

## WEEKLY STATISTICS

<u>Statistics</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Budget Received</u>
<i>Weekly Budget Requirements 2024:</i>			<i>\$6,594.00</i>
11/03/2024	64	96	\$6,085.70
11/10/2024	82	103	\$5,660.00
11/17/2024	68	97	\$14,840.00
11/24/2024	71	103	N/A

### Deacon of the Week

December 01	Jim Huntley
December 08	Chris Henley
December 15	Danny Cassidy
December 22	Lane Lewis
December 29	Rob Roberts

### 2024 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Many folks want to make financial contributions to the church at the end of the year for 2024 Tax Deductions. These are certainly encouraged and appreciated. We would like to request that all financial contributions for the 2024 Tax Year please be in the office no later than closing at **12:00 pm** on Tuesday, December 31st. To allow for trade and settlement of stocks to count for 2024, all stocks should be in the church office by **12:00 pm on Monday, December 23rd**. Thank you for your help!



### West Hartsville Baptist Church Staff

Dr. Kevin Walters, *Pastor*  
Sarah Roberts, *Worship Leader*  
Deb Hall, *Pianist*  
Jessica Garvin, *Interim Director of Children*  
Lori Norton, *Ministry Assistant*  
Tracie Brown, *Financial Secretary*  
Ronald Brockington, *Custodian*



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# THE SPIRIT

The Mission of WHBC is to live by Faith, be a voice of Hope, and be known by Love...1 Corinthians 13:13

## Celebrate Immanuel

Most of us look forward to the Christmas season. We will celebrate as families, as a community, and as a church. So, I think it is important that we remember why we celebrate. Jesus Christ, born of virgin, came to die on the cross once and for all in order to fulfill the Father's earthly mission. Let us never forget that cross. What Jesus meant to do on the cross, He accomplished. He did not die in vain, for He left no part of His work unfinished. He did not die to condemn us but to save us. He did not even die so that we might have the ability to conquer sin. He died to conquer sin Himself on our behalf – once and for all. One death, one sacrifice, one atonement, and one cross.

This Christmas season, we will celebrate the baby lying in a manger, but who was He? Was He just the son of a Nazarene carpenter and his teenage bride? No, He was much more, for He was truly God come to earth. He was the Messiah pledged by God's covenant to deliver His people. God didn't employ a mighty angel to do the job. He didn't send a mighty army or a great warrior on His behalf. No, He decided to send Himself. For you see, our salvation was just that important. *For God so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son...*

He was born once in a small town called Bethlehem. As theologians would say, "the infinite linked with the infant." The One who created the universe now lies in a feeding trough where earlier in the day cattle had been dining. He came as Immanuel, God with us! Though human, He is unlike any of us. He is unique. He is the *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace* (Is. 9:6). He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, yet He did not decide to stay on His throne. *Instead, He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men. And when He had come as a man in His external form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death – even to death on a cross* (Phil. 2:7-8). He came to earth for one brief period of time, and He came for one single purpose.

Sin cannot be tolerated by a holy and just God, as sin in contrary to His nature. Sin produces hostility between God and humanity and atonement is required for reconciliation to take place. In the OT the sin sacrifice was a personal, spiritual encounter with God. A sacrifice was made to satisfy God who was present in judgment and mercy. According to the Law, a blood sacrifice was required (Heb. 9:22) and this had to be repeated time and time again. But through His amazing grace God satisfied the debt of sin via the cross of Jesus Christ once and for all (Heb. 9:25-27). No longer would the sin sacrifice be required.

So, as we stand ready to celebrate the First Advent, let us be mindful of much more than a baby in a manger. May we celebrate the reason for His coming. For it is not the manger of Jesus that saves, but the cross.

Merry Christmas,



## PRAYER OPPORTUNITY

Attention all good people. The Pastor needs people who are willing to pray for him and with him concerning the weekly sermons. He needs at least 3 teams consisting of 5 people each to operate in one-week increments. Each team will engage in daily prayer, at the direction of the Pastor, praying with the Pastor on Sunday mornings concerning the sermon, and praying during the worship service for the powerful moving of the Holy Spirit. One caveat, the Pastor needs individuals who will attend church consistently because this is of great importance concerning the life of our church. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Kevin as soon as possible.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Note that the Kitchen Committee will be taking a much-needed break and Wednesday Night Supper will resume **January 8th**. Please express your gratitude for all they do every week to provide a delicious supper for us!

## ANGEL TREE 2024

Gifts with the attached angel name must be turned in by December 15<sup>th</sup> to the church office. For more information, contact Lane or Sue Lewis.

## CHRISTMAS STAFF LOVE OFFERING

Traditionally our church family has expressed their love and appreciation to our church staff through a special love offering. We want to give you the opportunity to share in this tradition. To participate in this expression of love during Christmas, please place your gift in a Christmas Staff Love Offering envelope and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office by **Wednesday, December 18th**. The love offering will be presented to the church staff before the Christmas holiday.

## ATTENTION WHBC KIDS!

Bring an adult and join us at **4:30 PM on Sunday, December 8th**, for a jolly holiday bus ride to Florence to enjoy dinner together and a walk through some beautiful Christmas lights! We'll stop on the way home for fresh donuts and milk, and carol our way back to church. Cost is \$7 per child. Contact Jessica Garvin for more information.

## YOUNG AT HEART

On Wednesday, **December 18th**, Young at Heart will be going to Saluda Shoals to see the Christmas lights! Please make plans to come and enjoy this time together. The bus will be leaving at approximately 4:00 pm. Please sign up in the church office as soon as you can.

## CHRISTMAS FAMILY NIGHT

Please join us at 6:00 pm on **December 22nd** in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Christmas Family Night. We will have hot chocolate, Christmas treats, fun, a talent show, and who knows what else! You do not want to miss it! For more information see Pastor Kevin.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Please join us for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:30 pm on **December 24th**. This will be a special time for us to gather with together with our families and celebrate the birth of our King Jesus.

## 2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2025 offering envelopes will be available in the atrium on **Sunday, December 22nd**. If you do not find your name or your child's name, please contact the church office and we will be happy to get a box assigned to you. If you know of someone who needs their box delivered, please feel free to take their box to them. Thank you for giving to support the Lord's work through our church.