

The Herald

HENDRICKS AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2020



Advent & Christmas

By B. J. Hutto, Pastor

Friends,

I think either my calendar or my thermometer's broken because the one keeps trying to tell me that it's November, but the other says that, outside, it's 80 degrees!

I've said this before, but Rebekah and I used to joke when we lived in New York that for all the pairs of boots that Hannah Ruth had up there—rain boots, snow boots, insulated boots, and so on—her cousins in Florida had an equal number of flip flops. And now that we're here and it's 80-plus degrees in November, we're making that transition ourselves. I told someone the other day that it'll be bizarre singing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" in a pair of shorts, but as I write you this morning, that day is approaching very soon.

Because Advent is almost upon us, I wanted to take this opportunity to update all of you on HAB's Advent and Christmas worship plans. Just as on Sundays—and just as in all other areas of our lives—these plans reflect the reality of life under COVID and our church's abiding commitment to do all that we can to keep ourselves and our brothers and sisters safe. But we believe that they are good plans and that they will still offer opportunities for meaningful, worshipful community during this season.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

During Advent, Tommy Shapard and Janet Metcalf will be offering lessons on four well-known Advent hymns: "Joy to the World"; "Star Child"; "O Come, O Come

Emmanuel"; and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." As Baptists, so much of how we understand God and God's love comes from our beloved hymnody, so learning more about these texts will be both enjoyable and enriching. These lessons will be prerecorded and available online each weekend so that members can engage them on their own time and then come together to discuss them, over Zoom, at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Please read Britt's article on page 4 for more information.

THE LONGEST NIGHT

On the night of the winter solstice, December 21, HAB members will have an opportunity to step away from the bright lights and celebrations of the Christmas season and use the church's sanctuary as a space to grieve, to remember, to heal, and to hope. While for many the Christmas season is a time of joy, for a number of us it is also a time when space is needed for more somber reflections. Therefore, on the longest night of the year, the church sanctuary will be open from 4:30-7:30 p.m. for self-guided prayer, petition, and reflection (we are opening it this early for those who would be uncomfortable driving home after dark). There will be appropriate music throughout, and handouts with prayers and litanies will be offered. In addition to this, from 6:00-6:30 in the sanctuary there will be a brief "Longest Night" liturgy for those who want a more guided, communal time of reflection. I know that HAB has had services like this in the past, so all of you already know their value in our lives, but this service feels particularly appropriate this year due to the pandemic and the loss of life that we and our world have suffered.

CHRISTMAS EVE

As always, on December 24, our church will celebrate with two services. Again, though, because of COVID, these services will not look like they have in the past. Just like on Sunday mornings, they will be identical to one another, and because they will need to be

(continued on next page)

B.J. Hutto, Ph.D., 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

(B.J., continued)

accessible for the entire congregation, the late service will not be as late. Therefore, this year our Christmas Eve services will be at 5:00 and at 9:00 p.m. Because it's hard to do a socially-distanced nativity, both services will be services of lessons and carols, but they will be shaped so as to be more welcoming to children. Also, we are preparing to have both services outdoors. We are working on appropriate lighting (that can be dimmed as we light candles), we have ordered space heaters to use if need be, and we will have stations set up for apple cider and hot chocolate. If the weather is poor, then we will go into the sanctuary, but holding these services out of doors will add one more layer of protection over them. Thus ours will be a

different Christmas Eve celebration than in years past. However, I can tell you that the more we talk about it as a staff, the more excited we are to see how it turns out!

Once again, we are grateful for the chance to lead and to serve alongside all of you, and we are grateful for your patience, good nature, and diligence as we navigate these times together. And above all, we look forward to celebrating Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany with our HAB family and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ before our neighbors!

