



Snow Creek Christian Church

**4970 Snow Creek Road Mar-
tinsville Virginia, 24112**
Phone 276-638-5272
www.snowcreekcc.com
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December 2020

Reflections

Six weeks before Christmas in 1918 the most destructive war that humanity had known to that point came to an end. Returning from service as a chaplain on the front lines of World War I, the dean of King's College Chapel, a subsidiary of Cambridge University, sought to implement a new service to call the disenfranchised population that he had served in the trenches away from the pubs and back to church on Christmas Eve. Eric Milner-White borrowed a simple liturgy of nine scripture lessons telling the story of humanity from the Fall to its redemption in Christ. Interspersed with these readings were carols performed by the legendary Choir of King's College.

The plan worked. The service was so successful that after a decade it began to be broadcast throughout Great Britain with the advent of a new device called radio. For the past nine decades, the BBC has annually broadcast live the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on radio and later television to millions around the world. The service and its broadcasts

continued even as the windows of the chapel had to be removed during the Nazi bombing campaigns of World War II. This year especially it is a remarkably simple but poignant reminder of the power of the Christian story to provide hope and inspiration even through humanity's darkest days.

Since much of our worship this year has been over the radio anyways, I thought that this might be a good model for Snow Creek's own Christmas Eve service this year. For those interested, you are invited to join us at 6 PM on December 24 to hear our own Nine Lessons and Carols. I will send out the readings and lyrics ahead of time so that you can read and sing along. Also, do not forget to bring communion. If you can't make it, I will send out an online version that evening as well. I look forward to seeing many of you and to wishing all of you a merry Christmas!

God be with you, Scott.

"For with God nothing is impossible"

LUKE 1:37



December Lectionary Readings

Sermon topic in *italics*

December 6 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

- Isaiah 40:1-11
- Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
- 2 Peter 3:8-15a
- *Mark 1:1-8*

December 20 (4th Sunday of Advent)

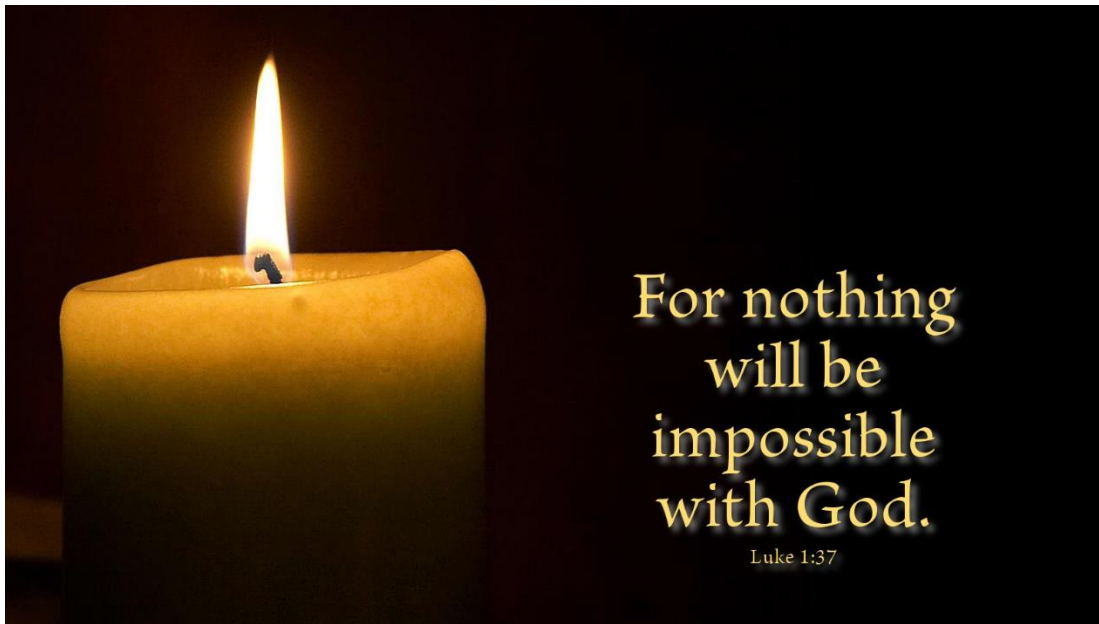
- 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
- Luke 1:46b-55 OR Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
- Romans 16:25-27
- *Luke 1:26-38*

December 13 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

- *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*
- Psalm 126 OR Luke 1:46b-55
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 27 (1st Sunday after Christmas Day)

- Isaiah 61:10-62:3
- Psalm 148
- Galatians 4:4-7
- *Luke 2:22-40*



Christmas Special Offering – December 13 & 20

Throughout the year, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) takes up several special offerings to support denominational initiatives at the national level. The Christmas special offering stays right here in Virginia. This offering goes to finance the work of the 31 regional ministries that the Disciples of Christ have throughout the United States and Canada.

