

Hephzibah Baptist Times

DECEMBER 2022

Wednesday Menus for the Month of December:

Dinner begins at 5:50 pm.

All meals include tea and coffee.

\$7—11 & Up, \$4—Children, 5-10, \$7—Take Out \$25 max. for immediate family.

*To-Go” Plates will be prepared by the Kitchen

Personnel after the serving line closes. We cannot guarantee “to-go” orders until all of our dine-in family members are served. As available, additional take out plates may be purchased at the regular price.

Meal dates are to be determined!

FYI

- **MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST:** Cancelled for December.
 - **PARENTS' NIGHT OUT:** Saturday, December 3rd 4-8pm.
 - **YOUNG AT HEART:** December 12th at Noon.
 - **HEPHZIBAH CHRISTMAS PARADE:** Saturday, December 17th at 10am.
 - **LIVE NATIVITY:** Saturday, Dec.17 & Sunday, Dec.18 from 6-8pm at HBC.
 - **CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** Wednesday, Dec. 21st at 6:30pm
 - **DEADLINE FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER:** Monday, December 19, at 9am.
 - **OFFICE CLOSED:** December 22nd & 26th for Christmas.
 - **NO ACTIVITIES:** Wednesday, December 28th
- TEAM MEETINGS IN DECEMBER:**
- **Building & Grounds:** Wednesday, December 7, at 6:15pm
 - **Stewardship & Finance:** Wednesday, December 14, at 6:00pm

Please Note:

All events, dates, and times are subject to change.



The God of the Impossible

“And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” (Luke 1:36-37)

The announcement to Mary that to her a Savior would be born is historically good news, eternally good news. With good reason we look to that moment and see in it the fulfillment of God’s promise in ages past, a promise prophets, priests, kings, and even angels anticipated. This is the great fulfillment of Jesus’ coming. It doesn’t get any better than this. But buried in this great headline is another announcement, one that would have struck Mary with nothing less than pure joy. Her close relative, an older woman who had borne the burden of being unable to have children for many years, had conceived and would give birth to a son herself. The child would not be unimportant. He would be the great forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. But let us pause for just a moment to appreciate the last words of the angel Gabriel, “For nothing will be impossible with God.”

We need to hear those words, and even more urgently we need to believe them. Our God is the God of the impossible. He proved it by sending Jesus. He proved it by blessing Elizabeth with a son. Whatever your need, whatever your grief, whatever you lack this Christmas season, God knows it. He’s promised to give us everything we need, and He is the God of the impossible. Believe Him. Trust Him.

Your Pastor,
Michael Wren

MEMBERSHIP FINANCIAL REPORT:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Monthly Budget Needs: | \$34,571.00 |
| Weekly Budget Needs: | \$7,978.00 |
| General Offering Received as of 11/23/2022 | \$32,064.12 |
| Year-to-Date Budget Needs: | \$103,713.00 |
| Year-to-Date Budget Received: | \$97,047.07 |
| 11am Worship Service Average Attendance | 122 |
| Average S.S. attendance as of 10/23/2022 | 120 |



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Church Staff

- Senior Pastor.....Dr. C. Michael Wren, Jr.
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- Minister of Worship/Music.....Amanda Brookins
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- Minister to Children and Families.....Lora Stouder
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- Administrative Assist./Finance.....Julia Grayson
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- Administrative Assist./Ministry.....Renee Jenkins
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- Custodian.....Ken Oglesby
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Please join us on Saturday, December 24th at 5:30pm for our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service as we joyously celebrate the birth of our Savior. The service will be in the Sanctuary.



What a special day it will be on Sunday, December 25th to celebrate Christmas Morning together at church! We will have one worship service at 11:00am, but no Sunday School. We hope to see you there.

LOTTIE MOON
Collection will run from
Nov.27-Jan. 1

OFFICE CLOSED
Thursday, December 22nd &
Monday, December 26th



Merry Christmas
from the
HBC Staff!

COMING IN DECEMBER

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT
December 3rd, 4-8pm

LIVE NATIVITY
December 17th & 18th
6-8pm

Children's Ministries



There will be a Parents' Night Out at HBC on Saturday, December 3rd, from 4:00-8:00pm. Please bring \$2 for each child to help cover the cost of dinner.

