



Information

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Church Staff:

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tbias@ccumwv.org

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Rev. David Donathan, Deacon

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Laurie Vaughn

Robert Green

The Growing Place:

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Pastor's Corner

Welcome to 2024 Advent Edition of the Courier and the ministry of Christ Church where we seek to connect you with Christ and the community. Through the pages of this edition of the Courier, you will get a general idea of what to expect at Christ Church this Advent, Christmas, and into the new year.

First, let me say, again, how grateful I am to be serving with you at this time in the life of Christ Church. In a time of uncertainty and change, the opportunity to make a difference, to be a light in the darkness, and to offer love in the midst of fear is greater than any other time in my ministry. I believe that you and I are together for such a time as this. So, I am grateful that we are facing these days together.

Through these pages you will read of the opportunities you have to participate in the life and ministry of Christ Church. From Breakfast with Santa to The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival, from Lessons and Carols to Chapel Bible Study, from special Advent Sunday worship to our Christmas Eve family celebrations, there are wonderful opportunities to gather with the people you know and don't know to celebrate the greatest gift of all.

Our Advent book study is, *God Broke Through at Christmas*, written by our bishop Debra Wallace- Padgett. It is my hope that you will read *God Broke Through* whether you are participating in a study group, Sunday School class, or reading the book on your own. You will find a description of the book in this edition of the Courier. You can pick up your copy of *God Broke Through* in the church office at your convenience.

In this edition of the Courier, you will find the Advent Sermon Series titled "Promises! Promises!" It is my hope that we can worship together every Sunday. Whether in person, online, or listening on the radio, please know there is a place for you in worship each Sunday. More than anything, I look forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings.

Our 9:50 Chapel Bible Study will continue with an Advent Study focusing upon the good news of Luke. We gather every Sunday at 9:50 to sing, study, and celebrate Holy Communion. Each session will end no later than 10:45. You will find a detailed outline of the study in this edition of the Courier. This is not to take the place of your Sunday School class. It is just another offering to learn and grow together on Sunday mornings. I am grateful for the opportunity.

Let me invite you and challenge you to continue to participate in the ministries that can and will transform Charleston. Let's continue to pray for Charleston. As the prophet Jeremiah reminded the Hebrew people, as the city goes, we go. Let us also pray asking God to "send us the people no one else wants" and "to receive the people God sends to us."

As we enter this Advent Season, I challenge you, to ask God to show you where we need to be in ministry in Charleston. What do we need to do that no one else is doing? Again, I believe we are together in ministry for such a time as this. Know how much you are appreciated. May you always be as blessed as you are a blessing!

Your servant for Jesus' sake,
Tim

Advent Sermon Series

"God's Promise is An Offer of Hope"

December 1 - *"Anticipating God's Promise"*

December 8 - *"Announcing God's Promise"*

December 15 - *"Preparing for God's Promise"*

December 22 - *"Accepting God's Promise"*

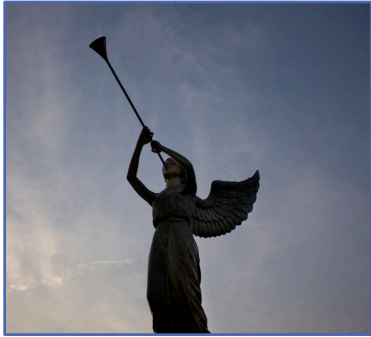
December 24 - *"Receiving God's Promise"*

Worship Arts News



Church Decorating

Tuesday, December 3, 5:00pm The Worship Arts Committee will be decorating the Centrum and the Narthex on Tuesday evening, December 3 at 5:00pm. The spaces to be decorated for the holidays include the Centrum, the Chapel, and the Narthex. If you would like to help, please meet in the Centrum at 5:00pm on December 3



38th Annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 8, 2023. 4:30pm (Prelude begins at 4:00pm) If it is the second Sunday in December, then it must be time for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. This yearly tradition is the highlight of the Advent season and will bring the Music Ministry of Christ Church together. This traditional service from King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England, tells the story of the prophecy of Jesus, his coming as a baby, and the visitation of the shepherds and the Wise Men. The Chancel Choir, the Chancel Ringers, and Jubilate I and II will lead us through the service, with music provided by piano, organ, cello and a brass quartet.

Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 6:00pm

For many people, Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. For others, Christmas brings a feeling of grief and loss. It is often difficult to experience the joy of Christmas when your heart is heavy. Even when you are surrounded by people, you feel alone and disconnected. Knowing that God has come with a comforting love in Jesus, Christ Church wants to surround you with love and comfort. We believe that when you lose someone you love, you don't have to learn to live without them, but live with the love they have left with you. On Thursday, December 19, we will acknowledge your loss, and affirm your love, as we focus upon God's comforting love in Jesus. If you are so inclined, come and experience God's promise of hope in your season of grief and loss.



Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24, 5:00pm and 11:00pm

On Tuesday evening, December 24 at 5:00pm the Family Service will be led by our children and youth, and the 11:00pm service will be a traditional service that will include the sacrament of Holy Communion. Candle lighting, and the singing of "Silent Night" will take place at both evening services.

These services will be livestreamed on our church's Facebook page, our church website, and our Christ Church YouTube Channel.

The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival

January 10-11, 2025, 7:00pm

Wednesday, January 8, 6:00pm - Cast Walk-Through Rehearsal

Thursday January 9, Dress Rehearsal: Cast call at 6:00pm, rehearsal at 7:00pm

Friday, January 10, Cast call at 6:00pm, performance at 7:00pm

Saturday, January 11, Cast call at 6:00pm, performance at 7:00pm



Youth News & Events

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 7th, 8:30 am

CCUM will host a breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 7th 2024 at 8:30am. We will be holding our annual Breakfast with Santa in the Fellowship Hall. Invite your friends and neighbors for this open event. Breakfast, Photos with Santa and crafts will all be provided. Donations will be greatly appreciated.



CCUM Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 15th, 5:00pm

December 15th at 5:00 pm the CCUM Youth Group will be holding a Christmas Party. The Youth Group will do a Christmas Sock Gift Exchange, with games, music, and Christmas treats.



Get Involved in Our Christmas Outreach Programs

Weberwood Christmas Ministry

Christ Church will partner with Weberwood Elementary to provide Christmas gifts to several students. Each child will receive an outfit (pants, shirt, underwear, and shoes) and two toys. Once we receive the wish lists, an online sign-up link with additional instructions will be shared through Facebook, email, and the bulletin. For questions or assistance, please contact Lenore Tweel at 304-415-0501.



Christmas Cookie Extravaganza

The United Women in Faith invites all women of Christ Church to join in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00 pm on Sunday, December 15 to make easy-to-bake cookies, no bakes, and salty treats to thank City Servants with gifts of love. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Carpenter at 304-541-1787.



Shining Star Tree

We are looking forward to having the Shining Star Tree in the Narthex again this year. We hope to have all the details by Sunday, December 8th.



Merry Christmas from the Yarnettes

The Yarnettes wish everyone at Christ Church a Merry Christmas. During this holiday season, the group has mailed a beautiful card and a crocheted snowman coaster to each Homebound member. Nineteen Christmas newborn hats have been made for Christmas Day and will be delivered to Women's and Children's NICU unit. Special holiday items have been crocheted for our Assistance Ministry.



During the year, the Yarnettes crocheted 15 items for the Assistance Ministry each week. Also, the group has crocheted 130 baby blankets for Women's and Children's Hospital and Thomas Memorial Hospital.

As the New Year approaches, we will be making 100 prayer squares for the Youth to take on their mission trip in June. Also, scarves, hats, and socks will be given to our neighbors in the community.

