



God is love and love lives here!

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## Sunday, December 8, 2024, Second Sunday of Advent

### Innovate or Go Home!

There I was listening to a podcast I found a few months earlier. It was a hunting podcast that produced an episode a week and I followed it religiously. The episode that premiered that day was a little different as it was an interview with a nationally recognized sales rep discussing the topic of innovation. I'll never forget the statement he made and what became the title for that episode; "Innovate or go home!". The message was twofold, innovate or get out of the way but also if you don't innovate you will go home because there won't be any work to do because your business will be closed. The content rang a bell in my heart, and I listened to that episode 4 times over the next week. (It was two hours long!). I thought about the implications of this message as it applies to my own context in the church and found the same truth. We must choose to innovate, or we will go home.

Now, when we are talking about innovation, we're not necessarily discussing changing the product itself. We're not trying to change Jesus nor should we. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He is Good, Loving, Kind, Gracious, and Sovereign. While He is all these things the way we have presented the Gospel has changed dramatically over the years. The early church was filled with innovation starting in the Upper Room. The Disciples were given the gift of the Holy Spirit, and it says that they began speaking in other languages. This is the message at its' core! God will provide the means if we are willing to be the delivery system. The why was important, not the how.

We often get stuck in this conundrum of making the how more important than the why. I've found this to be true in business and in the business of the church. We often think that we can continue to do the same things over and over again when it doesn't work, and we will get a different result. This is the very definition of insanity. Unfortunately, there are things changing within church culture that will never be the same. That is also something we can't change. However, we can change how we share the good news of Christ in a way that speaks to every person no matter their language, age, or station in life. God gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit not just to help ourselves but to help us innovatively speak to those who we might not understand or, for that matter, may not understand us. When we are a willing vessel guided by the Holy Spirit our why takes priority over the how, opening the doors for innovation and practical applications of the Gospel and Church. We are then left with the choice; we can innovate or go home.

Keep the Faith,  
Pastor Tommy

Acts 2:1-13

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

### Gifts Given to the Glory of God

♥ In memory of Tom Gamble by Jack & Rosemary Culpepper

#### Scripture and Sermon:

Luke 3:1-6

"2nd Sunday of Advent:  
Changing Our  
Landscape"



#### New Concerns

Tommy Milner  
Carolyn Nettles  
Brenda Crow  
Kimberley Cochran  
Mariann Ellis

#### Continue Prayers for:

Sue Matherly  
Sherrie Shell  
Mel Smeltz  
Brad & Gretchen Brechin

Lamar Outz  
Paul Smith  
Phil & Betty Bailey  
Dianne Harrington  
Mac McCullough  
Kathy Blanchard  
Betty Bowen  
Michael & Jennie Walston  
Betty Byrd  
Mary Prater  
Jim & Mary Leary  
Virginia Eadie  
Bill Reedy  
Our Country, Leaders, Military and  
First Responders

#### Finance Report for

12-01-24

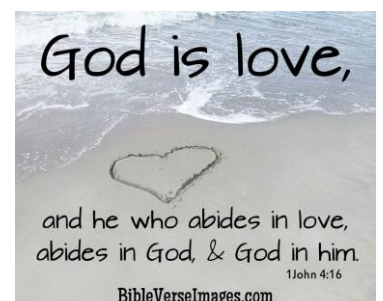
Operating Budget..... \$6,713.00  
A/C Fund..... 420.00  
Food Pantry..... 150.00  
Total..... \$7,283.00

#### Worship Attendance

149

#### Sunday School

46





- ✓ 12-07-24 **Christmas Festival 3p-6:30p**
- ✓ 12-08-24 Blessing of the Bears 10:30a
- ✓ 12-08-24 Parsonage Open House 5p-7p
- ✓ 12-09-24 Finance Meeting 6p- **cancelled**
- ✓ 12-24-24 Christmas Eve Service 6p
- ✓ 12-25-24 through 01-02-25 Office Closed- **Christmas**



8  
Phil Bailey

13  
Marie Davis  
Jennie Walston

14  
Vicki Gore

Community Missions

- The next Food Pantry will be December 11, 10a-1p, it will be the only one this month, it will resume January 22. Please see Cheri to help with this ministry. You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- The Clothes Closet is open December 11, the Clothes Closet will follow the same schedule as the Food Pantry. We will open on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month for shoppers and the 2nd and 4th Tuesday for processing donations. Donations now can be left in the larger white box trailer in front of the Outreach Center. Our new hours will be 9a until 1p.
- The Clothes Closet will resume our **regular schedule in January.**
- The Clothes Closet will host a Community Yard Sale January 31-February 1 in the Fellowship Hall. Yard Sale donations are being accepted at the Clothes Closet and stored in the Yak Shack until the sale. Thank you so much for your generosity and support of these two missions. God is good all the time! Brenda
- December 11: Vicky Moore, Elaine Hubbard, Linda Blanton  
December 11: Marie Davis, Susan Glidewell, Sherry Armour

Bible Reading Plan	
Week of December 8 <sup>th</sup> :	
Sunday.....	2 John 1
Monday.....	3 John 1
Tuesday....	Revelation 1
Wednesday.....	Revelation 2
Thursday.....	Revelation 3
Friday.....	Revelation 4
Saturday.....	Revelation 5

Christmas Festival

~ Our Christmas Festival this year is Saturday, December 7, 3p-6:30p. It will be different than in years past as it is being restructured to be more family-oriented and bring the community together and to also coincide with the Centerville Lighted Christmas Parade that starts at 7p. During the afternoon there will be bouncy houses, corn hole, church vendors in the Fellowship Hall and a couple of choirs. During the evening we'll be serving hot chocolate. So, come on out and join us for fun, fellowship and the parade! Invite your family, friends and neighbors!

