VIRGINIA BEACH CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC) // VOLUME 58 // ISSUE 11

THE FISHNET



November 2026



VBCC Family,

We are entering November, a cherished time of year when we savor the remnants of Autumn before December rushes in with talk of white Christmases and sitting by warm fires as it snows outside. But before we get to Frosty, Rudolph and the Man with the Bag, we celebrate the most beloved secular holiday - Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving brings with it images of family gathered together around a table, of pilgrims, native of Americans and an idyllic history, of roast turkey, mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce, of parades, turkey trots, and just one more slice of pumpkin pie.

Most of these symbols evolved as Thanksgiving became a standard holiday within the US, but one symbol predates them all, predates the founding of America, predates even the birth of Jesus in this world: the horn of plenty, more commonly known as the cornucopia.

The cornucopia finds its historical roots in Greek mythology when an infant Zeus was said to have broken the horn off of a magical she-goat which was taking care of him. The broken horn began to pour out a never-ending supply of nourishment, and thus the horn of plenty came into the human imagination.

The ancient Romans told a different story. For them, it was Heracles who broke the horn off a river god in battle. After the fight, the nymphs fill the horn with the choicest fruits of autumn, creating, again, this horn of plenty.

The cornucopia came to be a symbol of abundance in the ancient world, a symbol which coexisted with the ministry and preaching of Jesus, albeit in a different geographic space.

Over time the cornucopia became a symbol of bountiful harvest which humans returned to year after year. Nowadays, we typically see woven cornucopias, rather than broken animal horns, filled with autumnal fruits, flowers, leaves, and grains. We can buy them at stores like Williams-Sonoma, Pottery Barn, and even Target.

The abundance which the people of ancient Greece and Rome lifted up was the same kind of abundance available to all people alive at the time of Jesus - the bounty of harvest season, the fruit at the end of a laborious summer, the fresh, clean water surrounding them in local rivers and streams. Yet the abundance offered to followers of Jesus was all the more.

The abundance Jesus offers is like fresh wine that appears at the end of a wedding feast with a richer, cleaner flavor than had yet been served. The abundance Jesus offers is like feeding 5,000 men plus their wives and children with fish and bread donated by a child. The abundance Jesus offers is where even the crumbs that fall from the table are sufficient for forgiveness, grace, healing, and miracles.

As we approach thanksgiving this year, in our world with too many choices, where we tell ourselves over and over that we may never have enough resources for all the things we want to do and have, let us pause and remember that in ancient times, with no streaming services, no grocery stores, and no amazon, people found reason to celebrate the abundance God has gifted us in nature. May this remembering shift our focus from all that we want to do and have to all that God has provided for us. And as we reflect on the plentiful cornucopia which God provides, may we rejoice with great thanksgiving for the unique, miraculous, overflowing abundance of the Christ in our lives.

Happy Thanksgiving, Virginia Beach Christian. I am grateful every day for the privilege of pastoring you.

Joyfully yours,

Pastor Kelsey

"So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:7–10

Events this Month

November 1 - All Saints Day
November 3 - Election Day, VBCC Office Closed
November 7 - Juanita Felton's Celebration of Life, 1:00PM
November 7 - Family Movie Night, 5:30PM
November 9 - Book Club, 1:00PM
November 10 - Hi Over Pie, 1:30PM
November 11 - Veteran's Day, VBCC Office Closed
November 11 - Board Meeting, 7:00PM
November 15 - Second Sunday Brunch: Thanksgiving Dinner
Following Sunday Service
November 16 - 19 - Meals on Wheels Va Beach
November 17 - Tuesday Dinner Crew: Rudee's Restaurant 5:00PM
November 22 - Christ the King Sunday & Pajama Party
November 26 - Happy Thanksgiving!
November 25 - 27 - VBCC Office Closed
November 29 - First Sunday of Advent: Hope

Weekly:

Tuesdays: Bible Study, 9:30AM (No Bible Study on the 3rd)
Bible Study, 6:00PM (No Bible Study on the 3rd)
Thursdays: Choir Practice, 7:00PM
Sunday: Spiritual Roundtable, 8:30AM via Zoom

