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## Timing Is Everything

*By Kyle Reese, Pastor*

I recently read an article that spoke to the value of using an Advent calendar with children. It was talking about the Advent calendar that allows one to open a door on the exact day of the month, while waiting until the next day to open another. The obvious value and lesson is that in a world where one seldom has to wait for anything, there are things in life that require waiting. Certainly that has been my experience as it pertains to God's work and reign in the world. Building upon that reality, our Advent theme is "Timing Is Everything." We will explore together ways in which the unfolding story of God developed in God's own time. I hope you will join the journey.

December also is a significant time in the stewardship of our resources. Last December, you gave \$177,031 toward our ministry and mission budget. It was the largest December in the last several years and maybe in our history. Because of your generosity, we were able to minister to over 300 community members at our recent Fall Festival. Because you gave, we have been able to upgrade our Bible study spaces to be more welcoming and electronically appropriate. Your giving allows HAB to make a real difference in our community and in our world. Please pray and give sacrificially so that we can continue our positive momentum. Pray and give so that the unfolding story of God may be enhanced through you.

It's Time,

Kyle



The word Advent comes from the Latin word "Adventus," which means "coming" or "arrival," and in the church it signifies the arrival of Christ. It is the beginning of the church year, also called the liturgical year. It is a time of excitement and preparation for observing the birth of Christ. Christmas is such a big event for Christians that we anticipate the day for weeks in advance, the period we call "Advent."

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and ends on Christmas Eve. This year, Advent begins on Sunday, December 2.

Please join us on Sunday, December 2, as we begin our Advent theme, "Timing Is Everything," with Kyle's sermon during each worship service and a church-wide breakfast and Sunday Bible study led by Kyle in the fellowship hall at 9:45 a.m.

*Parts of this article were contributed by Julie Mason. To read her full article on Advent, go to [habchurch.com/blog](http://habchurch.com/blog).*

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**Kyle T. Reese**, D.Min., Pastor • **Thomas M. Shapard**, M.Div., M.M., Minister of Music & Worship

**Britt Hester**, M.Div., Minister of Youth and Christian Education • **Claire Kermitz Chinn**, M.Div., Minister of Children and Mission

**Vickie M. Landers**, B.B.A., Church Administrator • **H. Kendell Smith**, Dip.C.M. Minister of Music Emeritus

# The Season of Hope

By Britt Hester, Minister of Youth & Christian Education

“Hope. It is the only thing stronger than fear.” This quote comes from Suzanne Collins’s book *The Hunger Games*. It’s a quote that stuck with me after I first read *The Hunger Games*, and it’s been on my mind a lot lately. Perhaps that is not by accident. After all, we are living in a time of deep fear and anxiety. Every time I turn on the news, check my social media feeds, or listen to the radio, it seems there is a new heart-breaking story. These are stories of mass shootings, catastrophic storms, uncontrollable wildfires, shady politics, the opioid crisis, hungry children, and on and on the list goes. And that is just what is going in the world.

In the midst of all the heartache coming through our televisions and smart phones, most of us actually have other things to worry about closer to home. Some of us are taking care of aging or sick relatives; some are dealing with financial turmoil that never seems to dissipate; others are coping with a tough health diagnosis and wondering where they will go from here; and of course, there are plenty of other situations not mentioned here, but situations that we certainly know about and can relate to these scenarios. As we face these personal struggles against the backdrop of all that is happening around us globally, how do we not resort to despair? How does one not live in a constant state of fear and anxiety?

Yet, it is here that Advent finds us. Advent reminds us that in the midst of darkness, hope finds us. And the hope of Advent is that we will never be left to face our perils alone. In the midst of our pain, grief, and sorrow, God is with us. Fred Craddock once said, “I first went because I thought, ‘Wherever Christ is, there is no misery.’ But now I realize, wherever there is misery, there Christ is.” Wherever you find yourself this Advent season, know that Christ is with you, especially if you are scared, lonely, or heartbroken. For in this season of hope, Christ our light “shines in our darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5).”

