

*Our Vision is to be Christ to each other
and our community— doing
justice, loving mercy and
walking humbly with our God.*

Coat and Blanket Giveaway

is Sunday, December 5, from 2 until 3pm.

If you can help, please see Penny Ginn after service.



A Thank You Note...

Good tidings to you! Our gratitude to the Fa La Las for the exquisite Advent transformation in the Sanctuary extends from the tip top of the new 10 foot Chrismon tree to the very old Creche on the edge of the baptismal pool! The beautiful garland and pinecone swags hung with loving care makes our Church warm and welcoming. Also, thank you Fernwood family for an abundance of poinsettias; they are magnificent!

O come! O come, Emmanuel! Fernwood is ready for you!

The Worship Ministry Team wishes each of you a blessed Advent.



To the Fernwood Baptist Church congregation.

On behalf of the Broome and McLane families, I would like to thank you for your overwhelming love and support during this time of Lynda McLane's passing. The numerous acts of kindness were very much appreciated.

Each day we were comforted by your visitations, prepared meals, and most importantly, your prayers.

I would like to request continued prayers for our family as we try navigating life without our precious Lynda.

God Bless Each of You.

Kathy Broome (Lynda's sister-in-law)

From the Pastor's Desk...

The Advent and Christmas season of 2020 was one unlike any of us have ever experienced before. We were in the depths of the pandemic. Our Christmas Eve service was online. My family stayed home and didn't visit any extended family over the holidays. The COVID death toll was rising every day.

And yet, there were some good things that came out of that time. For the first time since I was a pastor, I was able to be with my family, truly worship with my family, on Christmas Eve. Since we stayed at home and didn't travel, there was no hustling around, packing the car, sitting in traffic, or sleeping in strange beds. We were able to just be together.

The pandemic, of course, is still with us. The new Omicron variant casts a pall of uncertainty over the next few months. Will it fade away? Will it be worse than Delta? Those questions have yet to be answered. And yet, much of life has returned to something approaching normalcy. More and more people are being vaccinated and receiving booster shots. We are worshiping together in person, even if we are sitting separated in the pews and wearing masks.

And the thing I've noticed most of all is that the busyness of the season has returned. There are more activities to plan and promote. More demands on my time. We are planning to go see our family on Christmas Day. These changes are inevitable I suppose, and most of them are good. But at the same time, I find myself wishing for the time, like last year, not just to do, but simply to be.

So, my challenge for us this year, my challenge for myself, is to be this Christmas. Be with your family. Be yourself. Like the shepherds, be a worshiper at the manger. Be someone who, like Mary, "pondered all these things in her heart." As things slowly get back to normal, keep in mind that "normal" doesn't always mean "better". At its heart, the Christmas story isn't one of doing. It's one of being and becoming. It's the story of a God who loved us enough to become one with creation.

Take some time in this season to embrace silence and stillness. Take some time to reflect on the love of God made flesh in this season. Take some time this Christmas to be.

Matt

Homebound Member of the Week

Linda Pruitt

McKinney House
307 Miller Road, Rm. 2
Mauldin, SC 29662





The Missions Ministry Team is recommending that Fernwood support the CBF December Global Missions Offering. Envelopes can be obtained in the concourse for your donations.

The Missions Team is also going to display a Giving Tree in the concourse to allow members to sponsor some local families/children for the holidays. We will be working with TOTAL Ministries, Hope Center for Children, and some other children known by the church family that need support (this includes the exterminator's three children). You can select a tag off of the Giving Tree which will provide details of the gift that is requested. Once you take a tag and purchase the designated gift, place it under the tree.

DEADLINE to return these gifts are Sunday, December 19.

Do not forget important upcoming Missions activities.

Soup Kitchen

Dec. 19, 9:00am – 1:00pm contact Clarence Batts



2022 Offering Envelopes are HERE! Information Table in the Concourse.

It is very important that everyone, please only use your NEW envelopes in 2022 and discard your old 2021 envelopes, since some numbers have changed. Thanks for understanding in this matter.

If you give online or mail your check in, you will be receiving a letter with your number giving.

P.S.: Please be sure that you look closely at the name when picking up your envelopes and only pick up yours. If you do not see yours, please contact Angie in the church office.

Devotional for the Advent Season

The Discipleship Team would like to offer the following **link** from the Luther Seminary as a guide through Advent this year. You can download the link or call the church office and have Angie make you a copy of the devotions for each day of Advent.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IJMVdn54_YGhTzIN7Atzwwgi9NWTDLexh/view?hsmi=177577910&hsenc=p2ANqtz--1bzjDLcRWS1nNYOo-oVDlrpP-F_I0d_KfwedZ_celFRiUQSchGdEnm032cnXeV3mH27iVTy-EjWLCs96TqcXxDL-i8w

We also have a printed edition of the **Advent 2021 Devotional book** from *Gardner-Webb University* provided by our very own Dr. Gerald Keown. Thank you Gerald! The books are located on the Information desk.

Fernwood Baptist Church
P. O. Box 7058
Spartanburg, SC 29304

OFFICE HOURS

Mon – Thurs: 8:30am to 4:30pm
Please call ahead for availability.
(864) 582-7467

FOOTSTEPS (USPS 456270)
Published weekly except Christmas and New
Years by Fernwood Baptist Church, P. O. Box 7058,
Spartanburg, SC 29304
Periodicals Postage PAID, Spartanburg, SC
Postmaster: send address changes to FOOTSTEPS,
Fernwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 7058,
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MASK REQUIRED

Masks are required when in the church building, at all times. even if you have been vaccinated. Due to the recent number of new Covid cases, we will be taking all precautions to protect everyone. There will be masks provided at each entrance of the Sanctuary lobby.

Publication Notice

The next bi-weekly e-blast newsletter publication will be **Wednesday, December 15, 2021.**
Deadline for all articles is **Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at Noon.**

PLEASE NOTE: You may submit your information via email (angie@fernwoodchurch.org) or through the church office. Please do not submit any information over the phone. Information submitted after the deadline will not be published until the following issue (no exceptions). Thank you for your understanding!