



WE ARE ALL  
**CONNECTED**  
IN CHRIST  
EPHESIANS 4:16

*December 24, 2023*

## TODAY

## *Morning Worship Service*

### *From the Elders . . .*

We want to thank you for identifying men you wish to serve you as shepherds here at Beltline. We will be spending time with each man and communicate back to you on December 31<sup>st</sup> with names for your consideration.

We ask that you pray for us and these men as we continue this selection process.

### *Disaster Relief . . .*

We are currently accepting monetary donations to send as relief to communities worst hit by the storms in the Nashville area. Funds may be donated in multiple ways: Online donations may be made via Beltline's Disaster Relief Fund on PushPay via the Beltline website or app. Any checks deposited in the contribution boxes outside the auditorium should have "Disaster Relief" written in the memo/note/for line. Cash donated in such fashion should be placed in a similarly labeled envelope or given directly to Travis Stetler.

### *Auditions for Recording*

**Sessions** at Beltline  
August 30 thru  
September 2, 2024,  
are now open.



**Praise & Harmony**  
*Recording Registration*



### *Our "Next Step" Initiative . . .*

We want to help people take the next step with Jesus. We believe helping people in need is a huge part in helping people take that next step. Our desire is to meet physical and financial needs as a door to the most important needs of all ... **spiritual needs**.

At the conclusion of the services, an invitation will be made at which time you may exit to the foyer where a team of people will meet you and take you to the Next Step Room, share the GOOD NEWS of Jesus with you, and identify and attempt to meet any needs you may have.

**Song Leader ~ Matt Parker**

Song ~ Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Song ~ Joy to the World

Song ~ Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

**Opening Prayer ~ Mack Buchanan**

Song ~ Glory to God Forever

Song ~ Behold Our God

Song ~ Christ We Do All Adore Thee

**Communion /Offering ~ Jordan Young**

(Trays will be passed for Offering)

Song ~ Highly Exalted

Song ~ Our God, He is Alive

**Lesson ~ Steve Smith**

Song ~ Come to The Feast

**Shepherds Prayer ~ Chuck Elliott**

Song ~ Ring the Message Out

**Prayer Requests**—An elder is present in Room 202 if you have a need for prayer during the morning worship service. Your request can be included in the Shepherd's prayer at the conclusion of the service.

## *Evening Worship Service*

No Evening Worship Service

## The Teaching and Purpose of Christmas

\_\_\_\_\_ – What does that mean?

- John 1:1-4; 14
- God, the \_\_\_\_\_ of everything, became part of his \_\_\_\_\_...that is \_\_\_\_\_.

### The TEACHING of Christmas...

1. Christmas is openly \_\_\_\_\_.
- Bottom line: *We are all* \_\_\_\_\_.

### Doctrine Defined...

- Doctrine is first, a \_\_\_\_\_ position; it is something we \_\_\_\_\_.
- Second, doctrine is something we \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to and base our lives on.
- Finally, doctrine is something we \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with people over.

What you \_\_\_\_\_ you from others.

2. Christmas is \_\_\_\_\_.
- These are either \_\_\_\_\_ you are reading in the NT, or they are \_\_\_\_\_ accounts, but they cannot be \_\_\_\_\_.

### The PURPOSE of Christmas...

1. Christmas will make you deeply \_\_\_\_\_.
- If Jesus Christ is God come in the \_\_\_\_\_, you are going to know much more about \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Christmas makes you happily \_\_\_\_\_.
- Traditional religion says salvation is \_\_\_\_\_ OUT of this world into the kingdom of God, but the gospel of Christmas is that \_\_\_\_\_ is the kingdom of God coming into this \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Christmas makes you fiercely \_\_\_\_\_.
- The test that you know what Christmas is about is that you become more desirous of intimate personal \_\_\_\_\_ with other people and \_\_\_\_\_ at getting them.
4. Christmas makes you free to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- John says *I'm doing all this...why? So my \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_.*

Think about all of this the next time you say...\_\_\_\_\_

## Reported Sick . . .

### • Members & Regular Attenders . . .

**Mark Walden** remains in Crestwood Hospital. He had two back surgeries on December 19 and 20, and is now undergoing tests after having several episodes with his heart. (1214 Co. Rd. 358, Trinity—35673)

**Bobbie Rhoades** has been in the hospital with health issues. (2226 Almon Way SW—35603)

**Jeff Cagle** received a good report. (601 Cockrell Ave., SW—35601)

#### **Continue to recover:**

**Keith Spivey** is recovering from an infection. He continues with chemo treatments. (1904 Manchester Ave., SW—35603)

**Matt Brewer** is recovering from surgery. (2203 Martinwood Lane, SW—35603)

#### **Continue to remember:**

**Jennifer Chandler** (send cards to: The Cannon, 203 Eleanor Way, Apartment 4106, Murfreesboro, TN 37130); **Ron Garner** is under the care of Hospice. (81 Shirley Hill Road, Somerville—35670); **Haley McInnis** (3221 Mountainview Dr., SE—35603); **Margaret Benefield** (2447 Cameron St., SW—35603); **Bettie Knight** (903 Rigel Drive, SW—35603); **David Mahaffey** (2106 11th St. SE, 35601); **Leelan Neville** has a recurrence of health problems. (113 Deann Road, Trinity 35673); **Maria Sandoval** (1715 Cagle Ave., SW—35601); **Kristen Zeanah & Baileigh Grace** (83 Jackson Way—35603); **Edilberto Alvarez** (1607 College St., SE—35601); **Tim Shephard** (1619 11th St., SE, Apt. 47—35601); **Gary Hill** (2404 Crown Circle, SE—35603); **Jerry Parker** (3201 Vicksburg Dr., SW—35603); **George Wells** (4005 Saddlehorn Bend, SW—35603); **Lee & Lora Lee Brewer** (2009 Jefferson Ave., SW—35603); **Katie Shell** (2403 Woodland St., SE—35601); **Lindsay Elliott** (P. O. Box 1584—35602); **Michael Atchley** is undergoing dialysis. (2202 Harrison St., SE—35601); **Danny Truitt** (1427 Vernon St., SW—35601); **Joan McCollum** (2511 Danville Rd., SW—35603); **Bonnie Ledlow** (901 Fretwell Ave., SW—35601)

### • Family Members & Friends . . .

**Richard Adkins**, father of Rachel Dixon & Michelle Prince, has been in Huntsville Hospital. (2849 Co. Rd. 358, Trinity—35673)

**Kayla Braden**, granddaughter of Sherman & Marilyn Morris, is in Huntsville Hospital.

**Roger Perry**, brother of Doris Webster, has stage three kidney failure along with his other heart issues.

**Gary Stewart**, brother of Linda Wallace, is recovering from surgery for leg amputation. (624 Market St., Scottsboro—35768)

**Gerald Marks**, father of Deana Olinger, has been undergoing rehab after a stroke. (2418 Jarvis St., SW—35603)

**Meri Leigh Broadfoot**, granddaughter of Jeff & Alicia, is doing better; continue prayer for strength before upcoming surgery,

**Sarita Gillespie** of Hatton is battling cancer.

**Rachel King**, sister of Pam Kimbrel, is recovering from a total hip revision.

**Matt Rae**, brother of Rebekah Clark, will be in Houston undergoing radiation at MD Anderson. He will return home after radiation to receive chemo treatments. (Send cards to Matt & Amie Rae, c/o Tony & Martha Rea, 2002 Lancaster Ave., SW—35603)

**Carolyn Plumlee**, sister of Rita Deal, has Parkinson's and is learning to walk again. (4014 Huntington Drive, Cookeville, TN—38501)

**Willow Chandler**, granddaughter of Armer Mabry, undergoing chemo and radiation for brain tumors. (send cards c/o of Armer: 305 Courtney Drive, SW, Apt. 402—35603)