**YOUTH  
BAKE  
SALE &  
GIFT  
BASKET  
AUCTION**

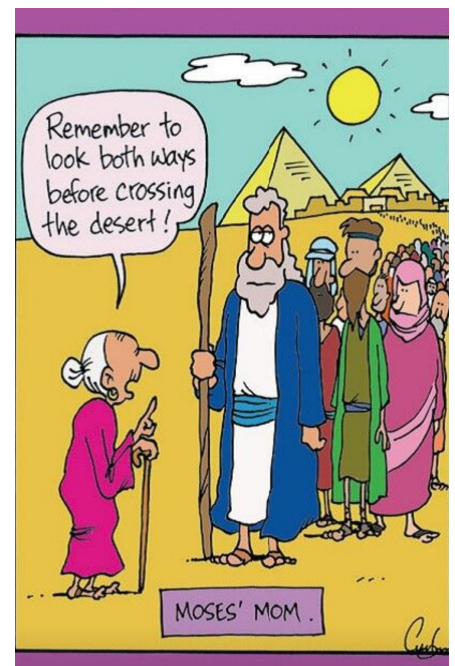




**December 9**  
 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
 Stop by D-4 and  
 purchase some  
 goodies AND bid on  
 awesome gift  
 baskets!

## Your Monthly Funnies

By Gene Maszy



## Kitchen Corner—A Christmas Reflection

By Sharon Maszy

What do you want for Christmas? Amidst all the excitement, anticipation, good food, lights, and merrymaking, I think we all strive to remember that we have Christmas because God came to be with us in the form of a tiny baby in a simple stable to chosen parents. Maybe we can begin this holiday season with a scripture from Kyle's November 11 sermon. It was Micah 6:8, "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." I want to hold on to a memory from the trip Gene and I took in October. We visited the ancient temples in Siem Reap, Cambodia. At Angkor Thom a Buddhist monk sat in the center of the ruins with all he needed to give a blessing to any tourist who sat down with him: a kettle of water, a stick with leather tassels, a mat, a selection of simple braided bracelets, and a basket for donations. Gene and I both experienced a blessing from a simple, humble man trying in his own way to live out Micah 6:8. I hope we all get what we want for Christmas and it leads us closer to being the just, merciful, humble mortal in Micah's verse.

This season is a great time to thank people for the gifts they give us, too. The HAB kitchen ministry is blessed by so many people who give the precious gift of time to our church family. At every meal we are served by a team of tellers/cashiers. They take money, check lists, and give us good tallies. Thank you to Dick and Susan Clark, Art Mills, Randy Weathers, Bob and Tracy Forster, Joe and Susan Stepp, Vickie Landers, John Roton, and Julie Babcock for your faithfulness and welcoming smiles.

Merry Christmas, Sharon Maszy

<b>December 5</b> meatloaf, bread, salad bar, lima beans, mashed potatoes, carrot cake	<b>December 19</b> poppy seed chicken, orange rolls, salad bar, rice, green beans, cherry cobbler
<b>December 12</b> roasted chicken, bread, salad bar, Bearded Pig baked beans, yellow rice, dessert	<b>December 26</b> <b>No Meal</b>




**Support Little Friends Preschool at HAB!**

Join Jax Marketplace for an evening of fun, food, games, crafts, and local makers with awesome holiday gifts!

Benefits our Little Friends Preschool!

**Wednesday, December 12,  
4:00-8:00 p.m.  
outside at HAB**

# Advent & Christmas at HGB

## Sunday, December 2

### First Sunday of Advent

8:45-9:45 a.m. Worship  
9:45-10:45 a.m. Church-wide  
breakfast and combined  
Sunday Bible Study class led  
by Kyle Reese (FH)  
11:00 a.m.-noon Worship

## Saturday, December 8

10:00 a.m. Children's  
Christmas Party and  
ornament-making (parlor/D-4)

## Sunday, December 9

### Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Youth  
Bake Sale Fundraiser (D-4)  
9:15-10:15 a.m. Advent  
Adventure, Sunday Bible  
Study  
10:30 a.m. Combined Worship  
Service featuring Sanctuary  
Choir, orchestra, Master  
Ringers, children, & youth

## Sunday, December 16

### Third Sunday of Advent

8:45-9:45 a.m. Worship  
9:45-10:45 a.m. Advent  
Adventure, Sunday Bible  
Study  
11:00 a.m.-noon Worship  
Time TBD- Youth Christmas  
Party

## Wednesday, December 19

6:00-7:00 p.m. Children  
rehearse for Family Christmas  
Eve Service  
6:30-6:55 p.m. Vespers & Night  
of Caring (Chapel)

## Sunday, December 23

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:45-9:45 a.m. Worship  
9:45-10:45 a.m. Advent  
Adventure, Sunday Bible Study  
11:00 a.m.-noon Worship

## Monday, December 24

### Christmas Eve

4:30-5:30 p.m. Family  
Christmas Eve Service  
11:00 p.m.- Service of Lessons  
and Carols

## Sunday, December 30

9:15-10:15 a.m. Sunday Bible  
Study  
10:30-11:30 a.m. Combined  
Worship Service

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FH = Fellowship Hall



### Sympathy to...

...the family of Mary Alyce Wheeler, who died Wednesday, October 31, 2018. The funeral service was November 5 at Hardage-Giddens Oaklawn Chapel.

