

Virginia Beach Christian Church (DoC)

The Fishnet

December
2022



Volume 54
Issue 12

From the Pastor...

Beloved Virginia Beach Christian Church,

I hope you are all having a merry and restful advent season. I hope that between all the business of Christmas shopping and Christmas cooking and Christmas decorating, you're able to set aside some time for fellowship and for rest.

This past Sunday, we officially entered Advent with the celebration of 'Hope' Sunday. In the Church Calendar, this marks a transition into a new year. Liturgically, the old year has died, and now, we wait for the new to come on Christmas Day! This period of advent is a time of intentional waiting, where we are meant to reflect on the past year and prepare for the year to come.

Over the past year, we have been through some momentous changes. Our world has been turned upside down by forces of disease, war, disinformation, and depression. Many of us have lost loved ones or lost relationships with ones we loved. We've learned so much as individuals, as a community and as a nation. Many of us have gained new relationships or strengthened old ones. I have been lovingly called and accepted into the VBCC Family. And each of us have been through even more changes than I can list here.

As we begin this new church year, I invite you to take a moment to reflect on the changes this past year, or years, have brought. This may be done in a personal prayer practice of yours, or you may choose to join us in one of our many Advent activities and services to spend some time reflecting, grieving, and celebrating in community in turn.

In particular, I want to lift up our Blue Christmas Service, which will be held December 21st at 5:30 PM. This will be a space for all to reflect on the past year and on the hard parts of the Christmas Season. You're invited to show up authentically and rest in the comfort and respite God offers us all. Come with your grief, your uncertainty, your anxieties, your anger, your sadness, and join us for a prayerful service of comfort and healing for our heavy hearts. A soup dinner will follow. Please contact Patti Watters if you would like to assist with that.

While we take time to reflect on the past, the new Church year does begin with a candle of Hope, and Advent is a time of looking towards God's future and celebrating where God leads us with the everlasting light of the Holy Spirit. Thus, In this season of advent, I also invite you to pray and prepare for God's future alone and in community.



Virginia Beach Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Virginia Beach, VA 23454
(757) 481-3494

Email:

office@vbchristianchurch.com

Website:

<https://www.vbchristianchurch.com>

Pastor Email:

RevKelsey@vbchristianchurch.com

Telephone Office Secretary Hours:

Mon - Fri, 10:00AM - 4:00PM

In Office Secretary Hours:

Mon - Thurs, 10:00AM - 12:30PM

Pastoral Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs, 10:00AM - 2:00PM

Sunday Worship Services

Worship Opportunities (in person and Virtual)

Worship Service In Person
10:00AM

Sunday Worship Service Virtual
10:00AM - YouTube & Facebook Live

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In particular, I want to lift up both our advent bible study and our upcoming visioning work. Both are opportunities to engage with others in discernment and preparation for God's future.

Our 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel' Advent Bible Studies which are open to everyone and will explore the advent and Christmas time with an eye to questions like: "Where is God speaking in my life and in the world right now?" And "Who is God calling me to become in this new season?" Among others. Looking at the lives of women important to Jesus' life and lineage, we, through and with the Holy Spirit, will inspire each other towards God's future for ourselves.

Our Visioning work, which begins with collecting ideas from all of you these next few weeks, looks at who this Church is, at our heart as a community, and seeks to discern the direction God is leading us as we, through and with the Holy Spirit, inspire each other towards God's future for our community and our world.

Opportunities to dream and imagine God's future and opportunities to reflect on the past are bountiful this season. Please join us for any and all of our Advent events and reach out to me if you'd like to have a private conversation about your year's changes or your own hope for the future.

Know that you were created in the image of God.
Know that you are loved.

