

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST!

Sunday, December 22nd

10:00 AM – Preacher Larry and Hillcrest Choir will present a Christmas Message with Music and Song.

6:00 PM – Hillcrest Kidz of Praise will present the story of the Nativity.

Afterwards, we will meet in the Social Hall for Chili Beans with Fritos of course, soups and cornbread.

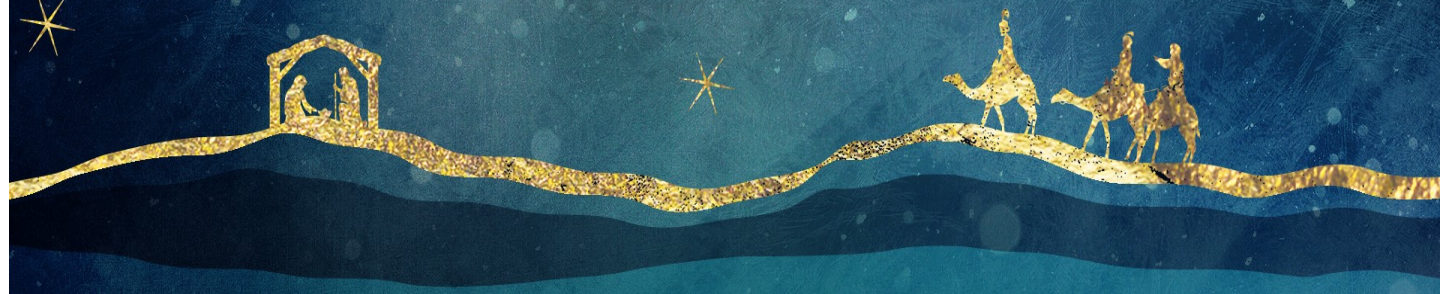
We will have a Gingerbread House Contest. All Ages are welcome to take part in this contest. Prizes will be awarded in the different categories.

We will end the evening with Christmas Caroling.

Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00 PM – Join us for a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

December 25 – We will not have Wednesday Service or Activities.

December 24th and December 25th, the Church Offices will be closed.



"Preparing Lives for Today, Tomorrow and Eternity"

1300 Anderson Drive
Williamston, SC 29697

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Permit # 19

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"Preparing Lives for Today, Tomorrow and Eternity"

CHURCH News December 2024

Hillcrest Staff

Rev. Larry Baldwin, Pastor
Phone: 864-934-4487

Tommy Bennett, Pianist

Billie Joe Paige, Music Director

Ann Riddle: Church Librarian
The Church Library is open 30 minutes prior to Sunday and Wednesday Church Services

Linda Barrett, Ministry Assistant

Office Phone: (864) 847-7521
Email: info@myhillcrest.org
Website: www.myhillcrest.org
Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9AM-1PM





From The Pastor's Pen

December 2024

It is hard to believe that the year 2024 is coming to a close. It has been one of the busiest years that I have seen since I started at Hillcrest in 2006. In all of our ministries, it has been for the glory of God. Now, Christmas is upon us. My favorite time of the year. As the holiday season approaches, we find ourselves surrounded by twinkling lights, joyful carols, and bustling shopping centers. While these traditions bring warmth and excitement, we must pause and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The story of Christmas is not just a tale of a baby born in a manger; it's the profound narrative of God's love for humanity. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). Jesus' birth signifies the fulfillment of God's promise to bring light into a world shadowed by sin and darkness. His arrival marked the beginning of our salvation and the hope of eternal life.

In the middle of our celebrations, we have to remember that Christmas is about more than gifts and gatherings. It's a time to rejoice in the selfless love of God, who sent His only Son to live among us, to teach us, and ultimately to sacrifice His life for our redemption. This extraordinary gift of grace is the heart of Christmas.

Reflecting on the nativity scene, we see a humble setting that contrasts sharply with today's commercialized celebrations. Mary and Joseph's journey, the shepherds' visit, and the Magi's homage—all point to the simplicity and humility of Christ's birth. These elements remind us that Christmas is about humility, faith, and the joy of God's presence in our lives.

