



# **Newsletter December 2024**

## **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 Gods' baby boy.**

**Born in a manger so many years ago  
To be the Lord and Savior, little did they know.  
The Angles 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.**

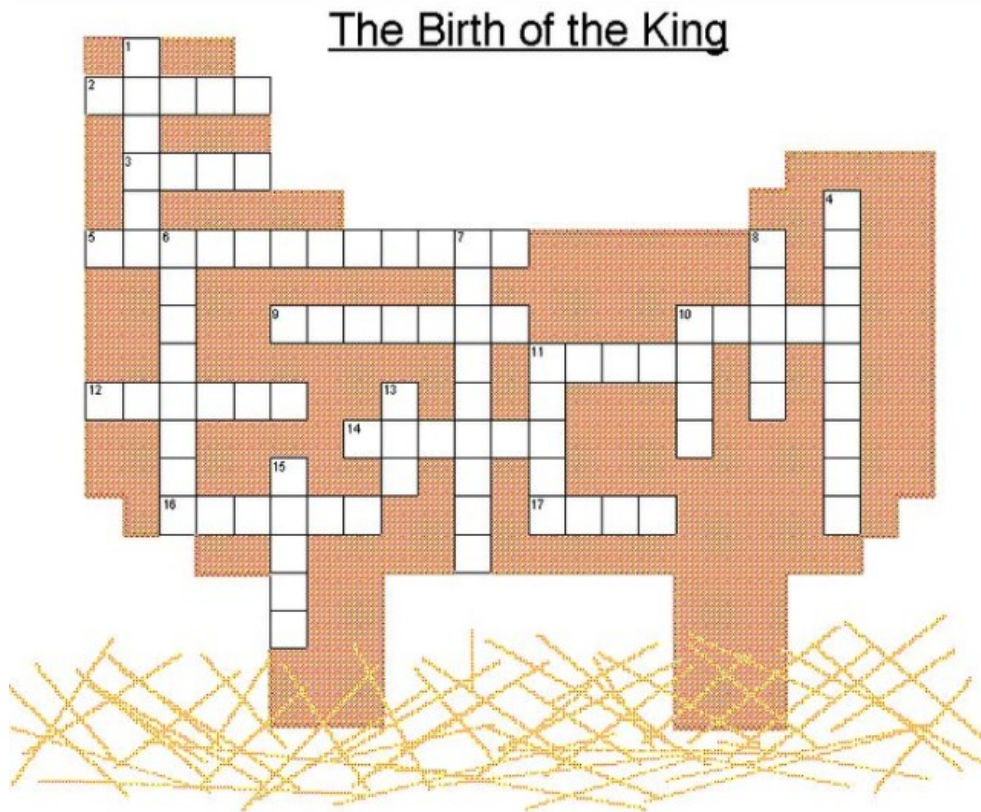
**May you your Christmas be blessed and filled with love.  
Gina Artz and All Elders**

## Church Women United Gathering at Park View!

Park View church families were able to sponsor some children who are in Foster Care in the city of Portsmouth again this year! The Church Women United group, brought the opportunity to us in November. We thank the church members and groups who took these kid's names and bought gifts for them. These special gifts were displayed and dedicated during a special gathering "Operation Santa Claus" on December 6, 2024. Our Church Women's Fellowship hosted this even and lots of goodies for a brunch from 10:30-11 were provided, followed by the program from 11-12. We also recognized the social workers who work to provide services for these kids.

We are so happy that we could be part of this outreach mission, to make a child's life a little brighter. Again, thank you to all of our church families for opening their hearts at Christmas.

Gina Artz, CWF leader



Thank you for packing showboxes this year— Park View turned in 24 boxes! This partnership with Operation Christmas Child brings great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to boys and girls in need around the world. Each shoebox you packed will communicate God's love to a child and their family.