Joyfully yours,
Kelsey

*Christmas
Cookie Party!*
December 10, 2-4 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS



2nd Sunday

Brunch

December 11th

****after church****

*Please bring a dish to share
Come enjoy the fun, food
and fellowship*

THE VBCC CHOIR PRESENTS

Peace

A Christmas Celebration

DECEMBER 4, 2022

7:00PM

Virginia Beach Christian Church



VBCC HAPPENINGS

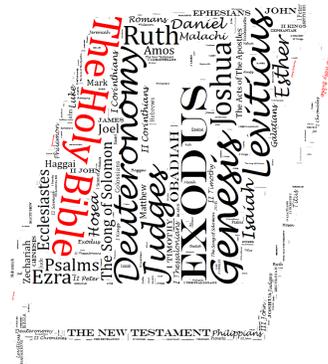
CHKD BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Here are a few photos from CHKD's Breakfast with Santa. Thanks to the generosity of VBCC, 16 homeless students and 4 teacher chaperones attended and will carry wonderful memories into the Christmas holiday! Thank you for your kindness!



Bible Study

Bible Studies with Rev. Kelsey Creech:
Mondays
6:30PM and
Tuesdays
9:30AM



Diaconate Schedule

December 2022

December 4	Team 2
December 11	Team 3
December 18	Team 4
December 25	Team 1

Serving Elders for

December 2022

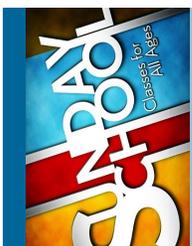
December 4	Mark Farley
December 11	Pat Molnar
December 18	Rhonda Skaggs
December 25	Rhonda Skaggs
January 1	Aida Barnette

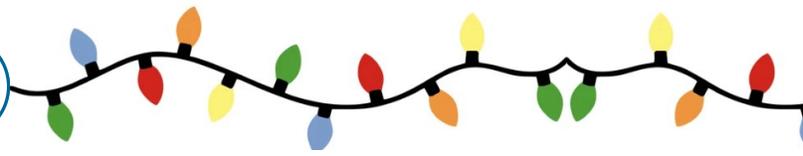
Sunday Worship, Guest Scripture Readings & Guest Speakers:

"Advent"

December 4	Advent: Peace
	<i>Matthew 3:1-12</i>
December 11	Advent: Joy
	<i>Luke 1:46b-55</i>
December 18	Advent: Love
	<i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>
December 25	Christmas
	Luke 2:1-20
January 1	Kaye Hase
	TBD

Sunday School starts every week at 9:00am





Blue Christmas

A SERVICE OF HOPE AND
HEALING FOR THOSE WHOSE
HEARTS ARE HEAVY THIS
HOLIDAY SEASON

**“COME TO ME, ALL YOU
WHO ARE WEARY AND
BURDENED, AND I WILL
GIVE YOU REST”**

DECEMBER 21ST AT 5:30 PM
WITH SOUP DINNER TO FOLLOW

*O Come, O Come
Emmanuel*

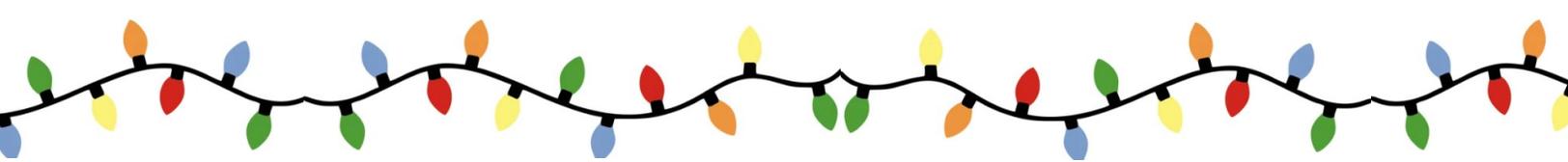
Join us as we prepare for the
Christ Child this Advent Season
in Community Bible Study
through the lives of eight
women important to Jesus.

Rev. Kelsey will lead the studies
on Monday at 6:30 PM with a
focus on Justice and Tuesday at
9:30 AM with a focus on
Worship. Studies begin
November 28th.