Diaconate Schedule

Cindy Childress, Wayne Russell, Anne Myers (Team 1)
Kathy Zurek, Patty Watters (Team 2)
Steve Eggleston Traci Ellison. Melissa Mecca (Team 3)
David and Pam McEwen (Team 4)
Jim Melvin, Bill Hayden (Team 5)

Diaconate Schedule

November 1 - Team 5
November 8 - Team 1
November 15 - Team 2
November 22 - Team 3
November 29 - Team 4

Elder Schedule

November 1 - Suzanne Genz
November 8 - Mark Farley
November 15 - John Steinmetz
November 22 - Phyllis Marshall
November 29 - Ryan Ellison

Sunday Worship:

November 1

Twenty Third Sunday After Pentecost
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

November 8

Twenty Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Amos 5:18-24

November 15

Twenty Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
Psalm 100
2 Corinthians 9:6-15

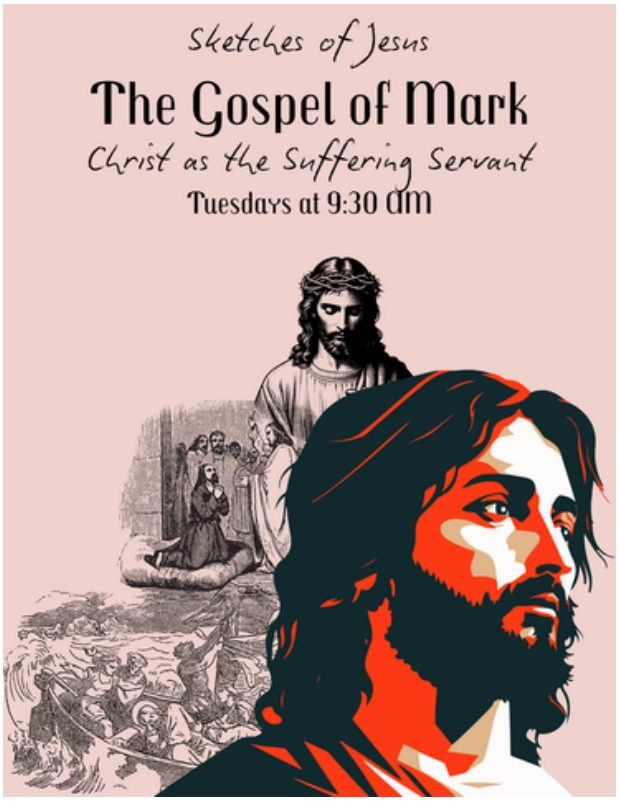
November 22

Christ is King Sunday
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Matthew 25:31-46

