

The HBC Weekly Forecast
Hilton Baptist Church. www.HiltonBaptistChurch.org
101 Main Street, Newport News, VA 23601



JOY is what we are exploring on this third Sunday of Advent!

Advent means “coming” or “arrival,” and the season is marked by expectation, waiting, anticipation, and longing. Advent looks back in celebration at the hope fulfilled in Jesus Christ’s coming, while at the same time looking forward in hopeful and eager anticipation to the coming of Christ’s kingdom when He returns for His people.

During Advent we wait for both—it’s an active, assured, and hopeful waiting. And each week, we are focusing on a different attribute of God represented in the coming of Jesus: hope, peace, joy, and love.

Through these traits, we are learning how we can rediscover Christmas, despite the challenges, hardships, pains, and difficulties we might be experiencing. Because Christ has come to be God With Us, we can experience joy no matter what discouragement we may be going through.

Please check out inside to see our modified schedule and service guidelines for these “COVID 19” challenging times!”



Rediscover JOY... Christmas 2020!

We hear more about joy during the Christmas season than perhaps any other time of the year. But what is our real joy? The holidays can become so busy that the joy of the season feels elusive. How can we find more joy for our families this Advent?

Joy is found in God's presence - Psalm 16:11 states, "In your presence is fullness of joy." This truth is simple. Joy is found by spending time in God's presence, delighting in him. But how do we enter into his presence to find this joy? Advent worship time—whether at home as a family or at church as congregation—it is a powerful way to draw into God's presence and to find our joy!

Joy flows from thankfulness - The Psalmist tells us to enter His gates with thanksgiving in our heart, and to enter his courts with praise (Psalm 100:4).. Thanksgiving should not be just a holiday before Christmas, but rather a way of life. Spend time thanking God for his many blessings this Advent and throughout the year that follows.

Joy needs the right focus - When we focus on ourselves and our inadequacies, we feel insignificant and timid. There is no joy in that! No one feels like a perfect parent, spouse, or child. We all have flaws. On the other hand, when we focus on being grateful for all that God has done in our lives and on his goodness, our perspectives change! Focusing on the Giver of every good gift is the key that unlocks the door to joy. When we are mindful of God and what he has done we don't have room in our hearts for fear and anxiety.

Joy must be chosen - Satan wants to steal our joy because he wants to steal our strength. Nehemiah 8:10 in the New Living Translation says it this way, "Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!" Our spiritual strength is directly connected to our joy. We can choose to focus on the stresses of the holiday or on the joy that came into the world through a manger.

Joy is not dependent on our situation - Joy is something deeper than happiness because happiness is determined by outer circumstances. Joy is determined by what is happening on the inside. If all we think about is how hard life can be, we will never experience the joy that is set before us. Jesus paid a great price for our victory! This is the place of true, deep joy; the place where you discover that it all works out for your good!

Find your joy today in God's presence. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Gladly pronounce the goodness of God in your life! It will strengthen you and your gratitude will usher you into his presence multiplying your joy as you focus on God and his goodness.

On the grace journey to "Rediscover The Joy Of Christmas"... Lynwood

The Hilton Baptist Church Record

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

December 1, 2020

12/7/2020

Budget \$7864.00

Designated– In Memory of Hilda Laubach \$25.00

8-106 Alma Hunt State Missions \$100.00

8-107 Lottie Moon Foreign Missions \$845.00

8-112 Chaplains Fund \$60.00

8-145 Cash in Cash out– For Sign \$2000.00

8-145 Cash in Cash out– Migrant Ministry \$15.00

8-403 Food Closet \$125.00

Total Deposit \$11,034.00

November Recap

Budget Deposits \$22,208.61

Budget Expenses \$18,598.76

Designated Deposits \$6,697.37

Designated Expenses

Money Market \$96,532.54

Savings \$85,865.15

Outreach \$10,667.39

PDF/ RR Account \$16,049.54

PDF \$5,188.09

RR \$10,485.04

Deacons \$376.41

Designated Accounts \$66,694.60

A Musical Christmas Celebration

At HBC, Saturday, December 19th

7:00pm

This event will be in person and also Facebook Live. Please make plans to be a part.



Happy Birthday for the next two weeks

12/14 Diane Figuenick

12/18 Brittaney Hudgins

12/20 Joyce Spiers



Food Distribution Update

Thank you for all your donations to the Food Pantry. For a while we were only serving Senior Citizens because families were receiving extra funds from other sources but now we are serving families and singles alike.