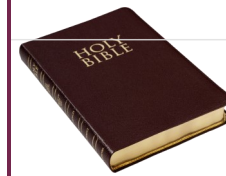
As we prepare to celebrate, let's focus on embodying the principles of love, generosity, and kindness that Jesus taught us. Small acts of kindness, thoughtful gestures, and time spent with loved ones can reflect the true spirit of Christmas more profoundly than any material gift. Let's also extend our hearts to those in need, offering support and compassion to our neighbors, just as Jesus extends His love to us.

This Christmas, I encourage everyone to take a moment to pause and reflect on the true reason for the season. Let us celebrate with grateful hearts, acknowledging the incredible gift of Jesus Christ and the hope He brings to our lives. By doing so, we honor His birth and keep the spirit of Christmas alive in our hearts.

From Our House to Yours Merry Christmas

Preacher Larry & Mrs. Kim

DECEMBER BIBLE VERSES & MEDITATIONS



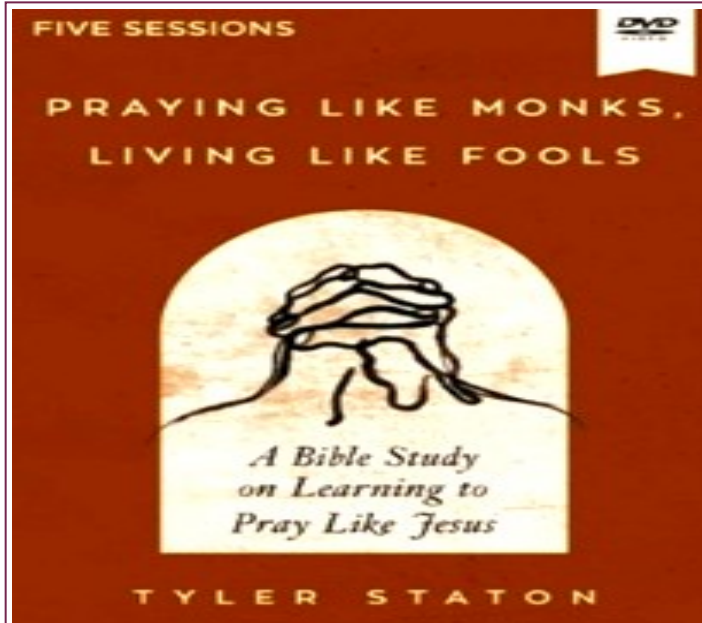
Daily Bible Reading and Meditation in December is about Joy

The joy Jesus offers is more than just "being happy." It's about His joy becoming your strength. It's when you can smile in the face of trials - because you know God is right there with you.

