

# First Christian *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2022 VOLUME 4

[WWW.FIRSTCHRISTIANHAMPTON.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTCHRISTIANHAMPTON.ORG)

## LIVING A LIFE FILLED WITH THANKFULNESS

We are truly BLESSED! Our pantry is once again well stocked with the items that we use every week to feed the hungry, both in Hampton and Newport News.

Thank you to every person who donated necessary food items so that we are able to continue with our feeding ministry. Even if you donated only one or two items, it all adds up to a large amount of food, so again, THANK YOU!

### **Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Shoeboxes**

Thank you to all who filled Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child boxes. We delivered 41 filled boxes to the drop off center. Each box is an opportunity to reach a child with the Gospel. Also, thank you to the CWF and all of the individuals who helped to pay the postage for the boxes. A great job well done!

*Thank you,  
Susan Walkup,  
CWF President*

We were especially blessed to have a donation of several boxes of items from Chalice Christian Church, in Va. Beach. It is truly amazing what can happen when different churches work together for the good of those who need help.

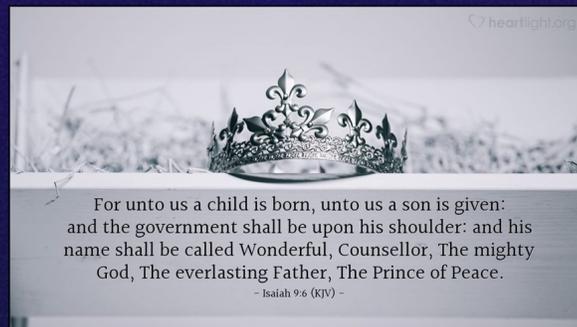
## Church Events

- Dec 4 - Christmas Dinner
- Dec 4 - Caroling
- Dec 9 - Caroling Goodie Bags Assembly
- Dec 11 - Caroling
- Dec 11- Caroling Party at The Herring's
- Dec 18- Cantata at Bethany UMC
- Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Worship
- Dec 25 - Christmas Morning Worship

## HE IS COMING ...

Isaiah 9:2; 6-7

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.  
<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government  
will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing  
and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.



Are we a "people" walking in darkness? It surely seems that it would be hard not to with everything that is happening right now. We live in a world turned upside down and sideways by Covid-19. We live in a country torn in two by politics. Our day to day lives are, for many of us, filled with the aches and pain, anxieties and fears of growing older. We are saddened by the death of loved ones of our church family. Even the youngest of our church flock have concerns that color their days. IT NEED NOT BE THAT WAY. We are NOT a "people" of darkness. We are a "people" of LIGHT. If you are having trouble claiming that right now listen to the words of the song – Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus. Oh soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see? There's light for a look at the Savior and life more abundant and free. Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace. As we begin our journey through Advent, this time of preparing our hearts to receive, anew, God's gift of Jesus, claim His gift. Think about all that Jesus has given you. His blessings have no limit. SEE the light that is Jesus, LIVE the light that is faith, SHARE the light that is love.

Written by: Linda Kuster

First Christian Church Advent Devotion Book December 2020

## READERS MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Dec 4	Dr. Janice Fulbright
Dec 11	Jason, Josie, & Ginny Crawford
Dec 18	Twana Robinson
Dec 25	Sylvia Winfrey



Thank you for your dedication to this ministry. Please mark your date on your calendar and in the event that you cannot lead on your scheduled date please contact someone else on the list to arrange a trade of dates or contact me and I will make substitute plans for you.

PLEASE read over your scripture before Sunday so you are familiar with the reading. There is a pronunciation guide at the lectern if you should need it. If you have any questions at all about the scripture itself or anything else connected with this ministry, please do not hesitate to call me.

On the day you lead you should meet in the sitting area across from the front office at 10:30 with others participating in worship that day. Thank you so much for your continued willingness to support this ministry. Blessings, Linda Kuster



## Pastor's Pen

### *Operation Comfort Bags*

This program started around March 2018 as a small operation run by the Sunday Class of First Christian Church, the Salty Christians consisting of between 6-8 members. Our goal was and still is to bring a little comfort to cancer patients who are going through chemotherapy treatments. Currently we provide the comfort bags to patients at Riverside. We make 40 comfort bags every other month that include items like puzzle books, candy, tissues, lip balm and other things that make the lengthy time they spend getting treatment more bearable. The bags are homemade by a few awesome ladies outside of our church family: Bonnie Barnes, Nancy, Sandy O'Brien our own Barbara Mathews. We also make beautiful prayer boxes so the patients can send prayer requests back to us. All supplies are purchased by the Salty Christians at this time.