Last week while taking in goodies from COSTCO into the church a gentleman came into the parking lot and had a food donation for the church. As we talked he shared our church had helped him so much last year when he was having a hard time. He wanted to give food back for other people and thank the church for this ministry.

Our giving reaches far and wide. Thank you for being a part of this ministry. The Lord is gracious.



WMU – December Outreach Project

Money will be collected for the Chaplain's Fund

PORT– WE NEED YOU!!!!

November 4- March 24

Volunteers are needed 6:30pm- 9:30pm for each night for check in . Register online ...<https://signup.com/go/qbH0ttb>

ALL Host Churches (Site A, B and C) need volunteers!

Hilton Baptist will be hosting January 6-26 and we are Site B

Anyone interested in sleeping overnight at HBC January 6th- January 26th

Or anyone with questions, please call Pam at 660-4226. Just a reminder you do not have to stay up all night. You get to sleep!

Serve the City

Big Serve Day is December 12th. You can register at stcpeninsula.com

Serving our Community with the Love of Jesus!

Hope Boxes for Appalachia

We will be doing “Hope Boxes for Appalachia” This project is for Kids that are in eastern Kentucky deep in the Appalachian Mountain. The downturn of the coal production has left 1/3 of the region living in poverty without hope and in great despair. These are different that Samaritan Purse Shoe Boxes in several ways, one of which there is no shipping involved. To find out more about these boxes you can get the information from the Mission/ Outreach table or call the church office and we can send the information in the mail. All boxes need to be back at the church by February 21st . These boxes will be delivered in the Spring. You can also visit their website <https://hfavateam.com>



Pray for our Missionaries

Matthew Fisher, David Spiegel (American People) AM (Central Asian People) JJ (East Asian People) EA, Maya McLane (European People) CD, MT (Northern African and Middle Eastern People) Nancy Ingold (South Asian People) RW (Southeast Asian People) Kevin Singerman (Sub-Saharan African People) Jonathan Palaci (FL) Blanche Ingle (LA) Carlos Fuentes (NV)

Children’s Christmas Workshop

Saturday, December 12th

10– 2

I sent invites out in October for the Workshop. If you have not registered please do by Wednesday, December 9th. We will have everything very safe. Everything will be done in the sanctuary. Kids will be spaced out and we are looking forward to a great time. This is opened to kids that have been a part of our Kids Programs, grandkids of our church family and those who listen to our Kids .




Please register today! We need to make sure we have enough workers !

Santa’s coming too! And he will be wearing a mask!

Hail the Incarnate Deity!

On that still winter's night, something was up... something extraordinary... something supernatural.

The shepherds raced to the City of David and found their Savior, just as the angel had said... swaddled and lying in a feeding trough. This was the Promised One, the Messiah! God had finally come to dwell with His people, but in such an unexpected way.



Veiled in flesh the Godhead see.
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Charles Wesley—1739

Simon with Jesus
Rembrandt—1669

Just who was this holy Child the shepherds gazed upon? Make no mistake: He was incarnate deity. The newborn Jesus existed in eternity past as God the Son. He was coequal, coeternal, and coexistent with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

However, Jesus relinquished the privileges and the pleasures of His existence in heaven when He took upon Himself the limitations of humanity (Philippians 2:6-7). In emptying Himself, Jesus voluntarily set aside the prerogatives and prerequisites of life as He had known it, an existence He had enjoyed; He released His right to that kind of life, saying to the Father, "I will go."

Go where? To Bethlehem. He took "the form of a bond-servant, and [was] made in the likeness of men." Allow yourself to picture what the shepherds saw. There He is, the baby. Do you see His ten fingers and ten toes? His button nose? Can you hear the cries? There's humanity. In this holy infant is the beginning of an earthly life. Look deep into His eyes and see the beginning of life itself.

Later, this divine man, completely unique in His nature and in the perfect life that He lived, "humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Isn't that amazing? Of all ways to die, He died on a cross—the most humiliating and painful kind of death.

God the Son lowered Himself. He took on the flesh of an infant. He died a humiliating death. As a result, God the Father "highly exalted Him." One day, all will bow in worship of the risen Lord, "to the glory of God the Father."