**Jonna Barrier**, member at Falkville Church of Christ, battling cancer. (311 Woodfield Street, Hartselle 35640).

**Bill Gleason**, husband of Francis, is undergoing treatments for a brain tumor. (1541 Bert Stinson Road, Falkville—35622)

## Sympathy is Extended to . . .

**John Clemons & Family** in the death of his brother-in-law, **Del Ward**, of Hartselle. His funeral was Saturday. (Clemons' address: 2413 Huntington Lane, SE—35601)

See **The Family Member & Friends, Continue to Remember List** and **Our Shut-in List** in the online Bulletin.

## CHRISTMAS IS AN OPPORTUNITY

This is the time of year when we're usually treated to the customary barrage of sermons and articles telling us that Christmas is an unauthorized Holy Day (Col.3:17; 2Jn.9). We are reminded of some of the myths of Christmas, such as: the "three" wise men (and their names), or that they were at the manger along with the shepherds. In truth, we don't know how many there were, nor their names; and they most assuredly were NOT at the manger. In fact, Jesus may have been as much as two years old when the wise men visited (Mt.2:1-2,7,11,16). And, of course, "the biggie" – that He wasn't born on December 25th. Indeed, I have done my share of such teaching, and will likely do so in the future, because it is the truth; and the truth must be preached (2Tm.4:2).

But this year, allow me to share a personal story from many years ago. At that time, I was a brash young preacher, eager to show the denominations just how wrong they were about nearly everything (never mind about actually winning their hearts for Jesus). Then one day, I was speaking to an older brother in the Lord, whom I respected very much. I was talking about how pitiful it was that so many had no clue regarding the truth about Christmas, when he said something I'll never forget. I can only paraphrase his actual words, because the years have caused them to fade to some extent. But basically, he said, "I don't worry too much about Christmas, because at least for one moment each year, the whole world knows about Jesus!"

Well, I was flabbergasted! Indeed, I was so troubled that I had to "tell on him" to a preacher friend of mine. I was looking for validation, and an effective response, so I could put my old friend in his place. Much to my surprise, the preacher agreed with my older brother in Christ! I have often thought of those conversations; and with the passing of time, have come to appreciate the wisdom given to me by those men. No, they were not trying to tell me that it was OK to bind an unauthorized Holy Day upon others. But they were trying to get me to see a positive instead of a negative with respect to Christmas.

Think about it! Of all the holidays throughout the year, THIS is one where Jesus simply MUST be dealt with – one way or another. The very name, "Christmas," puts the name of Christ right everyone's face! Radio stations play carols which tell of His birth, and His mission to save man from sin (cf. Mt.1:21). Shopping malls are filled with references to Christmas, Christ, Nativity scenes, and other such things. Conversely, unbelievers fight relentlessly to remove such displays from public life. Some stores train their employees NOT to say, "Merry Christmas" – lest we offend some Jew, Muslim, or atheist. Some schools ban religious Christmas songs from their "Holiday Concerts." Yes, the proverbial "War on Christmas" has been in full swing for a long time! And right here, when everyone's mind is on Jesus, is our golden opportunity to do something positive for the Master!

Throughout the year, Jesus is ignored; but at the end of the year, EVERYBODY must deal with Jesus! The atheist, Muslim, and Jew each must decide how to handle the holidays. And they don't all handle it the same way! For example, some atheists will observe the day non-religiously; while others refuse any participation whatsoever. Our denominational friends will, of course, pay homage to "the tradition of men," with their Christmas pageants and cantatas (Mt.15:7-9; Col.2:6-8). And those of us who are simply Christians will busy ourselves in trying to correct their errors – hopefully without sounding so obnoxious that no one listens!

Why not turn this time of year into an opportunity to ask people: "What are YOU going to do with Jesus?" You see,  
Continued in next column . . .

Contact Elder for December—Tim Thomas

Deacons/Ministry Leaders for  
December—Adam Jones & Mark Burleson

Please see Front Page for TODAY'S Event (s) . . .

