

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 9 P.M. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE 10 A.M. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Pledge packets were distributed to 114 Christ and Grace Parishioners over the past couple of weeks. If yours did not reach you or has been misplaced, please pick one up at the church office or call 804-733-7202 to be mailed another. Your pledge enables us to plan for 2022. Please return your pledge card as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.

Pledges received: **44 Pledges totaling \$106,924.00**

PRACTING PATIENCE

This Advent we will practice patience as we wait for the coming of the Christ Child. An Advent devotional book for each family will be available at church. Each Wednesday of Advent you are invited to come practice patience at Advent Prayers for the Evening at 5:30 pm. We will gather to reflect on scripture, for prayers with candles, and quiet music.

CHRISTMAS JOY

Christmas is coming! **This Sunday, December 12**, is the last day to return gifts to the stage in Lackey Hall. **If you took tags for Cailin, Sophia, Aiden, Da'Marice, or Aaleyah, please contact the church office to let us know. Your name is not on our list.** Together we will bring Christmas Joy to many at Walnut Hill Elementary School and Battlefield Park Healthcare Center. Together we will bring Christmas Joy to many!

PRAYER LIST

We beg you to feed the hungry, protect the refugee, embrace the distressed, house the homeless, nurse the sick, and comfort the dying. Especially we pray for Vaughan D., Melba Felty, Carol Ferrell, Michael Fowler, Heydon Lewis, Clyde Mosley, Bill Owen, Mary Paul Hartman, Shelley Richardson, Mark Sheffield, and Mary Villeponteaux

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS

A special arrangement will adorn the altar and red poinsettias will beautify the sanctuary on Christmas Eve and on Sunday, December 26 for our Lessons and Carols service. Please help the sanctuary come to life for Christmas! Dedication forms are available in the church office as well as enclosed with these announcements. Completed forms should be returned by Sunday, Dec. 19 for inclusion in our Christmas Eve bulletin.

SOME EXTRA WARMTH SERVED WITH LUNCH

Our next Hope Center lunch will be in January. We would love to give a scarf or a hat with each meal, as these items are a much-appreciated gift in cold weather.

If you are a knitter who would like to knit a few items, a yarn gatherer who could donate yarn for our knitters, or if you have gently used scarves and hats for men and women that you can donate, please contact Elayne Pagano or Nancy Holden, or drop items off at church. There will be a collection box on the stage in Lackey Hall.

For any questions please contact: Elayne Pagano 804-586-2951
Nancy Holden 804-712-7492

2022 SIGNUPS ARE NOW OPEN!

New for 2022:

- We will be using an online form rather than our hall flower calendar to sign up for altar flower dedications. If you are unable to access the online form, contact Lee to sign up for your dedication - shakubuku42@gmail.com or the church office for assistance.
- We are no longer able to honor requests for specific flowers or colors.
- The cost is \$55. Please make your check to 'Christ and Grace' with 'altar flowers and date' on the memo line.

Please be aware that either greens or a special arrangement will be used during Lent and Advent. Dedications are still welcomed on these Sundays.

Thank you for your support for beautifying the altar to the glory of God.

THE COLLECT

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.