Taking care of our own is also a mission for our group. If you know of a person in our congregation who would benefit from a shawl or blanket, please call the church office or Linda Meszaros at 304-550-0947

Many thanks to all the Yarnettes for their hard work. You are welcome to join us on Wednesdays at 1pm in the Potter Room. A special thank you to Evelyn Klocke who has diligently tallied our 745 items this year.



*A thrill of hope,
the weary world rejoices*

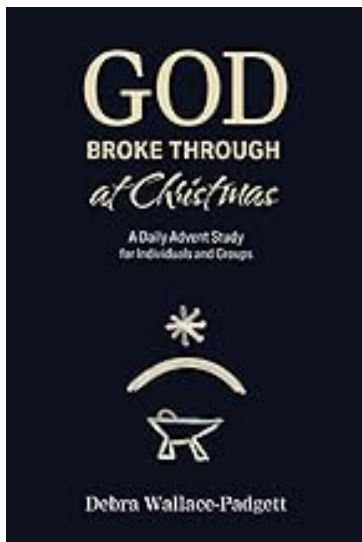
Advent Studies

“God Broke Through at Christmas” – A Daily Advent Study for Individuals and Groups BY Debra Wallace-Padgett

God Broke Through at Christmas, by our new bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett, will be the focus of our Advent Book Study. Bishop Wallace-Padgett focuses upon God’s presence, the incarnation, as she leads us on a journey of unexpected God surprises.

Using both biblical insight and personal experience, our Bishop explores the realities and joys of being a Jesus follower during these times in which we are living. She takes us on a journey of hope through the waiting, preparing, and experiencing of God’s love and presence in and through Jesus.

God Broke Through at Christmas will help you focus on what is most important during Advent and Christmas, as well as invite you to experience God’s marvelous love and grace in Jesus.



Even if you are not participating in a group, this book is a wonderful guide through the Advent and Christmas seasons. You can pick up your personal book or the books you need for your Advent Study group at the Church.

Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett is currently serving as Bishop of the Holston Conference as well as the West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church.

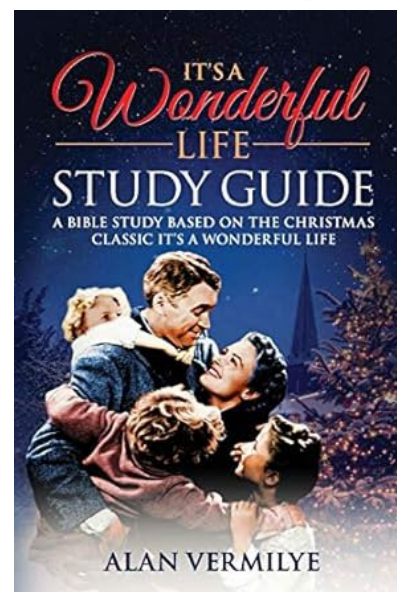
UWiF Study - “It’s A Wonderful Life Study Guide” by Alan Vermilye

It’s a Wonderful Life is one of the most popular and heart-warming films ever made. It’s near-universal appeal and association with Christmas has provided a rich story of redemption that has inspired generations for decades.

It’s a Wonderful Life Study Guide examines this beloved holiday classic and reminds us how easily we can become distracted from what is truly meaningful in life. This five-week Bible study experience comes complete with discussion questions for each session, Scripture references, detailed character sketches, movie summary, and related commentary. What are the questions you bring to God this season? Book Study every Thursday at 11:30am in the Potter Room. Books are available in the church office.

Perfect for Sunday School, small groups, homeschooling, and Christian schools as well as independent study, It’s a Wonderful Life Study Guide includes:

- Five sessions of weekly study making it perfect for Christmas and Advent Bible study.
- Complete character sketches and summaries to go deeper.
- Downloadable and streaming videos for each session available for free online.
- Bible study questions that are ideal for group discussion.
- Answer Guide for all questions and Scripture Reference Guide available for free online.
- Available in print or e-book formats.



There’s no better time than at Christmas to be reminded that every human life has value and that true wealth, spiritual wealth, comes from a right relationship with God and selfless love toward others.

