



The Good News of... Brandon Christian Church



Merry December, Disciples of Christ!

I am always excited about the beginning of the liturgical year because it is Advent, and Christmas is coming!

We decorate, we begin baking for Christmas, we buy gifts BUT most importantly we prepare for Christmas by observing Advent. Frankly, it is a season that is so much more than lighting the Advent wreath; it is a season about preparing our hearts and minds for what is to come. Oh, it's not about preparing for travel plans or the family dinner you're planning ...

Advent is about preparing for the birth of the Christ Child. For me, it means reading the Advent devotional and doing the things on the cards in the Advent jar. It also means lighting the four candles, each representing something we should have in our hearts. I think about all the ways we find HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE in this season and in our lives. The season is about waiting with anticipation for Christmas Day!

I think our Advent responsibility is to bring as much Christ into the season as we humanly can. We do this in all the ways we give our time and talents at church and in our community. So, remember, December is a busy month at BCC:

- ◆ December 8th is our Potato Bar where we will bring toppings and cookies to share.
- ◆ The ECHO tree is in the narthex for you to decorate with new socks to be distributed in our community.
- ◆ December 23rd we are volunteering at Feeding Tampa.
- ◆ We will Celebrate the birth of the Christ Child during our Candlelight service on
- ◆ December 24th at 6:00 p.m. Invite people!

May the joy of the Lord fill your life this Advent season and Christmas.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Steven Blinder, EdD

Church Staff

Senior Minister - Rev. Steven Blinder

Director of Music - Rick Barclay

Administrative Assistant - Shawn Tubaugh



910 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511

813-689-4021

Office Hours: Mon - Thurs: 10-2p

brandonchristianchurch@gmail.com

ECHO
(Emergency Care Help Organization)

ECHO of Brandon provides socks and undergarments when available to individuals and families who are homeless or hurting in our community. Most needed items are: Socks, Bras, Underwear for (Adults and Children) and Diapers/Pull-Ups (up to size 6). Each Christmas season we put a tree up

Staff Love Offerings

At this time of year, we like to show our appreciation to our BCC staff by collecting a love offering for them. If you would like to show your appreciation to our BCC staff, please mark your gift "staff love offering". The deadline to give is Sunday, December 15th

Special Christmas Offering

"God's love visible!" That's the theme for the 2024 Christmas Offering being held Dec 15th and Dec 22nd to support regional ministries. As you may know, the Christmas Offering is one of 6 Special Offerings received during the year. What is unique about the Christmas offering is that 100% of the Christmas offering supports our regional ministries.

Attention Women of BCC

Join us for an organizational meeting for Women's Ministry at Brandon Christian Church. We will gather at the home of Dee Smith on Tuesday, January 14, 11:30am - 1 pm. If you need transportation, please contact Karlita (813) 928-2029. Join us for lunch and fellowship.

Dee Smith
 11328 Cambray Creek Loop
 Riverview, FL 33579
 (863) 430-3927

The only cost is your time. See you then!

Elders - Sun, Dec 8th
5:00pm, Zoom

Finance - Thurs, Dec 12th
7:00pm, Zoom

Board - Sun, Dec 15th
5:00pm, Zoom

Dec 1st - First Sunday of Advent - Hope
 Dec 1st - World Aids Day Service @ 7p; FH

Dec 2nd - Bible Study @ 7a; Just Love Coffee Café

Dec 8th - Second Sunday of Advent - Peace
 Dec 8th - Lunch & Caroling after worship; FH
 Dec 8th - BCC Book Club @ 2p; Google Meets
 Dec 8th - Elders @ 5p; Zoom

Dec 9th - Bible Study @ 7a; Just Love Coffee Café

Dec 12th - Finance Committee @ 7p; Zoom

Save The Date

Dec 15th - Third Sunday of Advent - Joy
 Dec 15th - Christmas Special Offering
 Dec 15th - SMART @ 1p; Lucy Buck's Home
 Dec 15th - Board @ 5p; Zoom

Dec 16th - Bible Study @ 7a; Just Love Coffee Café

Dec 18th - Talking Pictures @ 7p; Zoom

Dec 22nd - Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love
 Dec 22nd - Christmas Special Offering

Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Service @ 6p; Sanctuary

Dec 25th - Christmas Day - Happy Birthday Jesus!
 Dec 25th - Office Closed

Dec 26th - Office Closed

Dec 31st - New Year's Eve

Upcoming Dates

Jan 1st - New Year's Day - Office Closed
 Jan 2nd - Office Closed

S.M.A.R.T.

The "Single & Married Adults Rejoicing Together" or SMART will be meeting at 1:00 pm Sunday, December 15th at the home of Lucy Buck.

Come join us as we enjoy great fun, wonderful fellowship and fantastic food.

Feeding Tampa Bay

This month, BCC will be volunteering on December 23rd from 12:00 - 3:00 pm at Feeding Tampa Bay's warehouse.

If you are interested in volunteering, please let MaryAnn know.

magoodrum@verizon.net
813-431-2420



Elders Fund

The Elders Fund was created so that BCC could assist members/attendees financially when needed. If you are able to make a donation to the Elders Fund over the next few weeks, that will allow us to provide assistance during the Holiday season if needed.

Thank you.
BCC Elders



5th - Karen Whitfield
15th - Dan Henkel
16th - Shirley Skasko
30th - Morgan Denton

18th - Scott & Amy Witherow



December Zoom Meeting Codes

Here are the codes for this month's Zoom meetings:
(Links provided are clickable when viewed on computers)

BCC Sunday School at 9:30 am

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/821838128?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/821838128?pwd=WVJYVFFtaTBYZFhucFFZ1RXeEY3QT09)
[pwd=WVJYVFFtaTBYZFhucFFZ1RXeEY3QT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/821838128?pwd=WVJYVFFtaTBYZFhucFFZ1RXeEY3QT09)

Meeting ID: 821 838 128

Elder's Meeting - December 8th at 5:00 pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86558679653?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86558679653?pwd=eVZZZVFMQINvOEhOSis0Q0k3Nnd5UT09)
[pwd=eVZZZVFMQINvOEhOSis0Q0k3Nnd5UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86558679653?pwd=eVZZZVFMQINvOEhOSis0Q0k3Nnd5UT09)

Meeting ID: 865 5867 9653

Passcode: 649268

Finance Meeting - December 12th at 7:00 pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83369003456?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83369003456?pwd=ZkVBSU4zTDdua0t3NzNFT3QxTVJQUT09)
[pwd=ZkVBSU4zTDdua0t3NzNFT3QxTVJQUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83369003456?pwd=ZkVBSU4zTDdua0t3NzNFT3QxTVJQUT09)

Meeting ID: 833 6900 3456

Passcode: 463268

Board Meeting - December 15th at 5:00 pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84472046896?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84472046896?pwd=UUI4SXUwSU53M0dlb0x0VUZ3cXVUZWdz09)
[pwd=UUI4SXUwSU53M0dlb0x0VUZ3cXVUZWdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84472046896?pwd=UUI4SXUwSU53M0dlb0x0VUZ3cXVUZWdz09)

Meeting ID: 844 7204 6896

Passcode: 547902

BCC Book Club - December 8th at 2:00pm

Google Meets link

<https://meet.google.com/vkf-ofki-ehj>

Talking Pictures - December 18th at 7:00pm

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88458789680?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88458789680?pwd=SDgEWKwDPIMdrgh6dqWLxXIFsATb2e.1)
[pwd=SDgEWKwDPIMdrgh6dqWLxXIFsATb2e.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88458789680?pwd=SDgEWKwDPIMdrgh6dqWLxXIFsATb2e.1)

Meeting ID: 884 5878 9680

Passcode: 887748



LEARNING & GROWING TOGETHER

"The Bible is shallow enough for a child not to drown, yet deep enough for an elephant to swim." Augustine of Hippo

Join us and invite your friends:

Sundays:

Adult Sunday School
Zoom & Education Wing Room 2

Mondays Mornings:

The Gospel of Matthew
In-person at Just Love Coffee Cafe located at
2020 W Brandon Blvd Suite 105, Brandon, FL 33511
7:00 AM - 8 AM

3rd Wednesday of the Month

Talking Pictures
Zoom; 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Coming Soon

1, 2, and 3 John
Starting January 29, 2025
Wednesday Nights on Zoom

BCC Book Club

Hello Reading Friends!

We are reading: **Solito** by Javier Zamora

"A young poet tells the unforgettable story of his harrowing migration from El Salvador to the United States at the age of nine."

**We will meet by Google Meet on
December 8, 2024
at 2pm.**

<https://meet.google.com/vkf-ofki-ehj>

Any questions, you can contact me at 813-957-0702. All are welcome even if you have not had time to read the book!

Please let me know if you would like to be removed from this email distribution.

Best regards,
Marenda Kennedy

**I ♥
Book Club**

Talking Pictures

The format for **November/December** presents a different opportunity for us.

The movie *Bonhoffer: Pastor* opened in theaters on November 20th. The movie is playing at AMC Regency in Brandon and other theatres in the area. If you see the movie, then please join us on December 18th at 7:00 p.m. for our Talking Pictures discussion.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88458789680?pwd=SDgEWKwDPIMdrgh6dqWLxXIFsATb2e.1>

Meeting ID: 884 5878 9680

Passcode: 887748

News From The Region

CWS Clean Up Kits

On the heels of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, we are once again launching a region-wide challenge to assemble Clean Up Buckets for Church World Service. In partnership with the Florida Disciples Men, congregations are invited to gather supplies and assemble clean up buckets. Completed buckets may be taken to local drop off sites (check with Church World Service to get the latest information on drop off locations - we will continue to update information on the Region's website.)

Completed buckets may also be brought to The Retreat at Silver Springs, or contact FDM President, Brad Beyer, to arrange for a pick up. His email is campstuff101@yahoo.com.

