

The Herald

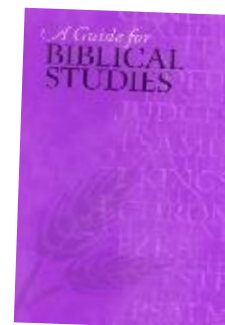
To all our family and friends, Merry Christmas, from the staff at West Richmond Church of the Brethren

ADVENT IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! To usher in the season we ordered from Brethren Press, 25 copies of this year's Advent devotional "*All Things New*" by Kevin Kessler. They're in the communication center inside the front doors. Got your copy before they're all gone!



Advent is a season of the church year in which we are reminded that God listens. Pleas and prayers were answered when God arrived among us in Jesus, the name which means God is my help. The daily scripture readings in this devotional offer a glimpse of humanity's desire for change, for a new identity. As you hear the yearning of people in these readings, perhaps you will connect at a very deep and personal level. You may be reminded of your desire for renewal, restoration, redemption, revival. May you find your new identity in the encounters you have with the One who came to us in the flesh, who lived and loved among us, who resides with us still.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS NEW STUDY They're using the Guide for Biblical Studies based on the International Sunday School Lessons Uniform Series (ISSI). The series, written from a Brethren perspective, contains daily NRSV scriptures, lessons, and questions for both individual preparation and small group use. You do not have to be a scholar of the Bible to join Sunday school. You do, however, need to have a thirst for truth. The only requirement needed for the class is a personal Bible. We do have extra Bibles here if you wish to use one. Please let Pastor Dave know if you'd like to join the class and require a student book.



Ladies Nite In!



LADIES NITE ~~OUT~~ IN!! The ladies will gather on Thursday, December 14th in the home of Carolyn Arthur and Terrie Glass at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck dinner. Make something you like to eat and bring it with you! There is a sign-up sheet on the double doors in the gathering room.

Please sign up by December 10 so that we have enough seats for everyone, and if you could, please check what part of dinner you will bring (casserole, side dish, salad, or sweet). Won't you join us for our last gathering of 2023?

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For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is
 named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 NRSV

We often think the miraculous events surrounding Jesus took place in his death and resurrection. We marvel at the miracle of rebirth when we hear of an empty tomb and the witness accounts of encounters with the Risen Lord. But just as marvelous and miraculous as Christ's resurrection, to me, is the birth of Jesus. To think that God sent a part of God's divine nature (his son) into the world through a child, born of humble beginnings, as vulnerable as any child, is beyond miraculous. It is profoundly hope-filled and heart-lifting. The imagery of Jesus' birth fills us with unspeakable joy. Through our nativity scenes, crèches, and the reading of the Christmas stories, we are able to capture, the mystery, miracle, and wonder of our Lord's humble birth. It is by far, the greatest of stories ever told. This Christmas may we all be filled with wonder at the mystery and miracle of Jesus Christ.

Christmas falls on a Monday this year. And so, since Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday, we will have a Sunday morning Christmas Eve service as well as the traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the evening. The morning service will consist of a Children's Christmas Pageant. Yes, you heard that right, a Children's Christmas Pageant! We have selected one that will be a delight for the participants and those in attendance. With the help of Sarah Hartman, Vanessa Morton, Shontell Giles, myself, eight to nine children, and possibly two teenagers, our pageant should go down in the history of West Richmond as, if nothing else, a delightful and spirit-filled occasion. Practices will be held the first three Sundays in December after fellowship. Thank you, parents, helpers, and children in helping to make Christmas at West Richmond memorable.

Pastor Dave

Birthdays and Anniversaries

 December 

 January 

1..... *Mark & Denise Diamond*

2 Judith Whitten

4 Bridget Holsinger
Caroline Holsinger
Dani Saunders

6 Baylee Pendleton
Charles & Belinda Layman

7..... Lainey Brunk
Bob & Debbie Morris

8 Anna (Beers) Williams

9 Judy McCloud

10 .. Barbara Tulli

11... Jacob Tulli

14... Mike Andrus

17... Kenny Keithly
Karen (Hite) Searles
Gavin Waters

20...Kathy (Fuller) Guisewite

21 .. Simone Baker
Sophie Baker

22 .. Brandon Keithly
Tiffany McCann

23 .. *Zack & Missie (Pendleton) Hurst*
Dave & Judith Whitten

27 .. Margaret (Wampler) Lum
April Lynch

27 .. Emmett Vassar

29 ...*Bill & Lib Kinzie*

30...Madeleine Heatwole

31 .. Amparo Brunk

1 Chris Johnson

2 Finn Hurst

4 Alyce Newman

11 Sandi Davis
Gus Saunders

13 Berkley O'Neal

14 Demetra Heckman-Johnson
Alan Vallejo

16 Thomas Holsinger

20 JoAnn Holsinger

23 Ann Andrus
Belinda Layman

24..... Savannah Lipato
Sarah Niswonger

25..... Elizabeth Glass

28..... *Ashok & Donita Solanky*

29 Susan Robertson

30..... John Fleming

31 Margaret Phillips

Have we missed your birthday or anniversary? Please, contact the church office to correct our oversight.



