



**NAME TAGS** – Be sure to wear your name tags along with your mask. It can be difficult to recognize someone with their mask on.

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED IN CHURCH** - As you attend indoor functions at the church including Worship, please wear a mask (Elementary age and older) to help protect those who are more vulnerable to the virus.

**VIRTUAL SERVICE** – Please be sure to comment when you are watching our virtual service. This is how we are taking attendance and we want you to be counted. And remember, we are open on Sundays for worship if you are comfortable joining with us, using the precautions we have in place.



## **MESSAGE FOR DECEMBER 12**

**Christmas is Jesus**

**By: The Children's Choir**

**THE FLOWERS FOR THIS SUNDAY** – are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Rowan Morgan’s baptism by Skylar & Mary Beth Morgan. The flowers are also given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Alli Salmon’s 13<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 12<sup>th</sup> by Aaron & Meg Salmon.

**TITHES** – Please call the church office if you would like to drop off your tithe to ensure a staff member will be available to let you in the building.

**ORDER OF WORSHIP** – is available on Sunday, in a limited number, on the two stands just inside the lobby doors. You will also find the QR code in the lobby on the tables beside the main doors to the Sanctuary on Sunday morning, and it is available, every Friday on our web page (under Worship), by scanning the QR code below.



**AVAILABLE EVERY SUNDAY** – fresh hot coffee, assorted glazed donuts, and sliced bagels with sides of cream cheese will be available before Sunday School and Church outside of the sanctuary. This will provide time to fellowship with friends and to welcome visitors to our church! Please remember drinks with lids are allowed in the sanctuary, but no food in the sanctuary. Donations are appreciated.

**THE FULLNESS OF TIME** – Advent devotions booklet is available in the sanctuary lobby and the Admin lobby. If you are unable to pick up a copy, please call the office and one will be mailed to you.

**MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION CLASS** – Pastor Jeff will be leading a class on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am for those interested in finding out more about our church and trying to determine if becoming a member is the right choice. We will meet in the Parlor (down the hall from the sanctuary past the Ladies restroom). Please contact the church office to let us know if you plan to attend (704) 588-1290.

**LAST SUNDAY FOR ANGEL TREE** - The youth will be sponsoring the angel tree again this year to raise funds for summer mission trips and conferences. For \$5.00 you can place an angel on the tree in honor or memory of a family member or friend. A complete list of all the angels on the tree will be published on December 19. Beginning November 28, order forms and angel ornaments will be available in the lobby to purchase and place on the tree.

**THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>** – is the last time you can order a beautiful Poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one. The cost is \$17.00. You can complete an order form and put it in the offering plate or bring to the front office.

**CIRCLE LADIES** - There will be a time change for our meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>. We will start at 10:30 a.m. We will be sharing a meal after the lesson which will be from Jersey Mike's. If you were not in attendance at the November meeting and can join us, please call Betty (704-588-3221) or Becky (704-614-2080) and let them know your meal preference (Ham or Turkey). We would love to see you then!

**ACOLYTES** - will begin serving in worship again on January 9! Acolytes are used to light and extinguish the candles on the communion table each week. Any child in 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade is invited to serve as an acolyte! There will be an acolyte training as part of BASIC training activities THIS Sunday, December 12. If you don't normally attend BASIC Training, but want to serve as an acolyte, please plan to attend this Sunday. For additional information, contact, Lorie Lewis, [lorie@steelecreekchurch.org](mailto:lorie@steelecreekchurch.org). We are also looking for a person to coordinate the acolyte schedule, if this is a way that you could serve, please contact Lorie.

**BEGINNING SUNDAY, JANUARY 9th, 2022** - a study entitled *A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE* will be held in the small dining room. This study will cover how the Bible came to us and how the books interrelate to one another, as well as a brief study of each book. The class will be led by Dexter Greene and will continue until we have covered all 66 books. No materials will be needed, and you are invited!

### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE DECEMBER 5**

**Inhouse – 171**

**Facebook & YouTube - 255**

**Total – 426**

**ASHE COUNTY UPDATE** – Again this year, we will not be able to give the Christmas Party in Ashe County because the people up there do not believe in shots (COVID). I have talked with Allen (who is in charge of White Oak Community Center) only to find out that he and several of his neighbors are sick with COVID.

We will continue collecting clothing and household goods with the hope of taking a truck up this spring. Thank you for caring!