### *December Calendar . . .*

**Monday Night for the Master** will NOT meet on December 25 and January 1.

**27—Primetimers' Wednesday Morning Bible Study** will NOT meet this Wednesday. Class will resume on January 3.

25 thru Jan 1—**Office will be Closed**

### **Sunday the 31st—**

We will have the normal schedule for Bible Study and Worship Services, both morning and evening.

**Beltline Recovery and Support Group Meetings . . .**  
Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 pm

### **Beltline Youth Ministry News . . .**

See Front Page for Today's Events

### **Dates to Remember . . .**

Dec 27-30- Exposure

Please check your "Group Me" for information and other news

## *News & Notes . . .*

### *Responses . . .*

#### **REQUESTED PRAYERS:**

**Jacqueline McDonald** (1608 Somerville Rd, SE—35601)

**Donald (D J) Emery** (183 Dogwood Road, Hillsboro—35643)

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## CHRISTMAS IS AN OPPORTUNITY, cont'd . . .

He is the one Man who changed the world! Someone has said, "He built a bridge to Heaven with two boards, and three nails." He has so influenced the world that we measure time from His birth (BC versus AD). The fact is: Jesus simply cannot be ignored! He is my Lord (Ac.2:36), my God (Jn.20:28), and my Savior (Mt.1:21); as a matter of fact, He is everything to me! Ultimately, each of us will face Him in judgment (Jn.12:48).

The bottom line is this: You can deal with Jesus now, or deal with Him later; BUT YOU WILL DEAL WITH HIM! (2Cor.5:10). If you have been putting Jesus out of your mind and life, why not give Him serious consideration – or even reconsideration? If those of us who believe in Christ are wrong, and there truly is no God, we will never know it; for we shall just pass quietly into non-existence. On the other hand, if those who don't believe in Christ are wrong, they will lose their soul (Jn.8:24). That makes it a question worth pursuing! The evidence is overwhelming that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Please examine all of the prophecies, as well as the eyewitness testimony – all offered by men who gave their lives in His service. We would be glad to help!

~Via Lanny Smith

~Justo

*Beltline Iglesia de Cristo*



**GREETERS**  
**Dec. 24, 2023**  
**Lobby Entrance**  
 Chris Osgood  
 Vicki Osgood  
 Rayborn Heard  
 Linda Heard

**GREETERS**  
**Dec. 31, 2023**  
**Lobby Entrance**  
 Danny Grissom  
 Fran Grissom  
 Peg Roach  
 Robin Fortner

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**  
**Dec. 24, 2023- AM Worship**  
**Infant Nursery - 205**

No Attendants  
**Cradle Roll 204**  
 Rachel Dixon  
 Canitha Thomas  
**Toddler - 207**  
 Vanessa Macklin  
 Michelle Prince

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**  
**Dec. 31, 2023 - AM Worship**  
**Infant Nursery 205**

No Attendants  
**Cradle Roll 204**  
 Linda Heard  
 Connie Pritchard  
**Toddler - 207**  
 Katie Shell  
 Kristen Swinea

**Ministers:**

Pulpit : Steve Smith  
 Hispanic: Justo Dorantes  
 Connections: Trae Durden  
 Youth: Sam Welsh  
 Worship: Matt Parker  
 Young Adults: Taylor Sasser

**Times of Services:**

Sunday  
 Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.  
 Worship - 10:00 a.m.  
 Evening - 5:30 p.m.  
 Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.  
**Wifi: Beltline Guest Portal**  
**Password: beltline**

**2159 Beltline Road, S.W.—Decatur, Alabama 35601**  
 E-mail: [office@beltlinechurchofchrist.org](mailto:office@beltlinechurchofchrist.org) Phone: (256) 353-1876  
 Website: [www.beltlinechurchofchrist.org](http://www.beltlinechurchofchrist.org) Fax: (256) 353-7892

