#### STAYING IN TOUCH... **GBC** HAPPENINGS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH **Steve's** Corner

Dear Grace, this Sunday December 1 begins, believe it or not, Advent! The word itself means "coming", as in the coming of Christ into our lives and into our history. "O, come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel." The hymn is filled with longing and hope.

The Advent theme this year is Coming Home. What do those words stir in you? Your childhood home? Going home for Christmas? Home with God. home to your own dear self?

This Sunday I will preach on the theme: "Hope and Home in the Exile". The texts are Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7, 11-12; and John 16:33. Sometimes we may feel like we are in spiritual exile, our home faith taken away from us. Sometimes we may feel like the American church, we trying to be faithful to Jesus and his way, is in Exile, perhaps especially so after the last national election. But Jeremiah has an important word for us, and so does Jesus.

Sometimes the people of God do their best work in the wilderness of Exile! Maybe then we especially turn to God.

> Calendar Sunday School at 10:00AM Worship at 11:00 AM Wednesdays - Choir rehearsal at 6:30 PM

Contact us at aracestatesville@amail.com or visit us at www.gracestatesville.org. Steve can be reached at 704-591-0192 or shoe1948@yahoo.com

### **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

Our friends on homebound: Nancy Milstead, Clara Rogers.

Those issues close to us: All those affected by Hurricane Helene, Lisa McBroom, James, Shakira, Kyle & Patricia, Rebecca Beaver, Jennifer Jolly's mother, Walter Arreaza. Alf Fraley, Louise's brother, Jack, Middle East crisis, Lucas Watt and family, Wild fires in the west, Cameron Gray, Spencer Cox, Iredell Statesville Schools students and staff, Amber Jordan and family, People of Cuba, Kim Christman and Stan Dotson, peoples of the Ukraine, caregivers, healthcare workers, homeless children, our nations immigrants.

Those facing tough times, those who are mentally ill, those who are affected by violence, those who are incarcerated, children who are a part of the Guardian ad Litem program, local law enforcement officers and fire fighters.

Those in the military: James Pulliam, Adam Ivey, Anthony Corcoran, Kelso Igano, Zach Thompson.



#### **NEW PRAYER REQUESTS**

Celebrations:

- **Birthdays**
- 24 Casey Adams
- **30 Clara Rogers**

#### **Anniversaries**

25 - Bob and Lisa Barber **Cory and Sam Scott** 

Lawrence and Melissa Lippard welcome Brynn to the world. All are doing well

Concerns:

**Racial Healing.** 

#### **Our Nation**.

There is a need to be "aware" of the gun epidemic going on right now.

School students and staff and the community around these schools.

Prayers for people who feel unloved.

Middle East Crisis.

Teen's who are considering suicide.

All those affecting by Hurricane Helene.

Lisa McBroom.

Diana Floyd family.

Jen and Gina. Kim's nephew is finishing bootcamp.

# November **Birthdays**

1 - Katelyn McMillan Corcoran 5 - Melissa Wardo Hendrix 5 - Annabelle Lynn McMillan 10 - Chris Brown 12 - Layne Barnard Adams 21 - Christian Nicholson 23 - Nancy Milstead 24 - Casey Adams 30 - Clara Rogers

Anniversary 13 - Ben and Kakki Kudlacek 25 - Bob and Lisa Barber

Steve's sermon's are always available On Facebook and Youtube. You can easily find it at: www.gracestatesville.org 

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### **Budget**

BUDGET UPDATE Needed year to date: \$92,919.00 Received year to date: \$83,526.72 UNDER budget: \$9392.28 Weekly needs: \$1,977.00 This Week's Offering: \$1618.81



The Stewardship Board is offering a new option for giving to the church. We now have Paypal! You will find a Paypal QR Code in the Midweek, the Sunday bulletin and on the website. This allows you to use your paypal account or credit card to make a donation to the church. Of course we will still be taking cash and checks with the regular offering each Sunday.

## \*Upcoming events:

**December 8th. Fifth Street resident staff Christmas Dinner.** 5:30pm

**Christmas Eve Service December 24th** 6:00pm

**Church Maintenance** 

Comer

## **Scripture for the Week**

Jeremíah 29: 1, 4-7, 11-12; and John 16:33

Sermon "Hope and Home in the Cxilg"

# Leader **Chris Brown**

## Reader **Reader's Choir**

**Mission Board News** 

This year's Advent offering will support The Back@Home program with Fifth Street Ministries. This program attempts to get people into permanent housing quickly, sometimes even bypassing staying at the shelter. Of course, this means the families need almost anything to set up a household.

We will stay guite specific in our Advent offering. We'll be collecting sheets, towels, and kitchen supplies, along with cash, to support this program. For the purposes of this offering we will only accept New items.