Birthdays

December

1st Violet Affleck, Judy Kline, Lauren Riggle, Jake Stewart
2nd Tony Mazelon
3rd Meredith Aliff, Emily Kirksey, Ryan Matheny
4th Lynn Clendenin, Helen Epps, Ingrid Ferrell, Mary Lou Grove, Shannon Kelsh
7th Clair Burgess, Anna Copenhaver, Beth Lord, Donna Wood
8th Thomas Carmichael, Amy Smithson
10th Haley Blake, Ann Martin, Joe Price, Andrew Silbernagel, Lawrence Silbernagel, Melissa Sirbu, Jim Stark
11th Jean Woodfell
12th Abbi Elmore, Rod Friend, Rod Haney, Carly Smithson
13th Steven Young, II
14th Anthony Mazelon, Adelyn Sirbu, Kitty Vickers
17th Tom Clark, Rory Gillingham
18th Ryan White
20th Jon Elmore
21st Cathy Rice
22nd Nora Aliff
23rd Susan Johnson Casto
24th Nanya Friend, Deborah Hayes, Meridith Moore
25th Jim Lord, Harryette Pyrtle, Nick Tompkins
27th Brea Franklin, Ian Iskra, Janice Runyon
28th Marlyn Bissett, David Duvall, Andy Richardson, Nelson Robinson, Jr., Robert Williams
29th Lucy McClung
30th Randy Allio
31st Barbara Carpenter, Collin Stover

January

1st Delaney Brasselle, Sara Matheny, "Emma Jane" Silbernagel
2nd Reagan Arthur, Dustin Resler, Jane Turner
4th Mike Ferrell, Laura Lou Harbert
5th Robert Simmons II
6th JoAnn Kennedy
7th Andrew Bungard, Vicki Haney, Sarah Stewart, Clyde Stewart
8th Katherine Carmichael
9th Beth Elmore, Brad Grose, Will Walker
10th Megan Carpenter, Kayla Carpenter, Chelsea Harris John Luoni
12th Liddy Elmore
13th John Crouse, III, Mitch Evans, Wanda Martin, Joe McQuerrey
14th Tucker Purdy, Jeff Purdy, Mitch Vickers
15th Sabrena Gillis, Jessie Robinson
16th Lisa Bray, Derek Crane, Rancil Hayes, Sr.
17th John Steven Moses, II
18th Bill Hall, David Kirby
19th Tom Ellis, Elsa Facemyer
20th Breece Ferrell, Frank Law, RJ Singleton
23rd Grey Harris, II,
24th Patricia Burdette, Susannah Carpenter, Audrey Shadburn
26th Tim Roe
27th Virginia Slack, Kim Wilkinson
28th F. Gary Greene, Sonya Wedge, Abram Cassis, Lauren Cox, Stanley Wilson, Jr.
30th Abram Cassis
31st Stanley Wilson, Jr.

Anniversaries

December

Holsclaw, Tyler and Emily Holsclaw-Hammon
Purdy, Jeffrey & Elizabeth Jane
Wooton, Rusty & Michelle
Neccuzi, Carlos & LeAnne
Johnson, Wayne & Sally
King, Larry & Ronda
Stewart, David & Connie
Haskell, Conrad & Beverly
Serafin, Juliana & Albert Liu
Roberts, Hugh & Mary Lou
Strickland, Mike & Emily
Hudson, Paul & Kathy
Hall, Stephen & Martha

December 1
December 9
December 11
December 16
December 17
December 20
December 21
December 22
December 22
December 27
December 28
December 29
December 30

January

Westfall, Fred & Blake
Chaney, Malcolm & Kathy
Odekirk, Steve & Nancy

January 1
January 3
January 7

Christ Church at Work in 2024



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Charleston, WV
Permit No. 940

1221 Quarrier Street
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www.ccumwv.org

Sunday Morning Contemporary Worship: 8:45am
Chapel Bible Study: 9:50am
Sunday Morning Traditional Service: 11:00am

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED