

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

On the third Sunday of Advent, the pink candle on the Advent wreath is lit.

Long before pink became symbol of breast cancer awareness, it took on a new meaning in the third week of Advent as a sign of joy. “Gaudete” (meaning “rejoice”)

This Sunday marks the halfway point on our Advent journey. Paul’s letter to the Philippians encapsulates the joy that marks our faith in God’s eternal love and mercy. “Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4). The pink Advent candle represents the joy of anticipation for Christmas and is lit on Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday.



FREE *Christmas* **FREE**
the new musical **DINNER**

Come on Come All! To our new HBC Evening of Christmas candlelight dinner and beautiful sounds.

**HBC is providing Fried Chicken and beverages –
And we are inviting our guests to bring
their favorite side dish or dessert!**

Doors open at 6:00 pm with music to follow afterward.

**This will be an awesome evening of music and fellowship.
Bring friends and family together for a casual wonderful
inspirational evening of music!**



The Heart of Christmas Is JOY!

Do you realize just how much you are truly loved by God? Not just tolerated or put up with but loved! Deeply loved. In fact, John says this love that God has for us is like that of a father for his children. Jesus came from the Father full of grace and truth.

This is key to understanding the reason we find and cherish the abiding joy we find in Christmas. When Jesus came to us, he came full of grace. This grace that John writes about is the Greek word “*charis*,” which means favor, kindness, or a gift of blessing.

Like a wrapped gift shared from one to another can bring joy to our hearts, so this gift of Jesus is grace from God. We haven’t earned it. We don’t deserve it. But God offers it to us, and when we recognize it, it fills us with joy. God loves us just the way we are!

Jesus also came full of truth. The word John uses here is the word “*aletheia*,” which means divine reality revealed to man or a straightforwardness. Jesus holds grace in one hand that allows us to be accepted into his family, and in the other hand he holds truth that shows us our lives that must be transformed to live the fullest life possible.

The Bible tells us the reason Jesus came and manifested his love among us is because he desires for us to find incredible joy in him. For this to happen, it requires a gift of truth and grace. It is the most loving thing to do for another—to embrace with full acceptance and humble truth telling.

The late pastor Charles Spurgeon said it this way:

“There is a marvelous medicinal power in joy. Most medicines are distasteful; but this, which is the best of all medicines, is sweet to the taste, and comforting to the heart. This blessed joy is very contagious. Holy joy will oil the wheels of your life’s machinery. Holy joy will strengthen you for your daily labor. Holy joy will beautify you and give you an influence over the lives of others.”

Our heavenly Father sent Jesus to a manger in Bethlehem because He wanted to dwell among us to demonstrate his amazing grace and life-changing truth. We can experience joy in our lives no matter the circumstances because we can be confident in knowing that God is with us, and God is for us.

Yes, God is with you. And yes, God is for you. This Christmas may you come to find at the heart of this holiday a deep and abiding joy because of the love of God and the sacrifice of Jesus. It holds the power to change us and to change the world.

On the grace journey together with you, Lynwood

The Hilton Baptist Church Record

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

December 11, 2023

This weeks count will be in next weeks Forecast.



Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering for International Missions

Southern Baptist churches collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for the sole purpose of supporting International Missions. Every penny of the offering goes to the International Mission Board's overseas budget, thus supporting our missionaries and their work.

Total collected to date \$685.00

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,
AND ON EARTH PEACE,
GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.

LUKE 2:14



HBC Christmas Dinner and Musical
Saturday, December 16th



Dinner will be at 6pm, musical Christmas Celebration to follow. The Church will be providing Chicken and Drinks. We are asking everyone to provide the side dishes and desserts. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy this special time of celebration.

The event will be held in Prior Hall. If you have any questions,
contact the Church office.

Please contact the office or sign up in the Connection Center if you are coming not the dinner so we will know how much meat to purchase.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Service December 24th 5pm

This will be a special service to include music, media, candlelight and communion. Ask your family to come and be a part.

We will be having our regular Sunday Morning service on Christmas Eve.



Food Distribution of HBC

Thank you for all your donations to the HBC Food Pantry.

