rebuild their homes.

Residents began a Go Fund Me page to help and ultimately it raised over \$93,000 for Verandah Strong. It was distributed on a needs basis:

- Both the Club and VCA staff were paid for the days they were unable to work. However, servers who rely on tips had a shortfall with only receiving their hourly wages. The Go Fund Me donations allowed supplementing the hourly rate to make up the shortfall from not being able to serve and earn tips that are a needed part of their income.
- Some funds were be used to help cover high insurance deductibles.
- There were families who needed temporary housing. Funds helped pay security deposits or subsidize what they can afford with what's available. With so many displaced by the storm, housing has been tough, and some are staying in hotels.
- Funds have been used for immediate needs such as car seats, clothing, or generators.
- Verandah Strong stands ready to help where possible with the many needs that have already come up and will continue in the near future.

Donations of goods and services:

- Donations from residents in the first two weeks after the hurricane provided immediate help with food, water, toiletries, and cleaning supplies.
- Clothing was also donated. There was a particularly touching story of a high school girl who lost everything. One resident donated a great deal of clothing that was just right for her. Another resident took her shopping to get specific things she needed, like track shoes.
- Many have donated furniture. We have been able to coordinate pickup and deliveries.
- Others helped tarp a staff member's roof, and still others assisted in completing FEMA documents.

This has been a shining moment for Verandah, and as a community is appreciative of the donations and the time and effort many have contributed to the Verandah Strong cause.

Star of the East

Poet: Eugene Field

Star of the East, that long ago
Brought wise men on their way
Where, angels singing to and fro,
The Child of Bethlehem lay -
Above that Syrian hill afar
Thou shinest out to-night, O Star!

Star of the East, the night were dreary
But for the tender grace
That with thy glory comes to cheer
Earth's loneliest, darkest place;
For by that charity we see
Where there is hope for all and me.

Star of the East show us the way
In wisdom undefiled
To seek that manger out and lay
Our gifts before the child -
To bring our hearts and offer them
Unto our King in Bethlehem!

Twinkle, Twinkle

Twinkle, twinkle shining star
Wise men followed from afar!
Worshipping Him
With gifts to bring
For they knew He was the King.
Twinkle, twinkle shining star
Wise men followed from afar!



Adapted by Stock of www.dreamstime.com

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM!



Worship Committee Report

ADVENT CHRISTMAS WREATH CANDLE COLORS

The purpose of the season of Advent is to prepare one's heart for the coming of Christ at Christmas. During these four weeks an Advent Wreath adorned with five candles is traditionally used to symbolize different spiritual aspects of getting ready.

The three Advent candle colors—purple, pink and white—symbolically represent the spiritual preparation that believers undergo to prepare their hearts for the birth (or coming) of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Advent wreath typically a circular garland of evergreen branches, is a symbol of eternity and unending love. Five candles are arranged on the wreath, and one is lit each Sunday as apart of the Advent services. These three principal colors of Advent are packed with rich meaning.

Purple; the color of royalty and the sovereignty of Christ, who is known as the “King of Kings” So, purple in this application demonstrates the anticipation of and reception of the coming King celebrated during Advent.

The first candle of the Advent wreath, the prophecy candle, or candle of hope, is purple. The second is called the Bethlehem candle, or the candle of preparation, and it is also purple. Likewise, the fourth Advent candle color is purple. It is called the angel candle, or the candle of love.

Pink; represents joy or rejoicing and reveals a shift in the season of Advent away from repentance and toward celebration. The third Advent candle on the wreath is pink. It is named the shepherd candle or candle of joy.

White; the Advent candle color representing purity, light, and godliness. White is also a symbol of victory. The Christ candle is the last or fifth Advent candle, positioned in the center of the wreath. This Advent candle's color is white.

Thank you, thank you, to all who have and will be working hard to get the Church prepared for the Advent season. A special shout out to Alexis Brown for filling in for me since my return to Ohio after Hurricane Ian. I know everything will be perfect with so many willing helpers.

I would also like to thank everyone who has worked with me the last five years on the committees I have chaired, I could not have done it without all of your help.

Rick and I will miss all of you deeply, we could not have chosen a better Church to have become members of.

All I can say is Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

May the Peace of Christ be with you,

Kathie Saum
Worship Committee Chair





Please keep Dave Farmer and his family in your prayers as we grieve with them the loss of his wife, Pat. We stand in the hope of the promise of the resurrection.

Musical Notes



Don't forget, there will be a 30 minute Christmas Carol Festival before the Christmas Eve service, and you're invited. Not only invited to attend, but invited to take part. That's right, we would love to have you join us in singing Christmas Carols both old and new at 6:30 pm on Christmas Eve.

Nursery Attendants

December 4 - Vicki McWhorter
 December 11 - Janelle Webb
 December 18 - Alexis Brown
 December 25 - Nursery Closed



**NEVER BE AFRAID TO TRY SOMETHING NEW.
 REMEMBER AMATEURS BUILT THE ARK ...
 PROFESSIONALS BUILT THE TITANIC.**



I am the vine
you are the branches
John 15:5

BUCKINGHAM
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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"MY IDEA OF CHRISTMAS, WHETHER
OLD-FASHIONED OR MODERN,
IS VERY SIMPLE: LOVING OTHERS.
COME TO THINK OF IT,
WHY DO WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR
CHRISTMAS TO DO THAT"

- Bob Hope