



The Loudon Lamp

TWO WEEK CHURCH CALENDAR

- Dec. 23rd and 24th – Office hours 8-1:00.
- Dec. 24th – Come and go for families - **Christmas Eve Communion** 6-7:00
- Dec. 29th – Sunday School and Worship
- Dec. 30th and 31st – Office hours 8-1:00. No LAMP this week. Next LAMP – Jan. 7th.
- Jan. 5th – Sunday School and **Worship/Epiphany**
 - Return Pledge Cards in Worship
 - Ordain and Install new Elders
 - After worship, taking down of the Greens
 - After worship, Pledge Team Meeting



NEXT TWO SUNDAYS

9 – Gather for **Fellowship** with coffee, donuts and conversation.

9:30 – **Sunday School** for all ages in the classroom. On Dec. 29th, Nancy Simpson has the virtual class and adult classes will study “David’s Son” Luke 18:35-43. On Jan. 5th, Ruth McQueen has the virtual class and the adult classes will study “The Lord is King” Psalm 10:12-18.

10:25 – **Welcome & Announcements** scrolling before Worship.

Dec. 29th 10:30 –Worship – Kaiya Hixon has our Children’s Message. John Napier lights our Christ Candle. Mark’s message will be *Trust and Thanks*, Luke 2:25-40. Beth will sing *Bethlehem Morning*. Hymns: *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*, *There’s a Song in the Air*, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*. Our Hymn of the Month is *In the Bleak Mid-Winter*. Morning Scriptures: Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17.

Jan. 5th 10:30 – Worship – Pledges are due back! Ordination and Installation of Elders. Griffen has our Children’s Message. Acolytes will light our Advent Wreath. Mark’s message (The Wise Men) L.I.G.H.T.T. from Matthew 2:1-12. Women of the Choir sing, *Jesus, Jesus Lay Your Head* and Darrell Tuck will sing *O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*. Our January hymn is *Draw Me Nearer*, our Introit is *Emmanuel* and our benediction, *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*. Our Sunday hymns will be: *Mary’s Boy Child*, *We Three Kings*, *As With Gladness Men of Old*. Morning Scriptures Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:10-18.

Jan. 5th 11:45 Taking down the Greens and Pledge Team Meeting.

PASTORAL CARE

What a wonderful article about The Hair Barn and Paula Smullen in The Loudon County Magazine. We rejoice with Paula in her vision that has served Loudon for almost 50 years. Be on the lookout for this publication. Our thoughts and prayers this week are needed for: Eliana Brakebill (tonsil removal on the 23rd) and all those battling the many virus’s this week.

We are sharing in a hymn challenge where we all listen to, and learn one hymn a month. At the end of the year, we will have 12 hymns embedded in our hearts and souls. For the month of December we are doing “In The Bleak Midwinter”. You can Google this hymn and find many options for listening. Listen at least once a day for the month of December . I will post one on our Facebook page or I will be happy to get you a copy of the words/ music. Absorb the truth of the words and the comfort of the melody!!

We invite you to join us on an Advent Journey through the book of Luke. Read one chapter a day beginning December 1st and you will complete the whole Book on Christmas

Thank you to the benefactor and those who arranged for the choir to have chair book shelves. These are so nice and so appreciated!

We wish you all a very Merry and Blessed Christmas!

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

There will be a candlelight service on Dec. 24th as families may come and go between 6:00 and 7:00 to receive Communion. Claire Pinkston will be playing Christmas songs, and all are welcome to come and enjoy the music and the lights and of course, partake of Communion this Holy night.

TITHES, OFFERINGS, & ATTENDANCE

12/22/24: \$4362.20

Building Fund: \$150.00

Gift to the King: \$1733.57

Church Attendance: 166

Online Viewers: 21

Sunday School: 65

Online Viewers: 8

Memorial given in memory of Mary Evelyn Chihasz from Carrie and John R. Newman

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Christmas Eve Communion** at 6:00-7:00
- **New Year's Sunday, January 5th** in Morning Worship at 10:30
 - Return your Building Fund Pledges for 2025-2027
 - Installation and Ordination of new Elders
- **After Worship on Sunday January 5th**
 - Taking down the Greens
 - Pledge Committee Meeting
- **CPW meeting January 15th** at 1:00
- **Session meeting January 21st** at 5:00
- We will host a Presbytery event on Sunday, February 2nd at 3:00 to celebrate our Denomination's Birthday (#214)!

MAHALO*TAK*GRACIOUS*MERCI* GRAZIE*DANKE*THANK YOU

It certainly has taken a Christmas village of volunteers and the leadership of our staff to put the many worships, programs, fellowship, outreach and education together this year and particularly for the Advent season. Especially we thank Beth, Griffen and the parents and children for their many practices and a most wonderful Christmas program. Thanks to the volunteers for bringing finger foods for our reception. Thank you to the Congregational Ministries Team for feeding our volunteers at the Nativity and for those that stood in the cold. Thank you, Nancy, for dressing us appropriately and to John Napier for coordinating. Thank you, Bell Choir, John Dutton, Cumberland Kids, Chancel Choir, Claire, Beth and all who brought special music to us. Thank you to our ushers, those who work our IT so faithfully each Sunday, our nursery volunteers - especially Beverly who makes it an every Sunday commitment. Thank you for those who serve on committees, our teachers, our Elders and our Staff. Thank you to our Treasurer and Assistants, and to those who visit. Thank you for those who regularly give tithes and offerings and still have more for the Gift to the King, Operation Merry Christmas Cards, and Loaves & Fishes. Blessings upon you and this body of believers. Merry Christmas! Pastor Mark

PRAYER LIST

Paul and Jane Brakebill, Eliana Brakebill, Jeff Pipes, Ann Stafford, Bonnie Ferguson, Helen Jarnagin, Arthur Kelso, Carol Delaney, Eden Shockley and her family, Evelyn Howard, George Sweeney, Steve Brown, Roger Gasper, John R. and Carrie Newman, Don Pitts, Bettye Jane Brantley Anderson, Mary Tinker, Megan Cavanaugh, the family of Charlie Helms, Nancy Willis, travelers, and unspoken.

CPW THANKS

The CPW would like to thank you for your response to Operation Merry Christmas Card this year and for blessing our Shut-Ins with so many Christmas cards. We hope your family has a Blessed Christmas. Martha Carolyn, Larah, Leigh, Kim, Gail and Linda

OFFERING ENVELOPES

You may pick these up on the Pastor's Conference Table this Sunday.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

Remember to continue in prayer for our Sanctuary Pledge Drive. What will you give? The Pledges are due back on Sunday morning, January 5th!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
From the Staff**

OUR STAFF:

- Rev. Mark Hester: Pastor
- Beth Brakebill: Director of Music, Education, & Pastoral Care
- Claire Pinkston: Accompanist
- Kimberly Wilks: Administrative Assistant
- Rich and Rhonda Gasper: Building and Maintenance
- Katie Parkin: IT Support
- Griffen Smith: Pastoral Asst., Dir. of Children/Youth Activities

CONTACT US:

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Return Service Requested