

Communiqué

As a fellowship of Christ's followers, our mission is to journey through life with the inclusive Christ and embrace all with God's transforming love.

Volume 22, Issue 12
December 2019

Thoughts from
Pastor David

One of my favorite moments during a stage production is when the theatre lights are dimmed, the Stage Manager reminds the audience to silence their phones, and the string section of the orchestra raises their bows in anticipation of the conductor's baton to signal the opening down beat. The audience sits on the edge of their seats. Actors are in their place onstage behind a lowered curtain. The stage crew is ready-to-go listening for their cue to release the flood of stage lights. Everyone holds their collective breath in expectation for the show to begin.

This is Advent. The church and all of creation holds their breath. We wait with restrained energy for the inbreaking of the Christ, again. Darkness covers us, but the flood of Light will soon engulf the entirety of creation. Waiting on the edge of our seats, we look back at the birth of Jesus so that we can lean more fully into the coming of the Reign of God.

During the sermons of Advent, we will hear the voice of Isaiah and focus on Matthew's painting of the events leading to the birth of Jesus. And if we are listening close enough, we just might hear how Matthew's telling of the story assists us in accepting, again, that God is still acting and that the Christ is coming, again. To help you prepare your soul, here are the sermon passages for the four weeks of Advent:

December 1: Isaiah 2:1-5 "Shots of Light"

December 8: Matthew 3:1-12 "The Road Less Traveled"

December 15: Matthew 11:2-11 "Altered Expectations"

December 22: Matthew 1:18-25 "Don't Blink"

My friends, the lights have dimmed. The conductor's baton is raised. Advent is here.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDARS

You are invited to participate in an Advent mission project here at Holmeswood. The following is an overview of Reverse Advent Calendars:

What: Reverse Advent Calendars are a creative way of experiencing the "waiting and anticipation" of Advent. Instead of receiving a calendar with a chocolate or small

prize each day of Advent like some do, adults and children will be **giving an item each day**, which helps families transitioning out of homelessness! A guide will include a daily devotional and instructions on the objects to fill your box with. A box can be completely filled for as little as \$20, so this is a mission project ideal for a single person, small household, or even a large family.

Who: All Holmeswoodians are encouraged to participate! Pick up a box with 12-24 slots (wine boxes work well). If you'd like, decorate the box in holiday paper or other festive décor. Following the guides (available in the church Galleria), follow the daily Advent devotional and gift one item to the box (see guide for details) for all 24 days leading up to Christmas Eve.

Why: To learn and serve during the Advent season, showing Christ's love to others. All 24 of your gifts will be sorted and given to Hillcrest Transitional Housing, a local organization that helps families move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

www.hillcresttransitionalhousing.org

When: Beginning Christmas Eve, set your box at the altar table in the Sanctuary as a gift to God and to our local Hillcrest community. Additionally, a "drop spot" will be taped off in the church Galleria, for your convenience.

Have questions? Please call, email or chat in person with Laurel Cluthe. Let us celebrate the anticipation of Christ's birth with a renewed sense of excitement and joy together through this fun project.



Save the Dates:

- ⇒ **Saturday, December 7, 2:00pm, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!** ALL AGES welcome. Join us for an outing to Union Station's City Stage Theatre to see the Christmas decorations and this humor-filled production of a Christmas classic. Tickets are \$5 each and on a first come, first served basis; contact Laurel to reserve yours.
- ⇒ **Wednesday, December 11, 5:00—7:00pm, Crafting & Cookies.** Help us make a few special ornaments for our neighbors and homebound members (& our own homes) to brighten up their Christmas season. We'll snack on subs and cookies, sing a few carols and have a "merry and bright" time together! Free event; RSVP to Laurel by Dec 8.
- ⇒ **Thursday-Saturday, December 12-14, Christmas Store.** Sign-ups to volunteer at our 3rd annual Christmas Store for Center families are on the bulletin board in the Galleria.
- ⇒ **Tuesday, December 24, 4 pm, Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service.** Communion and candle lighting will be part of this service.
- ⇒ **Tuesday, December 24, 11 pm, Traditional Candlelight Service.** Communion and candle lighting will be part of this service.
- ⇒ **Sunday, December 29, 10 am, Worship.** Please note the altered time for this last Sunday of 2019. Bible Fellowship Groups following service are optional.
- ⇒ **Monday, January 20, Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.** Times and service project information coming soon.