November 29

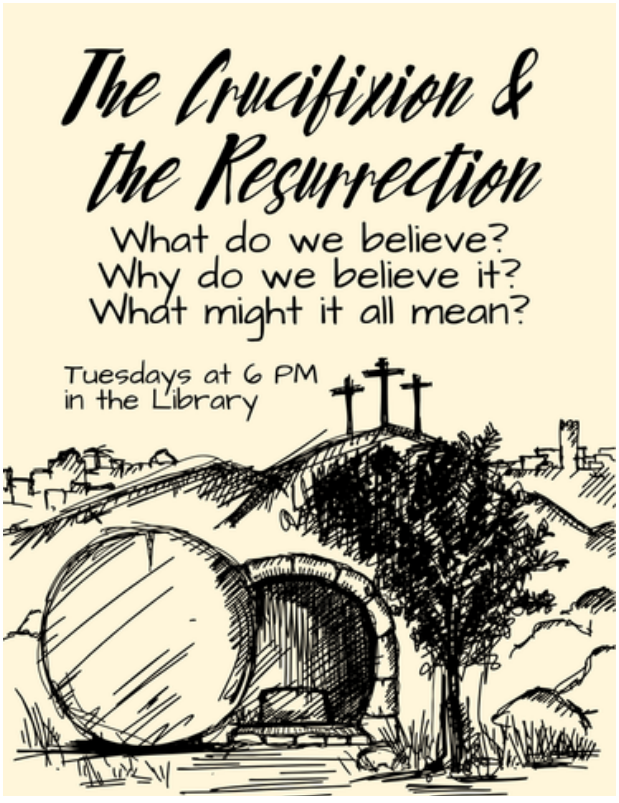
Advent: Hope
Isaiah 60:13

Upcoming Events



Sketches of Jesus | The Gospel of Mark: Christ as the Suffering Servant

Did you know that each gospel paints a slightly different picture of who Jesus is, why he carried out his ministry, and what that ministry meant? They do! Each Gospel author lends their own voice to telling the Good News, and we intend to read them all to see how they differ and where they align. This study will be the first in a series on the Gospels. Come read, learn, and grow with us!



Moving to Tuesdays at 6 PM

The Crucifixion & the Resurrection: What do we believe? Why do we believe it? What might it all mean?

This class is equal parts bible study, faith defense, and theological conversation. Together we'll read the accounts of the resurrection as recorded in the gospels, discuss the main reasons we believe the crucifixion actually happened, and we will discuss the myriad of ways the crucifixion can be interpreted. If atonement theology - the idea that God sent Jesus as a sacrifice to pay our debt of sin - has never "worked" for you, I invite you come learn about the other ways Christians have made sense of and found meaning in Christ's act of sacrificial love.

Upcoming Events



We will observe All Saint's Sunday on November 1 this year. All are invited to bring with them a token by which to remember any of the saints from their lives who have passed on. Our worship will include a moment to light candles and place these tokens on a communal altar. I hope this is a space where those who are grieving can find comfort and hope. Please invite others you know who may be in need of God's healing and wholeness.



Upcoming Events

October 18th - November 8th

Adult Sunday Class:

"Where Does the Holy Spirit Fit in for Us?"

Let's learn more about the Holy Spirit from scripture, hymns, and resources such as Billy Graham as well from each other!

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. John 14:26

No preparation required for the first session. I will try to follow in John's footsteps and send weekly "lessons" to think about for these four weeks.

Come when you can! 9:00 a.m. in the library. Invite others who might be interested!

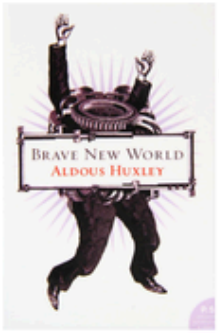
Contact Susan Long-Molnar for more information

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. The club meets under the pavilion or in the library depending on the weather.





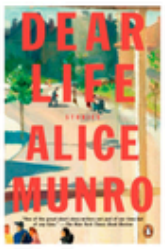
November 9th

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Up Next:

December 14th

Dear Life: Stories By Alice Munro



Upcoming Events



Hi Over Pie

November 10th
1:30PM

Village Inn
313 Independence Blvd,
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Come join us for a special time of fellowship and connection! This event is all about building relationships, sharing stories, and enjoying time together in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Bring your smile, your friends, and your desire to connect—we can't wait to see you there!

THANKSGIVING DINNER!

November 15th
Following Sunday Service
Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a time for fellowship, food and Gratitude.
Please bring a side dish to share.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday Dinner Crew

5:00PM

November 17th Rudee's Restaurant

(Local Winter Special Prices)

(Please RSVP by the Sunday before the Dinner)

To RSVP please text either
Jim Anderson (757-375-9695)
or Rhonda Skaggs (757-761-9708)
Cheers! See you there!



Poinsettias 2026

Order a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one and help decorate our sanctuary for the holiday season.

To place your order, please complete a form (located by where the bulletins are located) and include **$12.00** (cash or check). If paying by check, kindly write "Poinsettia" on the memo line. Place your order in the collection plate or drop it off at the church office.

The deadline to order is Sunday, **November 29th**. Thank you for helping make our sanctuary beautiful this Christmas!