**REFLECTIONS for 2023**

**Our Attendance Last Week**

Worship (English)..... 675  
 (Hispanic)..... 54  
 Worship Total ..... 729  
 Bible Study (E & H) ..... 482  
 Evening Worship ..... 275  
 Wednesday Evening (E & H) ... NC

**Our Growth**

Baptisms  
 English/Hispanic..... 34/6  
 WBS/Cuba..... 33/107  
 Requested Prayers-English ..... 45  
 Now Worshipping with Us-  
 English/Hispanic ..... 38/6

**Our Giving Last Week**

Contribution.....\$89,220.12 Average.....\$39,577.09  
 Budget.....\$40,856.00

**ONLINE GIVING**

You can make your contributions by using the **PushPay** App or by going to: [www.beltlinechurchofchrist.org](http://www.beltlinechurchofchrist.org) **ONLINE GIVING TAB.** You can use your DEBIT CARD, CREDIT CARD or E-CHECK

**BY MAIL:** 2159 Beltline Road, SW—Decatur, AL 35601

**Lonnie Jones** offers **Counseling Service** to our Beltline Members.  
 Contact information— Phone : 256-882-9799;

E-mail: [lonjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:lonjones@bellsouth.net)

**Angie Speegle** offers **Alzheimers/Dementia Service.** Contact information Phone : 256-476-4328; E-mail: [angiespeegle@gmail.com](mailto:angiespeegle@gmail.com)

**Beltline Recovery Meetings:** Tuesdays & Thursdays at 7:00 pm



**WORLD  
 BIBLE  
 SCHOOL**

*For more  
 information  
 call Danny or  
 Deborah Truitt*

**rightnow MEDIA**

**RightNow Media Access**—The QR code gives you access to the biggest video Bible study library in the world! It is provided free of charge to anyone who would like access from the Beltline church of Christ. Just scan it into your phone, create your account and begin to enjoy tons of spiritually uplifting content. Including a KIDS section with hours of fun learning! We hope you will use this valuable resource and share it with others.



**Area Events . . .**

**Beginning JAN 8—Have you considered fostering or even volunteering to help kids in need?** Childhaven is conducting the required training beginning January 8th at 6 pm at Hartselle Church of Christ. This is a 10 week course that is good for 5 years. Please contact Madison Hayes if you are interested or if you have any questions.

**FEB 14-18—Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat—Climbing to Greater Heights Together**—Hosts: Midway Church of Christ, Jasper, AL.—This is a couples-only retreat for married couples of all ages.—Registration is \$99 per couple. (on site registration fee is \$110 per Couple) register at [smokymountainmarriage.com](http://smokymountainmarriage.com). For more information, call 1-877-338-3397.

**EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE at FLINT CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 begins at 7:45

**Online Worship Services . . .**

We are live streaming our services through our web site and YouTube. The morning service will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the evening service will begin at 5:30 p.m.

If you are unable to watch at 10:00, you will be able to watch later that day if you search for Beltline Church of Christ on YouTube. It will be posted on the web site later in the week.

**Sunday Morning Classes . . .**

**Infant Nursery**—Room 205 (Not attended)  
**Cradle Roll**—Room 204  
**Toddler**—Room 207  
**Two Year Old**—305  
**Three Year Old**—306  
**Four Year Old**—311  
**Faith Boulevard**—Education Building—Small Auditorium  
**Middle School/High School**—Rooms 502-508  
**College Age/Young Adults**—Room 115  
**C.O.O.L.**—Room 501  
**C.R.E.W.**—Room 401  
**L.I.F.E.**—Room 402  
**Abundance**—Room 408  
**Seekers**—Fireside Room  
**S.A.L.T.**—Room 323  
**Cornerstone**—Rooms 317/318  
**WBS**—Rooms 113/114  
**Spanish Speaking**—Rooms 319/320