Youth Mission Fundraiser

The Holmeswood Youth have you covered for host and holiday gifts through two edible fundraisers! Pick up your Nut pre-orders and also purchase *New* Sweets and Soups Gift Jars! Visit The Galleria on Sundays through December 15 to shop; all proceeds go to Youth Mission projects and our annual summer mission trip.

Sweet Jars- \$12, Soup Jars- \$7



Share Abundant Life

"I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10

Karen Morrow serves in Ft. Worth, TX.



The biggest dream for refugees living in the U.S. is simply to go home. But they can't go home due to danger and persecution.

Some refugees are highly educated, but may no longer be able to work in their field. Many refugee women have never had the opportunity for an education in their home countries. Language is a barrier, and after resettlement support is gone, refugees are on their own.

Your gift prepares refugee children for school in the U.S. and offers English classes for mothers through Karen Morrow's Ready for School program. Morrow also operates a year-round library program for refugee children, and a summer program where children read, hear stories, attend VBS, and participate in sports and other activities.

Lynn and Michael Hutchinson serve in Togo, West Africa.

Togo is one of the poorest countries in the world, and life is hard for many of our brothers and sisters. In smaller communities, children have limited access to healthcare, education, and even food and water. Your gift will offer community, opportunities to pray and study the Bible, and very practical ministries like providing summer camps, programming and life skills for kids, and helping adults learn new skills to increase their income and grow more food.

Your gift will support incredible ministries like Togo House through the work of Lynn and Michael Hutchinson.



Offering for Global Missions

Each year during Advent and Christmas, we join alongside other Cooperative Baptist Fellowship churches in collecting a special offering called the Offering for Global Missions. This offering supports the long-term presence of CBF field personnel around the world as they share the good news of God's transforming love. **This year, our goal is \$5,000.** You may contribute to this offering anytime until January 12, 2020. On December 15 there will be special offering envelopes in the Worship bulletin, but you are encouraged to give on any Sunday you feel led. Extra offering envelopes are available in the Front Office. Your gift to the Offering for Global Missions will help a person live more abundantly.

Christmas at Holmeswood



Christmas Eve Services:

Tuesday, December 24, 4 pm: Family Friendly Service

Tuesday, December 24, 11 pm: Traditional Candlelight Service

*Both services will have Communion and a candle lighting.

Sunday, December 29:

Worship at 10 am, Bible Fellowship Groups optional



Christmas Office Hours



Monday, Dec 23: 9:00a-4:00p
Tuesday, Dec 24: 9:00a-12:00p
Wednesday, Dec 25: Office closed
Thursday, Dec 26: 9:00a-12:00p
Friday, Dec 27: 9:00a-12:00p
Monday, Dec 30: 9:00a-4:00p
Tuesday, Dec 31: 9:00a-12:00p