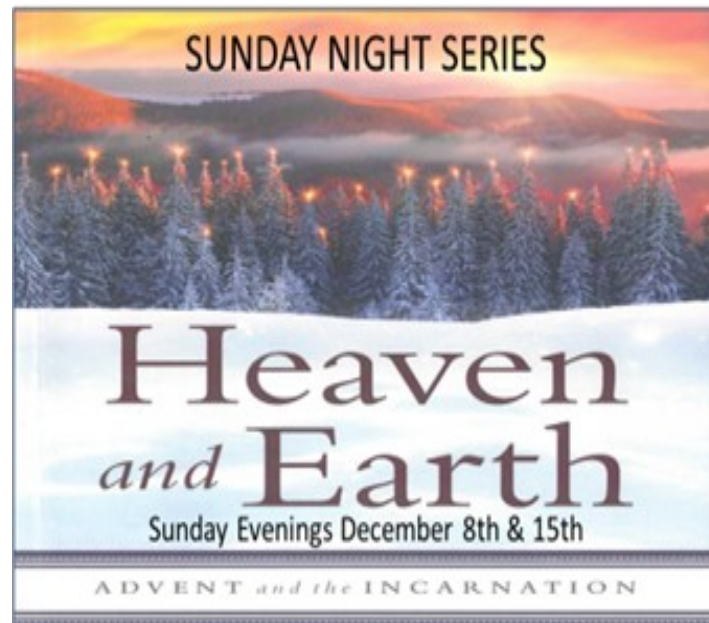


Date	Daily Scripture	Daily Meditation to Strengthen and Grow Your Faith
1-Dec	1 Peter 1:6-9	How does faith in Jesus bring joy?
2-Dec	Matthew 25:21-23	When does work bring you pleasure?
3-Dec	2 Corinthians 8:1-5	Is it possible to experience joy in times of difficulty?
4-Dec	Acts 8:5-8	How great is your joy after affliction?
5-Dec	Proverbs 15:21	When is joy destructive?
6-Dec	Matthew 13:20-21	Can joy be fleeting?
7-Dec	Isaiah 51:11	Describe everlasting joy.
8-Dec	Romans 14:16-18	What role does joy play in the kingdom of God?
9-Dec	Isaiah 56:7	When was the last time you experienced joy in prayer?
10-Dec	Proverbs 5:15-23	How is joy to be experienced with a spouse?
11-Dec	Psalms 16:11	Where is the joy in the kingdom of heaven?
12-Dec	John 16:21; Proverbs 10:1	How do children bring joy to the world?
13-Dec	1 Samuel 18:1-4	Do you share a special dimension of joy with your friends?
14-Dec	Philippians 4:4-7	How can you release joy in worship?
15-Dec	Luke 15:4-10	What makes all of heaven rejoice?
16-Dec	John 15:7-11	How does obedience lead to joy?
17-Dec	1 Chronicles 15:16	What song or musical instrument best expresses joy for you?
18-Dec	Psalms 100	How does praising the Lord bring joy to your spirit?
19-Dec	Psalms 65:8-13	How does God's creation express the joy of the Lord?
20-Dec	Luke 1:39-45	Is it possible for a baby to experience joy even before birth?
21-Dec	Genesis 29:18-20	Can joy help you wait for God's promises?
22-Dec	Acts 12:5-17	Have you ever been overwhelmed with joy?
23-Dec	Ecclesiastes 2:24-26	Where do you find the joy of the Lord in daily living?
24-Dec	Isaiah 61:7-11	What blessings of the Lord bring you the most joy?
25-Dec	Luke 2	Ask God to fill your heart with His joy this Christmas.
26-Dec	Hebrews 12:1-3	How was Jesus able to endure the agony of the cross?
27-Dec	James 1:2-4	How can the trials of life bring you joy?
28-Dec	Galatians 5:22-23	Are you experiencing the fruit of Joy?
29-Dec	1Chronicles 15:28-29	Has another person's joy ever irritated you?
30-Dec	Romans 12:6-8	What ministry to others brings you the most joy?
31-Dec	2 Corinthians 7:13-16	How can you enhance the joy of other believers?

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION



PRAYING LIKE MONKS, LIVING LIKE FOOLS
 MEN'S FAMILY NIGHT SERIES BY TYLER STATON
 JOIN US ON DECEMBER 4TH
 FOR THE NEXT SESSION IN THIS FIVE PART SERIES.
 WE MEET IN THE MOSIAC CLASSROOM



Thank You For Supporting The Needs Of Our Local Communities **DECEMBER OPERATION CARE AND BACKPACK FOOD MINISTRIES SUGGESTED DONATIONS**
No expired dates accepted!
 Oatmeal, Ravioli, Beefaroni and Spaghetti with pull top lids, crackers, Jello Pudding and Fruit Cups. We are still collecting 16 oz Peanut Butter for Backpacks.

The Lord gave us the **GREAT COMMISSION.**
 Matthew 28:18-20

He showed us His vision of the **GREAT MULTITUDE.**
 Revelation 7:9

Between the Great Commission and the Great Multitude, God invites us to **THE GREAT PURSUIT.**
 Acts 1:8

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
 Join the Great Pursuit and make Jesus known among the nations
 Week of Prayer December 1st through 8th – Our Goal is \$3,000
 Mission March during Morning Worship Service on December 8th.

