



God is love and love lives here!

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## Sunday, December 10, 2023 ~ Second Sunday in Advent

**"The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation" -Henry David Thoreau**

1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,  
for in you my soul takes refuge;  
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,  
until the destroying storms pass by.

2 I cry to God Most High,  
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

3 He will send from heaven and save me,  
he will put to shame those who trample on me. *Selah*

God will send forth his steadfast love and his faithfulness. -Psalm 57:1-3

I've been thinking about this Thoreau quote a lot lately. "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation". There is a hunger at times for some that can not be tamed; a thirst that can not be satisfied by their normal day to day routines. It's not to say this is a bad thing, routine and such, but it is to say that some have a longing and desire for more than to slowly navigate from birth to death. They are caged like an animal, built to accomplish more and to achieve more than a crowd at a traveling circus exhibit.

Our initial reaction for these types is to say they stretch too far or ask too much; "be satisfied" or in church vernacular "be content". Then we turn the pages of our scriptures and read of the birth of a baby boy who lived his life beyond the quiet desperation of those around him. We are then called to ask what if Jesus had been satisfied or content? What if he would have settled for normal and refused to follow his purpose? What Christmas would we celebrate then?

No, the world needs Jesus and people like him who do not settle for the status quo and find a purpose beyond their own individuality. Their purpose is rooted in the greater good or the belief in the people around them of whom God placed in their lives at that specific moment and time. They find joy and happiness in trying something new and working to achieve a goal that others may say is impossible. The Wright Brothers, astronauts, ultra marathon runners, and professional bass fishermen; ok, I stretched the last one just a little bit! They all have a longing and desire for the atypical and abnormal.

The psalmist writes about God's love, mercy, and protection but he also writes about God's fulfillment of his purpose. When we have a clear sense of our purpose as Jesus did it doesn't mean there isn't fear or worry. Those are guaranteed, but what is also guaranteed is that we can find refuge, we will be saved, and we see His faithfulness in all we do. He is boldly calling us to His purpose in him. We can fly when others say it's impossible, grow when some say it can't be done, run where others haven't, and follow in the footsteps of Jesus with boldness. We are people called to purpose in this season of Advent, not bound by the silence of quiet desperation.

*Keep The Faith,  
Pastor Tommy*

### Gifts Given to the Glory of God

\* In memory of Ann Stafford by Barbara Hilliard

### Correction

Kayla was joyously baptized last Sunday, I mistakenly posted her name in the Order of Worship as "Lowe", it is Rowe, Kayla Rowe. My apologies, Kayla and welcome!

#### Scripture and Sermon:

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Game Time:  
Life Through Advent:  
Patient Promises"



#### New Concerns

Family of George Knowles  
Keith Mobley  
Family of Virginia Bearden  
Hubert Hudson

#### Continue Prayers for:

Family of Barbara Pope  
Sonny Watson  
Warren McDow  
Betty Estep  
George Knowles

*Christa Avret  
Michael & Jennie Walston  
Warren McDow  
Betty Byrd  
Leon Hudson  
Mary Prater  
Jim & Mary Leary  
Virginia Eadie  
Bill Reedy  
Sarah Mayer  
Cary Martin  
Mac McNeal  
James McNeal  
Our Country, Leaders, Military*

#### Finance Report for

December 3

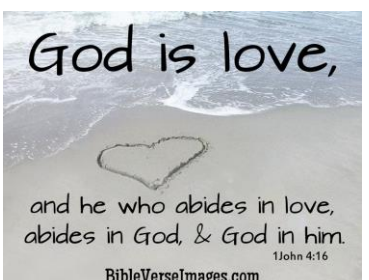
Operating Budget..... \$11,327.04  
Clothes Closet..... 50.00  
Apportionments..... 100.00  
Local Mission..... 613.75  
Total..... \$12,090.79

#### Worship Attendance:

138

#### Sunday School:

64





### Poinsettias for Christmas

We still have 2 poinsettias available for ordering... they have been delivered and placed in the church, take yours home after Christmas Eve Service. Cost is \$12.50. Call or email the church to place your order.



### Blessing of the Bears

Please note that the Blessing of the Bears will be held during this Sunday's service, December 10. The last day to donate bears will be Thursday. These will be given to our Centerville Police and Fire Departments to comfort children in times of need. Thanks to Mac and Carol for being the presenters of the bears this year!!!



- 13  
Marie Davis  
Jennie Walston
- 14  
Vicki Gore  
Brianna Issacs
- 15  
Emily Hall



- ✓ 12-09-23 at 9a-11a- Clothes Closet Toy Giveaway
- ✓ 12-09-23 at 1p-3p- Drop-in Baby Shower for Brooke McKeever at the Parsonage
- ✓ 12-10-23 at 8:30a- Staff Meeting
- ✓ 12-10-23 at 10:30a- **Blessing of the Bears**
- ✓ 12-17-23 at 10:30a- **Christmas Cantata**
- ✓ 12-18-23 at 1p-5:30p- **Red Cross Blood Drive**
- ✓ 12-24-23 at 6p- **Christmas Eve Service**
- ✓ 12-25/01-01-24- **Office Closed**
- ✓ 12-31-23 11:30a- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lunch after Worship Service

### Thank You

Thanks to all those who prepared and bought goodies at our Sweet Shoppe during our Christmas Festival! It was a big success, and \$1,230.00 was raised for our Church! This would not have been possible without everyone's help!!