~ December 2019 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9a-10a Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10a-10:15a Blood Pressure Check (Narthex) 10a-10:15a Meet & Greet 10:15a-11:15a Bible Fellowship Groups (Classrooms) 11-45a-2:15p Mixed Adults - Christmas Social Fellowship Hall 12p-3:30p ICC Bible Study & Worship</p>	<p>2 Deacon on Call: Shirley Hall</p>	<p>3 10a-11a Staff Meeting (Conf Rm2) 11a-12p Pastoral Staff Meeting (David's Office) 11:30a-1p Quarterly Staff Lunch (Off Site) 6:30p-9p Pray & Play Basketball (Gym) 8:30p-9:30p Young Professionals Online Small Group</p>	<p>4 2:45p-3:45p Adult Connections (Parlor) 5:45p-7p Adult Connections (Blue Moesel, 11134 Holmes Rd, Kansas City, MO) 6-10p-7:20p Handbell Rehearsal (Handbell Room) 7:30p-8:30p Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 8:30p-10p Pray & Play Basketball (Gym)</p>	<p>5 7a-8a Men's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm2) 7a-8a Women's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm1) 6p-6:30p Evening Prayer Group (Prayer Garden) 6:30p-8:30p Pickleball (Gym)</p>	<p>6 6p-8p Christmas Store (Gym)</p>	<p>7 Minister on Call: Anna Holladay</p>
<p>8 9a-10a Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10a-10:15a Blood Pressure Check (Galleria) 10a-10:15a Meet & Greet 10:15a-11:15a Bible Fellowship Groups (Classrooms) 12p-3:30p ICC Bible Study & Worship 12p-9p ICC Meal (Gym)</p>	<p>9 Deacon on Call: Ted Harrison 12:30p-3:30p Prayers & Squares (S204)</p>	<p>10 10a-11a Staff Meeting (Conf Rm2) 11a-12p Pastoral Staff Meeting (David's Office) 6p-7p Mission Council Meeting (Conf Rm 1) 6:30p-9p Pray & Play Basketball (Gym) 8:30p-9:30p Young Professionals Online Small Group</p>	<p>11 2:45p-3:45p Adult Connections (Parlor) 4p-5p HBC Community Chorus (Choir Rm) 5p-7p Crafting & Cookies (Fellowship Hall) 5:45p-7p Adult Connections (Blue Moesel, 11134 Holmes Rd, Kansas City, MO) 6-10p-7:20p Handbell Rehearsal (Handbell Room) 7:30p-8:30p Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 8:30p-10p Pray & Play Basketball (Gym)</p>	<p>12 7a-8a Men's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm2) 7a-8a Women's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm1) 9a-12p Christmas Store Set-up (Gym) 6p-8p Christmas Store (Gym)</p>	<p>13 6p-8p Christmas Store (Gym)</p>	<p>14 Minister on Call: Allen York 9a-11a Christmas Store (Gym) 6p-10p ICC Meal Prep (Gym - Kitchen)</p>
<p>15 9a-10a Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10a-10:15a Meet & Greet 10:15a-11:15a Bible Fellowship Groups (Classrooms) 11:30a-12:30p Deacons Meeting (Parlor) 12p-3:30p ICC Bible Study & Worship</p>	<p>16 Deacon on Call: Tammie Kesse-Lowry Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>17 10a-11a Staff Meeting (Conf Rm2) 11a-12p Pastoral Staff Meeting (David's Office) 6p-7:30p Social Justice Team Meeting (S201) 6:30p-9p Pray & Play Basketball (Gym) 8:30p-9:30p Young Professionals Online Small Group</p>	<p>18 2:45p-3:45p Adult Connections (Parlor) 4p-5p HBC Community Chorus (Choir Rm) 5:45p-7p Adult Connections (Blue Moesel, 11134 Holmes Rd, Kansas City, MO) 6-10p-7:20p Handbell Rehearsal (Handbell Room) 7:30p-8:30p Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 8:30p-10p Pray & Play Basketball (Gym)</p>	<p>19 7a-8a Men's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm2) 7a-8a Women's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm1) 10:45a-11:15p Anchors Luncheon Fellowship Hall 6:30p-8:30p Pickleball (Gym)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Minister on Call: David McDaniel</p>
<p>22 9a-10a Worship Service (Sanctuary) 10a-10:15a Meet & Greet 10:15a-11:15a Bible Fellowship Groups (Classrooms) 12p-3:30p ICC Bible Study & Worship</p>	<p>23 Office Hours 9am-4pm Deacon on Call: Mark Garrett 12:30p-3:30p Prayers & Squares (S204)</p>	<p>24 Office Hours 9am-12pm 10a-11a Staff Meeting (Conf Rm2) 11a-12p Pastoral Staff Meeting (David's Office) 4p-5p Christmas Eve Family Service (Sanctuary) 6:30p-9p Pray & Play Basketball (Gym) 11p-12a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)</p>	<p>25 Christmas - Office Closed</p>	<p>26 Office Hours 9am-12pm 7a-8a Men's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm2) 7a-8a Women's Prayer Breakfast (Conf Rm1)</p>	<p>27 Office Hours 9am-12pm</p>	<p>28 Minister on Call: Laurel Cluffe</p>
<p>29 10a-11a Worship Service (Sanctuary) 11a-12p Bible Fellowship Groups-Optional (Classrooms) 12p-3:30p ICC Bible Study & Worship</p>	<p>30 Office Hours 9am-4pm Deacon on Call: Shirley Hall</p>	<p>31 Office Hours 9am-12pm 10a-11a Staff Meeting (Conf Rm2) 11a-12p Pastoral Staff Meeting (David's Office) 6:30p-9p Pray & Play Basketball (Gym) 8:30p-9:30p Young Professionals Online Small Group</p>	<p>Notes:</p>			