~ Our 2024 **Toy Giveaway** will take place in the Fellowship Hall near Santa **December 7th** during the Christmas Festival beginning at 3p-6:30p. The Toy Giveaway is a collaborative effort with us and the Youth/Children at the Well. We are asking for **toy donations to be left in the Donations trailer during November.** If you find any toys there, please bring them into the closet where they can be temporarily stored as space allows. We might need to move them to the Yak Shack. Anyone willing to help with the giveaway on the 7th, please let me know. Thank you so much, Brenda

~ **The Sweet Shoppe** will be open at the Christmas Festival on December 7th from 3-6:30! We are in need of lots of items to sell such as: Homemade cakes (slices or whole), cookies, cupcakes, pies, brownies, muffins, snack mixes, candies, jellies, etc. Items should be wrapped and labeled to sell, please. There are lots of ideas for easy holiday treats online! Please bring items to the Social Hall by noon on Saturday, 12/7, so that they can be priced. We can use lots of help, as all proceeds go directly to the Church. Cake plates for iced cakes are first come, first served, in the church office. Thanks for your support!!

Friendship Circle

- The Friendship Circle will again be sponsoring a collection of bears (or other small, clean stuffed animals to delight a child) to be given to the Centerville Fire and Police Departments. We will need the help of our congregation to make this successful. A collection box will be placed near the Church office entrance. We appreciate your thoughtfulness in spreading love and happiness to children in need! Blessing of the Bears will be December 8. Many thanks, Marilyn Outz
- The Friendship Circle will be assembling some 1gallon plastic blessing bags for the homeless before Christmas. If you should have any items to donate such as small water bottles, small Kleenex packs, warm socks and gloves for men and women, packs of crackers, even \$5 bills or small gift cards to fast food restaurants - no more than \$5. Each member will carry these bags in our vehicles and distribute to those who are in need. Any supplies can be left in the Issues and Answers classroom. Thanks!!

A Note from the Trustees

We are having a pest problem, and the cold weather is going to make it worse. As the trustees work on physical ways to get rid of them, we ask for your help. We ask that if you keep food (snacks, sugar, coffee, chocolate, etc.) in your classroom, please secure them in rigid containers (plastic, tin cans, glass jar) with lids. Plastic wrap and zip-lock bags are not enough. Please clean up after your meetings/activities, placing all open food wrappers in trash bins, and take leftovers home, don't leave them in the room. Thank you!

Thank You

Blessings of Thanksgiving to all the hands that helped Sunday to hang the greens!! The hands of many complete the tasks quickly and efficiently! We could not get this job done without the joint effort! Thank you for your service to help!! Blessings to all at this Advent season! ~~ The Worship Committee ~~



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

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday- December 8

Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier  
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Lynn Mayfield  
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen  
Joy Fleming, Sherrie Shell, Roy Carter  
9:15a Sunday School  
10:30a Worship  
5p-7p Parsonage Open House



Greeters

10:30a Sherrie Shell, TBD

Communion Servers

Eric & Gloria Nelson  
Cheri' Cox, LaWanna Porter



Prayer Teams

Jim & Linda Blanton  
Thomas & Joy Fleming



Finance Stewards

Paula Williams, Sherrie Shell, Kelly Evans

Assisting with Children

Sunday- December 8

Nursery- Lauren Wilson, Brittany Ross  
Children- Amber Gamble, Joy Fleming

Sunday- December 15

Nursery- Sarah Blackburn, Rosalyn Ande  
Children- Sherry Armour, Linda Blanton



Women  
at the  
Well



Monday- December 9

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Men  
at the  
Well



Tuesday- December 10

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'  
10:00a Partners in Prayer  
10:00a Yoga  
6:00p Life Group III "LG3"



Wednesday- December 11

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
8:45a-1:15p Clothes Closet  
10a-1p Food Pantry  
5:15p Handbells  
6:00p Youth  
6:30p Choir Practice  
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Thursday- December 12

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



Friday- December 13

12p-3p Young at Heart Christmas Party  
with Randy Stephens as Elvis  
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Saturday- December 14

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

Studies

Christmas Lessons  
Luke  
Be Alert  
1 Timothy

Teacher

Kathy Rutke  
Joy Fleming  
Nancy Hudson  
Luis Morales



## **Young at Heart Christmas Party**

Date: Friday, December 13, 2024

Time: 12 Noon - 3:00pm

Where: The Well's Social Hall

Cost: Free Will - Donation

Food: Catered and cooked by our own "Chef"

Entertainment: Randy Stephen's "Elvis"



Please RSVP to Gloria at 478-550-2362 or see me at church. We really need a head count so we know how much to order and for "Chef" Eric to cook.

### **Also, Young at Heart**

We will provide transportation to the Parsonage Open House on Sunday, December 8... meet in the parking lot by 4:45p for the van to leave at 5p. If you would like a ride, contact Gloria at 478-550-2362



**Purchase a**  
*Poinsettia*

## **Get Your Poinsettias for Christmas**

Poinsettias are now available for ordering to be delivered and placed in the church November 29 and taken home after Christmas Eve Service. We will be ordering 24 poinsettias, so be sure to order yours, get one for yourself, in honor of someone or in memory of someone. Cost is \$12.50. Call or email the church to place your order.