Merry Christmas,  
Marion Briggs

**DINNERS FOR EIGHT** - Although we had a small group for Dinners for Eight this Fall; it was very successful. The fellowship and meal that we shared at each gathering has been so meaningful. We are planning to start back in the Spring and hope a lot of you will want to join us. We will start in February and run through May, once a month.

We need to have everyone interested in participating register no later than Monday, January 10 to ensure timely notification is made to the groups. Anyone signing up after that date will be placed on a substitute list to fill in when someone cannot make their assigned dinner. To sign up or get more information, you can contact Betty Small at [ncbesmall@gmail.com](mailto:ncbesmall@gmail.com) or 704-579-1842, providing your name(s), phone number, residence address and your email address as part of the email. Or you may contact the church office and provide the information to Jamey.

**THANK YOU** – sent to Cheryl Simerly & our congregation. I wanted to update you as I know you and your congregation have been praying for my brother Carlos. You see, his battle ended the night of November 15<sup>th</sup>, and he is now with the Lord (and my parents) and no longer suffering. He fought a long and hard battle, but it was time for eternal sleep. My family and I will be forever grateful to your congregation for being members of Carlos' tribe of Prayer Warriors! Carlota Longo

The power of prayer travels a long way, and I am grateful this family knew they had us at Steele Creek at Pleasant Hill praying for them. Cheryl Simerly

## **A Roof Above**



The Roof Above committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous contribution of needed items for our neighbors when they spend the night with us. We would especially like to thank Frances Campbell for her knitting talent. She took the time to knit 20...that is **20** hats. One for each of the women who will visit with us during the 2021-22 season. We are so pleased at the deep level of caring by this congregation. Grace Saylor, Mary Hammond



## Advent/Christmas Season 2021

### Sunday, December 12 - Third Sunday in Advent

- The **Children's Choir and Youth** will present *Christmas is Jesus* at our 10:30 a.m. worship service.
- **Church fellowship luncheon** - There will be turkey, string beans, rice, and gravy along with drinks provided. Please bring a desert to share. **The deadline to make a reservation was Friday, December 3rd.** We look forward to this time of celebration and fellowship in this Christmas season.

### Sunday, December 19 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

- **Birthday Party for Jesus** - 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose room. Toddlers-5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited for crafts, story time and birthday cake!
- Our **choirs** will present **Christmas Music** at our 10:30 a.m. worship service.

### Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

- 5:30 p.m. -**Love Feast.** We will gather in the sanctuary for traditional Christmas hymns, sharing of cookies, cider, and candle lighting.

### Sunday, December 26-1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

- Sunday School classes will not meet
- We will celebrate communion at our 10:30 worship service.



**SYMBOLS OF THE CHRISMON TREE** - We hope you are enjoying the beautiful Chrismon tree in the sanctuary this Advent Season. Chrismons were first developed in 1957 by Frances Kipps Spencer of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. Throughout the years the practice has grown throughout the United States and all denominations. The word “Chrismon” is a combination of the words “Christ” and “monogram”, making these ornaments “symbols of Christ.” Chrismons are gold and white representing majesty and purity. There are many symbols used, but here are some of the ones that are on our tree. Feel free to take a closer look after a worship service!

- **Chi Rho** (✠)-this is a monogram of the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ-Chi (X) and Rho (P).
- **Crown**-represents Jesus as our King of Kings.
- **Fish**-this is a popular symbol of Christianity today. It was a secret symbol used by the early persecuted Christians to signify their belief in Jesus.
- **Dove**-the dove is widely recognized as a symbol of purity and innocence. The dove also stands for the Holy Spirit and is a reminder of the presence of God during the baptism of Jesus.
- **Alpha and Omega** (  $\Omega$  )-these are the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet representing that Christ is the beginning and the End, the first and the last.
- **Triangle**-the triangle represents the trinity of Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
- **Three circles intertwining**-these circles symbolize the eternal quality of the Trinity since the circle has not apparent beginning or ending.