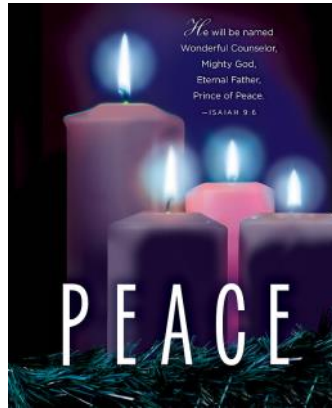
Faith Community Health Team

We are entering the Season of Advent. So much to do. So many to think of or maybe we are not close to home or friends. We might want to center on the creation of peace around us and in our daily lives.

I found this thought and will share thinking of being ready daily to find peace through our Lord Jesus Christ and share with others.

Choose to love rather than hate, choose to smile rather than frown, choose to build rather than destroy, choose to persevere rather than quit, choose to praise rather than gossip, choose to heal rather than wound, choose to give rather than grasp, choose to forgive rather than curse, choose to pray rather than despair.

Peace allows our bodies to relax, to maintain a steady rhythm, and to attend to the moment. Blessings to you.



Lora Lau RN FCN



December Birthdays

12/01	Allison Harrison
12/02	Doug Hartwell
12/03	Norman Chatfield, Bonnie Dysart
12/04	Melissa Hartwell
12/06	Keren Colon, Kamey Wilson
12/07	Jackie Loomis
12/09	Kayleigh (Fowler) Aytes
12/10	Bob Durbin
12/11	Jackson McCoy
12/12	Mark Garrett, Shirley Isaiah, Taylor Riggs, Diana (Strack) Jefferson
12/14	Heather Rhoads, Allen York
12/15	Cindy Drake, Mary Latteman, Chisa Wilcoxon, Sam Wilcoxon
12/16	Mary Kay Carter
12/17	Audrey Hartwell, LaVonna Johnson, Rita McCrary
12/18	Barbara Kessler, Miranda Lyman-Hager, Madelynn Seidelman
12/19	Lynette Samborski
12/20	Carole Zahnd
12/21	Jack Adams, Joe Johnson, Christine Rockwell
12/22	Jean Clemons, Bill McMein
12/24	Aaron Cubie
12/28	Vernon Reid
12/29	Brenna Dougherty, Larissa Dougherty
12/30	Mary Brackens
12/31	Ilene Bartley, Owen During



ANCHORS

Monthly Senior Adult Fellowship

December 19, 2019 10:45 am

Cost: \$8.00

Theme: Christmas

Program: Tiffany Barbee, Vocalist/Pianist

Service Project: HBC Community Assistance

Menu: Glazed Ham, Rosemary Potatoes, Roasted Veggies, Slaw, Rolls, Red Velvet Cake

Crew: Linda Berube & Jan Reid

News In Our Community

In Appreciation:

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, visits, words of encouragement and the yummy meals during my on-going recovery. I feel very blessed.

