



# ENSLOW PARK PRESS

Rev. Chris Perkins, Pastor

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

*"The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace."*

~ Numbers 6:24-26 ~

As you know I am retiring at the end of the year and I just wanted to take this time to thank all of you for the many ways you allowed me to be your pastor. In Nine and 2/3 years I've watched children grow up. I've baptized, performed marriages, visited hospitals and shut-ins, taught theology as well as performing far too many funerals. Together, we realized a few dreams, lived through a few trials, and persevered. As the years go by I will look back fondly on our time together; I trust the same will be true for you.

While I am leaving you, there is one who remains constant: Jesus Christ. Jesus has been here from the beginning, and will be with you for the rest of time. If through the power of the Holy Spirit you allow Jesus to guide (you) EPPC will always have a mission. It may not look like the church we have today. There will undoubtedly be trials to be endured and difficult decisions which need to be made. But a passion for our Lord and Savior will see you through.

The biblical record is full of stories about people who faced far harder trials than we. A few times the people of Israel were exiled from their land; every time they returned. When Elijah was on the run from King Ahab and Queen Jezebel he prayed, "I've been very passionate for the LORD God of heavenly forces because the Israelites have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars, and they have murdered your prophets with the sword. I'm the only one left, and now they want to take my life too."

The LORD heard Elijah's prayer and encouraged him with these words: "I have preserved those who remain in Israel, totaling seven thousand—all those whose knees haven't bowed down to Baal and whose mouths haven't kissed him." When Elijah had done the math it looked to him like it was all over. But God's math was different from Elijah's. God made a way where there was no way, and God will do it again for people who have faith.

There is something really wonderful about the word, *advent*. When you Google the word, one of the definitions you get is: the arrival of a notable person, thing or event. We know this word from other contexts besides religions. We say things like, "Since the advent of the automobile . . ." Or "Since the advent of the modern era . . ." So at root the message is quite simple: Advent means something new is coming.

In a Christian context we look to Advent at the dawn of a new and better era – a message which translates quite naturally into Christmas. So it is appropriate that in this season of hope we hold fast to belief that EPPC will find a new and better era as well. So I bid you goodbye with, appropriately, my favorite Celtic blessing: "May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."

God Bless Always,  
Chris

*Special Reception* 

*for Rev. Chris Perkins*

**On Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
*following the annual*  
*"Hanging of the Greens" Worship Service,*  
**there will be a special reception**  
**to honor Rev. Chris Perkins**  
**on his retirement**  
**at the end of December.**

*We would like to take this time together*  
*to thank Chris and recognize him*  
*for his nine years of service*  
*and friendship to our congregation.*

Please plan to attend this important  
 Sunday as we honor Chris.

*Help Brighten Christmas  
for a Child in Need  
with Gifts or Donations to the  
“Giving Tree” at EPPC  
November 18 – December 9*

Once again, the Huntington City Mission is asking the community to help give Christmas gifts to the children and teens of families living at the Mission who would otherwise receive very little. This is only possible with the help of caring Christians in this community who give their time, talent, and gifts.



To participate in this wonderful mission project, Enslow Park has a “Giving Tree” in our church, on the office bulletin board. On the tree are **Wish Cards** with a child or teen’s name and their wishes on each one.

**You can sponsor a child or teen by:**

1. Choosing a name from the “tree” and purchasing clothing and/or requested gifts that are listed inside the card. Return the gifts (**unwrapped**) in a shopping bag with the card to the Donaldson Room by **Sunday, December 9**.  
(gift limit \$70.00).

**Or-**

2. You may make a monetary donation for the “Giving Tree” and the **“EPPC Christmas Elves”** can buy the gifts for you on the evening of **Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>**.

**The deadline for donations is  
Sunday, December 9.**

If you would like to be an **“EPPC Christmas Elf”** contact Linda Brewster or sign up on the Christmas Elf sheet on the Giving Tree board. The plan is to go shopping for any remaining names on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> (could be a different date) After the Christmas Shopping we will go out for dinner together. You can also choose to shop any time at your convenience.



Come get in the Christmas Spirit & **HELP**  
**“Hang the Greens”**



as we decorate our church  
for the Advent Season

**When???**

**Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

**9 am – 12:00 pm**

**EVERYONE is invited to help!!**

Then on **Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**“The Hanging of the Greens”**  
**Worship Service**

This is a very special time of worship, as we celebrate our Advent & Christmas traditions through stories, history & carols.