...Lee & Gladys Hutchins and Hugh & Susan Greene in the death of Lee's sister in North Carolina.

## HAB Welcomes (Back) New Members

### Mary Laurel Underwood—Joined November 4, 2018

Mary Laurel is the daughter of long-time member Bob Underwood, who passed away last spring, and the sister of Melissa Crawford, who also joined HAB the same Sunday. Mary Laurel is a Jacksonville native, having lived mostly in the San Marco area. She recently made a career change from a long-term management position with Bono's BBQ to Underwood's Jewelers in San Marco. She previously attended Deermeadows Baptist Church.



*Mary Laurel Underwood and  
Melissa Underwood Crawford*

### Melissa Underwood Crawford—Joined November 4, 2018

Melissa is the daughter of long-time member Bob Underwood, who passed away last spring, and the sister of Mary Laurel, who also joined HAB the same Sunday. Melissa was born and raised in Jacksonville, leaving in 1993 to attend Florida State University. After 25 years in Tallahassee, where she was employed as a faculty administrator at FSU, she returned to Jacksonville several months ago. She continues in the same position, working from home. Her most recent church affiliation was Genesis Church in Tallahassee.

Melissa is already active in the Sanctuary Choir and Lunch Ladder. She says her current hobby is sorting through a mountain of pictures left by her father, who was an avid photographer. Favorite pastimes include music, theatre, and movies, as well as reconnecting with friends in Jacksonville. Melissa has appreciated hearing stories about the many lives her dad touched at HAB. As she finds her way around Jacksonville again, she says she is discovering what she has been missing all these years.

The Offering Plate	For the Fiscal Year beginning September 1, 2018		
	Sept '18	Oct '18	Year to Date
Offerings and Other Revenue	\$ 86,370	\$ 92,470	\$ 178,840
Expenses	(102,490)	(105,425)	(207,915)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(16,120)	(12,955)	(29,075)
Budgeted Offerings & Other Revenue	105,559	105,559	211,118
Above/(Below) Budget	(19,189)	(13,089)	(32,278)
# Days Operating Cash on Hand (period-end)	25.3	22.1	22.1

**DID YOU KNOW? You can give online at [habchurch.com/give](http://habchurch.com/give).**

## 'Tis the Season for Local Missions

by Claire Chinn, Minister of Children and Mission

I don't know about you, but for me the holiday season can seem like a whirlwind of one thing after the next. Before I know it, the crystal ball has dropped and it is a new year. It can be difficult during this time to make an intentional effort to support and engage with local missions. It could be difficult to go to the grocery store and pick up an extra can of green beans when your cart is already overflowing.

During our 8:45 service we get the chance to share and hear stories of how we have seen the risen Christ in our world. One story that stuck with me was the story of our young Benjamin Davidson (son to Molly and Keith and big brother to Hannah). Keith and Molly decided

that they were going to do a Thanksgiving bag for our UCOM (United Community Outreach Ministry) families. They told Benjamin that they were going to go shopping for food for people who otherwise would not have it. Benjamin excitedly went through the store and filled his bag (and even drew an awesome Happy Thanksgiving card). When he got to the checkout, the cashier asked him if he was Thanksgiving shopping and he yelled out, "IT'S FOR THE PEOPLE!"

And that, that right there, is what this is all about. It is about adding that extra can of green beans or making that intentional effort to take your child or children to the

grocery store so they can fill their bag with Thanksgiving food for the people. Because that is what this is all about—it is about the people. It is about making sure our neighbor does not go hungry, not just on Thanksgiving or Christmas but every day.

In our hurriedness and busyness of the holiday season we can easily forget that we are called to serve; we can easily get so wrapped up that we forget to stop and thank God for the world we get to call home. So next time you are in the grocery store, remember the words of young Benjamin— "It's for the people."

### Share a Meal with Your Neighbors This Christmas—Donate to UCOM

This Advent season, we are partnering with UCOM (United Community Outreach Ministry) to help provide Christmas meals for local families in need. It may seem like a simple thing, but being able to gather as a family around a homemade meal is a gift that can last a lifetime. Our goal is to feed 24 families this Christmas. See the list of items needed for the holiday food bags, and pick up these items the next time you are at the grocery store. You can drop them off at the church office between now and December 10.



*Benjamin with his Thanksgiving meal donation for UCOM.*

#### DONATION ITEMS FOR CHRISTMAS MEALS

\$15.00, \$25.00, or  
\$35.00 Grocery gift card  
(for families to purchase a  
turkey and other perishable  
items.)