Across		Down	
2. Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to pay these	12. Mary's husband	1. An open box to hold food for livestock: Mary laid Jesus in one	11. And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call His name _____
3. A precious metal: one of the gifts from the 3 kings	14. These appeared to shepherds and told them about the birth of Christ	4. The city of His birth	13. He was born in a stable because there was no room here
5. A fragrant gum used to make incense: one of the gifts from the wisemen	16. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a _____, which is Christ the Lord	6. The Roman emperor who taxed everyone	15. We celebrate His _____ at Christmas
9. The 3 kings from the east	17. This led the wisemen to Jesus	7. Angels told these guys about His birth while they were watching their flocks	
10. A pungent tasting herb: A gift from the wisemen		8. The king of Judea when Jesus was born	
11. Bethlehem is here		10. His mother	



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## Slate of officers for 2025!

The Fall Congregational meeting was held on November 10<sup>th</sup> and the following people were elected to serve on the church board.

Treasurer (1 yr term)	Kim Charlton
Assistant Treasurer (1 yr term)	Andy Artz
Financial Secretary (1 yr term)	Mike Tefft
Asst Financial Secretary (1 yr term)	Andy Artz
Church Clerk/Board Secretary (1 yr term)	Carolyn Jones
Elders (3 yr term)	Sid Harman Carolyn Jones Mike Tefft Bonnie Gifford
Diaconate (3 yr term)	Chung Anderson
Living Endowment (3 yr term)	Bonnie Gifford Joan Moore

Thank you all for your dedication and service to the foundations and mission of Park View Christian Church.  
Gina Artz, Board Chair

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## SEARCH AND CALL TEAM STILL AT WORK!

We have had meetings at least twice a month this Fall and will continue until our mission is complete.

For various reasons, many of the candidates sent to us, did not fit the needs of the Park View Christian Church family. Some did not want to move to Virginia, some only wanted full time, and other various reasons. So we are continuing to have dialogue with our Regional Minister, Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning, so he can assist us in securing our next permanent minister.



Meanwhile, we have been blessed with great Supply Ministers to mean us spirit filled messages each Sunday. Let us all thank Rev. Uwe Scharf, Rev. Jocelyn Spence and Pastor Brooks Gayle for serving our church and the Lord in this special way.

Our next meeting will be Dec. 14, 2024. Please keep this team in prayers as this is a very challenging and stressful process.

Submitted by Search and Call Team- Mike Tefft, Gina Artz, Charlie Arnold, and Kim Charlton

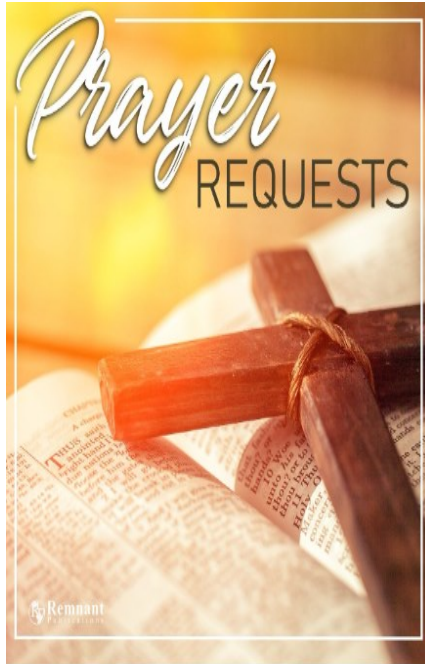
**Charlie Arnold**—needs prayers as he is battling the flu.

**Lindsay Abess**—is home recovering with Diabetic complications and respiratory infection. Please pray for her healing.

**Julie Mendoza**—prayers are needed for her health problems and injury.

**Margaret Powell**- has been moved to Room 81 of Chesapeake Health and Rehabilitation. Prayers, calls and visits needed for her and for her sister **Janet Sydenstricker**, as she helps care for her.

**Betty Lou Cummings**- is dealing with pain and is having problems walking and an asthma flare-up. Prayers, calls and visits would be greatly appreciated.



**Mike Tefft**— please lift him up as he is going through a very difficult challenge in his life. Let's surround him with love, support, and prayers.

**Garland Gifford**— is remaining in Norfolk Rehabilitation and working on issues with swallowing. Please pray for him as well as **Bonnie Gifford** as she continues to take care of him during this challenging time. Cards, calls and prayers appreciated.