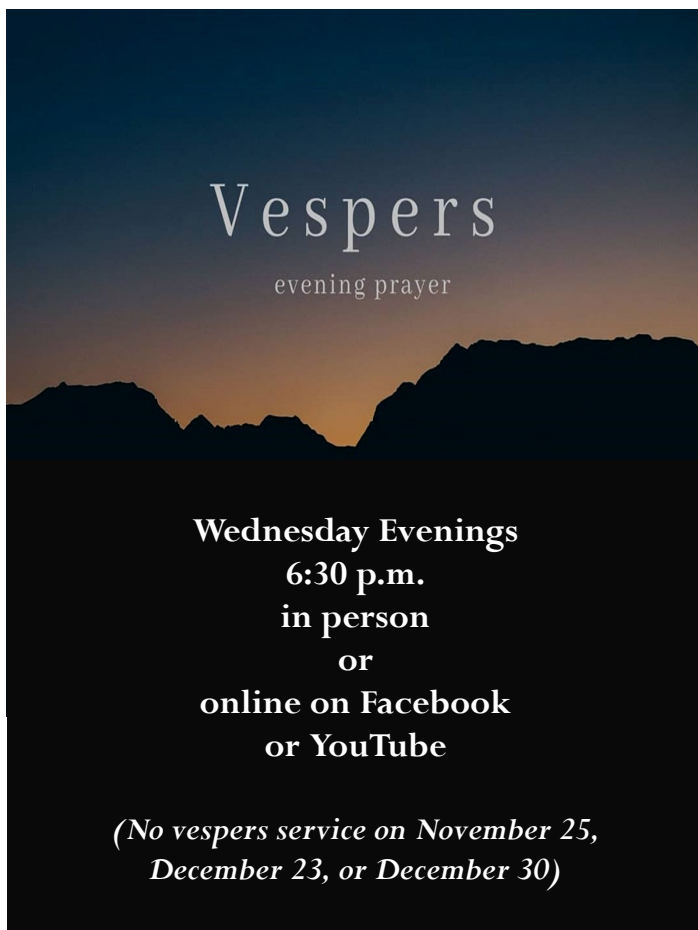
Kind regards,
B.J.



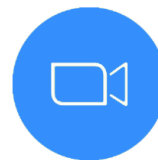
If you are unable or not yet ready to join us for in-person worship, the service will be available online on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. on our YouTube or Facebook pages.

The YouTube link is

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzdiHq1ue_3GjixqyBFL6dA



Thursday Zoom Calls



zoom

Please join us for our church-wide open Zoom calls on Thursday nights beginning at 5:30 p.m. The call will last 30-45 minutes, and this is simply a time for us to catch up, see each other's faces, and share our lives together. We will have a call on Thursday, November 26, which is Thanksgiving Day. Here is the info to join the calls (the info is the same each week):

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85306685641>

If you don't have Internet access, you can join by phone: Dial 1-646-558-8656 and then enter the meeting ID, followed by #. The meeting ID is 853 0668 5641.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Sunday, November 29

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday Bible Study Zoom call 8:00 a.m. (*See Britt's article*)

Worship 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 6

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday Bible Study Zoom call 8:00 a.m.
Communion

Worship 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 13

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday Bible Study Zoom call 8:00 a.m.
Worship 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday Bible Study Zoom call 8:00 a.m.
Worship 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Monday, December 21

Longest Night (*See B.J.'s article for details*)

6:00-6:30 p.m.—A Service for the Grieving
(*The service will be streamed*)

4:30-6:00 & 6:30-7:30 p.m.—A Come-and-Go
Contemplative Time for Remembrance
with Music, Meditation, and Silence

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 & 9:00 (*both services are the same;*
the 5:00 service will be streamed)

Outdoors between the gym & E wing

Sunday, December 27

First Sunday of Christmas

(No Sunday Bible Study)

Worship 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

UCOM Christmas Bags

Please drop off items in the narthex by Sunday, December 13

\$15, \$25, or \$35 grocery gift card

Stuffing mix

Corn

Green beans

Cream of mushroom soup

Canned pumpkin

Condensed milk

Canned yams/sweet potatoes

Mashed potatoes

Gravy

French fried onions

Pie crust mix

Chicken broth

Cranberry sauce



Poinsettias for Advent & Christmas

Poinsettias will be used in the sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. To order poinsettia(s) in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact Laraine at laraine@habchurch.com or 904-396-7745, ext. 333, by Tuesday, December 15. Poinsettias are \$10 each. Names will appear in the worship bulletins on Sunday, December 20, and on Christmas Eve, and you may take your poinsettia(s) home following worship.