- **Circle and Triangle**-another way to combine the symbols of eternity with the trinity.
- **Star**-the star represents the star of Jacob that led the wise men to Bethlehem. It can also remind us that Jesus is the light of the world.
- **Anchor Cross**-the cross that looks like an anchor on the bottom, reminds us that Jesus is the anchor of our faith.
- **Celtic Cross**-this cross with a circle at the top, reminds us of eternal life.
- **Latin Cross**-this traditional cross represents the kind of cross on which Jesus was crucified.
- **HIS**-these are the first three letters for the word “Jesus” in Greek.
- **Butterfly**-the butterfly is a symbol of Christ’s resurrection and eternal life.
- **Shepherd’s Crook**-the shepherd’s crook reminds us of the shepherds who were the first to hear the news of the birth of Jesus and can also remind us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd.





### Sunday, December 12

#### **Third Sunday of Advent**

09:00 am Children's Choir Rehearsal  
09:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship – Children's Music  
11:30 am Deaconate Mtg.  
11:45 am Church Christmas Lunch  
11:45 am BASIC Training  
12:00 pm Officer Training – Choir Room  
05:00 pm Youth Group  
08:00 pm AA Meeting

### Monday, December 13

06:30 pm Scripture & Starbucks

### Tuesday, December 14

09:30 am Preschool Music Practice  
10:30 am Women's Circle  
12:00 pm Staff Meeting  
02:00 pm Outreach Ministry  
06:00 pm Ladies Bible Study  
06:30 pm Finance Team Mtg.

### Wednesday, December 15

06:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal  
07:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice  
08:00 am AA Meeting

### Thursday, December 16

09:30 am Preschool Christmas Program  
11:00 am Meals for Home Bound  
05:45 pm GS Troop 7012  
06:00 pm A Roof Above  
07:00 pm Handbell Practice  
07:30 pm Tech Team Teleconference

### Friday, December 17

06:30 pm GS Troop 3676

### Sunday, December 19

#### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

09:30 am Birthday Party for Jesus  
09:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship – Christmas Music  
12:00 pm Session Meeting  
05:00 pm Youth Christmas Party  
08:00 pm AA Meeting





## DECEMBER



Bogdan Irimies	1	Mike Spratt	14
Jenn Michel	1	PFC Gabriel White	14
Wayne Whiteside	2	Erin Whitaker	15
Cindi Craddock	3	Price Gwynn	16
Keegan Norcom	3	Theron Freeman	17
Susan Brown	4	George Davis	20
Andy Donato	4	Anne Preslar	21
Kate Rogers	4	Tatum Haston	21
Wesley Warsaw	6	Tyler Beach	22
Ryan Donato	6	Kevin Horack	25
Toni McCall	7	Jeff Lemond	26
Kinsley Byrum	8	Forrest Nunnally	27
Spencer Beck	8	Beau Byrum	28
Matt Miller	8	Elizabeth Brasch	28
Parker McCall	10	Robin McDowell	29
Marjorie Smith	12	Margaret Niell	30
Alli Salmon	12	Jay Stock	30
Jana Cathey	12	Sandi Lauerman	31
Barbara Burns	13	Peyton Snyder	31

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Marguerite Aycoth

Joan Brown

Joy Burton

Betty Byrum

Joyce Carpenter

Frances Currie

Charlie Earp

Dot Earp

Lenora Fincher

Katharine Freeman

Louise Freeman

Joe Furr

Price Gwynn

Hannah Mauer

John McKay

Margaret Niell

Ann Preslar

Marilyn Price

Gerry Roberts

Marjorie Smith

Margaret Wert

Wayne Whiteside

Lois Yandle



**PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR:**

Condolences to the family of Stephen McCorkle, who passed December 7<sup>th</sup> – Brother of David McCorkle.

Joey and Cindy Bridges – Covid – At home and improving

George Thrower – has been put on the list to receive a kidney and is waiting for the phone to ring!

Richard Meeks – throat cancer and is being treated at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston until after the first of the year. He says prayers are helping and the tumor is shrinking – friend of Marcia Henderson.

Melinda Moore – Health Concerns, undergoing tests

Chickie Miller - surgery on November 30th related to cancer

Barbara Roberts - continuing declining health - mother of Carla Burns.

Linda Clark – In Rehab possibly until the end of the year

Jeannie Purvis – Cancer – Wife of Mike Purvis

**Please pray for our Members of the Armed Forces**

Brian Cox – US Air Force, South Korea  
Olivia Hommes – US Air Force Academy, Colorado  
Lexie Simerly – US Army – Fort Carson, Colorado  
Will Warsaw – US Navy, Japan  
Gabe White – US Army – Fort Wainwright, Alaska



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12 -10- 2021