



Highland's Child Development Center

This month, our preschool will celebrate with a Happy Birthday Jesus Party organized by Linda Smith. We also have several other festive activities planned for December, including painting classroom Christmas shirts, making ornaments, and reading books about Jesus as we study the letter Jj.

Merry Christmas!

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

6:45 AM - 5:30 PM Monday - Friday

PRESCHOOL AGES 3-5

ANN SMITH, *Director* 455-8642

Celebrating
53
YEARS

THE CONNECTION (USPS579-240)
Is published monthly by Highland Baptist Church,
808 W. Hickory St. Tullahoma, TN 37388.
Periodical Postage Paid at Tullahoma, TN.
Postmaster: Send address changes to The
Connection, P.O. Box 1195. Tullahoma, TN.
37388.

HighlandBaptistChurch.com

THE CONNECTION
December 2024
Highland Baptist
Connect, Grow, Serve, Go

If someone came to our country and wasn't familiar with Christmas, just listening to the music, they probably wouldn't get the idea that this holiday had anything to do with a little baby boy named Jesus, born 2000 years ago. Go to any neighborhood, and you'll see more Santas, reindeer, snowmen, and sleighs than you will see anything about Jesus. In fact, a survey shows that one-half of all Americans celebrate Christmas not as a religious holiday but more as a secular holiday.

When children across America go to bed on Christmas Eve night, most of them think a lot more about Santa and the North Pole than they are about Jesus and Bethlehem. But know this: if you take Jesus and Bethlehem out of the picture, there is no Christmas, nor is there really a need for Christmas. I want you to know some things about Christmas. It's not the Christmas of Santa Claus but the Christmas of a Savior. It's not the Christmas of a reindeer, but the Christmas of a Redeemer. It's not the Christmas of the North Pole, but the Christmas of Bethlehem.

The amazing thing is that we're not really sure in what year Jesus was born. We're not exactly sure what day is actually His birthday. Yet even though we don't know the exact date of that day, we do know it was the perfect day. We know that He wasn't born too early, and He wasn't born too late. He was born right on time.

Timing is everything. Have you ever thought about when He was born and how special that day was? Why was Jesus born when He was? Why didn't He come much earlier? Why did God wait around for thousands and thousands of years before Jesus came on the scene? Paul answers that question with a little statement we might miss or gloss over. Paul doesn't talk much about the birth of Jesus, but when he does, he tells us something that's just incredible. In Galatians 4:4, he says, "4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son..." Galatians 4:4 That phrase "fullness of time" is a very loaded Greek expression. It means something complete and fully developed, like a ripe apple ready to be picked or a pregnant woman ready to deliver her baby. It refers to an appointed time. Why wasn't Jesus born during the days of Isaiah? Or David? Or Ezekiel? Or Moses? Why was He born on the day He was born?

Here's the incredible truth we need to hear. This statement describes the exact moment in history when everything was in place, all the pieces were on the board, everything was perfectly lined up, and the stage was perfectly set for God to send His son. Jesus wasn't born one hour too early, one hour too late, or even a minute too early or too late. Paul is telling us that God had the birth of Jesus planned down to the exact second on His clock and down to the exact day on His calendar. God made a divine appointment, and God is never late for His appointments.

Continued on the next page. →

The only way for us to be made right with God is through Jesus Christ. For thousands of years, the Jews had waited for a Messiah. The Gentiles had waited on a Savior, but a little over 2000 years ago, on an exact date, in an exact place, God said, "The time is now and the wait is over." The timing was perfect. In the fullness of time, God sent His son. There was an exact time that Jesus should be born. There was an exact time that Jesus should die. There was an exact time when He should be raised from the dead. There was an exact time when He should ascend into heaven. There is an exact time when He is coming again. There is an exact time for you, your family, and your friends to put their faith in Jesus, and that time is now because timing is everything!

There's a song our HBC children have learned that has a great phrase..."we have so much, so much, so much to be thankful for". Isn't this SO true?

I am thankful for the generosity of Highlanders that gave to the Golden Offering for Tennessee Missions to meet our goal of \$4,000. To date, our offering is \$4,055! Our support will help provide ministries throughout our great state of Tennessee.

I am thankful for the Highlanders who took backpacks and filled them with supplies for children in East Tennessee who have experienced such devastation with recent hurricanes.

I am thankful for the continued ministry we have at Highland to be a part of Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to ALL that packed a shoebox! A big thank you to Karen Purdom and Terri Stone for their leadership in this global ministry.