JOIN US FOR
 TOWN OF WILLIAMSTON AND ENVISION WILLIAMSTON'S
WINTER WONDERLAND EVENT
 DECEMBER 1
 AT 7:00 PM

The Hillcrest Choir will be singing and we will be serving cookies! We are asking for donations of homemade cookies for this Community Celebration Event. Please bring to the Church by Sunday Morning December 1st. **No Evening Service at the Church**

December Celebrations

James Ford	12/01	Erica Failor	12/24
Catherine Medlock	12/03	Debbie Childs	12/24
Walter Bubba Lollis	12/04	Misty Coker	12/24
Diane Rentz	12/06	Marsha Huckaby	12/26
Kristy Sullivan	12/06	Katie Moore	12/26
Stella Dies	12/12	Ben Campbell	12/27
Gladys Reece	12/12	Sadie Lockaby	12/27
Ryleigh Reynolds	12/12	Frances Crowe	12/27
Mary Ann Bunton	12/13	Kristi Callahan	12/28
Melissa Smith	12/13	Kaileigh Driver	12/28
Susan Poole	12/15	Harold Martin	12/29
Tim Harmon	12/16	Melissa Taylor	12/29
Ann Riddle	12/18	Tammy Taylor	12/29
Graham Edwards	12/19	Molly Creel	12/30
Greg Cole	12/21	Joseph Jordon	12/30
Brenda Strader	12/21	Arthur Schronce	12/30
		Jim Bland	12/31



Happy Anniversary

James & Dora Jackson	12/06
Linda & James Williams	12/23
William & Kelly Driver	12/24
Alan & Melissa Taylor	12/31

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS & SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Bible Study
Men's Monday Night Bible Study at 6:30
Meets in the Fellowship Hall to continue the chronological study of the Bible by chapter.

Wednesday Activities-No Activities Dec. 25th

ACTEENS
ACTEENS – Meets at 5:45
Meetings in Dec on the 4th, 11th & 18th
Girls 7th – 12th Grade are all welcome.

GA's RA's
GAs – Girls
RAs – Boys
Meets at 6:00– 6:45
1st-6th Grades

TRANSFORMED YOUTH
Transformed Student Ministry
Wednesday Nights at 6:30-8:00
Grades 7-12—Bring a Friend
Meeting is in the Youth Room

Kidz of Praise Practice
Wed., 12/4 @ 6:45-7:30pm
Wed., 12/11 @ 6:45-7:30pm
Wed., 12/18 @ 6:45-7:30pm

MISSION FRIENDS
Starts @ 7:00PM
Mission Friends (3-5 Years old)

TRUTH SEEKERS
Truth Seekers Class (1st-6th grades)
Bible Study and Prayer Meeting
In the Sanctuary

FAMILY NIGHT
Family Night, Wednesday, Dec., 4th
All meetings are the same except:

Ladies of GRACE
Ladies of Grace
Meeting at 6:50 in the Social Hall
We ask each Lady to bring a Christmas or Christian mug/cup wrapped to be exchanged. Valued at no more than \$5. Bring a Christmas snack, wear Christmas colors and bring a Friend.

Men's Family Night Bible Study
Meets in the Mosaic Classroom
"Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools"
by Tyler Staton. Join Us for this study through January.
No Meeting in the Sanctuary on Family Night

King Queen
King & Queen (Ages 50 and older)
Thursday, Dec. 5th at 6:30PM
1st Thursday this month due to the WV Mission Trip

Food: Bring finger foods; enough to share with the group. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Activities: 1. Dirty Santa—bring a \$10 gift to play. 2. Wear your Christmas duds!!! We will vote for several categories.

Host/Hostesses: Robert Harrison, Donnie & Debbie Creamer

Senior of the Month: No Senior of the month Dec. No money will be collected.
Senior of the Month in January will be Brenda Cox

West Virginia Mission Trip
December 11th through 15th

We are asking for donations of toys to share with the kids at our stop in Yeager WV. Please bring them to the Church by December 8th.

