



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 18, 2022

WELCOME TO ST. MARY OF THE HILLS!

We are so glad that you are here. If you are a guest among us, we invite you to complete a Connection Card in the pew rack so that we might connect with you further. More information about our parish is available online at www.stmaryofthehills.org.

Members of our Vestry (*elected lay leadership*) are identified by name tags with yellow lanyards. Seek them out for information about our congregation's life and ministry.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN FORMATION OFFERINGS - (*Will not meet the following two Sundays: December 25 & January 1*)

- **Rector's Forum** – During the season of Advent, the Rector's Forum will be grounded in reflections from the monks of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist. We gather at 9:00AM in the Barrett Room.
- **Godly Play** - This morning in the St. Luke Room, Godly Play will be offered for our children of all ages.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS – If you wish to honor or remember a loved one this Christmas, please consider donating to the flower guild for Christmas greenery and flowers. All gifts are welcome. A suggested donation is \$50. The deadline is Monday, Dec. 19th for inclusion in the Christmas bulletins.

A SERVICE OF HOPE AND LIGHT – In this Longest Night service of Hope and Light, we acknowledge that there are many for whom the holiday season is not a joyful time while also trusting in the light and hope revealed in Christ. This service will be held Wednesday, December 21st at **5:30PM** at Faithbridge United Methodist Church (194 Aho Road). Annually, this service is offered in partnership with friends from Faithbridge United Methodist Church and Ruple Memorial Presbyterian Church.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- **Christmas Eve**
5:00PM Holy Eucharist with Children's Pageant (children participating need to arrive in the Parish Hall by 4:30PM).
10:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Choir (with incense)
- **Christmas Day**
11:00AM Holy Eucharist with Carols

MORNING PRAYER – Join us for Morning Prayer, offered Monday-Friday at 8:30AM in the Church.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL - You can still support Heifer International on Sundays at Coffee Minute. The credit card machine will be set up in the volunteer office. Thank you.

GLOVES FOR HOSPITALITY HOUSE - We are collecting waterproof gloves (60 pairs for men, 60 pairs for women) to share with our friends at Hospitality House to fulfill their Christmas wish list. Please bring the items to the church; a basket labeled "Hospitality House Gloves" is in the Foyer to receive these items. Contact Amanda White at 336-509-8095 or amanda.white0119@yahoo.com with any questions.

ADVENT BOOK STUDY AND CONVERSATION CIRCLE – On Thursdays in Advent, (December 1 - December 22), from 12:00PM-1:00PM either online or in person, we will discuss the powerful book, *Names for the Messiah*, from noted Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Tuesday, December 27 as our staff observe holiday time. If you have a pastoral emergency (hospitalization, death in your family, arrest, mental health crisis), please contact Fr. Andrew directly at (336-848-4052).

ALL YEAR-END PAYMENTS TO THE CHURCH must be dated and the envelope postmarked on or before December 31, 2022 to be credited on giving statements for the year 2022.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

For the Church: Michael our Presiding Bishop, José our Bishop, Andrew, Sam and Gary our clergy, for our Vestry and staff, and for all the people of this parish.

In our Parish Prayer Cycle, we remember this week:

12/18 Buddy Fore
12/19 Charlotte Fox and Frances Goodman
12/20 Bill and Emily Furr
12/21 Saralynn Gaillard, Kaidence and Remington
12/22 Doug and Mary Galke
12/23 Bill and Joellyn Gibbons
12/24 Jim and Joyce Gibson

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer: St. Thomas, Burnsville

For our nation and those in positions of public trust: Joseph, our President, Roy, our Governor, all those who hold elected office.

For all who suffer from war throughout the world and especially for the people of Ukraine and Russia, the people of the Korean peninsula, the people of Yemen, and the people of Ethiopia.

For all medical personnel and all ministering to the needs of those affected by COVID-19.

For healing: Cliff Minor, Jill Gloster, Jayden, Paula, Mel, Greg, Lillian White, Danny Whittington, Evonne Folk, Barry Horton, Watson family, Joey Eller, Ed, Meredith, Louann Kitchell, Elizabeth, Cat Carter, Joe Dyer, Christi and Charlie, Carl and his family, Jennifer, Lauren, Bonnie and Bob, Elizabeth Young, Bruce B., Jane F., Chris, Mary M., Keith, Kathy, Donna, Sandie Holder, Bill, Nancy

****Please note that the names on this list will remain for four weeks,
unless the office is notified that the person(s) needs to remain on the list for a longer period of time.****

For those with other concerns: George D., Matthew, Julia

For those who have died: Wil, Steve Frank, Bill,

For safe pregnancy and delivery for: Darrow, Rebecca Purcell, Caitlyn

For those celebrating a birthday this week:

12/18 Weston Miller, Rick Williams
12/19 Pinkney Rankin, Stephanie Rickenbaker, Booker Purcell
12/21 Joellyn Gibbons
12/22 Robert Kling
12/23 Adeline Sauer, Maureen Justice

For those celebrating an anniversary this week:

12/23 Pinkney and Jo Rankin