December





Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <small>FIRST SUNDAY OF</small> ADVENT 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship—Online/On Site with Nursery Care 12:20 pm Pageant Practice	4 9:30 am Friendship Café 3:00 pm Handbell practice 	5 10:30 am Ladies Circle 5:15 pm Shelter on Hull Street 	6 9:30 am Friendship Café	7	8 	9
10 <small>SECOND SUNDAY OF</small> ADVENT 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship—Online/On Site with Children's Church 12:20 pm Pageant Practice	11 9:30 am Friendship Café 3:00 pm Handbell practice 	12 10:30 am Ladies Circle 7:00 pm Leadership Team meeting (virtual) 	13 9:30 am Friendship Café	14	15 <small>special movie</small> 6:00 pm Family Movie Night 	16
17 <small>THIRD SUNDAY OF</small> ADVENT 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship—Online/On Site with Nursery Care 12:05 pm Luncheon 12:45 pm Pageant Practice	18 9:30 am Friendship Café 3:00 pm Handbell practice 	19 10:30 am Ladies Circle 12:30 pm FeedMore Community Kitchen 	20	21 	22 	23
24 <small>FOURTH SUNDAY OF</small> ADVENT 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship—Online/On Site with Children's Pageant & Christmas Eve Service 	25 	26	27	28	29	30
Pastor Dave is on vacation 12/25-1/3. The Church Office is closed 12/25-27 and 1/1. Henrico County Schools and Hilltop Preschool are closed 12/25-1/6/24						
31  9:30 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship—Online/On Site with Guest Speaker, Kate Jacobsen, and Nursery Care	1 Offices Closed 					

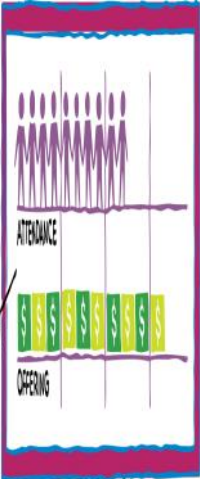



January

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
 <p>Welcome 2024!</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:30 am Ladies Circle</p>  <p>5:15 pm Shelter on Hull Street</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>9:30 am Friendship Café</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>   <p>Epiphany</p>
<p>Henrico County Schools and Hilltop Preschool are closed through 1/5/24.</p>						
<p>7</p> <p>9:30 am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 am Worship— Online/On Site with Nursery Care</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>BACK TO SCHOOL</p> <p>9:30 am Friendship Café</p> <p>3:00 pm Handbell practice</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>10:30 am Ladies Circle</p>  <p>7:00 pm Leadership Team meeting (virtual)</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 am Friendship Café</p> <p>6:00 pm Yoga</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:30 am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 am Worship— Online/On Site with </p>	<p>15</p> <p>Newsletter DEADLINE</p>  <p>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY</p> <p style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 2px;">Henrico County Schools, Hilltop Preschool & WRCOB Office Closed</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:30 am Ladies Circle</p>  <p>12:30 pm FeedMore Community Kitchen</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 am Friendship Café</p> <p>6:00 pm Yoga</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>WEEK OF PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>6:00 pm Family Movie Night</p> 	<p>20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2024</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:30 am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 am Worship— Online/On Site with Nursery Care</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30 am Friendship Café</p> <p>3:00 pm Handbell practice</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>10:30 am Ladies Circle</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>9:30 am Friendship Café</p> <p>6:00 pm Yoga</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30 pm Ladies Nite Out</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>  <p>9:30 am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 am Worship— Online/On Site with </p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30 am Friendship Café</p> <p>3:00 pm Handbell practice</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>10:30 am Ladies Circle</p> 	<p>31</p> <p>9:30 am Friendship Café</p> <p>6:00 pm Yoga</p>	 <p>PRAYING YOU'LL SEE THE BLESSING OF GOD'S PLANS THIS 'NEW YEAR'</p>		