Toys are for birth to 16 years old. We have received a large collection of coloring books and can use boxes of crayons to add to those gifts.

Suggestions for older kids:
\$20.00 Amazon gift cards
Cologne sets or Jewelry.

Thank You!

Summer CAMP
Give the gift of Camp this Christmas!
Envelopes for scholarships are on the big bulletin board in the Mission Hallway.

Mission Support
Mark your envelope ACTS 1:8 to designate a donation to the combined fund to support West Virginia, Ocoee Outreach and other mission trips & efforts at Hillcrest.

VAN MINISTRY
Van Ministry Volunteers Schedule Sign Up for 2025
We are looking for Adult Drivers willing to help with the Van Ministry to pick up Church Members for Wednesday Night and Sunday Morning and Evening Services.
A signup sheet is on the Bulletin Board.
If you are a Member in need of a ride or need to cancel a ride, call Alan Taylor 864-353-0476

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SCHEDULES AND EVENTS

Nursery Ministry
Bailee Harbin Coordinator

Sunday Morning

Dec. 1 Brittany Holden & Kristi Callaham & Melissa Smith
Dec. 8 Samantha Dies & Bell Jennings
Dec. 15 Edie & Melvin Ford
Dec. 22 Christy & David Havird
Dec. 29 Bailee Harbin & Sonja Harbin

Sunday Evening

Dec. 1 No Evening Service
Dec. 8 Kim Baldwin & Connie Turner
Dec. 15 Donna Childs & Diane Rentz
Dec. 22 No Nursery
Dec. 29 Brittany Holden & Kristi Callaham

Wednesday Evening

Dec. 4 Bailee Harbin & Billie Joe Paige
Dec. 11 Jessica Mullinax & Mitchell Ezakovich
Dec. 18 Sherri Cole & Kenetha Timms
Dec. 25 No Church

Children's Church Ministry
Sherry Clardy Coordinator
Sunday Morning

Dec. 1 Samantha Dies & Edie Ford
Dec. 8 Sherry Clardy, Rhiannon Smith & Linda Patterson
Dec. 15 Hannah Hill & Brittany Holden
Dec. 22 Sherry Clardy & Ellen Tierce
Dec. 29 Pat Bland & Janet Spruell

WELCOME to Children's Church
COME TO THE SANCTUARY ON SUNDAY MORNING AT 10:00AM AND AFTER ANNOUNCEMENTS, 4 YEAR OLD TO 4TH GRADES WILL BE DISMISSED AND ARE WELCOME TO JOIN OUR CHILDREN'S CHURCH SERVICE.

KIDS Power Hour
Sunday Nights at 6:00pm
No Kids Power Hour December 1st

"Wishing my Hillcrest Family a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Much love to each of you, Billie Joe"

Hillcrest Kidz of Praise
What: "The Story of Jesus"
When: Sunday, December 22nd
Time: 6pm

This Christmas the kids of Hillcrest will be gathering around the manger on Sunday evening, December 22nd to sing and tell the story of the birth of our Savior. Practice dates and times are listed below. If you have any questions, please contact Billie Joe at 864-958-2689.

Practice Dates:

Sun., 12/1 NO Practice	Wed., 12/4 @ 6:30-7:30pm
Sun., 12/8 @ 6-7pm	Wed., 12/11 @ 6:30-7:30pm
Sun., 12/15 @ 6-7pm	Wed., 12/18 @ 6:30-7:30pm

**Dress Rehearsal will be on Sat., Dec. 21st @ 12:30-2:00pm

Time For S'more Fun with Hillcrest Kids.

Dec 6th 5-7pm
At Hillcrest Baptist Church

It's always S'mores Fun with Hillcrest Kids. We are excited to have a night by a campfire making s'mores and memories. Afterwards we will be working on a Christmas Mission Project for a local nursing home.