Ages 3-12 are welcome to stay; a nursery will be provided for 0-2 years olds. Please let Lora know if your child(ren) will be attending no later than Thursday, December 1st.

AFTER THE HEPHZIBAH CHRISTMAS PARADE



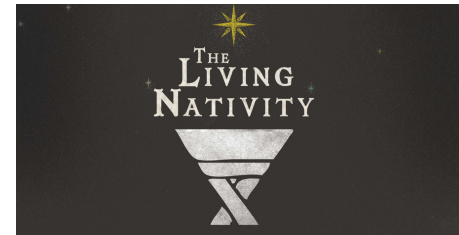
HBC will be hosting a Christmas Family Fun Time for our community and church after the 10:00am Hephzibah Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 17th. Make plans to join us on the front lawn of the church to eat cookies, drink hot chocolate, and make crafts with the kids. A Family Photo booth will also be available for pictures.



CENTRIKID CAMP 2023: BEYOND THE SURFACE

CentriKid Camp is scheduled for June 5-9, 2023 at Ridgecrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC. Camp is for those entering 3rd grade through the completion of 5th grade. Registration and a \$75 deposit are due Sunday, February 5th. The total cost of camp is \$355 before any fundraising is applied to help reduce the cost.

Community Events



Hephzibah Baptist will present a walk-thru Living Nativity on Saturday, Dec. 17th and Sunday, Dec. 18th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. We are so excited to be able to offer this event again for our church and community. We are changing it up a little from previous years, so be sure to invite your friends and family for this special event.

Student Ministries



We will only be meeting on Wednesdays, December 7th and 14th. December 14th will be our Christmas party. On December 21st students are encouraged to join in the Christmas caroling.



ReCharge, a monthly gathering for High School students, will meet on December 11th, after the morning worship service. We will be having our Christmas party.



CentriFuge Camp is scheduled for June 5-10, 2023 at Ridgecrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC. Camp Registration and a \$75 deposit are due Sunday, February 5th. Only 23 spots are available to students. The total cost of camp is \$374 before any fundraising is applied to help reduce the cost.

Women's Ministry

THURSDAY MORNING 10 AM BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, Thursday morning Bible Study will continue to meet throughout the month of December in Room 102. We would love to have you join us for a great time of study and fellowship.



WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday evening Women's Bible study group is continuing "The Power of a Praying Wife." We meet from 6:30 to 8:00 each Wednesday in room 102.

Music Ministry

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join us on Wednesday, December 21st, at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will split up in groups to sing to some of our church members who have been unable to attend lately. We will stand outside to sing, so dress warmly.

Discipleship Ministry

CHURCH LIBRARY

The library has a new section dedicated to Discipleship. This section contains materials for Personal Discipleship, Doctrine, and Evangelism. Stop by and see what might be useful to you in your walk with Christ. Donations of books and study guides in this category are welcomed. They will be reviewed for their useability. If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Cross.

Men's Ministry

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST is cancelled for December.

MEN'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible study meets on Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:00pm in Room 103. We are studying the Basics of Christian Living.

Missions Ministry



Thank you for everyone who volunteered for OCC this year. HBC packed close to 300 boxes. Please continue to pray for the children and families who will receive the shoe boxes.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Ways you can pray for International Missions: Go to the following link: <https://IMB.org/pray>

This will enable you to see the many ways we can be involved in ministry through prayer. This month's feature prayer request for international missions will be the country of Ukraine.

lottie-moon-post-office



"The Lottie Moon Post Office is now available, located in the hallway by the Resource Room." Bring in your Christmas cards by Wednesday, December 14th, in order for them to be delivered to the Sunday School classes. All "postage" donated will be sent to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Please note that cards addressed to members who are not in a Sunday School class or currently attending church services cannot be delivered, as they cannot be mailed to a physical address.

Senior Adult Ministry

YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON

December 12th at Noon. We will have our gift exchange \$10 limit. Our special guest, will be Douglas Oxford.

