

Signal Points

A Publication of Signal Mountain Presbyterian Church • DECEMBER 2017

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR SAVIOR'S BIRTH

Advent

AT SIGNAL PRES

- 12**
24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP //
8:10 & 10:45, Sanctuary. Sunday School will not meet. Please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments in Woodward Hall, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
- 12**
24 CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS //
5:00-6:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- 12**
24 COME SING WITH THE SANCTUARY CHOIR AT THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE //
11:00 p.m., Sanctuary with a brief rehearsal at 10:00 p.m., Music Suite
- 12**
24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE & COMMUNION //
11:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- 12**
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP //
10:00 a.m. only, Sanctuary
Sunday School will not meet



Christmas Fest

PRESENTED BY THE SANCTUARY CHOIR, YOUTH CHOIR,
WESTMINSTER SINGERS, AND ORCHESTRA

DECEMBER 10 at 6:30 PM in the SANCTUARY • Free Admission & Childcare

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

In the Middle East a blue-collar craftsman and his pregnant wife are forced to leave their home due to political upheaval. They're traveling at the end of the young woman's pregnancy, and because of this they are forced to find makeshift shelter when the baby is born. Soon after this miracle child arrives they are the target of religious persecution, and they have to leave their homeland and flee to another country. But by the goodness of providence and their commitment to one another and their little child, they survive and make the best of a bad situation.

The story is a familiar one, of course - it's the Christmas story of Mary, Joseph, and the newborn Jesus. Caesar's census forced them to leave Nazareth, thus fulfilling the prophecy that the true King of Israel would be born in Bethlehem. Later, when Herod learned about the prophecies of this Messiah, the family fled to Egypt in order to avoid his murderous rage. Part of the wonder of the upcoming Advent season is that God Himself has entered into this chaos and brokenness as a little child and demonstrated His love and strength in the middle of the worst that this world has to offer.

But that same story of a small family suffering displacement due to political upheaval and religious persecution can also be told about our world today. In what is one of the greatest humanitarian crises of our time, there are over 22 million refugees around the globe right now, driven from their hometowns and native countries due to violence and persecution. Maybe we've heard about these stories on the news. Maybe we've wondered how the Gospel invites us to respond to these events. As we enter into the Advent season, it's fitting for us to take some time to recognize how our Advent faith shapes how we think about our global neighbors.

On the Sunday morning of December 3, we have the opportunity to think together about how God might be inviting us to respond to this global crisis in love and faith. In worship we'll look at Scripture's concern for the refugee (the Bible commands us no less than thirty-six times to care for the 'sojourner'). During the Sunday School hour and after 10:45 worship our friends with World Vision will provide for us the opportunity to imagine what it would be like to live in a refugee camp. And there will be opportunities to respond with the same love that Jesus has shown to us who were once "alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenant of promise, having no hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12).

We don't do this because it's trendy or because of what the media or culture around us is saying. Our convictions about what is right or wrong come from the Gospel. We speak up for the unborn because we believe that God knew us in our mother's womb (Psalm 139:13). We demonstrate concern for the poor because we are keenly aware of our spiritual poverty and God's generosity to us (2 Corinthians 8:9). Our hearts break over racial division because we believe that in Jesus there can be real unity (John 17:22). And we care for the stranger because we know well that "you were strangers" (Leviticus 19:34).

As we enter the beauty of this Advent season, we invite you to join us, on December 3 and throughout the season, in remembering the glorious promise of what God wants to do for each of us who is wandering in this broken world: to help us all to find a home in Him.

Every blessing,

JOEY

WEDDING

Mr. & Mrs. Jake Raulston
(nee Elizabeth Hoke)

Saturday, November 11, 2017
*Signal Pres · Scott Bowen
presided at the wedding service.*

BIRTHS

James Podlesni Wetzel

A son born to Rob & Julie Wetzel
November 3, 2017 · Baltimore, MD
*Celebrating grandmother in our
congregation is Carol Wetzel.*

Eleanor June McMillan

A daughter born to Robert &
Abigale McMillan
November 8, 2017 · Chattanooga
*Celebrating grandmother in our
congregation is Kitty McMillan.*

BAPTISMS

Mitt Cooper Robison

Michael Elijah Robison

Adeline Blair Robison

Children of Michael & Dedra
Robison

November 12, 2017

*Scott Bowen celebrated the
Sacrament assisted by Margaret
Ferguson & Elder Diane Mizell*

MEMORIALS

Mary Willingham Martin

Mother of Bryan (Kim) Martin

October 31, 2017

Lookout Mountain, TN

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

JOSH NEDER

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Francescon, Sr.

FRANCES STARK

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Francescon, Sr.

HERB SPITTLER

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Helfrich

ALEX WRAY

Dr. and Mrs. William Wray

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

MARGARET SPITTLER

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Helfrich



EQUIP KICKOFF

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Join us for the first EQUIP of the semester with a chili cook-off to support our community ministries!

Dinner at 5:30 in Dudley Hall
EQUIP Program • 6:30-7:30
Agape (4 yrs-5th grade) • 6:30-7:30
SM2 in Youth Wing • 5:15-7:30

Make your meal reservation at signalpres.org/equip

Q3 ADULT EQUIP CLASSES • *Beginning Jan 17*

Hardwired for Extraordinary Works • Jay Baumgardner

Equipped to Love • Michelle Barrett of Lifeline Children's Services

Between Jerusalem & Washington: Christianity & Politics • Joey Sherrard

From Surviving to Thriving: Getting Past Getting By with Your Family • Family Ministry Team

WHAT IS EQUIP?

As we seek to live out our vision to be "the faithful presence of Jesus' love in ordinary life," we recognize that we need others to help us to understand what it looks like to live faithfully in our homes, in our community, in our workplaces, and in our world. And even more than that, we need a community with whom we can walk as we think practically about what it

looks like to follow Jesus in an increasingly disorienting and busy world. To that end, we've assembled an outstanding collection of teachers from our congregation and community so that together we can take another step into the life that Jesus is calling us toward.

QUESTIONS? *Contact Joey at*
jsherrard@signalpres.org.

MOPS // MONTHLY MEETING: DECEMBER 1 • 9:30 AM • WOODWARD HALL

Monthly Outing: December 15 • 9:30 AM • Bring two dozen cookies to swap & play in Dudley Hall. No Charge.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

December 10, after 10:45 service

Please join us as we act on the recommendation of the elders to call Joey Sherrard as Associate Pastor of Discipleship

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH

December 10, after the meeting

Please join us to welcome New Members! Make reservations in pew pads or by emailing cprice@signalpres.org.

INTRO TO SIGNAL PRES CLASS

January 14–February 4
Sundays, 9:30-10:20
Session Room

Designed as the “front door” to the life of the church, this class is for anyone who wants to get to know more about Signal Pres. It is about what we believe, why we do what we do, how to get involved, and what membership is all about—all while introducing you to other people new to the church, the pastors, elders, and other church members.

QUESTIONS? Contact Scott at sbowen@signalpres.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FISH

Would you consider helping us pull off the biggest Youth outreach event of the year? We have lots of volunteer spots to fill!

- Host a D-group for BreakFish Feb 24
- Food & Hospitality
- Greeters & Registration
- Set Up & Clean Up
- Activity Coordinators
- Security Team
- More options at smtwo.org/serve

INTERESTED? Contact Camille at cward@signalpres.org or Jimmy at jlatham@signalpres.org.

YOUTH CAPERNAUM // DECEMBER 15, 6-8 PM · YOUTH CAFE

A Young Life ministry for adolescents with special needs. We'd love for you to HELP by providing dinner or dessert for an upcoming Capernaum gathering! CONTACT: Betsy Wilburn • 886-2190 • bwilburn@signalpres.org



MEN OF SIGNAL PRES:

Grab a buddy and join us for a short weekend retreat as we feast on a great meal, enjoy some down-time together, and look at the book of Jonah.

SCOTTY SMITH

Speaker, Founding pastor of Christ Community Church in Franklin, TN

FRIDAY, JAN 26

We'll kickoff with dinner at 6:30

SATURDAY, JAN 27

Breakfast at 8:15, done by 11

COST: 20 BUCKS

2 meals & materials included

Register by Monday, January 22
signalpres.org/mens-retreat



WORLD VISION PRESENTS *Fleeing Home: A Refugee Story*

ON REFUGEE SUNDAY

December 3

Dudley Hall, 9 AM-2 PM

Immerse yourself in a mock refugee camp experience and get a glimpse of what the day-to-day reality is for over 22 million displaced refugees around the world. After a guided tour through the camp, there will be an opportunity to respond to the pressing needs of refugees in the form of prayer support, one-time gifts, and ongoing financial support. If your Sunday School class has not scheduled a time to walk through the camp, limited spots are available after 10 AM. First service attenders are welcome to come during second service, and all are welcome when the camp opens at 9 AM or after second service worship until the camp closes at 2 PM.

QUESTIONS? Contact Joey at jsherrard@signalpres.org.

GRIEF SHARE // SUNDAYS AT 3 PM, WOODWARD HALL BEGINNING JANUARY 7

12 session seminar and support group for people who are grieving the death of someone close to them. Suggested Donation: \$15 to cover the cost of workbooks. CONTACT/REGISTER: Christie Gilliam • cgilliam@signalpres.org



CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 24 • 5 PM • SANCTUARY

*Please bring a gift of canned goods
for Signal Mountain Social Services*

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SECOND GRADE PARENTS:

This year your child has the opportunity to tell
The Best Story ever: The Birth of Jesus!

