

Vol. 12  December 2024

West Shore Baptist Church

# NEWSLETTER



WEST SHORE  
BAPTIST CHURCH

## From the Desk of Pastor Kelly

I did not grow up observing Advent. At church, someone would light the candles on the Advent wreath every Sunday, of course. But to be honest, the only reason that mattered to me was because there was an *excellent* chance the kid assigned to accomplish that task would nearly ignite the wreath itself. Or (even better!) the choir director who loved long, flowing sleeves would stand too close and nearly swing her shirt into the flames.

But to actually observe a season of anxious anticipation and earnest preparation for the coming of Christ? That never crossed my mind. I was so busy preparing for the presents & parties, that I forgot to ready my mind and heart for the King. The truth is, Christmas could come and go without me actually pausing to ponder the wonder and gift of God taking on flesh to rescue sinners, redeem a fallen world and call His followers to realign our priorities to those of His Kingdom.

I think that is why Advent means so much to me as an adult. In recent years, I've begun a practice of putting the Advent candles out on my dining room table. When I sit down to dinner, I dim the kitchen lights, light the candles, read Scripture and pray. Then, I leave them lit throughout the meal. It's a concrete reminder in the darkness that in December that Light has come. And darkness can neither understand nor overcome it.

For that Light has entered into our world. Sitting there in the kitchen, receiving the Light that is Christ, I am confronted with a wonderful reminder that He did not come into the world as if it's a parallel universe. He came into *this* world. And He wants to come into *my* home, my life.

This Advent season, I encourage you to consider how you will celebrate. A simple way is to engage in the family and/or individual devotions that we have made available. If you have little ones, grab the candles and light them, then read and discuss the short age-appropriate devotional together. Invite your children into the wonder that is Christ and help them to see that Christmas actually isn't about a rotund man who specializes in breaking and entering. It's about Christ.

If your household has no little ones, pick up a copy of the WSBC 2024 Advent Devotional (or register on Church Center to have it emailed). Light the candles, sing the song, read the passage and carve out space every day to anxiously await Christ's coming.

Then join us on Christmas Eve as, together, we light candles and visually depict the Light changing us and sending us into His world.

Love ya,  
PK



## Birthdays

3 – Meeka Barth	17 – Karine Lewis
3 – Stan LeQuire	19 – Holly Kindig
4 – Rylan Dunkle	19 – E.J. Stevens
5 – Payton Kennerly	20 – Jeff Waring
7 – Ron Barth	22 – Carol Keeney
12 – Rachel Habacivch	25 – Marilyn Skasko
16 – Steve Curry	29 – Carol Rupp
17 – David Aleski	

## Anniversaries



14 – Richard & Pat Zulaica  
 22 – Paul & Barb Schweiger  
 28 – Doug & Amy Hill

## Merry Christmas



Wed., December 25th

## Men's & Ladies' Breakfast

December 21

8 am – Men's Breakfast  
Front Street Diner

8:30 am – Ladies' Breakfast  
West Shore Plaza Family Restaurant

## December Meetings

Advisory Council Meeting: Sat, Dec. 7, 9:00am  
Board of Trustees Meeting: Mon, Dec. 9, 6:30pm  
Board of Deacons Meeting: Tues, Dec. 10, 7:00pm  
Missions Board Meeting: No Meeting  
Christian Ed Board Meeting: Tues, Dec. 17, 7:00 pm

# Advisory Council

## *Advent Opportunities*



Decorate inside & outside of our church on Saturday, Nov. 30 beginning at 9 AM.

Our Christmas Card list comes out on 12/1. "Mail" cards to our shut-ins & those in need of encouragement using the bags in the lobby.



Advent devotionals for families with young(er) children are in the lobby. The WSBC Advent devotion for teens & adults can also be picked up in the lobby or emailed daily, if you register on Church Center. Advent begins on Dec. 1.

Plan to come out for the Children's Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 15 during the worship service.



Enjoy the choir's Christmas Cantata on Saturday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 PM.



Invite friends & family to our candle-lit Christmas Eve worship on Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 6:30 PM. Nursery care provided.

# The Deacon Board

## **Benevolence Fund:**

Managing the church's Benevolence Fund is an important part of the deacon board's responsibilities. We are grateful for the many people in our congregation who contribute to this impactful ministry. Your generosity allows us to feed the hungry in our community and help struggling families get through tough times. **Our next collection will be held December 8.**

## **Fellowship/Coffee Café:**

Do you have a favorite item or treat you'd like to share on Sunday mornings for our coffee café? Donations are greatly appreciated.

## **Parents' Prayer Group:**

The Parents' Prayer Group will not be meeting in December but will resume meeting on third Sundays at 5:30pm in room 201 beginning in January 2025.

## **Prayer Ministry:**

Our trained prayer ministers, identified by their yellow buttons, are happy to pray with you at any time and will be at the front of the sanctuary at the end of the service. You may also submit prayer requests for our prayer team on our church center app.

