December 2024

# Holiday Hill Church

Intentionally Engaging the World with the Love of Christ





## Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5:00 PM & 6:30 PM

Come Celebrate the Joy and Peace of the Season with Us!

# Christmas at the Hill

Join us for a festive evening of holiday cheer on December 8th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM! Highlights Include:

**Nativity Lighting**: A beautiful display to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

**Live Music:** Enjoy joyful carols and seasonal tunes to lift your spirits.

**Petting Zoo:** Get up close with friendly animals in a cozy holiday setting.

**Hay Rides:** Take a scenic ride through the winter wonderland.

Bring your family and friends for a night of fun, faith, and festive memories. We can't wait to see you there!

#### Do You Make a Great Pot of Chili???

We need your help to make this year's Christmas at the Hill even more special! We're asking volunteers to cook up a big pot of chili to help us serve warmth and love to our community during this festive event.

We'll be serving until it runs out, so the more chili we have, the more people we can bless. Whether it's your family recipe or a new creation, your contribution will help make this a truly memorable evening for everyone who joins us.

If you're ready to bring the heat (and the heart), sign up in the lobby! Let's come together and share the joy of Christmas with our community.

### A Word from the Pastor

Thank you! I appreciate so greatly the freedom and trust to be away from the church for the last four weeks on sabbatical. A sabbatical is a time set aside to rest and refresh, and the more I was away, the more I realized such a break was needed. I guess this was noticeable as one person said when she saw me on my first day back – "You look younger." J Not only was I able to refresh by being away from the daily task of being 'on' (which is just simply how ministry is and I embrace that reality), but I was able to move at a different pace and I was able to think, pray and reflect on ministry past and moving forward.

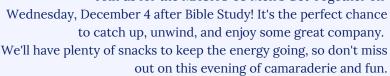
I am thankful for staff and others who led so well during my time away. I appreciate Pastor Josh (who this month celebrates seventeen years of ministry with us J) staying on top of day-to-day ministry and navigating issues as they occurred. Beth, Susan, Stephen and Stacie, as always, led and carried out their ministry with excellence, which we have all come to expect and admire. For those in our church family who led, served, and participated in ministry, thank you.

Christmas season is upon us and it truly is an enjoyable time of the year. We have several opportunities during the Christmas season, but I want to remind you of two particular ones. First is our Nativity lighting on Sunday evening, December 8th. Beth and her team are planning a great evening of fun and celebration for everyone. I hope you will join us and bring your friends and family. Second is our Christmas Eve service, December 24th. This year we will have the same service at two different times – 5:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. The reason for two is that last year our service was full to capacity and during the course of this year both attendance and participation have increased. Please find the best service time for you and join us with your family and friends. Information on both events is elsewhere in this newsletter as well as around the church facility and in our Sunday morning announcements.

I am thankful to be back where God has called me, where I am blessed to serve you and serve with you. I love you and look forward to the month and year before us together.

In Christ, Pastor Albert







#### **WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY**

Sundays, 9:45 am

Community Groups Women's Class - Room B103 Men's Class - Conference Room

**Sundays, 11:00 am** Worship Service Sanctuary

Preschool Bible Study Birth - Kindergarten, Room C104

Children's Worship 1st - 5th Grade, Room D107 Sundays, 5:30 pm

Ember's College & Career Room D105



Wednesdays, 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study Fellowship Hall

Preschool
Birth - Kindergarten, Room C104

Children - WOW Wednesday 1st - 5th Grade, Room D107

Youth 6th - 12th Grade, Room D203



Dear Pastor Josh,

On behalf of the entire congregation, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your 17 years of loving and devoted service to our church. Your steadfast leadership, compassionate heart, and unwavering dedication to sharing God's Word have been a blessing to us all.

Through every sermon, prayer, and act of kindness, you have shown us what it means to live a life of faith and love. Your guidance has brought us closer to Christ and to one another, and for that, we are forever grateful.

As we celebrate this milestone, we thank God for your ministry and the impact you've had on our lives and our community. We pray for continued strength, wisdom, and joy as you lead us into the future.

# Bring Christmas Joy to Families at Holiday Hill Elementary!

This Christmas season, our church is partnering with Holiday Hill Elementary to bring joy and hope to families in need. Together, we can make a difference by providing Christmas dinner and presents to brighten their holiday season! We invite you to join us in this meaningful mission. We are accepting monetary donations until December 15 to ensure every family feels the love and warmth of Christmas.



#### How You Can Help:

Donate Online: www.holidayhillbc.org

**Give in Person:** Drop your donation in the designated box at the church.

**Spread the Word:** Share this opportunity with friends and family!

Let's celebrate the spirit of giving and show God's love in action. Thank you for helping us make this Christmas unforgettable for the families at Holiday Hill Elementary.

Together, we can share the gift of joy this season!



#### WHAT IS THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING?

Growing up in Virginia, Lottie Moon and her siblings chose to rebel against Christianity. At 18, Lottie followed Christ and was baptized. When she was 33, she sailed to China as a Southern Baptist missionary. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem – LOSTNESS. In letters to Southern Baptists in America, she pleaded for increasing prayer and giving. Her letters raised more support for missionaries to be sent to China.

Every year, Southern Baptists collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering where 100% of the money given sends and support missionaries. **PLEASE GIVE DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER** 









### Josh's World

He's back! We (I) survived! The place isn't up in flames! We did a good job, team! Now it's time for Christmas. Thank the Lord nothing is stressful during this season! Does anyone have any Xanax lying around? No reason. Just asking.

Craft Fair Success. Thank you to all the folks that participated in our Craft Fair Concession Stand. Thank you to the teens and parents who helped. Thank you to the folks who bought food and snacks. Your contributions get us one step closer to our summer goals.

In all seriousness, I hope you have a wonderful Christmas. If you are one of the folks who believes "Jesus is the reason for the season," and "we need to keep Christ in Christmas," then may I encourage you to live your life in such a way that those two statements are believable. Be patient. Be gracious. Be understanding. Seek to hear just as fervently as we are to be heard. May this Christmas be merry and bright as we enter the halfway of the 2020's (yes, you read that correctly). Take care and God bless.

In Him, Josh | Micah 3:9

#### 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

Copies of the proposed budget will be available in the lobby on Wednesday, December 4. If you have questions please contact a member of the Stewardship Team: Kathy Shay, Doris Rodriguez, Steve Dennis, Debbie Ingram, Ray Wallace, Erin Flowe

#### **APPROVE 2025 BUDGET**

Wednesday, December 11, 6:30 PM No Discussion

#### DEACONS MEETING

Thursday, December 12, 6:30 PM

#### PRAYER WALK

Saturday, December 14

#### STEWARDSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, December 17, 6:30 pm