For a while we were mostly serving Senior Citizens. As the extra money was reduced, we are now serving families with children. Recently as I was taking in the items from Costco, a car pulled in and he said he had a donation for the church. As we talked he shared that our church had helped him so much last year when he was having a tough time. He wanted to give food for others and thanked the church for having this ministry. Thank you for being a part of this ministry. The Lord is gracious!

Please continue to help us with food donations as well as money. Watch for good sales! I do, but I miss some too.

Sue Monfalcone

Calendar

Tuesday, December 12th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

Wednesday, December 13th

7pm Bible Study Facebook Live
and in person at HBC

Thursday, December 14th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

Saturday, December 16th

Christmas Dinner and Musical
6pm– Dinner, Musical to follow

Sunday, December 17th

9:00am Discipleship Class
10:00am Live Worship at HBC
10:00am Sonshine Kids
3rd Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 19th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

Wednesday, December 20th

7pm Bible Study Facebook Live and
in person at HBC

Thursday, December 21st

1pm– 2pm Food Distribution

Sunday, December 24th

9:00am Discipleship Class
10:00am Live Worship at HBC
10:00am Sonshine Kids
4th Sunday of Advent
5:00pm Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

Happy Birthday in December

12/14 Diane Figuenick
12/18 Brittaney Hudgins
12/19 Jessica Surber
12/20 Joyce Spiers
12/25 Karen Simpson
12/27 Myra– Leah Ntumngia
12/30 Brenda Egnot

The church office will be closed on
Tuesday, December 26th

Lock up/ Hall Monitor 12/17 Joe Wircenski 12/24 Roger Cooke

Counter 12/18 Joe Wircenski 12/27 Margaret Upole

Kids Church 12/17 Tracy Venable 12/24 Nadine Stephenson

Missions Outreach—Pam Cooke 660-4226

PORT - January 10th– 17th Your help is needed!

It's Time again to sign up to be the "Hands and Feet of Jesus" by volunteering your time at PORT. **The Sign up sheets are in the back so please stop by and sign up to help.**

If you can donate any of the following it would be helpful. These are the items that are most needed at this time. We are fine with all the other items.

Jean (gently used are fine) Small and Medium Men's shirts

Hoodies T shirts

Socks Thermals

Bra's and panties Shoes

Aluminum Cans

Recycle your cans at HBC and help Support missions! Bring them to HBC and place them in the gym or the church office. All money collected goes to missions.

Pray for our Missionaries

Laura Metcalf (American People) , Ryan Day (Asian Pacific Rim People), RR (Northern African and Middle Eastern People) DB, JS (South Asian People) Seung Hwan Choi (CA) Brian Hoxie (FL) Jason Hampton (IN) Zane Todd (KS)

Christopher McCullough (MD) Hender A Padron (RI)

Serve the City

There are many opportunities to serve. See www.stcpeninsula.com

Or Pam Cooke and she will send you in the right direction.

WMU December Missions—Grace Inside Chaplains Fund

Grace Inside's chaplains are dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of all residents of Virginia's state prisons. The chaplains provide one-on-one pastoral care, conduct worship services and work with the Department of Corrections staff in offering rehabilitative programs. Chaplains are also responsible for scheduling all religious programs conducted by volunteers representing many faith traditions.

Children's Christmas Workshop December 9th

“Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store, maybe Christmas, He thought , is a little bit more” - Grinch



This is the Theme quilt that Denise Vassar made before her surgery. All the kids and workers were able to sign the back of the quilt.



Just a few pictures from the Christmas Workshop, We are planning to have a video ready for Sunday Morning.





Many thanks to Jeanne and the sewers who helped with the pillow cases and Grinch Sacks that the kids were able to have.

Denise had done much of the preparation on this and these ladies were able finish everything up.

Thanks to all the helpers and workers,
it was a great success because of you!





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On the grace journey together with you, Lynwood



Finding JOY This Christmas

Christmas is my favorite time of the year. I love to give gifts, spend time with family and friends, and sing Christmas carols. Most of all, I love to think about what the Lord has done for us – how He was willing to leave His home in Heaven and come to this earth as the Prince of Peace..