Stuffing Mix

Mashed Potatoes

Corn and Green Beans

Gravy

Cream of Mushroom Soup

French Fried Onions

Canned Pumpkin

Pie Crust Mix

Condensed Milk

Chicken Broth

Canned Yams/  
Sweet Potatoes

Cranberry Sauce

# Mark Your Calendar

## Sunday, December 2—FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m. .... 8:45 a.m. Worship: Sanctuary  
 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. .... Church-wide breakfast and combined  
 Sunday Bible Study class led by Kyle Reese: FH  
 11:00 a.m.-noon ..... Eleven O'clock Worship: Sanctuary  
 4:00 p.m. .... Romanian Church: Chapel  
 4:30-5:00 p.m. .... HAB Ringers: E-9  
 5:00-6:00 p.m. .... Sunday Night Youth: Choir Room  
 6:30-7:15 p.m. .... Master Ringers: E-9  
 7:00 p.m. .... Burmese Church: Chapel

## Monday, December 3

8:00 a.m. .... Men's Book Study: D-1

## Tuesday, December 4

1:30 p.m. .... Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting: D-1

## Wednesday, December 5

5:30-6:30 p.m. .... Meal Served: FH  
 6:00-7:00 p.m. .... Children's Choirs: E-wing  
 6:00-7:00 p.m. .... Moms Meet Up: Parlor  
 6:00-7:00 p.m. .... Youth: Gym  
 6:30 p.m. .... Vespers: Chapel  
 7:00-8:30 p.m. .... Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room

## Saturday, December 8

10:00 a.m. .... Children's Christmas Party: Parlor/D-4

## Sunday, December 9—SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. .... Youth Bake Sale Fundraiser: D-4  
 9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. ... Advent Adventure/Sunday Bible Studies  
 10:30 a.m. .... Combined Worship: Sanctuary  
 4:00 p.m. .... Romanian Church: Chapel  
 7:00 p.m. .... Burmese Church: Chapel

## Monday, December 10

8:00 a.m. .... Women's Book Study: D-1

## Wednesday, December 12

4:00-8:00 p.m. .... JAXMarketplace Winterfest: Outside  
 5:30-6:30 p.m. .... Meal Served: FH  
 6:00-7:00 p.m. .... Youth: Gym  
 6:30 p.m. .... Vespers: Chapel  
 7:00-8:30 p.m. .... Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room

## Sunday, December 16—THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m. .... 8:45 a.m. Worship: Sanctuary  
 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. .... Bible Study Classes  
 11:00 a.m.-noon ..... Eleven O'clock Worship: Sanctuary  
 4:00 p.m. .... Romanian Church: Chapel  
 TBD ..... Youth Christmas Party  
 7:00 p.m. .... Burmese Church: Chapel

## Monday, December 17

8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. .... Men's Book Study: D-1  
 5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m. .... Sulzbacher Feeding

## Wednesday, December 19

5:30-6:30 p.m. .... Meal Served: FH  
 6:00-7:00 p.m. .... Children Rehearse for Family Christmas Eve  
 Service: E-wing  
 6:00-7:00 p.m. .... Moms Meet Up: Parlor  
 6:30 p.m. .... Vespers & Night of Caring: Chapel  
 7:00-8:30 p.m. .... Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room

## Sunday, December 23-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m. .... 8:45 a.m. Worship: Sanctuary  
 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. .... Advent Adventure/Bible Study Classes  
 11:00 a.m.-noon ..... Eleven O'clock Worship: Sanctuary  
 4:00 p.m. .... Romanian Church: Chapel  
 7:00 p.m. .... Burmese Church: Chapel

## Monday, December 24-CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 p.m. .... Family Christmas Eve Service: Sanctuary  
 11:00 p.m. .... Service of Lessons and Carols: Sanctuary

## Wednesday, December 26—NO Programs this evening!

## Sunday, December 30

9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. .... Sunday Bible Studies  
 10:30-11:30 a.m. .... Combined Worship: Sanctuary  
 4:00 p.m. .... Romanian Church: Chapel  
 7:00 p.m. .... Burmese Church: Chapel



We love connecting with our community on social media. To join the conversation throughout the week and stay in the loop with updates, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @habchurch. Not into social media? Contact Laraine via email at [laraine@habchurch.com](mailto:laraine@habchurch.com) or 904-396-7745 x333 to sign up for our weekly emails.



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[www.habchurch.com](http://www.habchurch.com)

for information about our Sunday Bible study  
classes, upcoming events, new books at the  
library, Wednesday night menus, and more.

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