Participants are invited to order
the devotional for themselves,
but having the book is not a
requirement for participation.

All are invited.





Christmas Eve

5:30 PM, December 24th



Christmas Day Communion

10 AM, December 25th

Join us for an abbreviated service of Communion and Rejoicing!



Please contact Rev. Kelsey if you'd like to participate in a special project after the Service.





Rhonda Skaggs
Head Elder



Pam McEwen
Nancy Nelson
Patti Watters
Chairpersons

ELDERSHIP

WORSHIP

" Hope, Peace, Love, Joy"

Your Elders are praying that the themes of Advent will be gifts received and shared by our congregation, our country, and our world during this Christmas season... and far beyond. May HOPE always be present, whether dealing with personal issues or world affairs. May PEACE be found in body, mind, and spirit, and may it be the ultimate goal where there is divisiveness. May LOVE "conquer all" and may it be the unifying emotion, as we remember that God created all and loves all. May JOY surround you and yours this holiday season, and may it be sought and found daily in the new year.

Merry Christmas from your Elders!
Rhonda, Aida, Jennie, Pat, Jim I, Phyllis, and Mark

**Next Elder meeting December 18th
@ 11:00**



The Advent season actually began on November 27! Each Sunday until Christmas someone in our VBCC family will light another Advent candle with an appropriate reading and prayer.

Mark your calendars for the lovely Christmas Cantata entitled "PEACE", which will be presented by our choir on Sunday evening, December 4, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Eve will once again be a beautiful candlelight service at 5:30 p.m. We will explore Lessons in Carols and beautiful music will be presented to enhance our worship experience.

We will worship at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary on Christmas Day, celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

On New Years Day we will worship in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.

We encourage everyone to worship with us each Sunday of Advent, and be sure to greet and welcome all the new people who are worshipping with us! We thank God that we are back to "normal" this Christmas season!!

~ Nancy, Patti and Pam
Worship co-chairmen

DEPARTMENT NEWS



Rhonda Skaggs
Chairperson



MEMBERSHIP

It's time!! It's time to work on a complete update of our church's membership information! We want to be sure that we have accurate addresses and other contact information, for our new minister, and to enhance overall communication efforts. The looseleaf binder directories that were created several years ago, are easy to update. It is hoped that ALL will want to be included in this directory! Do you have a current page in our directory? If you are included, is your information up to date? Would you like to have a new picture on your page? There are new pictures we need; we have a new Secretary and a new Minister! Watch for details about this effort, and be ready to respond, to help all of us "come together" better! I am hoping, too, to make a significant connection between Membership and Eldership. Membership is more than just numbers and data; it is hoped that this connection will result in more of a "member care" relationship. Thanks, in advance, for your caring and participation!

~ Rhonda Skaggs



BOOK CLUB

The Monday Book Club meets monthly (2nd Monday) at 1:00PM.

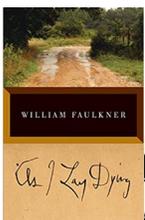
All are welcome to join in. This is a book club that actually discusses the books. Meetings are held mostly on Zoom, but all are welcome. At some point, the club will resume gathering under the pavilion or in the library.

If you want to be included, please call Susie Sumnick, (757) 437-9846 to be put on our Zoom list.

With good weather we may be meeting at the gazebo, so if you are new to the group, be sure to check on whether the meeting will be Zoom or in person.

December 12

As I Lay Dying (1991)
by William Faulkner



January 9

The Trial (1925)
by Franz Kafka



A Note from the President (not that President!)

Rev. Kelsey and I want to start some programs/projects in 2023. We used to participate in Habitat for Humanity on the Eastern Shore (thank you Jim and Barb Iman). We used to operate a busy Food Pantry (thank you, Claire Carbone). Changes in the congregation...and the pandemic...ended those (and other) projects. Let's put our heads and hearts together and see what we might bring back or want to start.

