

First News: Advent Issue

December 4, 2019



ADVENT
CONSPIRACY

A week ago, my family converged on the streets of New York City to celebrate Thanksgiving together. My younger sister recently moved to the Big Apple and we decided to take the opportunity to see the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Getting up before 5 am didn't dampen our excitement as Tom Turkey, a giant animatronic embodiment of Thanksgiving, rolled by and kicked off the festivities. We saw a 60ft tall Olaf balloon fighting 20mph wind gusts, Jimmy Fallon on a cookie float, and what

I believe to have been all of the clowns along the Eastern Sea Board. The pinnacle moment of the parade, though, is right at the very end when Santa rides by on his sleigh and ushers in the Christmas season. According to the Hallmark Calendar - and advertising companies - the Christmas celebration has begun. We are on a wild four week ride of consumption. We need to buy all the presents, attend all the parties, and eat all of the food. According to the church calendar, however, the season of Christmas doesn't start until December 25th.

Right now we are in the season of Advent and Advent is not a celebration. Advent is a season of waiting, a season of expectation. It's the feeling of looking at the dessert table at the start of the meal or walking by a bulging stocking that's hung too high to peek inside. Advent reminds us that God's timing is not our timing, even though he is always faithful to show up. Advent is a call to prepare our hearts, minds, and schedules for Christmas because when the Christ child comes, he is easy to overlook. During this season we are called to reorient our lives away from the incessant desire to consume, to buy, to eat, to do and make space to listen and watch for how the hidden Christ will be revealed among us. This year as a church community, we are striving to reorder our lives around the four themes of Advent Conspiracy - Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All. As we lean into each of these four practices, letting them build upon one another, we scheme together about a new world built on the miraculous union between God and humans embodied in Jesus Christ. In this new world we will lay aside our idols and worship the true king. We will find freedom and liberation from our debts and chains so that we can surrender fully to the work of love. As we conspire together, perhaps we will see glimpses of this new world. During this time of waiting, consider using these daily Advent devotionals found here (<https://adventconspiracy.org/devotionals/>) as a way to prepare.

I hope you will join me...

Ethan

ADVENT CONSPIRACY OFFERINGS

LOCAL: We are collecting NEW children's coats (size 5 through Adult small), hats and gloves for children at Yates and Epes Elementary. Please bring to the church by Sunday, December 15. Carts will be placed in the Sanctuary and Preschool foyers to collect them.

GLOBAL: We are collecting money to build a roof for a family in Puerto Rico and to repair a portion of a dormitory at Camp Harghita in Romania. All moneys given to Advent Conspiracy will be split between these two partner projects.

(If you would like to give your Advent Conspiracy offering to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering or the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Offering for Global Missions, please indicate this intention on your check, envelope, or in the appropriate place of your online gift.)

Sunday Services: 8:30am Traditional, 11:00am Contemporary, 12:30pm Hispanic; Bible Study: 9:45am

Web: www.fbcnn.org

Email: nikki@fbcnn.org

Phone: 757.930.0911

Advent at FBCNN

Deacon Sponsored Mission Opportunity

December 10

3:30pm-7:00pm

Five Loaves Food Pantry

14425 Old Courthouse Way, Newport News 23602

Five Loaves Food Pantry offers a hot meal and groceries to families in need. The deacons of First Baptist along with other groups will be assisting them on Tuesday, December 10.

Here are opportunities where you can serve:

- Bagging take home groceries (starts at 3:30)
- Serving guests dinner (starts at 5:30)
- Fellowship with guests (as they arrive)
- Taking groceries to cars
- Clean up (finish by 7:00)

Youth Events

Friday, December 6, 6:00pm-9:00pm, is our BARF Christmas Party! It will be of good cheer, decking the halls and most certainly holly jolly! Food, fun, games, gingerbread building competitions, and more!

Wednesday, December 11, 6:00pm, will be our Ugly Sweater Contest and White Elephant Gift Exchange.

Tuesday, December 10, we are joining the deacons to serve dinner to the homeless community at Five Loaves Food Pantry. We are taking a bus and leaving the church at 4:30 and will be back by 7:45!

Children's Family Christmas Breakfast

December 22

9:45am

Please bring your family as enjoy a Merry Giving Christmas! We will have pancakes for breakfast and a family activity that helps us to remember to GIVE MORE and LOVE ALL. The nursery and toddler room will be available, but all other children's Sunday School classes will not meet. Please bring your children and grandchildren with you to Payne Hall and sit together as a family. Invite your friends too!

Family Christmas Eve Service · 5:00pm

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service · 7:00pm

Advent at FBCNN (cont'd)



Join us for this annual tradition where our music groups participate in celebrating the birth of Jesus with Christmas music, telling of the Christmas story, live nativity, and more. A reception will follow in the Sanctuary Foyer. Invite your neighbors and friends.