It's all about His glory. What a plan. What an execution. What a perfect, awesome wrapping! The God-man. Jesus is undiminished deity and true humanity, two distinct natures in one person, forever. That's the baby in the manger!

The Joy of Worship At Christmas

“Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence, LORD.” - Psalm 89:15



Joy echoes through every stage of the story of the birth of Jesus, beginning with the magi. After following the star for weeks, they were “filled with joy” when it stopped over Bethlehem (Matthew 2:10). That star meant fulfillment: They would be brought into the presence of the great King.

An angel told Zacharias that his wife, Elizabeth, would give birth to a son (John the Baptist), saying, “You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth” (Luke 1:14). While Elizabeth was still pregnant, her baby “jumped for joy” as Mary approached them, she being pregnant with the baby Jesus (Luke 1:44).

As an angel told the shepherds about Jesus’ birth, he said, “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people” (Luke 2:10).

People in the world react to the birth of Jesus in many ways—with generosity and benevolence, gifts and parties. But for Believers this is a celebration of joy.

It is a joy that comes from worship, from a heart overwhelmed by the presence of God. This joy only can be experienced through complete surrender to His plan and will—through the kind of commitment that could drive the magi to follow a star for thousands of miles. This is the kind of joy that could fill Mary and Elizabeth, who knew that Jesus’ birth was a supernatural event. This kind of joy was experienced by the shepherds as they were overwhelmed by the glory of God and a choir of angels.

During this Christmas season, remember the importance of worship. Worship can bring you into the presence of God. More than just a ritual or tradition, worship can transform your life. Worship can fill you with joy as you walk in the light of God’s presence!

COVID-19
guidelines

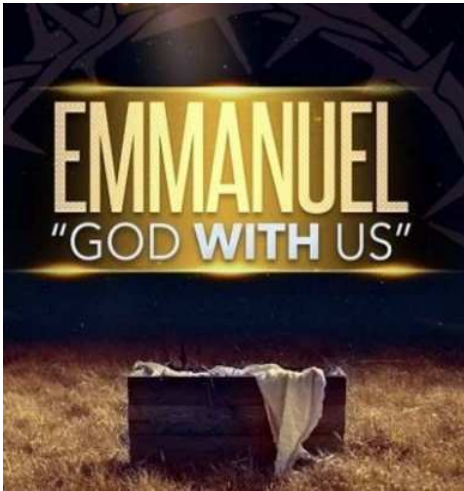
Attend in-person this Sunday – Arrive by 9:45 for seating

Watch “Facebook Live!” 10:00 AM

We are striving to be...”HBC Safe!”

“Facebook Live” devotionals with Pastor Lynwood in “***Messages From Mill Point!***”
9:00 AM Mon. – Fri. 20-minute daily devotionals.

Wednesday nights 7:00 pm on ***Facebook Live Midweek Bible Study***” with Pastor Lynwood & Special Guests!



In The Wilderness Of Christmas 2020... God Is With Us!

They forgot the God who saved them, who had done great things... (Psalm 106:21)

As I read the Old Testament, I am often amazed by the children of Israel. There are times I'm tempted to think, "How could they forget? Look at all God did for them... If I had been there, I wouldn't have acted like that."

Over and over, the children of Israel turned from God. They created false gods; they relied on their own strength; they didn't listen to wise council; they often forgot the mighty hand of God that had been at work in their lives (read Psalm 106).

I think these things and can tend to look down on the Children of Israel for their dullness to recognizing God at work. Then I look in the mirror and I am reminded how often I forget God too.

"In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt!" (Exodus 16:2-3)

Really!?! They had just walked through a sea and watched an entire army drown. But sadly, their perspective was short-sighted. They were now in a wilderness. The amazing works of God from just days before were now a forgotten memory.

All of us have some kind of "wilderness" in our lives... a time when God seems distant and when we forget the mighty acts He's done for us. I sure have. But, my sufferings are meant to produce endurance, character and hope in God. My trials and wildernesses are meant to remind me of God's faithfulness to me.

Let this truth free us from complaining and cause us to rejoice in the mercy of our God to us. Always remember, we serve not a distant, mysterious and invisible God. We serve the God who clothed Himself with our humanity and became our Emmanuel... "God With Us!"