Upcoming Events

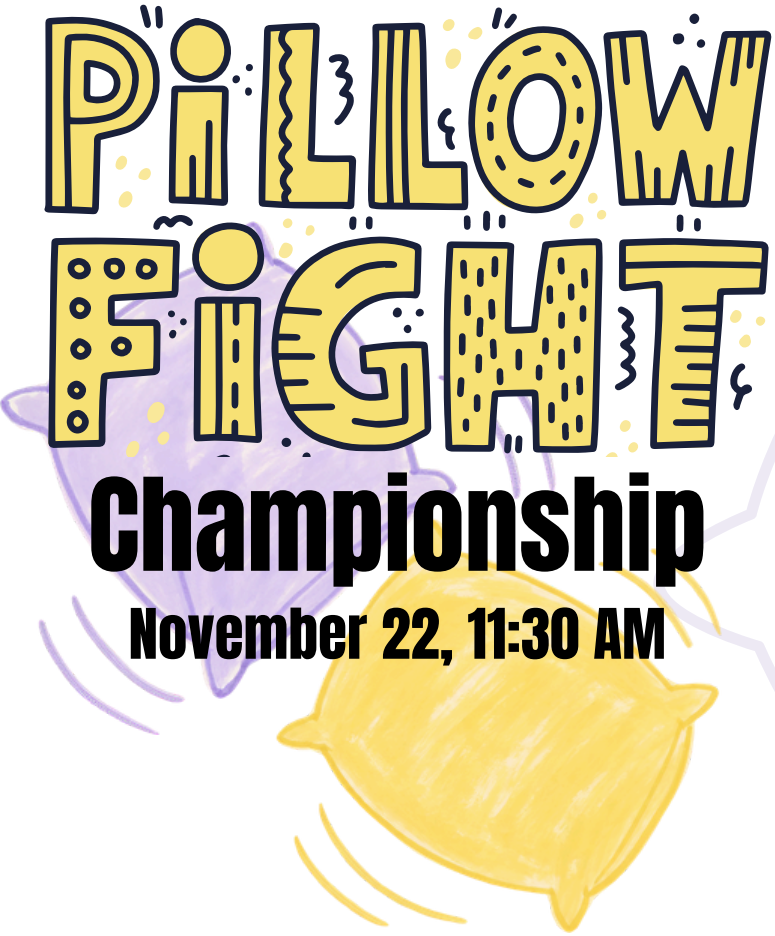
Hanging of the Greens Service

In Church

November 29

This year, the first Sunday of Advent coincides with the first Sunday after Thanksgiving. On that Sunday, our new church year will begin with a hanging of the greens service. Please reach out to Pam McEwen or Suzanne Genz if you are interested in volunteering to be a designated decorator during the service.

We will still have our Pajama Sunday on Christ is King Sunday, November 22. Following Church that Sunday, we will host the first Pillow Fight Championship in VBCC History. The competitors will battle one on one in seated positions for safety.



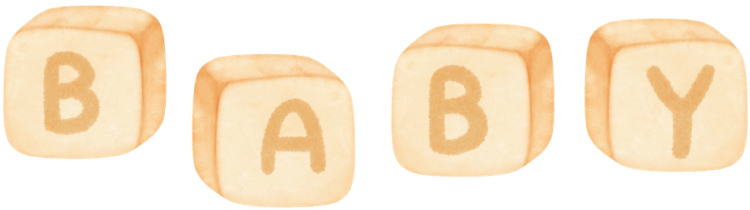
Prizes will be awarded for:

- best pillow case design
- coolest pillow fight moves
- loudest thwack
- the pillow fighting champion.

Those who wish to compete should bring a standard size, zipperless pillow with them to the competition. Fighters are encouraged to personalize their pillow. Fighters will register that morning to compete through a pillow fighting bracket.

Spectators will cheer on those competing, and with their excitement, ultimately choose who advances through the contest.