Following the worship service there will be a

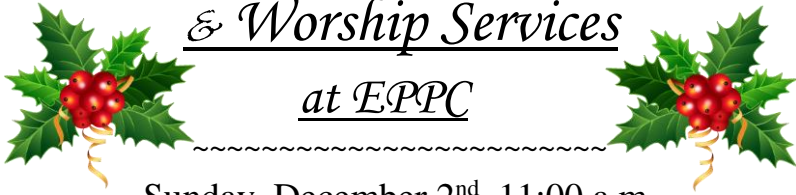
**Reception in the Parlor**  
**to honor Rev. Chris Perkins**  
on his retirement.



# Advent & Christmas Events

## & Worship Services

at EPCC



Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:00 a.m.

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**“Hanging of the Greens”**

**Worship Service**

**& Retirement Reception**

**for Rev. Chris Perkins**



Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m.

**Children’s Christmas Movie & Party**

**Fellowship Hall**

Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Worship Service**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**



Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Worship Service**

**Cents-ability Offering**



Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

11:00 a.m.

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**... Worship Service**

**& Christmas Joy Offering**



**Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight**

**Worship Service**



# Heifer International Holiday Living Gift Fair

**-for “Alternative Gift-Giving”**

**December in the Donaldson Room!**

Heifer International will be bringing the spirit of giving to our church family on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> while helping to wipe out hunger around the world! Heifer International’s Holiday Living Gift Fair can help us minister to people in need.

Try alternative gift-giving by sending gifts of food-producing animals to needy families here in the USA and overseas in honor of loved ones. At our Living Gift Fair, you may purchase “shares” of living animals including heifers, llamas, geese, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens or bees; to be sent to those families who need help.



Each family that receives an animal is required to “pass on the gift” by giving an offspring to another family so that they keep on giving – by producing for years to come. Discover the joy, the hope, and the blessing that comes from “alternative giving” at the Holiday Living Gift Fair. You can truly become partners with Heifer Int’l in giving gifts of Love and Life.

*Please attend the Enslow Park*



***Christmas Eve Candlelight***

***Worship Service***

***Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>***

***at 7:30 P.M***



## December 2018 Birthdays

- 2 - Nick Cunningham
- 3 - Charlie Bagley, III  
Mark Stewart
- 16 - Sara Blethen
- 18 - Cedar Pyles  
Lafe Harris
- 22 - Cory Ray
- 25 - Jesus Christ



## January 2019 Birthdays

*(Partial List)*



- 7 - Scott Barber
- 10 - Ruth Sugonis
- 16 - Betty Peck
- 18 - Lois Keller  
Forrest Stewart  
Jaelyn Pyles

## Food & Clothing Pantry

Christian Associates Cridlin Food & Clothing Pantry has asked EPPC to contribute:

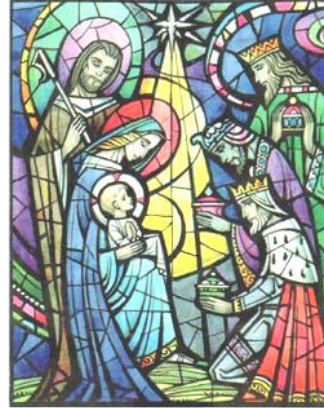


**36 Cans  
of  
BEEF STEW  
in December**

**Special Needs: Children's Winter Clothing**

If you would like to be a volunteer at the Cridlin Food & Clothing Pantry, which is located in the Trinity Episcopal Church, you can go Monday, Wednesday or Friday, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

## Christmas Joy Offering



This special offering will be received on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. In this season when we celebrate the child born in Bethlehem, we also realize that the birth of Jesus ushered in a new realm of God's love at work in the world. This love causes us to recognize the image of God imbedded in all

humankind. It compels us to reach out with charity, justice, and grace. We seek to honor every child of God. This, too, is how we celebrate the child born on that first Christmas Day.

Presbyterians can respond to that love at Christmas by giving generously to the Christmas Joy Offering. The Offering helps students at racial ethnic schools and colleges develop their gifts and find their calling to serve God through serving their community. At the same time, the Offering helps families of both active and retired church workers to meet unexpected needs.

## Thank You !

to everyone who brought cookies and other goodies for 60 of our *1<sup>st</sup> Responders* who work the Day Shift at the Huntington Police Dept.



**Our next Thank You Gift delivery is in JANUARY:**

**Please bring your goodies by Noon on Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**  
We will be delivering these gifts to 30 First Responders who work the Evening & Night Shift at the Huntington Police Department.

**Plate Preparation – Wednesday afternoon  
Delivery on Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Please leave your much-appreciated donations in the Donaldson Room.**

Questions?? Contact Rodrigo Almeida  
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304-972 8103