Trying Something New

By Britt Hester, Minister of Youth and Christian Education

On Sunday, October 4, we resumed in-person worship on the HAB campus with specific safety guidelines and precautions in place for COVID-19. I believe it is safe to say that our in-person worship has been successful

thus far, and the ability to see and interact with one another, albeit socially distanced, has been good for our proverbial souls. I am grateful for this new reality, and I hope we are able to continue gathering safely without any setbacks.

With that in mind, we also made the difficult, yet necessary, decision to pause Sunday Bible Study in order to focus on our regathering elements and to give our Sunday Bible Study Leadership Team time to reconvene. During this hiatus we used our time to evaluate how to best offer Sunday Bible Study lessons in a way that is easily accessible *and* provides the best opportunity for fellowship and dialogue. After several meetings, we feel we have arrived at our best option.

Beginning on November 29, the first Sunday of Advent, we will roll out a new structure that we hope provides the best of both worlds that we have experienced recently. Over the past eight weeks, Susan and Joe Stepp led a series entitled “A Life of Faith: Lessons from the Psalms.” They did a tremendous job preparing these pre-recorded lessons, and the feedback we received suggested many would like to see these pre-recordings continue. The only negative feedback we received was that many missed the online interaction of Zoom to discuss the lessons, pray

for one another, and generally interact. Beginning on November 29, this option will be available.

During Advent, Tommy Shapard and Janet Metcalf will be leading us in Sunday Bible Study by highlighting four traditional Advent hymns (“Joy to the World”; “Star Child”; “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”; and “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”) while connecting them to their biblical origins. The lessons will be pre-recorded and posted each Friday on Facebook, YouTube, and Vimeo. You can access these lessons at any time prior to Sunday. On Sunday, there will be a Zoom meeting at 8:00 a.m. for those interested in discussing the lesson, praying for each other, and catching up prior to worship at 9:00 a.m. The Zoom link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84399222717>

Our hope is that this will give you the flexibility to interact with the material at your convenience while also providing you with the opportunity to connect with fellow church members on Sunday. We realize some are not able or comfortable attending in-person worship yet. This gives *everyone* in our congregation a chance to study the material at their leisure while simultaneously providing a way for us to share life together in this time of COVID.

Thank you for your prayers and support in this process. My prayer is that this will continue to bless you and your family as we continue navigating this challenging time together. We have journeyed together this far, and I have no doubt we will continue to grow and strengthen one another in the days, weeks, and months ahead. I look forward to walking the road with you.

Much Love,
Britt



A Challenge

By Claire Chinn, Minister of Children and Mission

The holiday season is typically a season where we gather and celebrate the joy that the Advent and Christmas season brings. This year we will find creative and unique ways to celebrate together. For some of us we will find this season particularly isolating and lonely; for others our large family gatherings will be over Zoom. And some of us will find ourselves sitting at a smaller table with just our close family members.

This odd holiday season reminds me of the powerful family that HAB continues to be. The care for one another has been outstanding, and the care of our community has been wonderful as well. Through your contributions we were able to fill two grocery carts with food for UCOM’s Thanksgiving bags, which included your overwhelming financial generosity through grocery gift cards and monetary donations.

This is where I want to challenge you. I want to challenge you to do more for UCOM’s Christmas bags. Can we collect enough food, gift cards, and monetary donations to fill three carts—or what about four?

