



Newsletter December 2021

The Joy of My Gift!

John 1;12 “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, He gave the right to become children of God.”

I have many fond Christmas memories, most happened when we were kids. We felt the joy and anticipation of receiving a Gift. We would go through all the gifts but when we got to that one gift, you know the one at the top of the list, our eyes lit up to receive this answer to a wish.

What happened to that childlike enthusiasm of receiving those gifts? Maybe the gifts of this world aren't enough to satisfy our soul. Let us receive the eternal gift of salvation! Scripture says “ To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name.” Do you believe in His name? This Christ Child born in Bethlehem. Immanuel ,the Great I Am. Receive this child and reclaim your inner child. As children of God we look to our Father for guidance and wisdom, for protection and preparation. As children of God we depend on our Father for security and sanctuary and depend on His love to lift us up.

In this season, as we anticipate the coming of our King, our Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ, let us take inventory into our own lives and examine the fruits of our labor and the reaping of our sowing. Let us remember to whom we owe our salvation. Let us set our minds on the reason for the season.

Let us embrace the amazing grace his birth has placed over our lives and rejoice that the eternal “I AM” rests ,rules and abides over us. Christ came out of glory , to shackle himself in a robe of flesh. Surrendering His own divinity to offer liberty to our sin-soaked souls. Now it is up to us to live in reverence to the King in eager anticipation and faithful expectation of the promise of His majesty. We must be like a child at Christmas putting on a new robe of redemption. Like a child with new shoes of salvation! Like a child with a new hat that fits like a crown of glory. Like a child that can't keep this good news of our new gifts to ourselves– I have to post this to my facebook page, or text this to everybody I know. I have to share the news! I can't contain the Joy of my Gift!

Have a Blessed Christmas Season,
Pastor Will Collins



Christmas Offering

Our gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church

- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.

We will receive the Christmas Offering on December 12 December 19, 2021

Welcome Advent!

I need a respite from the commercial "Christmas season" where the sacred and the secular collide and stay awkwardly entangled for weeks – where good will and generosity struggle with crass consumerism – where the birth of love into the world is reduced to "Jingle Bells"...

My soul seeks the quieter depths of Advent, the Church's four-week season of preparation leading up to Christmas. I need it this year more than most, because the world seems to be going a little out of control. Ebola, Afghanistan/Iraq/Syria, outrage over the deaths of unarmed citizens in our own streets, the inability of our elected leaders to even talk reasonably about solutions – all of these things worry me; buying gifts and eating Christmas goodies don't distract enough.

Advent calls for the opposite of distraction. Scriptures of the season speak openly of the world's agony. They foresee even worse days ahead. They call us to look, clear-eyed, at the world – to acknowledge the pain. They call us to wake up!

And then with eyes open, in Advent, we begin to notice reason to hope. "Comfort, oh, comfort my people," reads the scripture. God does not

intend the world to live in pain, but rather to find wholeness. We hear scripture's call on us to be the hope. "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me... he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners."

In the reflective space of Advent, my distraction finds focus beyond the headlines. I see young people demonstrating to improve our justice system, and I see churches providing safe spaces for them. I see that an Ebola vaccine is nearly ready for testing. I see the many people of God joining to address hunger and poverty. I remember sometimes our greatest social trials lead to our most significant social advances. I start to feel the rekindling of new possibilities, and a call to be part of that movement, a challenge to become myself evidence of God's goodness and beauty and love at work to bring wholeness out of the chaos.

In Advent we light candles. They are a small light in the darkness. But when the darkness is especially intense, a small light shines all the brighter. Advent focuses me on those bits of light. It prepares me for the sacred celebration of Christmas – the welcoming of God's love born into the world as a child – a small vulnerable child who changes the world through us when we pick up his challenge of love.

I need Advent to remind me to look for signs of that love. I need its call to join with others to be that sign. Boy, do I need Advent this year!

This blog post also appears on TIME Ideas.

Advent is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. Advent means 'Coming' in Latin. This is the coming of Jesus into the world. At Park View we use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

Please join us every Sunday now until Christmas to share in this wonderful time to welcome the coming of Jesus and prepare for the true meaning of Christmas. Service begins at 11 am!



A Time to Celebrate The Park View Christian Church Year

The past year has been the most challenging in our church's history, due to the Global Pandemic (that is still ongoing), the economic crisis in our country, and issues of social injustice and political unrest. One might wonder, How do we get through all of this or even if we will survive. But the Good News is that we not only are surviving but thriving! I wonder if because we have had to lean on our Father God, as much as we have lately, if this has awakened a renewal of spiritual growth.