Snow Creek is part of the Virginia region which includes most of Virginia with the exception of Alexandria, Arlington, & Fairfax County. The office is headquartered in Lynchburg and, as of last year, welcomed Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning (who was scheduled to be our speaker at Homecoming) as its new Regional Minister. This was not exactly the easiest time to start, but Rev. Spangler-Dunning has so far done an admirable job providing best-practices and resources for churches throughout a very uncertain and challenging situation. The Regional Office, among many other important tasks, also provides assistance for congregations in the Search & Call process of seeking new ministers; helps churches with conflict resolution; provides camp and youth activities for kids, teenagers, and young adults; shepherds prospective ministers (of which I am one) through the ordination process; and helps Disciples churches coordinate with one another for a variety of mission opportunities. All of this is done with a bare-bones staff and limited financial resources.

As we look forward to a promising and hopefully very different year in 2021, I would encourage everyone to prayerfully consider making a donation to support the region this Christmas season. If you would like to contribute, you can donate at the church on December 13th and 20th or by mail (4970 Snow Creek Rd, Martinsville, VA 24112). Please make checks out to Snow Creek Christian Church and make sure to write on them 'Christmas Offering.' Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and generosity.



Hope Peace Joy Love

Advent Devotions

Last year, I thoroughly enjoyed getting to read everyone else's devotions during Advent. You all did a great job of engaging with the Scriptures, sharing personal experiences of faith, and providing a wide range of perspectives to help prepare others for the celebration of Christ's coming. As with seemingly everything else this year, the logistics of compiling an Advent devotional written by 25 different people were a little more challenging. Something is better than nothing though, so as an inferior substitute I have picked back up with the email devotions that I had been sending out in the spring.

Advent is meant to be a time of reflection as we prepare for the reality that the Son of God came into the world as one of us and will one day come again. Each of these devotions comes with a scripture passage related to Advent. Most are either from the Old Testament prophecies of the coming of a Messiah or from the Apostle Paul's post-Christ expositions on what the coming of this Messiah meant for the world. I would also encourage everyone to, if you find these devotions useful, pair them with a moment of private prayer that you can remember to personally invite Christ into your life as we prepare to celebrate his coming into the world. My hope is that these devotions can provide you with a daily moment for quiet reflection to remember what it is that we are truly celebrating amidst the hustle and bustle of Christmas time.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



OUR CHRISTMAS EVE DRIVE IN SERVICE WILL BE DECEMBER 24 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT. THE SERVICE WILL INCLUDE OUR NINE SCRIPTURE LESSONS AND CAROLS. MINISTER SCOTT WILL PROVIDE WRITTEN EMAIL COPIES OF THE READINGS AND LYRICS AHEAD OF TIME TO ALLOW EVERYONE TO READ AND SING ALONG. PLEASE BRING YOUR COMMUNION.

AN EMAIL COPY OF THE SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND.

MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE SERVICE IS MENTIONED IN MINISTER SCOTT'S REFLECTIONS ARTICLE ABOVE.

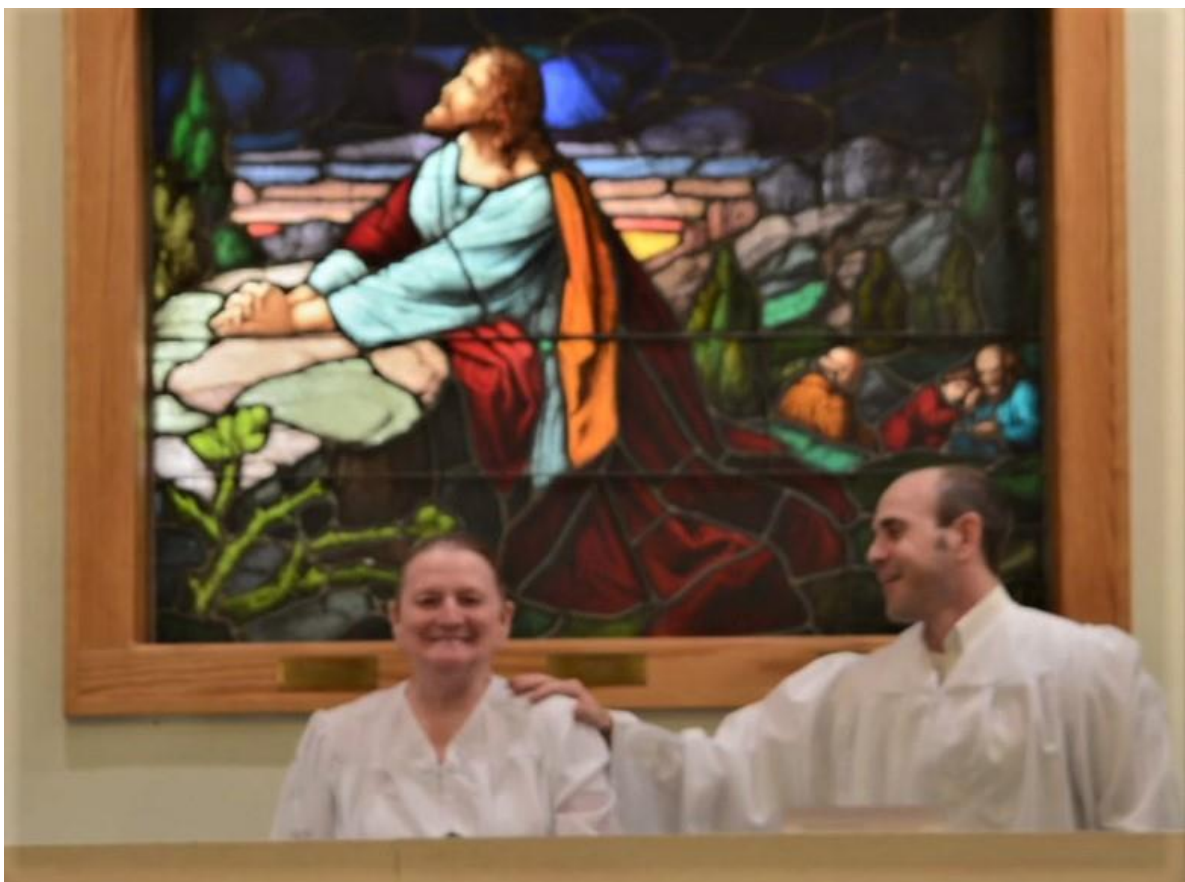
**TUNE RADIOS TO CHANNEL 95.9 FM IN THE CHURCH
PARKING LOT
PLEASE JOIN US**

Baptism

Dot Smith

Dot became a member of the Church earlier in the year; however, she could not be baptized at the time due to COVID 19 restrictions. She was baptized on November 8 at the Drive in Church service by Minister Scott Oliver. She was Baptized inside the Church and viewed by the Church Family on the projector on the outside Church wall. We are very happy to have you in our Church family Dot.





Youth News

Thanks to our wonderful Youth for making Christmas more Special for the Church Family. We appreciate the great Christmas Pageant on the first Sunday of Advent, the Christmas cards with Christmas ornaments, gift bags delivered to attendees at the Play. The Youth made the crafts as shown in picture and signed the cards





Waikere

Merry Chris-moose!

Rose

Lacey

Kellyn

Nathan

Leslie

Layan

Brodie

*THANK YOU TO THE YOUTH FOR THE GREAT
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.*

**BRAELYN, BRODIE, KELLYN, LACEY,
LESLIE, LOGAN,
MAX, NATHAN, ROSE**

The Youth read scripture, performed skits, sang, danced, and decorated the outside of the Church and Christmas Tree, and several other things.