We are looking to expand this project to include serving more facilities and adding patients who are going through dialysis treatments. To do that we will need more volunteers to make bags, fill bags, make prayer boxes, and deliver them to the different facilities, but before we can serve more facilities, we will need donations to help increase the number of bags we can make. We are excited about spreading this amazing service throughout our community and beyond and we hope you will all join us in making this happen.

On a side note, I am looking for several women to volunteer to bake homemade cookies as we will be giving out goodie bags to the homes we carol to.

I am also looking for a couple of helpers to assist me in packing up the goodie bags on Friday, December 9th.

### *Pastor Debbie*

*Special thanks to the following  
for lending a hand in prepar-  
ing our church for Advent:*

*Ace, Otis and Josh from  
Night's Welcome*

*Eleanor, Susan, JoAnn, Connie, Bob,  
Martha and their daughter Carol,  
Joan, George, Dick and Linda,*

# Christmas Cantata



The Christmas season is upon us and one of the highlights every year is the Choir's Christmas Cantata. This year we will be presenting *Have You Heard? A Celtic Christmas Celebration* by Joel Raney.

Celtic music is wonderfully compelling and joyous with its lively rhythms of the drum and use of whistles and pipes.

Our choir is partnering with the choir at Bethany United Methodist Church and are excited to have nearly 30 singers for this festive event. The cantata will be performed during the church service on December 18th at Bethany UMC, which starts at 10:30 am.

The remainder of the service is being planned jointly by Debbie and Bethany's pastor, Jeff Cannon. We are working to ensure that the service will be streamed, as usual, on First Christian's Facebook page so that our members who cannot attend will be able to enjoy this wonderful program.

## NOTE:

*There will be no service at First Christian on December 18th*

Please mark your calendar and plan to join the choir at Bethany UMC (1509 Todd's Lane) at 10:30 on December 18th for this joyous musical event. You will feel the true joy of Christmas through this music.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

*Do you love to sing Christmas Carols?*

If so, come and join us either/and December 4th and December 11th, as we go Christmas Caroling. We are going to try something new this year. On December 4th, following the Christmas Pot Luck Dinner, we will go caroling by driving to a few of our shut in members, as we have always done in the past. Then, on December 11th, we will gather again at 3:00 and go on a walking trip around the

church and carol to as many of our local neighbors as possible. Following the caroling on the 11th, we will return to the Herring house for our annual party. Please bring a snack for everyone to share. As you can imagine, with Christmas Caroling it's "The More the Merrier!"

Please plan to join us either time, or better yet, BOTH times.

## Christmas Pot Luck Dinner

We will be having our annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner after the church service on Sunday, December 4th. Ham, coffee, tea and lemonade will be provided. If you would like, feel free to drop off your dish in the kitchen before the service begins. If your dish needs to stay warm, you may put it into the oven, which will be set on low.

Following the dinner we will "Make a Joyful Noise" raising our voices in singing Christmas Carols.

Plan to join us for this wonderful time of fellowship and good food on Sunday, December 4th!

Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex so that we know how many to expect.

## Interested in Receiving Other Christian Newsletters?

### Sign up to receive the Virginia Christian Newsletter

[https://ccinva.us15.list-manage.com/  
subscribe?  
u=98ee317156350d4f94e573a1b&id=38b12  
48d64](https://ccinva.us15.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=98ee317156350d4f94e573a1b&id=38b1248d64)

### Regional Church Website & Regional Blog

<https://www.ccinva.org/about>

### District Website

(Tidewater/Hampton-Roads Area  
Disciples of Christ)

<https://thradisciples.weebly.com/>

## December Celebrations! Birthdays

- Dec 24 Ron Milovac
- Dec 29 Carol Wright

## Anniversaries

- Dec 22 John & Barbara Mathews

# NEED TO KNOW

Church Office: [office@firstchristianhampton.org](mailto:office@firstchristianhampton.org)

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstChristianChurchDOCHamptonVA/>