

**Westwood Friday Update**  
**Friday, December 4 to Friday, December 11, 2020**

*Happy Friday everyone! I hope that you have had a good first week of Advent! Take a look at everything happening including a new way to connect this Advent – a Cookie Swap! Hope to see you online this Sunday – there are some surprises coming in worship you will not want to miss! Have a great weekend!*

*Pastor Bryan*

***Baby News!***

Josh and I would like to introduce to everyone our daughter Emma Jane. She was born the Sunday before Thanksgiving at 1:28pm. She was born 8 lbs. 3 oz. and 21 inches. We think she is just a perfect little bundle and are truly so blessed to have her with us. We are overwhelmed with love and so grateful for all the help we have been receiving.

*Emily Watts*

**CONTINUING WAYS TO CONNECT EACH WEEK**

**Sunday School** – Classes (adults and youth) are now meeting via Zoom. If you would like to join a class, please e-mail Pastor Stephen for info ([stephen.gray@westwood-baptist.org](mailto:stephen.gray@westwood-baptist.org))

**Sunday Worship** - Sundays at 11:00 am on FACEBOOK LIVE ([facebook.com/WestwoodBaptist](https://facebook.com/WestwoodBaptist)) and on our church website (<https://westwood-baptist.org/connect-online/live-worship/>). The scripture passages for this Sunday are Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 and 2 Peter 3:8-14. Pastor Bryan will be bringing a message entitled “Wilderness Life” based on Mark 1:1-8.

Due to the current surge in Covid cases we have returned to all-virtual worship. Services are “Premiered” on Facebook at 11:00 am each Sunday. Make plans to join us each Sunday of Advent at 11:00!

**Youth Sunday Night Live!** - Join us every Sunday virtually at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

**THIS WEEK – December 4-11, 2020  
CELEBRATING ADVENT WITH WESTWOOD**

**Advent Study**

Our Advent Study, "Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas," features best-selling author Adam Hamilton examining the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth. Video sessions will accompany the study. Sign up by emailing Pastor Stephen at [stephen.gray@westwood-baptist.org](mailto:stephen.gray@westwood-baptist.org) or by calling the church office at 703-451-5120. Books cost \$10 and can be picked up at the church. ***Assignment for the second session: read Chapter 2.***

The study meets on Mondays through Dec. 21 at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom.

*New this year:* Can't make it on Mondays? Join us on Advent Sundays at 12:30 p.m. on Zoom.

***Would you like to watch the video sessions with Adam Hamilton?***

*As a part of our study, we have congregational access to Amplify Media during Advent. Contact Stephen for link.*

*Once you are there, click on the person silhouette in the upper right corner, select Enter Access Code, enter YVFHTS and click verify, then create your free account. Once that is done, you can find the Incarnation videos and much more.*

**The Great Westwood Socially Distanced Christmas Cookie Exchange**

Spread Christmas cheer by baking and delivering a batch of cookies to a fellow Westwoodian -- and you will receive delivered cookies too! It's easy peasy.

Step One: Contact Robin Brock by Friday, December 11 by email: [robindbrock@gmail.com](mailto:robindbrock@gmail.com)

Step Two: You will receive an email with the name/address/contact info of the person/family that you are secretly baking for on Sunday, December 13.

Step Three: Bake a batch of super delicious cookies.

Step Four: Deliver the cookies in a protected container to your assigned person/family between 10-6 on Saturday, December 19. (Remember, you will also be receiving cookies from a secret someone as well!) Enclose a signed (with your name) recipe card with your cookies to reveal your secret baker identity.

Step Five: Grab a glass of milk and devour your yummy cookies!

Questions? Contact Robin Brock at (410) 463-0231 or [robindbrock@gmail.com](mailto:robindbrock@gmail.com)

### **Westwood Angel Tree**

Westwood members have generously sponsored families at Springfield Gardens apartments for many years at Christmastime. This year we still plan to help, but the program will be a bit different. Their programs and management have changed, and we are still awaiting to hear the number of families that need help; it may be a smaller number this year. Also, due to the building closure, we will also not be able to have members participate by taking family information cards from the tree we usually have up in the foyer. Instead, please contact Rebecca Glander directly if you will be able to sponsor a family, and she will give you information on families that have signed up: [rkd.glander@verizon.net](mailto:rkd.glander@verizon.net) or 703-282-5464 (cell phone – call or text).

### **Christmas Global Missions Offering**

Throughout the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we receive gifts for our Global Missions Offering. This special offering is shared with our mission partners around the world as follows:

CBF Global Missions: 75%  
MACBF (Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Baptist Fellowship): 5%  
Baptist World Alliance: 4%  
ServeTrust: 4%  
State Missions (Alma Hunt): 4%  
ECHO: 4%  
NorthStar (Local Association - Allport): 4%

Global Missions Offering envelopes are available in the packet of envelopes you receive at home. Prayerfully consider what God would have you do to help others hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

### **Advent Wreaths for Home Worship**

To help you celebrate we have ordered Advent wreath kits for you to light at home. Each kit contains a base and four candles. A limited number of kits are still available for \$10. You may purchase one by calling the church office (703-451-5120) Monday-Thursday at 9 am-3 pm or Friday at 9 am-12 pm; or by sending an e-mail to Martha Newman ([martha.newman@westwood-baptist.org](mailto:martha.newman@westwood-baptist.org)).

## **MORE NEWS**

### **Beginning in January**

We will be reading the New Testament together as a church in a new and exciting way! Beginning January 3, we will use the "Immerse Messiah Reading Bible" with an eight-week reading schedule. Contact Martha Newman in the church office at [martha.newman@westwood-baptist.org](mailto:martha.newman@westwood-baptist.org) to get a copy of Messiah for \$5 and arrange for pickup.

### **Volunteer for Irving MS Snack Bag Distribution in January/February**

Thanks to everyone who signed up to distribute snack bags on Fridays at Irving Middle School through December!

A new signup for January and February has been published on SignUp Genius.

**IMPORTANT:** Please check your temperature at home and record it on the sign-in sheet when you "report for duty."

### **Food for Neighbors Snack Bag Packing**

Volunteers are needed to help pack weekend food packs with our partners, Food for Neighbors. Volunteers are especially needed every other Thursday at 12-1:30 pm here at the church. These are the bags that we hand out at Irving Middle School on Friday mornings. Sign up is on SignUp Genius.

### **Westwood Youth**

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! All youth that would like to participate in a virtual Christmas program, please email Tiffany at: [tiffany.burch@westwood-baptist.org](mailto:tiffany.burch@westwood-baptist.org)

Join us for Temple Thursday. We will meet on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.  
Join Zoom Meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3024978916>

All in-person Youth events for the month of December have been cancelled and will be adjusted to fit with Westwood's guidelines of safety.

*Tiffany*

### **ECHO Thank You**

ECHO received the following note from a person who was helped through our Thanksgiving Gift Card donations.

"Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of ECHO and Westwood Baptist Church Agape Class, Thank you so very much for the gift card to Giant for the Thanksgiving holiday. That was so kind of you to think of me and I really appreciate it. I had an incredible dinner instead of the frozen dinner that I had originally planned on having! You all do such incredible work, especially in these very troubling times and I want to let you know how thankful I am for that."

### **Financial Update: 11/29/20**

Budget to Date \$ 247,298

Income to Date \$ 228,470

Actual Expenses to Date \$ 217,268

Surplus/(Loss) \$ 11,202

### **Bold Challenge II Update 11/29/20**

Pledges \$ 99,980  
Received \$ 78,360  
Balance of Pledges \$ 21,620  
Total Collected \$ 131,228.90  
Non-Pledge Collected \$ 52,868.90  
Expenses Paid \$ 146,274.10  
Balance BC II **(\$ -15,045.20)**