Many times he delivered them, but they were bent on rebellion and they wasted away in their sin. But he took note of their distress when he heard their cry; for their sake he remembered his covenant and out of his great love he relented. (Psalm 106:43-45)

Remember especially during this Christmas season, even if you find yourself struggling through a personal wilderness... you are not alone – God is with you!

The Christmas Message... Let's Go!

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, *“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”* (Luke 2:15)

For those who demand more formality and reserve in their worship encounters, they find themselves strangers to the true Christmas story. If man were to script the Son of God’s birth, Jesus would have been born in a palace or a mansion. The news of His birth would have first been sent to one of the power brokers of the day, King Herod or Caesar Augustus.



But, God’s script was completely different: no palace, but a manger surrounded by animals... no power brokers, but the social outcasts of the day, a band of shepherds. They were considered untrustworthy and their work made them ceremonially unclean and as a result they could not participate in worship.

After being surprised (and terrified) by a visit from the angel of the Lord, and then a large group of angels, the shepherds were confronted with what to do with the message they heard: *“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord”* (Luke 2:11).

What did the shepherds do with the first announcement of the Gospel? They believed!

Their immediate response was: *“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about”* (Luke 2:15). They don’t stop to discuss whether it’s exactly according to what was written in Daniel. They don’t question if they really saw angels or if they’re just imagining things because they’re overworked. They don’t get a religious leader to accompany them. They don’t even get cleaned up! They hurry off to Bethlehem to find Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. They believed all that God had told them!

What are you doing with what God has told you? Are you acting and reacting with faith? Or are you discussing logistics? Bargaining with God? Nit-picking the assignment? Putting out a fleece or getting another interpretation? Demanding more scripted traditions?

What is God asking you to do today in faith? Just believe! If you will prioritize your faith over formalities, you will be amazed at how the Spirit of God will begin to work in your life... how He will work through you to reach a hurting world... and how He will spread His message, love and power through your surrendered life to expand His Kingdom!



5 Miracles Too Easy to Overlook

Amid broken relationships, marital difficulties, financial crises or simple question marks, is God still listening? Why doesn't He respond? The prayer requests vary, but they are alike in one way. They all represent needs. And most require miracles.

But the more I listen, especially at Christmas, to our desire and need for the miraculous, the more I realize we may overlook or forget some of the most obvious miracles. I love C. S. Lewis's quote from *God in the Dock*: "Miracles are a retelling in small letters of the very same story which is written across the whole world in letters too large for some of us to see."

5 Such miracles we may tend to overlook in our search for more:

1. The Miracle of Life - Hearing a baby's first cry, the inhaling of its first breath. That's a miracle. And waking up morning after morning, just able to breathe, to inhale the fragrance of life, is not a treasure to ignore.

2. The Miracle of Laughter - The music of children's giggles, the power of laughter to hasten healing and even prevent disease: "*A merry heart does good, like medicine*" (*Proverbs 17:22*). A daily dose of laughter might even alter the doctor's prognosis and shrink medical bills. Studies have shown that this happy habit sends out needed endorphins, the body's natural chemicals, and helps release stress. Scrooge has no place here.

3. The Miracle of Learning - God gave us amazing brains. Once you stop learning you start leaving. So grab a teachable spirit now, while you can still learn something new every day. Make it a goal, and you'll experience creating new brain paths and the sheer joy of learning.

4. The Miracle of Leaning - "*Two are better than one,*" says Ecclesiastes 4:9. No one functions well as an island; we all need each other. Good friends are both healthy and healing to our spirits. And God often uses us to help others as conduits of His miracles: our gifts, our love, our time, and our prayers.

5. The Miracle of Love - At no time are we more aware of this true miracle than at Christmas. God sent His perfect Son into an imperfect, unloving world to give us life. Why? John 3:16, says it simply: LOVE. At Christmastime, God, the true *Miracle-Giver*, put on flesh and came to earth so you and I could know Him—intimately, miraculously—and be perfectly forgiven, perfectly loved, forever. It's both a gift, and the greatest miracle of all. Never overlook it. And never stop thanking God for it.

The Story of the Candy Cane

The candy cane was first made by a candymaker from Indiana, USA, who wanted it to be a witness to Christ.

He started with a stick of white, hard candy. White which symbolizes purity, pointed to the virgin birth and the sinless nature of Christ. The hardness or firmness of the candy symbolized the firmness God's promises. The shape of the candy, a "J," represents the name of Jesus, and also depicts the Good Shepherds staff. The red stripes in the candy, symbolize Jesus' blood shed on the cross, and the stripes of scourging He received prior to His crucifixion.



The candymaker incorporated symbols of Jesus' birth, and His life and death.

Although today's candymakers and supermarkets look at the candy cane as another money maker at Christmas time, God continues to give us reminders of His Son's purpose here on earth.

Are you losing sight of Christ as we come closer to the celebration of His birth? What do you need to do today to give Him His rightful place at Christmas? Reflect on the purity of His character? Claim the firmness of God's promises? Proclaim the Good News of the gospel to a neighbor? Rest in your Good Shepherd's arms? Accept His death on the cross as payment for your sins? How will you live out Jesus Christ for those around you today?



The Last Impression...

After being away on business for a week before Christmas, Tom thought it would be nice to bring his wife a little gift.

"How about some perfume?" he asked the cosmetics clerk. She showed him a bottle costing \$50.

"That's a bit much," said Tom, so she returned with a smaller bottle for \$30.

"That's still quite a bit," Tom grouched.

Growing disgusted, the clerk brought out a tiny \$15 bottle.

Tom grew agitated, "What I mean," he said, "is I'd like to see something real cheap."

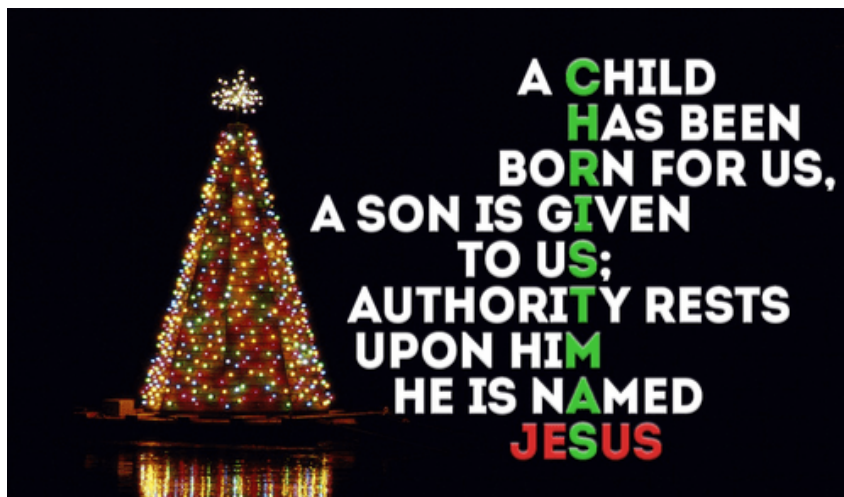
So the clerk handed him a mirror.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is an annual offering collected by believers around the world to support international missions. The offering was officially named in 1918 by Woman's Missionary Union in honor of the missionary to China who urged churches to start it and give sacrificially.



This offering is unique from other mission offerings in that 100% of gifts provide for missionaries all over the world. It is a valuable part of Southern Baptists' 175-year history of reaching the nations with the gospel and vital to reaching the vision of a multitude from every language, people, tribe and nation knowing and worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ ([Revelation 7:9](#)).

Collected to date \$1045.00



Our Deepest Sympathy to

Judy France

In the passing of her brother

and

Joe and Kathy Caskie

On the passing of Joe's Brothers wife



Please remember these families during this difficult time.



Welcome to Online Giving

"The Benefits To You & HBC!"

Online donations to HBC may be made at any time from the comfort of your own home or any place with internet access. Online donations are credited to your tax statement for the end of the year (except when made anonymously), and each user can change his or her preferences or desired donation amounts at any time. You can make a one-time gift of recurring donation.

- No need to hassle with checks or cash
- Totally secure encrypted 24/7 web-based access
- Easily schedule recurring donations to fit your pay periods
- Debit / Credit card option allows you to take advantage of rewards such as air miles or cash bonuses. Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express are accepted
- No need to share bank account information as you enter it directly into the Online Giving 100 % secure site
- Allows you to give even if you are unable to attend services
- Contribution amount is easily adjusted as desired or needed
- Option to remain anonymous

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***God is doing some exciting
new and powerful things
through the faithful people of
God at HBC!***

***Please remember your
tithing commitments and
giving and be part of the
ongoing miracle!***

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Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-23-2005

**AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS BROUGHT
UP IN A STABLE HOME**