Bible Reading Plan	
Week of December 10 <sup>th</sup> :	
Sunday.....	Revelation 1
Monday.....	Revelation 2
Tuesday.....	Revelation 3
Wednesday.....	Revelation 4
Thursday.....	Revelation 5
Friday.....	Revelation 6
Saturday.....	Revelation 7

### Community Missions

- November totals for the Food Pantry:: Families served- 869; People served- 3047; Portions distributed- 1141; Weight of food distributed- 24,181 lbs. Yall rock!
- The next Food Pantry December 13, 11a, **it will be the only one in December** and will resume January 10, 2024... come on out and volunteer! You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- November totals for the Clothes Closet- 423 people served. Yall rock, too!
- Clothes Closet Volunteers for December 12- Cynthia Boutwell, Debbie Herrington, Susan Glidewell
- Our Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday, 9a-noon
- The Clothes Closet will be open 11a-1p on Food Pantry days, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month.
- Thank you for your generosity to the Open Door Clothes Closet. Each week we see more and more clothed and cared for because of your gifts of love. **Winter is Coming** and we will be in need of several items. If you're cleaning out your own closets or looking to donate items, please consider donating to the Clothes Closet. We also ask you to look for some of the specific items listed below as you are preparing for the change in season. Thank you again for all you do to support our ministry!  
Winter clothes/coats/jackets/sweaters/hoodies/pants/shoes/socks/scarves/hats/gloves; linens/sheets/blankets/throws/comforters; towels/washcloths; personal needs items; toys.
- Workers are needed in the Clothes Closet on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9a-12 noon.

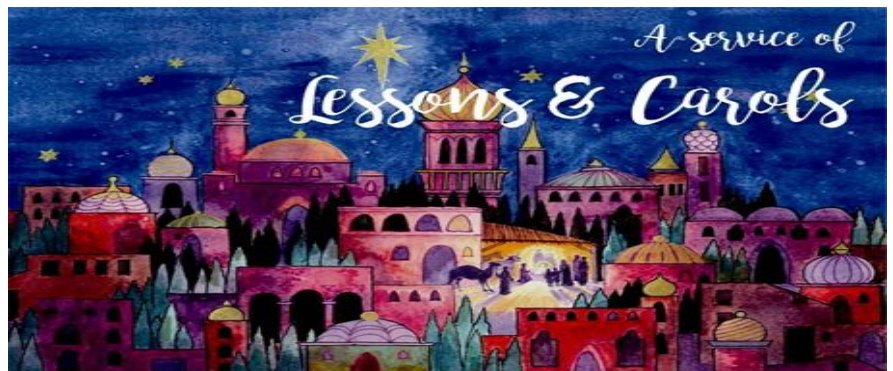
### Family Promise

If anyone is interested in being a volunteer please contact J.O. or Lynn, this is a very blessed ministry of our church... check out their website at <https://www.familypromisehoustonco.org/>

### Christmas Cantata

December 17, 10:30a

Join us for a joyful, Worshipful service of Lessons & Carols by The Chancel Choir and Handbells of The Well.



### Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, December 18, 1p-5:30p in the Fellowship Hall... to sign up go to [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: The Well at Centerville; or contact Brenda Craw; Walk-ins are welcome, too!

# Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

## This Week's Schedule:

### Sunday- December 10

#### Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier  
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Roy Carter  
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen  
Joy Fleming, Sherrie Shell  
9:15a Sunday School  
10:30a Worship



#### Greeters

10:30a Sherrie Shell, Sharon Morrison



#### Communion Servers

Don & Joyce Hall  
Gary & Kathy Rutke



#### Finance Stewards

Paula Williams, Sherrie Shell, Kelly Evans



#### Assisting with Children

##### Sunday- December 10

Nursery- Marie Davis, Laura, Dawn  
Children- Sherry Armour



##### Sunday- December 17

Nursery- Joy Fleming, Barbara Gurr, Laura  
Children- Amber Gamble



### Monday- December 11

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



### Tuesday- December 12

9a-12n Open Door Mission Closet  
9:15a Movin' n Groovin'  
10:00a Partners in Prayer  
10:00a Yoga  
6:00p Life Group III "LG3"



### Wednesday- December 13

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
11a Food Pantry  
6:30p Choir Practice  
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



### Thursday- December 14

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'  
10:30a Lynn-Pritchett Circle  
10:00a Yoga  
5:30p Dulcimers  
6:30p Handbells  
6:30p Men at the Well  
7-9p Amateur Radio Club  
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



### Friday- December 15

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



### Saturday- December 16

7:30p . Narcotics Anonymous

## Sunday School at 9:15a

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

Sunday School Class  
Seekers  
Issues & Answers  
New Beginnings  
Christian Fellowship  
Youth  
Pilgrims

Studies  
Christmas Story  
Matthew  
Revelations  
Almost Christmas  
The Scripture's Advice to Youth  
Acts

Teacher  
Kathy Rutke  
Katie Odum  
Nancy Hudson  
Don Schall  
Eric & Gloria Nelson  
Kathy Blanchard

Open Door Mission Closet  
is hosting a **Christmas Toy**  
Giveaway on December 9<sup>th</sup>  
9:00am until 11:00am.

Please support this mission  
by donating a new  
unwrapped toy for either a  
boy or girl  
birth to age 12.

Toys can be left in the  
office or the  
Clothes Closet.

Let's make some  
children happy  
this blessed season.