Interested in joining Kelsey, Barb Iman, Rhonda Skaggs, Anne Myers and myself? Or perhaps you have some ideas/interests that we should consider. Contact me or put your name and ideas in the Drop Box on the Office Door.

Let's start the new year with enthusiasm!

See you in Church.

~ Bill Hayden



RECYCLING UPDATE

To VBCC recyclers,

We have collected **397 pounds out of 500 pounds** needed for the Park bench. We now have 40 days and 40 nights (sound familiar?) to collect 103 pounds. We can do it!!

Please bring your plastics to church and place them in the white box by the church office. We need to fill it twice each week and I have to weigh it to count for our totals.

This Thanksgiving I'm thankful for all of you who care about the environment.

~ Patti Watters



Recipe Corner

Mint Chocolate Cookies with Mint Frosting



Prep Time: 35 mins
Total Time: 45 mins
Servings: 24 Cookies
Author: Monique Volz of AmbitiousKitchen.com

Ingredients

Dry ingredients:

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 2/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt

Wet ingredients:

- 1 cup butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract

For the mint frosting:

- ¾ cup butter, at room temperature
- 1 ½-2 cups powdered sugar, depending on how sweet you like your frosting
- 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
- 1-2 tablespoons milk, to make the frosting creamy
- Natural green food dye, to color the frosting
- Natural red food dye, to color the frosting

For toppings:

- Crushed candy canes
- Chopped Andes mints
- Red & green sprinkles

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line a large baking pan with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, baking soda and salt.
3. In the bowl of an electric mixer, cream together butter and sugars until light and fluffy, about 1-2 minutes. Next, add in the egg, vanilla extract, peppermint extract and beat again until well combined smooth and creamy; about 30 seconds longer.
4. Add in dry ingredients and mix on medium low until just combined.
5. Use a cookie scoop to grab about 1 tablespoonful of dough, then roll dough balls and place on a cookie sheet, leaving at least 2 inches apart from one another.
6. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until edges begin to set and crackle. Remove and allow cookies to cool for 5-10 minutes on the baking sheet before transferring to a wire rack to finish cooling. This is important to help the cookies set up and harden around the edges. Repeat with remaining dough.
7. Once cookies have completely cooled, they are ready for frosting: in the bowl of an electric mixer, add the softened butter and powdered sugar and beat on high for 1 min. Add in peppermint extract and 1 tablespoons of milk and if you'd like: a few drops of green or red natural food coloring (don't do both or you'll end up with blue frosting!). Beat slowly at first, then increase speed to medium high. Add more food coloring to reach your desired color of choice! Frosting should be nice and creamy, if you want it extra creamy, add another teaspoon of milk and beat again.
8. Frost cookies and then sprinkle with toppings of choice: crushed candy canes, chopped chocolate or Andes mints or red & green Christmas sprinkles! Up to you. Makes approximately 24 cookies.

VBCC Office Secretary Hours

Monday - Thursday (Available in office)	10:00AM - 12:30PM
Monday - Friday (Available by Phone and Email)	10:00AM-4:00PM
Friday (By Appointment)	10:00AM - 12:00PM

VBCC's Pastoral Office Hours

Monday - Thursday	10:00AM - 2:00PM
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VBCC's (*in person*) Worship Opportunities

Sunday - Combination Worship Service Every Sunday	10:00AM
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VBCC's (*virtual*) Worship Opportunities

Sunday - Combination Worship Service / VBCC YouTube & Facebook Live	10:00AM
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Virginia Beach Christian Church (DoC) Contact information

Office Phone	(757) 481-3494
Pastor's E-mail	RevKelsey@vbchristianchurch.com
Secretary's E-mail	office@vbchristianchurch.com
Website	www.vbchristianchurch.com
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/VBChristianChurch
Facebook Private Group (<i>for VBCC Families only</i>)	www.facebook.com/groups/vbchristianchurch/
YouTube	www.youtube.com/channel/UChFLiZZoQ3AmHkQcUX2AK-w/