(continued on next page)

(Claire, continued)

These contributions are a small piece that can help make someone's holiday a little more normal. A can of green beans or stuffing might not sound like a lot, but to a family who has lost income or jobs to COVID-19, that can is a symbol of normalcy. We will all struggle to find normalcy during this holiday, and it will be even harder for those families who have lost income or jobs due to this pandemic.

Another way we can help support our friends at UCOM this year is by a designated donation for their CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) Program. Healthcare positions are vital to our community right now (as they always are), and UCOM offers a great scholarship opportunity for their clients to become Certified Nursing Assistants. Each scholarship is \$600 and provides great job security for those candidates. What a gift it would be to provide a scholarship and job opportunity to a family that desperately needs and wants it.

Let's work together as a family of faith and make this Advent and Christmas season a little more normal and a little more joyful for our neighbors.

If you have any questions about ways to support our partners at UCOM, please contact Claire at claire@habchurch.com

End-of-Year Giving

By Sissy McQuaig, Treasurer

As we approach the end of 2020, our church has begun to share with us the incredible ministries that are happening at HAB even in the midst of the COVID pandemic. Throughout each week our ballfields are full of energetic players and our preschool welcomes the youngest in our community. We continue to work with the vulnerable in our local community through UCOM (United Community Outreach Ministry) and beyond, through Touching Miami with Love.

While you can, of course, continue to tithe via cash or check, I wanted to share with you another method of giving that is now available on our website, www.habchurch.com. To check it out, first visit our homepage and click "Give" at the top right of your screen. You will be redirected to a completely secure site where you can feel confident that your information is private and protected. If it's your first time, click "New Member" to set up your account. Once your account is set up, you will be able to tithe with your debit card or checking account. You have the option to set up recurring payments and view your payment history. You will also have the opportunity to designate where your gift should be applied through the online giving. Once you have completed the gift transaction, an e-mail will be sent to you with a receipt and payment information for your records.

Thank you for your continued generosity in the giving of your tithes and offerings. Please know that you may also designate an end-of-the-year gift in honor of a loved one or organization. If you have any questions about how to give online or designate a gift, please contact the church office at 904-396-7745, ext. 304. Vickie will be happy to help you with it.

The Offering Plate	For fiscal year beginning September 1, 2020		
	Sept 2020	Oct 2020	Year to Date
Offerings & Other Revenue	\$94,766	\$94,155	\$188,921
Expenses	(99,046)	(97,230)	(196,276)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(4,280)	(3,074)	(7,355)
Budgeted Offerings & Other Revenue	108,341	108,341	216,681
Above/(Below) Budget	(13,575)	(14,185)	(27,760)
# Days Operating Cash on Hand (period-end)	29.8	28.98	

DID YOU KNOW? You can give online at habchurch.com; then choose "Give."



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When you give to the **Offering for Global Missions**, you help plant new churches and share the hope of Christ with people who have never heard the Gospel. You offer food, teach children how to succeed in school, and help refugees adapt and thrive in their new homes.

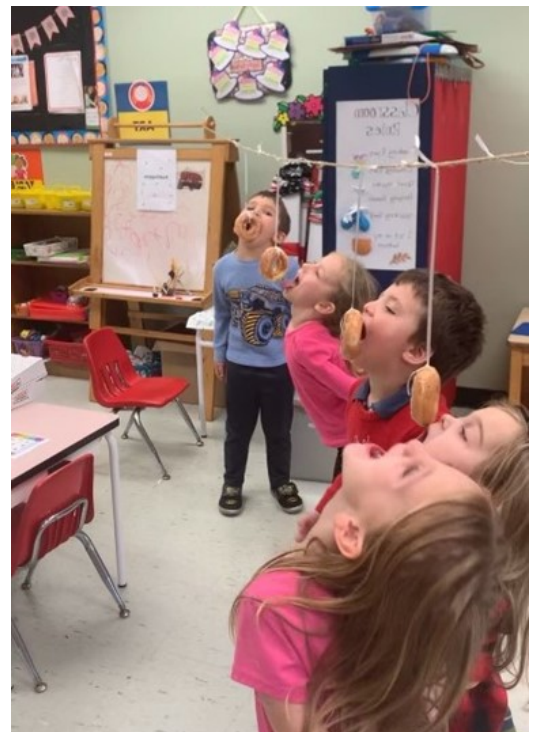
Little Friends Celebrate Christmas around the World