**Wednesday Morning Class . . .**

Meets at 10:30 in Room 206

**Wednesday Evening Classes . . .**

**It Starts at Home**—Trae Durden & Sam Welsh—  
 Fellowship Area of the Service Center  
**Acapella Heritage/Singing & Praise**—Matt Parker—  
 Overflow Room 408  
**Esther**—Patrick Swinea & Wayne Speegle—Room 401/402  
**Ladies Class**—Julie Huisman—Fireside Room  
**Young Adults** (Ages 18-25)—Taylor Sasser—Room 115  
**World Bible School**—Danny Truitt—Room 113  
**Spanish Speaking**—Rooms 319/320

**Need a Ride to our Services . . .**

Please call the following phone number and leave a message with your name and phone number. The bus driver will get in contact with you. (256) 274-3007

## *Birthdays:*

*December 28,*

*Reed Harbin  
Tenleigh Wallace*

*December 29,*

*Joe Betterton  
Anna Higginbotham  
Leelan Neville  
Jonnie Simmons  
Kristen Suinea  
Roger Turner*

*December 30,*

*Jonah Flood*

*January 1,*

*Bettie Knight*

*January 3,*

*Doug Clark  
Linda Heard  
Connie Holcomb  
Doris Webster*

## *SHUT-IN MEMBERS*

**Leah Favors** Room 8 at River City Healthcare Facility (1350 14th Ave., SE—35601)

**Janice Holder** (Country Cottage, 2515 Old Moulton Rd., SW—35603)

**Steve McRight** (West Minster Assisted Living , Apt. 110)

**Ann McWhorter** (1611 Cedar St., SW-35601)

**Elise Means** (2821 Sandlin Road, SW, Apt. 3C—35603)

**Mildred Wright** (1715 Iris St., SW—35601)

## *Continue to remember:*

**Harry & Georgia Hames** (1814 Eastmead Ave., SE—35601); **Jean Chittam**, mother of Don; **Linda Webster**, mother of Denise Richardson (130 Victoria Circle, SE—35603); **Chloe James**, 6-month-old granddaughter of Beth James at Adventureland and niece of Nan Walden (parents: Chris and Alison James-1199 Co. Rd. 358, Trinity-35673); **Randy Jackson**, cousin of Hattie Hampton (4025 Sprint Ave., SW—35603); **Nell Dixon**, mother of Brandon (106 Alexander Village Place, Florence-35634); **Frances Pounders**, mother of Cecil, is now in El Reposo Nursing Facility in Florence; **Charlie Parsons** (111 Gordon Drive, Madison—35758); **Jerry Fagan** (452 S. Mountain Drive, Trinity—35673); **Vicki Shelton**, friend of Jennifer Chandler, has lung cancer. (2004 County Park Road, Scottsboro—35769); **Melody Feekes**, daughter of Dino Roussos, has breast cancer. (3718 Voltaire Drive, Frisco, TX—75033); **Leah Trammell**, daughter of Linda Wallace, **James Morgan**, brother of Joe; **Lawanda Savage**, relative of Hildreth Lyle; **Jeffry Camp**, cousin of Steve Harris (220 Henderson Lane Talladega—35160); **Beulah Glenn**, mother of Rayburn, is having health issues; **Chris Draper**, half brother of Matthew & Meghan Letson; **Harry Smith**, husband of Jane (4601 Pine Ridge Circle, SE—35603); **Meghan Hill** (3542 Chula Vista Drive, SW—35603); **Joe Betterton, Sr.**, father of Joe (1444 2nd Ave., NE, Arab—35016); **David Osborn**, relative of Angela Free (2158 Co. Rd. 362, Trinity—35673); **Daniel Roberts**, nephew of Donna Zahnd (2041 Derbyshire Drive, Macon, GA 31216); **Betty Perry**, sister-in-law of Doris Webster (209 N. Pine, Brewton—36426); **Jason Cartee**, brother-in-law of Kristy Suggs (2025 Co. Rd. 227, Moulton—35650); **Don Latham**, brother of Judy Voss (493 Cochran Drive, Norcross, GA—30071); **Mike McCollum**, husband of Joan.