## **Church Center:**

Have you visited [westshorebaptist.churchcenter.com](http://westshorebaptist.churchcenter.com) or downloaded the church center app on your smart phone or tablet yet? You'll find event sign-ups, group registration, online giving, prayer request submission forms, our pictorial directory (please opt-in) and much more!

## **Christmas Cantata:**

Our choir is preparing a beautiful evening of song as we celebrate the coming of Christ. Join us for "A Merry Christmas: Joyful Sounds of the Season" cantata on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm.

## **Baptism:**

Are you ready to take your next step and symbolize your new life in Christ? Sign up for baptism class by telling Pastor Kelly or registering on Church Center.

# Trustee Board

## **Christmas Offering:**

In light of the incredible need following the recent hurricanes that hit the South, the Trustees have decided to designate our annual Christmas Offering to be earmarked for disaster relief through the American Baptist Churches of PA & DE (ABCOPAD) Disaster Relief Fund. 100% of those monies will go toward offsetting the cost of ABCOPAD mission teams (including those from WSBC), purchasing supplies & tools, and providing on-the-ground relief to disaster victims. Thank you for your generosity!

# Board of Christian Education

## **Community Groups:**

Community Groups are small groups who gather to apply the Bible to their lives, pray and build relationships. If you are interested in joining or launching a new group, contact the church office for more information.

## **Sunday School Classes:**

The Searchers class led by Tom Kennerly meets on the top floor of the education wing. Pastor Kelly is teaching "Major Messages from Minor Prophets" from 9am – 10am in Davidson Chapel.

## **Kid's Club:**

Kid's Club meets every Wednesday from 6:30-7:45pm. Open to students in grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. See Maura Bihl or Pastor Kelly for details.

## **Men's Community Group:**

Join us on December 5th at 6 PM in Davidson Chapel for Men's Night! Men ages 18 and up are welcome to come and share in an evening of faith, food, & fellowship. Come and see what God is doing in men's ministry at West Shore and what to expect in the next year! Sign-up is available on our Church Center app. If you have any questions, please reach out to Charlie Bihl or Doug Hill.

## **Children's Christmas Pageant:**

We are thrilled to announce our first Children's Christmas Pageant, taking place on Sunday, December 15th, during our worship service! All children are invited to participate in this joyful celebration. To prepare, we will hold two mandatory rehearsals during the worship service on December 1st and December 8th, with a brief dress rehearsal after the service on December 8th. We can't wait to celebrate this special season together!

# The Missions Board

## **Clothes Closet:**

The clothes closet will be open this month on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 12 pm. Thank you to all who donated clothes to refill the closet. Volunteers are welcome and needed both mid-week and one Saturday a month. Please contact Dawne Strock for details.

## **Free Little Pantry:**

Don't forget about our outdoor community pantry. Thank you to those who have contributed. Next time you are shopping, consider buying an item or two to place in the pantry on your way into church.

## **Red Cross Blood Drive:**

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive held at WSBC on **Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-6 pm**. If you wish to donate, visit their website at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

## **Blessing Bags:**

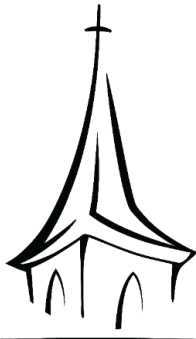
Filled bags can be found in Davidson Chapel. These bags can be shared wherever there is a need.

## **Puzzles:**

Like a good puzzle? Jigsaw puzzle that is? You're in luck. We now have a Puzzle Cabinet located at the Welcome Center! These puzzles are free to take and put together then return for someone else's enjoyment. Feel free to add to the collection.

## **Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering:**

The Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering provides emergency financial support for our ABCUSA clergy & missionaries. Envelopes are available in the pew. This offering will be received through the month of December.



# WEST SHORE

BAPTIST CHURCH

2025 Market St.  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
[www.wsb.org](http://www.wsb.org)

## SUNDAY SERVICES:

Worship Service — 10:30 AM

Live streaming online and at church

## Staff

<b>Senior Pastor:</b>	Rev. Kelly Legg	Cell: (610) 755-8203	Email: <a href="mailto:pastorkdl@gmail.com">pastorkdl@gmail.com</a>
<b>Associate Pastor:</b>			
<b>Children's Ministry Director:</b>	Maura Bihl	Cell: (267) 949-6064	Email: <a href="mailto:maura.giannone@gmail.com">maura.giannone@gmail.com</a>
<b>Choir Director:</b>	Carol Saltzer	Cell: (717) 383-9740	Email: <a href="mailto:carolsaltzer@hotmail.com">carolsaltzer@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Office Manager:</b>	Donna Hess	Church: (717) 761-0942	Email: <a href="mailto:wsbemail@gmail.com">wsbemail@gmail.com</a>
<b>Organist:</b>	Gary Stefanic	Home: (717) 856-0748	Email: <a href="mailto:garystefanic1@comcast.net">garystefanic1@comcast.net</a>
<b>Church Sextons:</b>	Rimma & Vladimir Torchilo		Church: (717) 761-0942