However, I realize many believers struggle to find God's joy and peace this time of year. Because of financial pressures, strained relationships, health problems, or just the busyness of the holidays, Christmas can be a season of stress, pain, or depression rather than joy.

Sometimes we forget that Jesus was born into very difficult times, much like many people face today. His family knew what it was like to experience political upheaval, economic stress, and rejection. It would have been easy for them to feel anxious or hopeless at times.

Even though I'm sure Mary and Joseph experienced great joy at Jesus' birth, their outward circumstances were certainly not very appealing...The birth occurred far away from their home in Nazareth, and the inn had no room for them.

They spent this very special occasion among animals in a stable, and the Lord Jesus had a feeding trough for His bed. In addition to the difficulties of their immediate situation, I'm sure they had many concerns about how God would provide for them in the future.

So if you're facing some challenging circumstances this holiday season, you are not alone. That's exactly what the first Christmas was like!

***Please prayerfully consider making a
onetime, year-end***

***special contribution to help
diminish our 2023 budget shortfall?***



**WELCOME TO THE STABLE ... PLEASE
LEAVE ANY KNIVES OR WALKING STICKS
WITH THE HORSE, IF YOU SMOKE WE ASK
THAT YOU PLEASE DO SO OUTSIDE, FLASH
PHOTOGRAPHY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED
INSIDE THE MANGER ROOM ...**

***Christmas Word from
Pastor Lynwood's heart to yours...***

As we come to the conclusion of 2023, I want to take this opportunity to say a special word of "Thanks!" to God and to each of you in the HBC Family for the privilege of serving as your pastor. It has been a wonderful 22 years for me!



With each new birth, wedding graduation and other wonderful life celebrations we have shared my heart and life have been enriched. With each departure and funeral, a part of me has been buried and taken along as well. That's the beautiful circle of life God has given us here on our earthly journey, and especially more so, in the household of faith we call our HBC church family.

Throughout 2023 we used every opportunity to remember and celebrate our past. In the upcoming year of 2024, we continue the journey of our second 100 years. It is time now to look forward and recognize both a bright future and our greatest challenges still lie ahead. We must move forward together with fresh vision and renewed commitment. Otherwise, the blessing of our tomorrows will slip through our fingers like sand and be lost to the wind.

My prayer for you and yours, and our church in 2024, is that we will continue to grow and work together in the grace, love and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ – so that when our journey is done, we will hear... "Well done, good and faithful servants!"

Much Love to you, this Christmas and always, Lynwood





True Christmas Joy!

Joy is one the great blessings of Christmas. It shows up Christmas services with beautiful music. Joy is in the giving and receiving presents. Joy can be evident in reconnecting with family. True joy is not dependent on circumstances but is a gift from God even when times are tough.

Joy is contagious. I remember years ago, one December when our “Singing Saints” group caroled at a local rehabilitation center, I noticed some residents joined in the singing while others did not. One man in a wheelchair frowned through every song. No hint of a smile at all. I could see that life had been hard on him by his physical weakness. His face was stern, his eyes sad.

When asked if he would join in the singing, he shook his head. He didn’t move away from us but remained in the hall near us. Soon his lips formed the words of a familiar carol.

“I thought you weren’t going to sing,” I asked.

“It was too hard to not do it.” I have never forgotten his response. As much as he tried, he couldn’t resist it. His eyes grew a little brighter. The power of Christmas joy drew him in.

What makes Christmas joy so special? Joy comes with the birth of Jesus because Old Testament prophecies for salvation had been fulfilled. God kept His word and the Word became flesh. This is a reason for joy.

Joy is expressed through music retelling the story of Jesus’ birth. In the first two chapters gospel of Luke there are four different songs about Jesus’ birth: Elizabeth, Mary, Zacharias and Simeon. All of these reflect wonder and joy at what the Lord has done.

Joy comes from God. The angels proclaimed: *“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11*

Their message brought the joy of salvation. We can receive the message of Christmas joy and spread it to those around us. Joy to the world! The Lord has come! Let earth receive her king! Let every heart prepare Him room.

Look in the manger to see the good news of great joy—a Savior has been born. May that joy touch your heart in a new way this year and always!