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DECEMBER 2025

THE ENCOURAGER

Deep Creek Friends



Waiting For Answers

Ginger Holt

Do you remember what waiting for the arrival of Christmas day was like as a child? I spent many hours dreaming of what Santa was going to bring me as I thumbed through the pages of the Sears and Roebuck Christmas Catalog. By Christmas morning, I had worn the book out and it was filled with circled items I wanted to receive. Christmas morning could not arrive fast enough for me. The wait was hard. When the morning came, I was up by 5am to greet the day, and although Santa did not bring me all the items I had circled, I was excited for Christmas to finally arrive.

Isaiah prophesied the coming of Jesus sometime between 740 and 700 BC. Jesus was born sometime between 4 and 6 BC. Around 700 years passed from the time of the prophecy and when it came to fruition. Also, before the birth of Christ, some 400 years passed when the people did not hear from God at all. No scriptures have been found from that 400 year time period. Talk about a long time to wait for someone to arrive! For those who knew and believed in the scriptures, the wait must have been excruciating. Many would never see it come true, yet they kept the faith. Then, when the prophecy came true, it was not like they had envisioned it would be. Jesus came in the humblest of ways, and instead of coming to rule on earth, he came to save the world. Those who knew who he was and understood what he really came for were excited that he finally arrived.

Waiting can be hard. What are you waiting for? Are you looking for an answer to a prayer? Are you waiting for God to move in your situation, or in a loved one's life? Are you waiting for God to send you a sign? Just because answers are not immediate does not mean that God is not working in the situation. He is always working for the good of his children. You will receive an answer, but it will be in His time and His way. Just keep the faith and you will be better off for it when it finally arrives.

Psalms 27:14 - Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. Have a blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year.



Announcements

ADVENT SEASON

We are looking forward to celebrating the Advent season with you.

This year we are incorporating our youth and young children into our services every week. Advent is a chance for us to reflect and immerse ourselves in a time of waiting.

While we wait we will walk through four different aspects of Advent.

We started celebrating Advent on November 30, with **Hope**

December 7 we will talk about **Peace**

December 14 we find **Joy** in the waiting

December 21 we will lean into **Love**

We pray that you will lean into this advent season with us as we wait with expectation and see Jesus in our daily lives.



YADKIN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Thank you for your support with canned goods and monetary donations. October saw over 1,726 families served. Here are some of our most needed items. Please share with friends and family.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| • Macaroni and Cheese | • Sweet & Salty Snacks | • Peanut Butter |
| • Shelf Stable Milk | • Canned Fruit | • Rice |

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are interested in volunteering in our nursery please see Priscilla Shore.

She has graciously taken on coordinating our nursery volunteers for both Sunday School and Worship.

IMPACT YADKIN

Impact Yadkin is looking for homes in Yadkin that need repair. Paper applications will be available at church. If you know of someone needing an application, please let Angie Brendle or Rhonda Moran know or pick one up outside the pastor's study. They can be mailed to Magnify Ministries or turned in to Chris Hauser.

Advent and Fasting

We hear about Fasting mostly during the Lenten season leading up to Easter. The liturgical calendar starts at Advent. That is where we are right now. We are in a season of waiting. Ginger shared some of her story of waiting in our article for the month.

When we hear about fasting, most of us immediately think of food, however fasting can be forgoing anything of your choosing. I think when we look at scripture fasting is in regards to sustenance. Abstaining is in regards to other things you are forgoing.

So as we walk through this Advent season we ask that you will join us in a time of fasting or abstaining on the Saturday before our Soup Lunch. We ask that you choose one thing; whether that be food, sugar, technology, social media, etc. to forgo starting on Saturday, December 20.

We will end our fast together on Sunday, December 21 at our soup lunch following service.

During this time we ask that you spend focus time praying for Deep Creek for the following things:

- Opening our hearts and arms to our intermediate pastor
- Our search for a full time pastor
- Ministry and Counsel as they head this search
- Our search for a student minister
- Christian Education Committee as they head this search
- That Deep Creek will be a place of peace and outreach for the community

Our time of fasting is very short, but we want to leave you with this scripture from Matthew 6:16-18.

“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who is in secret will reward you.”

Fasting is not about the reward, it is about the relationship. It is a tool that allows us to draw nearer to Christ. We hope that you will join us in this time and we look forward to breaking our fast together at our soup lunch on December 21st.

Ministry Corner

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of Deep Creek Friends, the Christian Education Committee would like to announce the resignation of Sydney Matthews, our children's minister. While we will miss her presence and leadership in our children's ministry, we are deeply grateful for the work that she has done over the past five years in our church.

For five years, Sydney has poured her heart into serving the children and their families. She has planted seeds that we are confident will continue to grow. As Sydney prepares for her next chapter, we wish her the very best. We are excited for the opportunities ahead of her and pray that God continues to lead and strengthen her in all that she does.

As Sydney embarks on a new chapter in her life, we want to assure each of you that the church is fully committed to the children's ministry and is working diligently to ensure the continued strength and vibrancy of the children's programs. We look forward to sharing with you what we have planned for the new year.

Please join us in expressing our thanks to Sydney Matthews in the coming weeks. We are grateful for her service and the impact she has had on the children, their families, and our church family.

With gratitude and blessings,

Jacob Brendle & Rhonda Moran

Chairs of Christian Education

We have made it easier to donate to our Youth and Children's programs. You can scan the QR Code to the right and donate via Venmo. A record of your donation can be given to our treasurer for tax purposes.



venmo

MINISTRY & COUNSEL

December Speakers

We are excited to share our speaker line up for this month!

- 07 - Gavin Thomas
- 14 - Caden Funk
- 21 - Jacob Brendle
- 28 - Churchwide Singing and Scripture

Reach Out

If you have a need please contact Tommy Shore (336/469-2760) or Angie Brendle (336/244-8791)

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	1	2	3	4	5	6
				12:30p - Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon		Christmas Parades
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Gavin Thomas 2p - Bell Choir Practice 3p - Choir Practice 4p - Ignite 5p - Youth			7p - Bible Study	5:30p - Christmas Caroling		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Caden Funk TBA - Bell Choir Practice 4p - Ignite 5p - Youth			7p - Bible Study  Newsletter items due			Churchwide Fasting Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Jacob Brendle CE Meeting Soup Lunch 3p - Choir Practice 4p - Ignite 5p - Youth		7p - Ministry & Counsel		MERRY Christmas		
28	29	30	31			
Church Singing & Scripture Monthly Meeting 5p - Youth		7p - Ministry and Counsel	7p - Youth & Young Adult Gathering for New Years			

NEWSLETTER
CONTENT DUE

December 17

GREETERS

Adam Hutchins
Sarah Ray

NURSERY:
SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 07 - Donna Raines
- 14 - Cathy Shore
- 21 - Priscilla Shore
- 28 - Priscilla Shore

NURSERY:
WORSHIP

- 07 - Jean Hutchins
- 14 - Sarah Ray
- 21 - Priscilla Shore
- 28 - Donna Raines

MUSIC

- 07 - Choir
- 14 - Bells
- 21 - Kids
- 28 - Churchwide Singing

FOOD for YOUTH:

- 07 - Kristy / Sarah
- 14 - Angie
- 21 - Janet
- 28 - Brenda / Priscilla