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	Greeter	Worship Leader	Nursery Care	Fellowship Time	Tellers
12/03	Carol Goss	Susan Robertson	Jori & Zherina	Alyce Newman	Ann Andrus & Nancy Martin
12/10	Neria Shelton	Carol Goss			Jeff Goss & Alyce Newman
12/17	Dolly Guyer		Barbara Beers	Luncheon—The Stable Table	Joel & Dolly Guyer
12/24	Ann Andrus	Children's PAGEANT		Faye Urban	Bob & Pat Gangwer
12/31	Susan Robertson	Barbara Beers	Janet & Carol	Ann Andrus & Sandy Faw	Ann Andrus & Nancy Martin
01/07	Carol Goss				Jeff Goss & Alyce Newman
01/14	Neria Shelton				Joel & Dolly Guyer
01/21	Dolly Guyer				Bob & Pat Gangwer
01/28	Ann Andrus				Ann Andrus & Nancy Martin

	Attendance	Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29
	Worship (total)	44	35	55	42	50
	In-person & visitors	37	28	45	37	41
	Live stream	7	7	10	5	9
	On-line views that Friday	22	143	18	25	18
	Offering per week	\$873.00	\$1,761.38	\$1,140.00	\$470.00	\$5,880.00
	Attendance	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Nov. 26	
Worship (total)	46	42	43	32		
In-person & visitors	34	34	43	28		
Live stream	12	8	0	4		
On-line views that Friday	23	19	3	15		
Offering per week	\$7,565.00	\$1,155.00	\$1,291.00	\$785.00		

Attendance & Offering

Serving Our District and Our Congregation

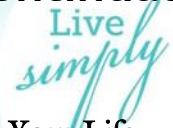
At the 2022 VIRGINIA District Conference on November 11, Kate Jacobsen was elected to the District Board.



At our Fall Congregational Business Meeting on Sunday, November 19, Carol Goss and Ben Mbecha were elected to our Leadership Team.



2024 Stewardship Campaign Continuation



Cultivating Contentment Five Steps for Simplifying Your Life

From the book *Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity* by Adam Hamilton

Step 1. Set a goal of reducing your consumption, and choose to live below your means.

Set a tangible goal to reduce your own personal consumption and the production of waste in your life. For example, you might set a goal to reduce your trash consumption by just 10 percent. A simple way to do this is to use canvas bags when you go grocery shopping and to refuse any extra packaging. Another habit I've adopted is to grab only one or two napkins, as opposed to a handful, whenever I eat at a fast-food restaurant. If we all did this, who knows how many napkins we might save!

Whenever you are making purchases, look at the midgrade instead of the top-of-the-line product. Think slightly smaller than you had planned.

If you are buying a new car, why not aim to improve fuel economy over your existing car by at least 10 percent? If your current car gets 16 miles to the gallon, look for a car that gets 17.6 miles per gallon or better.

Make it your goal to reduce your utilities usage by 10 percent. Set the thermostat back a couple of degrees when you are away during the day and asleep at night, and throw an extra blanket on the bed. Instead of 69 degrees, for example, set it back to 67 degrees. There are even set-back thermostats you can purchase that allow you to program the thermostat so that the adjustments are made automatically.

There are countless ways to reduce your consumption and live below your means. Do some research, share with others, or have a brainstorming session with your family.

Look for Step 2 in the February edition!

DIRECTORY UPDATE!



Have you or your children moved? Changed your phone number or email address recently? Please take this time to send in any updates you may have for the 2024 church directory to Barbara in the church office. Please email her at

barbara.beers@wrcob.org.

West Richmond Church of the Brethren

7612 Wanyamala Road, Henrico, Virginia 23229-4239

Phone: 804-288-6439 Fax: 804-282-4408

www.wrcob.org wrcob@wrcob.org

PastorDavid Whitten (319-610-2274)

Administrative Assistant Barbara Beers (804-338-3482)

Sunday School9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship11:00 a.m.

Church Office (M-F)..... 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

If no one is in the office or the line is busy, voice mail will pick up, so **PLEASE** leave us a message. Items for the bulletin's weekly newsheet **MUST** be submitted by **noon on Thursday** to the church office. All articles for the **February** edition of *The Herald* are due in the office by **Monday, January 15, 2024**.

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**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**



Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

We've got something super special lined up just for you! Join us for "Family Movie Night". It's all about good times, great movies, and a whole lot of family fun. The next showings are **Fridays, December 15 and January 19 at 6:00 pm** in the Gathering Room. Not only that, but free popcorn and drinks to boot! Bring a lawn chair or blanket to settle in for the evening. Since it is a family event, child care is not provided.