I'm thankful for a set aside time for the Week of Prayer for International Missions: December 1-8. Prayer guides will be provided to help us as we pray for our missionaries and the ministries to which God has called them. As we pray specifically, may God speak to us on how we can give financially to meet the Highland goal of \$8,000.

PLEASE save December 8 on your calendar to join us in morning Worship as we welcome IMB Missionary Randy Stoda. He serves in EURO East as Associate Cluster Leader in The Baltics and Poland. I'm sure our hearts will be stirred to hear how God is working in this region of the world. We do have so much to be thankful for... I'm thankful for YOU!

Rema Bell

Deacon of the Week

Nov. 30– Dec. 6

Roger Williams

December 7-13

Bradley Rogers

December 14-20

Jason Robison

December 21-27

Jimmy Gaddis

Dec. 28– Jan. 3

Jonathan Sipe

Deacons for 2024-2025

Group	Deacon
A-BO	Steve Stone
BR-DOU	Johnny McBride
DUN-F	Tommy Griffin
GA-HEN	Jimmy Gaddis
HES-JOR	Bradley Rogers
KI-MOF	Ben Murray
MON-RAY	Mike Stringfield
RID-SM	Paco Prince
SN-V	Jason Robison
W-Y	Jonathan Sipe
DEACONS	Roger Williams

Greeters– December 2024

December 1– Jimmy/ Kristy

December 8– David/ Diane

December 15 –Johnny/ Gayle/ Brian

December 22 –Linda/ Samantha

December 29– Keith and Ramona

Deacons

Johnny McBride
Steve Stone
Tommy Griffin
Jason Robison
Paco Prince
Jonathan Sipe
Mike Stringfield
Ben Murray
Jimmy Gaddis
Bradley Rogers
Roger Williams

Security Partners

Ben Howell
Jennifer Sipe
David Inocencio
Jason Farris
Linda Miller
Scarlett Carpenter
Keith Bailey

Please sign up on the bulletin board to be a security partner .

HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH
808 W. HICKORY STREET
TULLAHOMA, TN 37388

WEBSITE: HighlandBaptistChurch.com

EMAIL: highlandbaptist@cafes.net

Church Phone (931) 455-0645 FAX: 393-0440

JIM NORMAN
MATT KOEHLER
MIKE STRINGFIELD
KATHY HASTY
ANN SMITH
AMY JACKSON
JIMMY GADDIS

SENIOR PASTOR
MINISTER OF YOUTH AND EDUCATION
VOLUNTEER MUSIC DIRECTOR
NURSERY DIRECTOR
CDC DIRECTOR
OFFICE MANAGER
FACILITIES MANAGER





God plans. God waits. God delivers.

December Nursery Volunteers

Nursery Director– Kathy Hasty- If you are not able to serve on your assigned date, please call Kathy Hasty at 931-455-0977.

Sunday December 1:

Bible Study: Jennifer Sipe

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Regenia Rogers, Linda Bolinger

Evening Worship: Samantha Norman, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday December 4: Kim Dodson, Kim Whitemore

Sunday December 8:

Bible Study: Liz Bond

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Rick Miller, Kelly Farris

Evening Worship: Terri Stone, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday December 11: Kim Dodson, Regenia Rogers

Sunday December 15:

Bible Study: David Inocencio

Morning Worship: David Inocencio, Kim Dodson, Leah Prince

Evening Worship: Steve Stone, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday December 18: Kim Dodson, Kathy Hasty

Sunday December 22:

Bible Study: Liz Bond

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Lauren Fults, Kathy Hasty

Evening Worship: No Evening Worship– Merry Christmas!

Wednesday December 25: No Wednesday Services– Merry Christmas!

Sunday December 29:

Bible Study: David Inocencio

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Julie Rogers, Linda Bolinger

Evening Worship: Brenda Griffin, Kathy Hasty

Renovations are going well. We have put up new walls and will be painting them soon. After the painting is finished, we will install flooring in both rooms. Thank you to those who have donated money and time to the project. Last month, the youth went to Riverbend Ranch for a day of unity. Our theme verse was from John 13:34 – 35, **34: “I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”**How do you love your brother or sister in Christ? How we treat one another reflects the message we are to share with the world. The Gospel is the story of God’s love for the lost. God didn’t let our sins keep Him from loving us. It’s because of His love He sent Jesus to be born, live a sinless life, die, and rise from the dead so we could be united with Him for eternity. Don’t let the things of this world rob you of the love you are to have for your brother or sister in Christ. Show mercy, grace, and forgiveness, and be united in sharing and living out the Gospel this Christmas season. Merry Christmas!