By Julie Mason, Little Friends Board Chair

The precious kiddos of Little Friends daycare and preschool will learn about the traditions and customs of other countries with “Christmas around the World,” as we all get ready to celebrate one of the holiest holidays on the Christian calendar, the special time of year marking the birth of Jesus.



The preschoolers thoroughly enjoyed making music with the fun instruments of Mexico—any time preschoolers can shake maracas with their wonderful rhythmic noise, you can bet they will have a great time!



Here the children are “bobbing” for doughnuts, an especially delectable tradition that they loved from the Netherlands.

Earlier in November, trying to teach the children never to forget those who served our country, even though that is a difficult concept to teach at this age, the children wrote letters of appreciation to HAB veterans in the congregation on Veterans Day.

School will close for the Christmas holidays on Friday, December 18, 2020; the doors will open again on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

Little Friends Heroes:

Jennifer Mayo, helper, substitute, true friend
Bette Len Mitchell, artist and creative genius
Justin Weise, web page designer and supporter

Kitchen Korner

By Sharon Maszy

Kitchen Korner

Happy Holidays! As I write this we are preparing for Thanksgiving, and as you read this we will be in the midst of the Advent and Christmas season. Even though we are challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is a blessed time—a time to give praise, reflect, and celebrate the birth of our Savior.

One of my favorite things this time of year is the return of everything pumpkin. You know, pumpkin pies, pumpkin muffins, and best of all Cremora Pumpkin Spice coffee creamer, sugar-free. It is hard to find but so worth it if you love pumpkin. Pumpkin is not only a distinctive flavor; it is also good for you. Pumpkin, along with all the other winter squashes, is full of vitamins and minerals to boost your immune system during these winter months.

We have made more than 400 desserts in the HAB kitchen in the last 14-15 years. If we were cooking this week, what would dessert be? I think it might be pumpkin! We get a lot of good recipes from a book called *The Cake Mix Doctor*. A good recipe is one that can be made by a novice cook/baker, has readily available ingredients, and can be multiplied up without changing the quality. This cookbook fills the bill with Pumpkin Spice Cake. It will stand alone with a dusting of confectioner's sugar or be incredibly special with buttercream or cream cheese frosting sprinkled with toasted, chopped pecans. You might turn it into muffins/cupcakes and add chocolate chips and/or chopped pecans or walnuts.

Pumpkin Spice Cake

Serves 12-18

Vegetable spray for misting the pans

1 box (18.25 ounces) plain spice cake mix

1 3.4-ounce box vanilla instant pudding mix

1 cup pumpkin (canned)

½ cup vegetable oil

½ cup water

3 large eggs

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

½ teaspoon ground ginger

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Lightly mist a 9" by 13" baking pan.

In a stand mixer or a large mixing bowl (with a hand mixer), add the cake mix, pudding mix and all the other ingredients. Mix well for 1-2 minutes. Scrape down the sides of the bowl and beat for 2 more minutes, scraping the sides again once or twice. The batter should look thick and well-blended.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan and smooth it out with the spatula.

Bake 30-35 minutes. When done, the cake will have slightly pulled away from the sides of the pan and spring back when lightly pressed with your finger in the center of the cake.

Cool completely. If desired, frost with one of the suggested frostings and sprinkle with the chopped nuts. Cut into squares. Enjoy the pumpkin season!





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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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