But the GOOD NEWS is that we know that God is With Us. We will not fail because of God's everlasting grace and mercy and we will not stop serving God through our church because of our FAITH, our HOPE, and our LOVE.

In November of 2021- Park

View accomplished amazing goals with community and global outreach. With the help of many volunteers, and huge donations of foods- **36 Thanksgiving Baskets** complete with turkey and pies, were packed and distributed. God's work is amazing.

On November 21, 2021 **24 Christmas Child Shoeboxes** were turned in and dedicated at our morning worship service. They were then delivered to a distribution site to be shipped out. One year ago, we had 23 Christmas Child Shoeboxes turned in. All of this occurred during an unprecedented time in our church's history. Thanks to each of you whether you have been here in person, or online, whether you gave in time, talents, finances, and/or prayers- this all happened because you believed and you kept your yourself going. You each have served as the hands and feet of Jesus- reaching

those in great need, locally and worldwide.

To all of the tireless volunteers, the donors, and the functional departments that coordinated these efforts and worked together, we say

**THANK YOU and
God Bless You.**

**HAVE A BLESSED AND
HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

Gina Artz, Elder Chair, Pres.
Christian Women's Fellowship
Carolyn Jones, Outreach Chair
Chip Artz, Official Board
Chairman

Chip and Gina Artz

**50th
Wedding Anniversary**

December 18, 2021

Love Never Fails



Special Recognition!

On December 12, 2021

**There will be a Special
Recognition
Of
Park View Christian Church**

Woman of the Year

Don't Miss out on this!

2021-Park View Christian Church at Work

This past year has truly been filled with many challenges as well as opportunities and Yes, positive things have come from this. The year began on a high note with a good winter attendance and Pastor Will striving to build our ministry. The year has been a time of renewal and we still found ourselves monitoring the COVID 19 effects in our community and the world, as well as the Delta Variant. BUT, through it all, Park View Christian Church remained strong in staying connected, adapting to the situation and continuing to serve others and to provide spiritual growth.

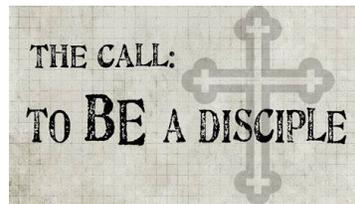
I am pleased to share with you some of the POSITIVE accomplishments that have occurred during 2021 in Park View Christian Church.

This list is abbreviated, as there have been many more blessings.

- Sunday Service every Sunday In Person and Online beginning in June 2020—present.
- Our parking lot was completely resurfaced and a new asphalt road was created in front of church.
- Since the Pandemic hit, the kids have received Sunday School materials in the mail, and some videos have been offered.
- More emphasis on Mission and Outreach as evidenced by our giving to special projects.
- We continue to serve

monthly at OASIS, by packing bagged breakfasts for 75

- We held a Drive Thru Baby Shower for Tamara Russell in Dec. 2020/
- Huge Diaper Drive for the



needy in May, gathering over 1,600 diapers.

- Since end of April, 2020 we have hosted a Contactless Food Pantry Drive Thru every week and grown from 30 to 75 families being provided groceries!
- Provided a Vacation Bible School Online and In- Person for a whole week in August.
- Disciple's Women have had monthly Bible Study and meeting via Zoom, and now in-person gatherings.
- Various Board meetings, Cabinet meetings have returned to in-person format.
- Fantastic Trunk or Treat Drive- Thru was held safely and happily., Oct. 30.
- More spiritual growth has been evident and available all year.
- Prayer emphasis is ongoing.
- Worship services filled with God's Word and inspiration.
- More amazing blessings in serving God through financial giving occurred.

- We had an amazing Consecration Sunday in October that reflected an increase in most of members Estimate of Giving Our Special Offerings through Disciples of Christ have continued.
- In June we had our first Father's Day picnic since 2019.

Yes, during 2021 there were some events and social gatherings we could not do because of the restrictions from COVID, **but we never stopped BEING CHURCH!**

Even in the most desperate of times, your church has kept going and serving the Lord and the community! More emphasis has been on the Great Commission-

Go and Make Disciples in all nations. Go and Tell the Good News of Jesus Christ! GO and DO!

Yes, the challenges remain to keep up this pace, but we can do it.! God has His hand in all of this and we are being blessed as a church and individually.

So, I take time to thank each of you for every single thing you have done and are doing in the name of our God and this your church. Praise God!
May God Bless You All,

Chip Artz, Board Chair

News From Christian Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship group has maintained a monthly Bible Study and Fellowship Time all year and we are now meeting in person at the church on the second Tuesday of each month. (Unless otherwise noted). We plan outreach service projects and raise funds to support mission.