-Jan McMein

Thanks for all of the visits, prayers and encouraging thoughts given to us. We are fortunate to know so many caring and giving people.

-Jim & Charlotte Frey

I want to thank those who sent cards, provided food plus offered prayers and transportation for several tests for my heart valve replacement.

-Pete Fraizer

Statistics

October 27

9:00 a.m. Worship Service	128
Bible Friends/Bible Fellowship	97
Pledge Received	\$16,991

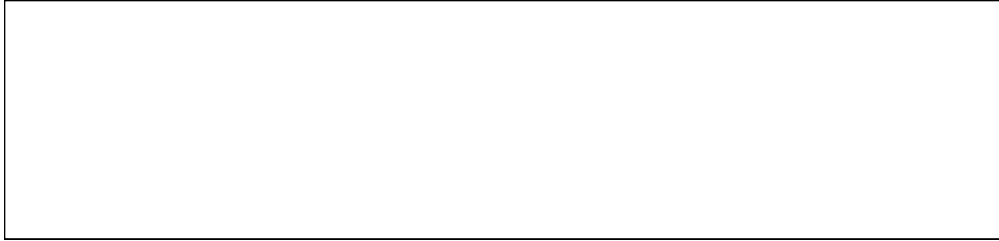
November 3

9:00 a.m. Worship Service	168
Bible Friends/Bible Fellowship	120
Pledge Received	\$6,811

November 10

9:00 a.m. Worship Service	140
Bible Friends/Bible Fellowship	108
Pledge Received	\$8,107

Community



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

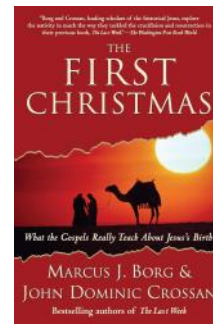
HOLMESWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH
9700 Holmes Road
Kansas City, MO 64131-3215
WWW.HOLMESWOOD.ORG

MEDIA LIBRARY NEWS

CELEBRATE ADVENT!

Advent begins on Sunday, December 1. During the days of Advent, prepare for Christmas by reading one of these books from the Church Library.

The First Christmas: What the Gospels Teach About Jesus' Birth by Marcus Borg and John Crossan
The Christmas Cross by Max Lucado
The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem by Adam Hamilton
Not a Silent Night by Adam Hamilton

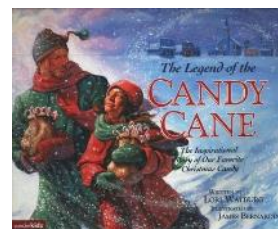
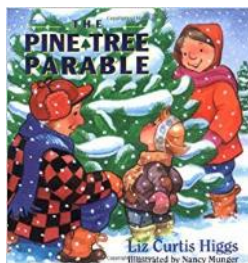
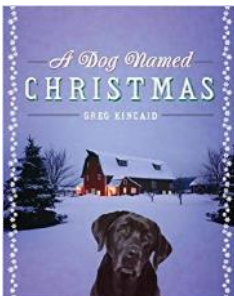


CHRISTMAS FICTION FOR ADULTS

A Dog Named Christmas by Greg Kincaid
Shepherds Abiding by Jan Karon
The Christmas Box by Richard Paul Evans

CHRISTMAS BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

The Pine Tree Parable by Liz Curtis Higgs
The Crippled Lamb by Max Lucado
The Legend of the Candy Cane by Lori Walburg



The library creche collection will be on display in December. Enjoy.

Hope! Peace! Joy! Love!