Supplies needed can be found here: <https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/emergency-cleanup-buckets/>

Monetary donations are also needed to help deliver the buckets to the people who need them most. Please send all monetary donations to CW, PO Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515 or pay your shipping online at cwsits.org/shipping.

Can we as a region assemble 100 more? 200? Could churches close to each other partner to assemble the kits and do more together? May these clean up kits be a blessing and a sign of hope and support for those who need it most.





Florida Disciples Regional Church
Outdoor Ministry Program
**Camp Dates for
2025**



All camps will be held at The Retreat at Silver Springs,
the conference center of the Florida Disciples Regional Church.

REMEMBER: Camps start on either Sunday, Monday or Tuesday.
Check your calendar to confirm start dates.

In Chronological Order:

Winter Family Camp	January 17 – 20, 2025	
High School Camp	Grades 9 - 12	June 8 – 14
Junior Camp	Grades 3 - 5	June 17 - 21
Middle School Camp	Grades 6 - 8	June 23 - 28
High School Canoe Camp	Grades 9 – 12	June 22 - 28
Middle Sch Outdoor Adventure Camp	Grades 6 – 8	July 6 - 11
NOTE: General Assembly is July 12 – 15 in Memphis, TN		
UNO Camp (with a loving adult)	Grades K - 2	July 18 - 20
Young Adult Camp (beginning year after CYF/HS)	July 20 - 23	
Getaway Camp for Adults	August 1-3 with option of July 31	
Family Camp	For the whole family	August 30 – Sept 1 With option to add Aug 29
Winter Family Camp	For the whole family	January 16 – 19, 2026

Registration for Winter Family Camp begins on
10/31/24. Go to <https://fldisciples.org/family-camp-registration/> to register online.



Happenings at The Retreat At Silver Springs

THE RETREAT AT SILVER SPRINGS

WINTER FAMILY CAMP

JANUARY 17TH (7PM) THRU 19TH (2PM)
6455 E. SILVER SPRINGS BLVD SILVER SPRINGS, FL 34488

\$80/PERSON OR \$300/FAMILY
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JAN. 15TH

FUN FOR ALL AGES

COME CHILL WITH US!

DIRECTOR: REV. MELISSA FRANTZ

WWW.THERETREATAT SILVERSPRINGS.COM

THE RETREAT AT SILVER SPRINGS

SAVE THE DATE

Holiday Arts and Craft Show

ARTS | CRAFTS | FOOD | GIFTS | GIFT WRAPPING

DECEMBER 6 & 7
9AM - 3PM

THE RETREAT AT SILVER SPRINGS
6455 E. SILVER SPRINGS BLVD.
SILVER SPRINGS FL, 34488

You are cordially invited to participate in our Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale to help raise funds to support the ministry of The Retreat at Silver Springs, the camp and conference center of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida. The Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale will be held inside in the auditorium of our climate-controlled facility. Booth space is also available for those who choose to set up outside. Artists may choose to participate in both days or just one. There is ample free parking on-site. Loading and unloading of merchandise and display is easy – all ground level. Food will be available for purchase during the public sale.

Questions: adminassistant@fldisciples.org

Thank You For Serving

Elders
God's Faithful Shepherd

December 1st - Erin Dunnavant
December 8th - MaryAnn Goodrum-Booth
December 15th - Karlita Konnerth
December 22 - Jo Henkel
December 29th - Brian Sears

D ACONS
Following to Lead | Leading to Serve

December 1st :
Open/Close - Scott Witherow
Communion - Pat Lynch
Greeter - Kathy Madill
Serving - Gary Cain, Pat Lynch
Backup Server - Scott Witherow

KEEP CALM I'm THE LITURGIST

December 1st - Britt Failes
December 8th - Alan Smith
December 15th - David Whitfield
December 22nd - Shirley Skasko
December 29th - Art Konnerth

December 8th :
Open/Close - Brett Powell
Communion - Betty Powell
Greeter - Pat Lynch
Serving - Brett Powell, Betty Powell
Backup Server - Scott Witherow

December 15th:
Open/Close - Brett Powell
Communion - Betty Powell
Greeter - Kathy Madill
Serving - Brett Powell, Betty Powell
Backup Server - Scott Witherow
Board Meeting - Kathy Madill/TBD



December 1st - MaryAnn Goodrum-Booth/Andrea McMillon
December 8th - Dee Smith/Dan Henkel
December 15th - Britt Failes/Karen Whitfield
December 22nd - Don Sherman/Andrea McMillon
December 29th - Karlita Konnerth/Dan Henkel

December 22nd:
Open/Close - Gary Cain
Communion - Pat Lynch
Greeter - Betty Powell
Serving - Kathy Madill, Pat Lynch
Backup Server - Scott Witherow

December 24th:
Open/Close - Gary Cain
Communion - Pat Lynch
Greeter - Kathy Madill
Serving - Gary Cain, Scott Witherow
Backup Server - Pat Lynch



December 29th:
Open/Close - Brett Powell
Communion - Betty Powell
Greeter - Betty Powell
Serving - Brett Powell, Betty Powell
Backup Server - TBD