Calling All Instrumentalists and Vocalists

We are currently putting together an instrumental and vocal ensemble to lead the carols at our 5:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Lesley Spitzer at lspitzer@fbcnn.org for more details.

PORT (People Organizing Resources Together) Homeless Shelter

We will be hosting PORT January 1-8 from 6:00pm-6:00am, and providing shelter, hot meals, and a good night's rest. Sign ups will begin this Sunday, December 8 in the Sanctuary Foyer. If you have any questions please contact PORT Coordinators, Linsey Wyne 757-508-2184, or Crystal Howser 804-641-9648.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday, December 14 • 8:00am • Parlor (beside Payne Fellowship Hall)

The guest speaker for this month will be Father Tim from Five Loaves Food Pantry. Sign up in your Sunday Bible Study class, at the Welcome Center, or with the Church Office.

Donation Opportunity for those with IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)

Congress has approved a permanent charitable giving tax break, known as the "IRA charitable rollover". The rollover is available for those who are 70½. You can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA of up to \$100,000 to a charity, such as First Baptist Church. The donation will count toward your IRA required minimum distribution.

The distribution is not recognized as income on your tax return. As such, you do not take a donation deduction either. With the change in the recent Tax Legislation, the Standard Deduction has doubled thus itemized charitable deductions will no longer be needed to be kept track of. By donating all or part of your IRA RMD to the Church, you receive the benefit of a reduced Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) in that the RMD to charity is not taxed, which helps the opportunity of obtaining lower cost for your Medicare Part B and Prescription Drug premiums.

The distribution must come directly from the IRA account to the Church not through you the owner of the account. Let our Financial Services Coordinator, Monica Garcia know how you want the contribution designated, such as the General Fund.

Rick Elofson, Treasurer FBC

Mark Your Calendar– December ✓

THURSDAY 5	FRIDAY 6	SATURDAY 7	SUNDAY 8	MONDAY 9	TUESDAY 10	WEDNESDAY 11
Hispanic Praise Team 6:00pm	Swingin' Singers 10:00am	Prayer Group (Rm. 130) 10:00am	Traditional Worship 8:30am	King's Daughters Christmas Party 11:30am	Compassion Ministries 8:00am	Family Night Dinner 5:00pm
Transformed Praise Team 7:30pm	Youth BARF-Christmas 6:00pm		Bible Study 9:45am	Prayer Group (Prayer Rm.) 2:00pm	Biblical Proportions 6:30pm	Joan Monroe Handbells 5:45pm
			Babies First Christmas 9:45am	The Bridge Christmas Party 7:00pm		Children & Youth Activities 6:00pm
			Contemporary Worship 11:00am			Prayer & Bible Studies 6:15pm
			Hispanic Worship 12:30pm			Marcia Adkins Handbells 6:45pm
			Christmas In The Aire 4:00pm			Sanctuary Choir 7:30pm

Tithes and Offerings Received as of December 1, 2019

Budget Need	Receipts	Hope 127 Year to Date	Debt on Educational Building	Sign Raiser Total to Date
\$1,128,176.10	\$1,093,908.99	\$36,837.00	\$477,942.60	\$54,722.25

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO SUPPORT THE MISSION OF FBCNN

(Embrace God, Equip Christ-Followers, Engage Our World)

Here are some ways:

- **Offering Envelopes:** Write down your complete name, so our Financial Services Coordinator maintains an accounting record of your donations for the end of the year contribution statements.
- **Thru Your Bank Online Services:** Go to your bank's website and select **Bill Pay**. You will only need the church's address, and you may set it up to have it sent as frequent as you desire. Please specify any designated donations other than General fund.
- **Online Giving:** Go to www.fbcnn.org and click on the "Resources" tab and then the "Online Giving" tab.
- **Stock Contributions:** If you wish to give stocks to FBCNN, provide the Church's name and address to your broker to process the transaction. If you need more information, please contact Monica Garcia at monica@fbcnn.org or at the Church office, 930-0911.

♦ An extra cost to the church applies with "Online Giving" transactions.

♦ A new set of Offering Envelopes will be available in December for the next calendar year. If you need envelopes, please contact Monica Garcia. Thank you!



Wednesday Night Menus

December 4, 2019

Meat Loaf, Baked Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Salad
Dessert: Peach Cake
Kids: Hamburger/Cheeseburger, Potato Chips, Applesauce

December 11, 2019

Spaghetti, Baked Peaches, Garlic Bread, Salad
Dessert: Chocolate Delight
Kids: Chicken Sandwiches, Chips, Applesauce

Cost: Grade 5 & below \$3 Grade 6 & up \$5