Herak

In a Pumpkin



Herak

Photo Updates













Department News:

Financial Update

As part of our commitment to keeping everyone informed about the financial health of our church, we're introducing quarterly financial updates. Our goal is to provide a clear picture of where we stand throughout the year, celebrate what's going well, and highlight any areas that need attention.

Our church's fiscal year began July 1, and I'm pleased to report that we're off to a good start!

Income: Slightly Ahead of Budget

Our income to-date is $83,735, which puts us $296 ahead of budget. Pledge contributions have been particularly strong, exceeding our budget by $4,760. The preschool income shortfall is currently $2,667, which is just a result of timing - the next scheduled rent payment should bring that category closer to budget.

Expenses: Below Budget, with Some Payments Still Ahead

While our expenses to-date are $60,577, which puts us $32,126 below budget, much of that difference is due to the timing of payments rather than actual savings. For example, some payroll expenses have not yet been paid, and an upcoming insurance payment will use funds currently budgeted. As those payments are made, our expenses will move closer to their projected levels.

Looking Ahead

Overall, our financial picture is encouraging. Income is slightly exceeding expectations, and expenses are being carefully monitored. We're in a good position as we continue through the church year.

We still project that for the entire year, we will run a deficit, which we can cover with reserve funds. We have a team that is working on a long-term plan to eliminate deficits in the future – you will continue to hear more from this team as additional plans are developed.

If you have any questions about our church finances, please let me know.

John Steinmetz

Stewardship Chair

Department News:

Outreach

Please let your holiday shopping include our holiday Hoodies for Teens. Once the tree is up, please place unwrapped hoodies under the tree. Various school supplies are also a welcome addition under the tree. Thank you for your continuing support of Outreach projects

Susie Sumnick

From the Trustees

The Trusttes are seeking a safer way to store our original church charter and deed and perhaps other documents inherantly important to VBCC. If anyone has a small fireproof safe and no longer needs it, please contact the church office.

A Word from the Building

Folks, I'm getting older every day...just like you. And I need your help when it comes to fixing my many aches and pains. While I certainly feel them, I'm unable to report them...but you can.
There is a Maintenance Log in the Church Office (a green, loose-leaf binder under the mailboxes) that you used in years past to report problems you see. Rather than just telling Dave Zurek or Bill Hayden about the problem, please use the log to document it. It only takes a minute to record the issue, and recording it means it won't be forgotten. If it's complicated, include your name and phone number so the Fix It Team can contact you for a full description.
Thanks, and I look forward to hosting you.

Your Church

Department News:

From your President at Thanksgiving...

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I am "giving thanks" specifically to my VBCC family for:

. Continuing commitment of our church Officers/Board

. Faithful service and volunteerism of our members

. Unparalleled faith of our "prayer warriors" (especially recently through some very difficult times)

. Beautiful music (vocal and instrumental) that continuously raises our spirits

. LOVE that continues to guide us and strengthen us

. Pastor Kelsey, who personally contributes to all of the above, and who brings a spirited message of LOVE and FAITH to us weekly through the many ways in which she serves.

Thank you, God, for all of these blessings!

Rhonda Skaggs

November Board Meeting

Please note that although our scheduled Board Mtg falls on a holiday (Veterans Day/Nov. 11), we WILL still meet that day at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy your day, honor our Veterans, and then show up at 7:00! We have church business to conduct, and it's a difficult time of year to reschedule. See ALL of you then!

wishing you and your family a

Happy Thanksgiving



Pastor Kelsey:

RevKelsey@vbchristianchurch.com

Office Hours:

Mon. & Wed. : 1:00pm-5:00pm
Tue. & Thur. : 9:00am-1:00pm
(or by Appointment)

Available By Phone:

Mon - Sun, Anytime
(Minus Fridays)
Fridays are her Sabbath Days

Office Manager:

office@vbchristianchurch.com

Secretary Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Available By Phone:

Mon - Fri, 9:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday Worship Services

10:00am In Person & YouTube

Website www.vbchristianchurch.com

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/VBChristianChurch

Facebook Private Group (for VBCC Families only)

www.facebook.com/groups/vbchristianchurch/