Matt Koehler

Minister of Youth & Education

Awana Clubs Christmas Verse **December 18, 2024**

This Week's AWANA verses:

Cubby / Homecombs
Ages 4 & 5
LUKE 2:11
"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you, He is Christ the LORD."

Jesus' Birthday
The Best Gift Ever!

Sparks / SkyDormer
K-2nd-2nd

PRIME TIMERS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10th
At 12:00 p.m.

POT-LUCK LUNCH
PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE FINGER FOOD TO SHARE

WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE
PLEASE BRING A \$10 WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT FOR A CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE

Thank you to everyone who took an angel from our Angel Tree!
Please return the filled Angel Tree Bags by December 9th.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Mercy's Well in Concert AM Worship	2	3	4	5	6 Christmas Parade	7
Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering– December 1-8, 2024						
	Julia Walter	Jensen Rogers		Hilda Corley	Pearson Painter	Ken Tatum
8 Mission Speaker– AM Service Deacons Meeting 4 p.m. Herb Whittemore	9 Angel Tree Gifts due back to church.	10 Prime Timers Gift Exchange and Lunch Noon	11	12	13 Briana Miller	14
15 Business Meeting 6 p.m.	16 Jules Frasch Erin Murray Lucas Koehler	17 LeeAnn Wells Matthew Hasty	18 AWANA Happy Birthday Jesus Party 5:30-7:15 p.m.	19	20	21
22 Christmas Music Program– AM Service No Evening Services	23 Church Office Closed	24 Church Office Closed Drop– In Christmas Eve Communion– 5-7 p.m. S. W. Stone Bernadette Davis	25 Church Office Closed– No Wednesday Services Christmas Day	26	27 Amy Raymond	28
29	30 Jo Bates	31 Roger Williams	Church Office Closed New Years Day	Sound Volunteer Schedule– December 2024 11/27/24&12/1/24– Andrew Newton 12/4/24&12/8/24– Ben Murray 12/11/24&12/15/24– Ben Howell 12/18/24&12/22/24– Ben Murray 12/25/24&12/29/24– Andrew Newton		

Highlands Highlights

Counters For December

Linda Conner/ Becky Moffat



Deacon's Meeting
Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

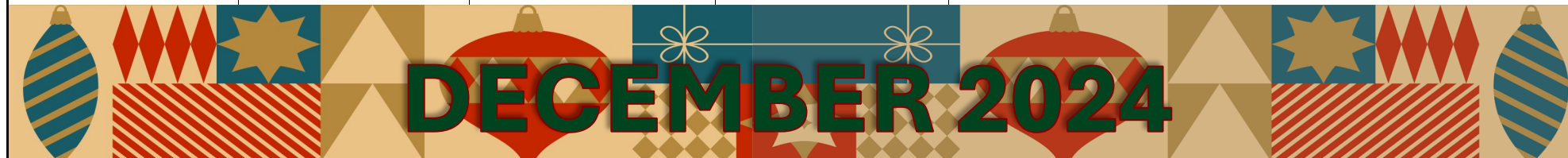
December Prime Timers (55 & Better)
Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at noon. Please bring your favorite finger food and a \$10 gift for a gift exchange.
Everyone 55 and better is invited to attend.

Quarterly Business Meeting
Sunday, December 15th at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Holiday Schedule
December 22– No Evening Services
December 24– Church Office Closed/
Drop in Communion, 5-7 p.m.
December 25– Church Office Closed/
No Services

December Children's Church Volunteers

December 1– Karen/Matt
December 8– Joanna/ Ryan
December 15– Milly/ Julie
December 22– Jonathan/Ann/Briana
December 29– Brenda/MJ





Sunday Schedule

Bible Study – 9:15 AM

Morning Worship – 10:30 AM

Children’s Church is available during the Service for children 3 years old– 2nd Grade

Evening Worship – 6:00 PM



Wednesday Night Schedule

**Church– Wide Wednesday Night Supper
5:00– 5:30 p.m.**

(Wednesday Night Supper will not be served May– August)

**AWANA—4 Years old– 5th Grade
5:30– 7:00 p.m.**
(AWANA will not meet May– August.)

**Youth and Adult Classes
All Classes Meet at 6:00 PM**

Youth Group

Youth Dept.

Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study

Sanctuary

Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study is available on campus and online.

Adult Choir Practice 7:00 PM