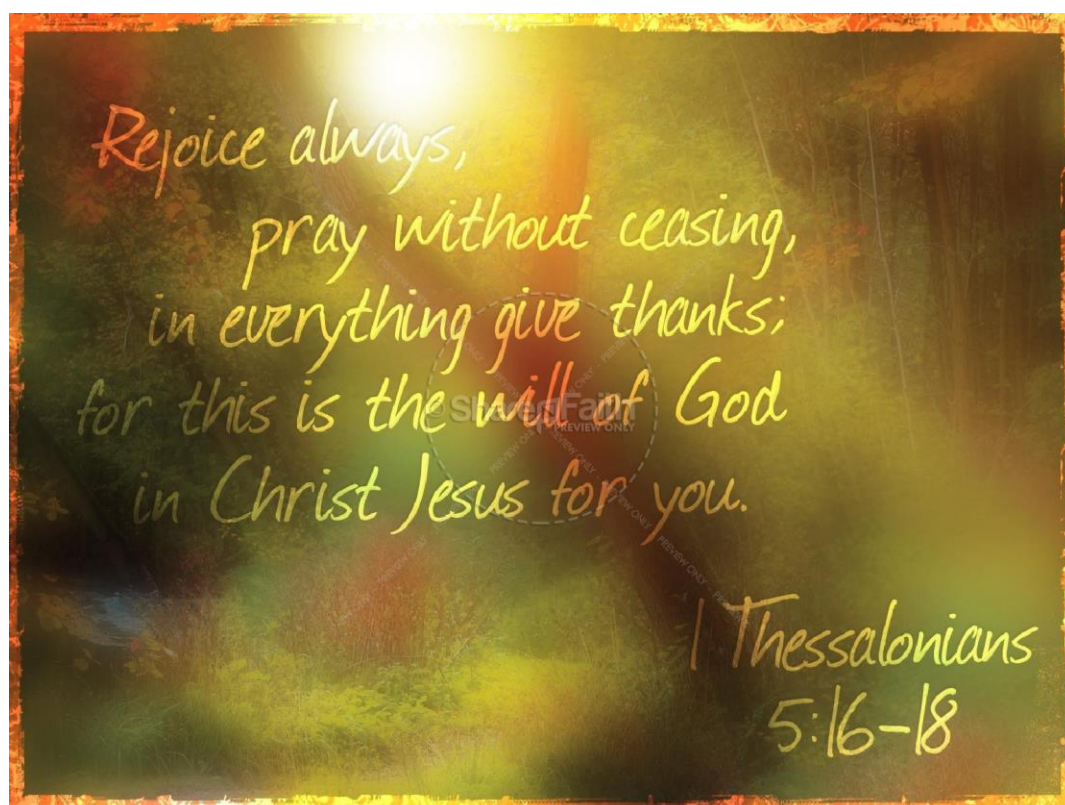


**SPECIAL THANKS TO MINISTER SCOTT, LAURIE, THE
PARENTS, AND ALL THE MANY INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN
PLANNING AND MAKING THE PAGEANT AN AMAZING
EVENT.**









Family News

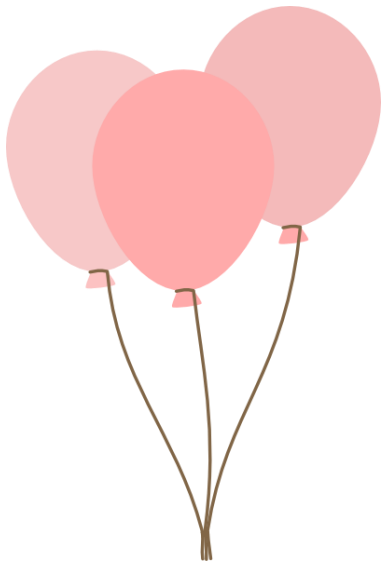
CONGRATULATIONS TO NICKOLAS DOYLE AND EMILY MADDY

Veronica Doyle proudly announces that after celebrating their 5 year dating Anniversary, her son Nick proposed to Emily. They are looking at November 2022 for a wedding date. Mike and Pam Doyle are his grandparents.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PRUETT FAMILY

Jared and Erica Pruett welcomed a new member to the family. Keri-Jean Pruett was born on November 19. She weighed 7 lbs 3 oz and is 20 inches long. Her brothers are Walker and Barret.





LET'S CELEBRATE



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 Michele Beall4 Mason Arrington5 Cynthia Jordan7 Nick Doyle9 Jared Pruitt10 Lindsey Doyle11 Aileene Doyle12 Lee Mitchell13 Sammy Boyd17 Walker Amos19 Donna Thurman25 JESUS27 Molly Mitchell29 Breyer Martin30 Marty Plybon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7 Phillip & Debbie Haynes11 Steve & Cynthia Jordan12 Curtis & Louise Washburn23 Howard & Betty Lou Mitchell

If you have information for the newsletter on our church family please email me at barb-smith@b2xonline.com or call me at 540 352 4535 or relay in person.