REHEARSALS // Sanctuary

Friday, December 22 • 9:30–11 AM

Saturday, December 23 • 9:30–11 AM

THIRD & FOURTH GRADE PARENTS:

Your children have been learning to sign "Silent
Night" in Agape Club. They will participate in the
Prelude at the Children's Celebration of Christmas.
Children need to wear black turtlenecks & blue jeans.

REHEARSALS // Sanctuary

Friday, December 22 • 9–10 AM

Saturday, December 23 • 9–11 AM

BIBLE IN MY HEART

GALATIANS 4:4–5

*"But when the set time had fully come,
God sent His Son, born of a woman,
born under the law, that we might
receive adoption to sonship."*

GOD'S BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why was Jesus born?

Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.

LESSONS

Angels spoke to Mary & Joseph

Jesus was born

Wise men visited Jesus

NURSERY NEWS

This year, as we tell the familiar Christmas story, let's
do so in a way that incites wonder in our children
and helps them to see that Jesus really is the best
gift ever!

LESSONS

Week 1 • God told us He would give us Jesus

Week 2 • Jesus is born

Week 3 • The angels tell about Jesus

Week 4 • God gave us Jesus because He loves us

MEMORY VERSE

God has given a son to us. Isaiah 9:6

KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS! // JUNE 18–21, 2018

You won't want to miss the Children's event of the season! Volunteers are needed for jobs big and small—can you help? CONTACT: Carolyn Miller • cmiller@signalpres.org or Courtney Armstrong • carmstrong@signalpres.org

WAFFLES & WINTERIM

JANUARY 14–21 · DUDLEY HALL

“Suffering with Hope”

Looking at God’s sovereignty and goodness, what is honest lament? Are we shortchanging believers of the riches of the Christian teaching about suffering?

SPEAKER: Dr. Kelly M. Kapic, *Professor of Theological Studies, Covenant College*

JANUARY 7

8:45–9:30 AM Family Waffle Breakfast
9:30–10:25 AM Longing & Lament: Honesty before God and Each Other

JANUARY 14

9:30–10:25 AM One with Us: Incarnation & Our Pain

JANUARY 21

9:30–10:25 AM Faithfulness & Suffering: How to Love One Another Well

CONTACT: Jean Smith • jsmith@signalpres.org



WOMEN’S RETREAT

FEBRUARY 9–11, 2018

The Cove · Asheville, NC

“Hearing His Voice in a Noisy World”

SPEAKER: JACKY GATLIFF

Cost: \$240

Women of all ages are invited to join us for a refreshing week together. Register today to save your spot! Please don’t let finances be a hindrance to your ability to attend; for information about payment plans or scholarships, contact Jean Smith at jsmith@signalpres.org.

For more information and to register, visit signalpres.org/womens-retreat-2018/

LIVING WATER

Seniors’ Bible study & lunch

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 30

IN HIS SERVICE

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 15

YOUTH CHOIR TO SING AT ALEXIAN, TOWN HALL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 7 PM

Mark your calendars for this special Christmas concert!

SPARROW’S NEST // FOSTER CLOSET ITEMS NEEDED

New PJs, size NB-5, boys & girls • Diapers & Pull-Ups, all sizes • New Underwear, up to size 10, boys & girls.
Please drop off donations at Cornerstone Room 301 • CONTACT: Martha Usher • mushertn@gmail.com

SIGNAL PRES SECURITY TEAM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As we work to ensure the safety and security of our campus, we are seeking volunteers to serve as part of a security team. These individuals will be trained to respond to a variety of scenarios even as they go about their normal Sunday morning routine. We have special need for doctors, nurses, current or former law enforcement, those with military experience, and others trained in security procedures.

CONTACT: Eric Merkle • emerkle@hcsheff.gov

CHRISTMAS GREENING OF THE CHURCH

HONOR & MEMORIAL GIFTS

Please designate your honor and memorial gifts for "Christmas Greening" and indicate the name(s) for whom the gift is given. Donations may be placed in the offering plate, turned in at the church office, or made online by Sunday, December 17. A donation of \$10 per gift is suggested.

CHILI COOKOFF TO BENEFIT COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

JANUARY 10 · 5:30 PM, DUDLEY HALL

Come enjoy some of the best chili recipes that our congregation has to offer and raise money for some of our community ministry partners. \$10 (\$5 for children) gets you into the event and fills your belly with as much chili as you can eat (or until we run out!). Additional donations will be accepted.

For more news & events, visit

[FACEBOOK.COM/SIGNALPRES](https://www.facebook.com/signalpres)

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SIGNAL MOUNTAIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SIGNALPRES.ORG

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, December 25
Tuesday, December 26
Friday, December 29, 12 PM
Monday, January 1

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 4
Signal Mountain
Tennessee