Currently we are helping sponsor a Winter Coat and outerwear drive. Any warm jackets, scarves, hats, gloves and even socks will be collected until Dec. 19. These winter clothes will be given to Sanctuary of Hope to be distributed to the Homeless and those in dire need. Please help fill our yellow box with coats and winterwear

Our next meeting will be on December 14th at 6:30 pm at the church for our Christmas Dinner and meeting. Please bring a dish to share . Also for our service project, we will be fixing large Christmas bags filled with toiletries, snacks, books, etc. for our 8 Elderly Homebound members. These will be delivered soon after. Please help us fill these bags by donating any goody to add to it!



You Elders Say Have a Blessed Christmas!

We have strived to meet monthly in person for the past 6 months and share prayer concerns and ways we can be assistance to all our church family. If you have a need for help or just a special prayer—
Do not hesitate to call any of the Elders.
Our next gathering is December 20th at 6 pm at Denis's Restaurant.

Special Events During ADVENT 2021

December 10 and 11 from 6-8 pm— Outdoor Live Nativity Scene

December 12— Special Recognition , 3rd Sunday in Advent

December 19 —4th Sunday in Advent.

December 24th- Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7 pm

December 25— CHRISTMAS DAY!



Poinsettia Dedication



You may purchase poinsettias in memory or honor of loved ones to help decorate the sanctuary for \$6.50 per plant. The dedication forms are available in the narthex—please fill out a separate form for each plant purchased and put the form in the brown envelope provided by Sunday, **December 12** so that your dedication can be published in the December 19th bulletin. Make checks out to Carolyn Jones.

Number of Families Served in November at Food Pantry

3: 87 families
10: 80 families
17: 91 families
24: Closed for Thanksgiving

**Please come out
and volunteer!**

**OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY
from 12 noon to 2 pm**

**We are collecting
grocery plastic bags
for distribution.**



WE LOVE Our NEW ROAD!

It is with much excitement that we had our parking lot and road around front of the church, this year. It has been wonderful and is so nice to drive on and for the community to see and enjoy. Now we must all try to keep the Parking Lot and Our Road Clean!

“Being the hands and feet of Jesus” 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Baskets

On behalf of our Pastor, congregants, and members of the community, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for the generous contributions for our Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive. These gifts helped serve 36 families who received a generous amount of food for Thanksgiving dinner, as well as breakfast, fresh produce, dessert, and bread products. This program served over 180 people in our community. Additionally, these generous donations helped support our Drive Thru Food Pantry which operates every Wednesday and serves approximately 65 families per a week. These generous donations

allows us to continue God’s work by providing resources to those most in need in our community.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship and for helping us be the “hands and feet of Jesus” to a dying world. May God continue to shine His grace and love on you and yours.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to package the baskets, hand them out and deliver them! It was truly an awesome opportunity to see the hands of God at work!

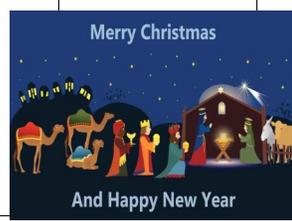
Love in Christ, Kelly Collins
Membership Chair

Our Wonderful Sponsors!

A special thank you to the following sponsors who helped us exceed our expectations!



December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Food Pantry	2	3	4
5 2nd Advent Coat Drive Starts	6 7 pm Board Meeting	7 CWF Meeting @ 6:30 pm	8 Food Pantry 12-2 pm	9	10 Live Nativity 6-8 pm	11 Live Nativity 6-8 pm
12 3rd Advent Christmas Special Offering	13	14 6:30 CWF Christmas Dinner	15 OASIS ! Food Pantry 12-2 pm	16	17	18
19 4th Advent Christmas Special Offering	20 6 pm Elders Dinner Mtg.	21	22 Food Pantry 12-2 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Ser- vice 7 Pm	25 Christmas Day!!
26	27	28	29 Food Pantry 12-2 pm	30	31 New year's Eve	

Family News & Prayer Requests

Mitchell Daniels suffers from frequent lung infections because of cystic fibrosis.

Warren Brenan is receiving treatment for his knee pain.

Leo Ruffing has COPD and Parkinson's disease. Prayers are needed for protection and great health.

Peter Austin, son of Ken & Joan Austin passed away last Nov. 15. Please keep the family in prayer.

Chip Artz— requests prayers for the recurrence of cancer. He is now

receiving Immunotherapy treatments.