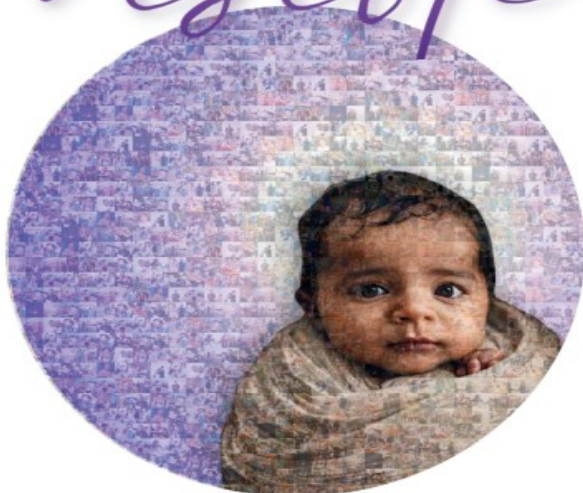
**Allen Powell**—prayers are requested as he goes through various tests and follow up treatments.

**Alice Langston** is homebound, as she battles mobility issues. She is doing well but calls, cards, and prayers are appreciated.

**Janice Cubberley**-has been diagnosed with serious kidney failure and is now on dialysis. Cards and calls are appreciated.

*By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ~ Hebrews 11:3*

God's love  
*visible*



## Christmas Special Offering December 15th and December 22

All funds collected are kept in our region and is used to further the work of the Disciples of Christ churches in Virginia, so if possible make this offering especially generous!

The Outreach Department wishes all a blessed Christmas!!

## Christian Women's Fellowship News!!

Our Christian Women's Fellowship group has been meeting monthly since September and we have a time of planning service projects, a short Bible Study and lots of prayers. We helped provide the turkeys for our Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, as well as providing support during the Voting Poll day Nov. 5.

Then our most recent big Fall project was our Brunswick Stew sale on Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> and we sold out of 12 batches of stew (around 408 quarts)! These funds will help with outreach as well as church pew refurbishing and other missions.

In December, we will be hosting Church Women United at Park View Christian Church on **Friday, Dec. 6**. We will have a brunch from around 10-11 followed by the Christmas program. At that time our Operation Santa Claus gifts for the 7 foster kids we adopted as well as many others from other churches will be dedicated. Our total number of Foster children served by many churches- totaled 46!! This was the most we have had in many years.

When the time comes for the Ordination Services for Pastor Jocelyn Spence and Will Collins, we plan to help with the décor and meal plans. Jocelyn has now fully completed her Ordination requirements and we are planning possible Ordination service for March 1, 2025, but that date will be finalized in the near future.

We will assist with any receptions or events during the Advent season. **Our next meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 10 at Gina Artz's home with a pot luck dinner and fellowship project. Our project will be to fill Christmas Care Bags with special supplies and goodies for our Homebound Seniors! Somethings needed are small personal hygiene items, small snack items, books, puzzles, socks, or even tissues. These will be delivered to our people during the holiday season, along with prayer.**

All women are welcome to join us for Bible Study, fellowship, fun and service projects. Have a great Advent Season and winter filled with good health and happiness.

Gina Artz, CWF President



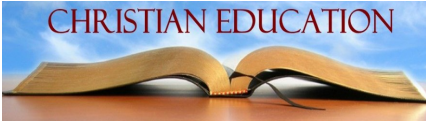
[This Photo](#) by Unknown Au-



The Outreach Department is kicking off Park View's Annual Winter Coat Drive! Please bring any gently used or new winter coats, gloves, hats and scarves starting December 8th and ending Christmas Eve. All donations can be placed in our collection box in the Narthex. They will be taken to local charities to distribute to those in need before the New Year. Please help us provide warmth for those most in need—the homeless, those in shelters and those in great need for other reasons. Please see if there are any warm coats or items that you can give to those in need this winter! On behalf of the Outreach Department as well as our community—

THANK YOU ALL!

GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL  
GIVER AND THIS IS A GREAT  
WAY TO GIVE!



In September, we began another full Christian Education study period. The books and materials for adult studies during the Fall months were given out for home use.

We have Children's Church going on regularly with our attendant— Rene Clemmons providing the children's lessons, a craft, and sometimes music. We have had more children lately, some weeks we have 8-9 children!. Please help by volunteering if you love kids and wish to be of service.

We are planning to have some of the children participate in our Christmas Eve service and to have special music. Also, we are hoping to have a pizza game night—more details to be announced.

We are planning to have a prayer and praise music evening coming up this winter in 2025, with Liza Artz planning the praise music! We hope to open this up to the community and invite all.

Please plan to come and participate in all our activities. We have much to give thanks for and will continue to provide Christian Education in many ways.

Have a blessed Christmas Season! Gina Artz, Christian Education Department

## Poinsettia Dedication

You may purchase poinsettias in memory or honor of loved ones to help decorate the sanctuary for \$8.50 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 22 so that your dedication can be published in the December 24<sup>th</sup> bulletin. Make checks out to Carolyn Jones.

## Park View's

### Drive Thru Food Panty

## Thanksgiving Baskets



We were able to provide 25 families with Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings, plus extra food this year! Thank you for helping our community by donating and assembling these baskets of blessings!



# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Board Meeting 7pm	3	4 Food Pantry 9-2	5	6	7
8	9	10 CWF Christmas Dinner Party 6:30pm	11 Food Pantry 9-2	12	13 Pizza and Movie night 7pm	14
15	16 Elder's Christmas Gathering 6pm	17	18 Food Pantry 9-2	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm	25 	26	27	28
29	30	31				



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# Christmas

## Birth of Jesus Word Search

N K H F O S H I N I N G Z I P  
C C I D R J G W T V R K M V P  
T Q H V A A K G A B R I E L W  
C W Q W M A N G E R S N S N L  
D X O L E Y P K L Z T G S M C  
O L J L H N R G I F T S I Q U  
I W O E E K I R S N G W A S W  
N T R G L M E J H C C Y H D I  
N U S N H S O K E G J E S U S  
K R R A T S X N P F E K N L E  
E F C A E Q S I H P Q N X S M  
E Z B P B U O G E A Y O V A E  
P L H V S Q Y H R M Q D R E N  
E F G L Q K G T D Q H Y B A B  
R D O G F O N O S I O R N M M

ANGEL  
BABY  
BETHLEHEM  
CENSUS  
DONKEY  
EAST  
FRANKINCENSE

GABRIEL  
GIFTS  
GOLD  
INNKEEPER  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
KINGS

MAGI  
MANGER  
MARY  
MESSIAH  
MYRRH  
NIGHT  
SHEEP

SHEPHERDS  
SHINING  
SON OF GOD  
STABLE  
STAR  
STRAW  
WISE MEN



**Revised Common  
Lectionary Readings for  
December 2024**

**December 1**

Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Psalm 25:1-10  
I Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Luke 21:25-36

**December 8**

Malachi 3:1-4  
Luke 1:68-79  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6

**December 15**

Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Isaiah 12:2-6  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18

**December 22**

Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:46-55  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45

**December 29**

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



**Elder Schedule:**

**December 1**  
Gina Artz and Mike Tefft

**December 8**  
Andy Artz and Janet Sydenstricker

**December 15**  
Judy Harman and Sid Harman

**December 22**  
Eleanor Collins and Bonnie Gifford

**December 29**  
Carolyn Jones and **Gina Artz**

**Volunteers Needed:**

**Church Cleaning**  
Every Saturday 10am to 2 pm  
Other times available  
See Andy or Gina for details

**Sunday School**  
See Gina Artz for details

**Food Pantry**  
Every Wednesday 9 am to 2 pm



**Wish to give online?**  
**Visit**  
[https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithe/give-one-time/1300636](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe/give-one-time/1300636)



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are available by phone,  
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**December Birthdays**

- 1 Abigail Mowery
- 3 Jason Chuma
- 4 Bonnie Gifford
- 4 Amelia Russell
- 5 Gina Artz
- 10 Elizabeth Phillips
- 13 Noah Abess
- 22 Matthew Artz
- 24 Brenda Murat
- 25 Mark Williams

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

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*Address Service Requested*



**Drive-Thru Food Pantry**  
**Every Wednesday of the Month**  
**HOURS: 12-2 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!*

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