Allen Powell—states he is now "Cancer Free" after receiving intensive Proton Therapy treatments/

Janice Cubberly is suffering from pain in her right arm/hand. Prayers are needed.

Lindsay Abess and family would appreciate your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Carolyn Smith is in need of prayers! She has been in and out of the hospital with health complications.

Alice Langston— had surgery Nov. 22

for gastric resection and is now recovering at home. Please pray .

Shirley Byrd— has recovered from surgery and is thankful for all prayers.

Betty Lou Cummings— is recovering well , but still struggles with mobility and requests prayer.

Eva Neufeld— and family need prayers for ongoing family crisis.

Sherry Meyer's mother needs prayers for serious dementia and chronic illness.

All those who are battling the COVID 19 virus and those who are victims of this horrid disease.

Christmas Thoughts

The season of Advent is upon us again
A time of preparation , a time to begin
We see Christmas trees lit up so bright.
Every day looks festive, it changes over night.

There are special cards to write and letters to send
To all the distant family and special loving friends.
Some may do baking and share their delight
With a neighbor or friend , to make their day bright.

Then there is shopping for that special gift.
Wondering will I be able to complete my list.
The parties and plans can be stressful at times.
Seems like something is missing, am I losing my mind?

Then a still small voice echoes from above
Saying slow down and pray to accept God's love.
For in all the hubbub, there is grace and joy
If we only take the time to honor God's baby boy.

Born in a manger so many years ago
To be the Lord and Savior, little did they know.
The Angels sang, the star shined bright
To guide the shepherds to the stable that night.

Joseph and Mary were in awe of it all
They accepted God's love and answered the call.
Jesus grew and lived to show us God's plan
The love, forgiveness and peace spread through the land.
So take time this season to keep Jesus in your heart.
Reach out to those in need and do your part.
Remember Advent is a time to prepare
So let your Christ light shine to all everywhere.

May your Christmas be blessed and filled with love.

Dear Lord,

I worship You and thank You for being a God of mercy and love. You loved me before I even knew You. I praise You and I am grateful that You sacrificed Your only Son for me. There is no greater love than that. Father, Your love brings healing to me for all the times and ways I have felt unloved in my life. Your love will never end and I take great comfort in that. I praise You for the constant guidance and help that You provide and Your teachings in my Holy Bible. May I serve You and worship You all the days of my life. I pray in Jesus name, Amen.

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” 1 John 4:10



@parkviewccdoc

Tel #:

(757) 484-1776

Email:

parkvieccdoc@verizon.net

Website:

www.parkviewccdoc.com

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For Kingdom Building devotionals by emailing your email address to Church email

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for December

5: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Phillippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

12: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Phillippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18.

19: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:30-45,46-55.

26: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52.



Serving Elders

5: Gina Artz & Mike Tefft
12: Andy Artz & Janet Sydenstricker
19: Judy Harman & Sid Harman
26: Eleanor Collins & Bonnie Gifford



- 1 Abigail Mowery
- 2 Emily Dominguez
- 3 Jason Chuma
- 4 Bonnie Gifford
Amelia Russell
- 5 Gina Artz
- 6 Ciro Vazquez
- 9 Eliana Collins
- 10 Elizabeth Phillips
- 22 Matthew Artz
- 24 Brenda Murat
- 25 Mark Williams
- 29 Lydia Ross

We are OPEN for Sunday Church Service!

We remain committed to serving you and meeting your spiritual needs. If you are unable to attend service, we are available via phone, email, on Facebook, and Zoom. Pastor Will has made arrangements for online Sunday sermons to contain on **FaceBook @parkviewccdoc.**

Please call (757) 484-1776 or email at parkvieccdoc@verizon.net to enroll in our “All Call” service to receive weekly announcements and reminders through your phone!

Also, sign up for email devotionals by emailing your email address to parkviewccdoc@verizon.net.

Wish to give online? Visit https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1300636

**Park View Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

3201 Western Branch Blvd
Chesapeake, Virginia 23321

Phone: (757) 484-1776

Email: parkviewccdoc@verizon.net

Website: www.parkviewccdoc.com

Address Service Requested



WE'RE OPEN!!

Drive-Thru Food Pantry

Every Wednesday of the Month

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

All are Welcome!

Perishable & Non-Perishable Food Available

No Income Restriction

Please contact us if you require any additional assistance.

We are here for you!

Go Green! Go Paperless!
Get the newsletter earlier -
by opting to receive a color PDF
copy of the newsletter.
Email parkviewccdoc@verizon.net to sign up!

