



STAYING IN TOUCH...  
HAPPENINGS WITHIN OUR  
COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Steve's Corner

Dear Grace, deep thanks to the Board of Worship for launching Advent in such a beautiful way last Sunday! Our Advent theme is: The Advent of Joy. But joy is not the only emotion we feel in Advent and Christmas. This week's sermon will be a sermon from the cello. The title of the sermon is: Sorrow and Joy, Love and Longing in Advent. I begin with the story of the "cellist of Sarajevo", who in the midst of the civil war in his country in 1992 took his cello to the street where 22 had been slaughtered the day before while waiting in line for bread at a bakery. What he played was Albinoni's Adagio in G Minor. Amid the shelling and gunfire he played.

For 22 days he played as a memorial to the 22 killed.

Advent is a season of sorrow and joy, longing and love, all mixed. Have you wondered why so many Advent hymns are in a minor key? That's why. The O.T. text is Isaiah 11:1-9. The gospel texts are: Matthew 2: 16-18, about Herod's slaughter of the innocents in Bethlehem; and Luke 2: 25-35, where at the dedication of infant Jesus, old Simeon blessed Mary, Joseph and Jesus and then said to Mary, "And a sword will pierce your soul too." In Advent you can bring your sorrows to church too. It's there in the Christmas story. God comes to bring healing and wholeness in the midst of the sorrows of our lives. God is with us Immanuel in all things.

See you Sunday, Steve

PS, If you want to hear a beautiful rendering of the Adagio played by a contemporary cellist named Hauser, go to: [youtube.com/watch?v=kn1gcjuhlhg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kn1gcjuhlhg).

Here is the full Schedule of Advent sermons and texts.  
Advent 2. December 4. "Joy and Sorrow, Longing and Love:  
A Sermon From The Cello."

Isaiah 11: 1-9. Matthew 2: 16-18; and Luke 2: 25-35.

Advent 3: December 11. "The Joy Of The Kingdom."

Isaiah 35: 1-7,10. Matthew 11:2-5.

Advent 4. December 18. "The Joy Of A Child."

Isaiah 7: 10-16. Matthew 1: 18-25.

Christmas Eve. December 24. "The Story of Christmas."

Isaiah 60: 1-3. Luke 2:1-20.

Christmas Day! December 25. "A Day Of Joyful Service." Instead of worship inside our walls we will do the work of Christmas by going out and serving others.

The First Sunday after Christmas, January 31. "My True God Gave To Me: The Twelve Days of Christmas in Congregational Song and Teaching." This will be led by Sue and me based on a children's book we have completed on my version of the song with her art work.

Calendar

Sunday School at 10:00 AM

Worship at 11:00 AM

Wednesdays - Choir rehearsal at 6:30 PM

Contact us at [gracestatesville@gmail.com](mailto:gracestatesville@gmail.com) or visit us at [www.gracestatesville.org](http://www.gracestatesville.org).

Steve can be reached at 704-591-0192 or [shoe1948@yahoo.com](mailto:shoe1948@yahoo.com)

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Our friends on homebound:

Tressie Starrette,  
Irene Shoemaker  
Sarah Adams,  
Nancy Milstead.

Those issues close to us:

Larry Sechler family,  
Renae's nephew, Jeremy, Bill Warren,  
Autumn Harris, Christian Viera,  
Gina Ellis, Laura Hall family,  
those affected by Hurricane Ian,  
Marian Archibald, Ray Smith,  
Bill Mashburn, Victor Sisk,  
Clara Rogers, Vera Webster,  
peoples of the Ukraine,  
Cameron Gray, Spencer Cox,  
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:

Josh Wingfield, James Pulliam,  
Mark Staley, Adam Ivey,  
Austin Frutig, Anthony Corcoran,  
Mary Jane Johnson, Caleb Sisk,  
Brian Saxton, 30th Brigade.

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

Celebrations:

Birthdays

30 - Clara Rogers

Concerns:

Racial Healing.

Our Nation.

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

Tara and her son, Bryson,  
with seizures.

Neil's cousin with kidney  
cancer.

Janice Berryhill's father, Bill.

Recent shootings with all  
involved.

Doug's fraternity brothers and  
friend who have passed away.

Jim Wilson had a serious  
heart attack.

Shannon Viera's mother  
passed away.

Emma and Stephen are  
patiently awaiting the arrival  
of their new little one.

The week of November 27-December 3, 2022

## December

### Birthdays

- 4 - Sloane Goodman
- 6 - John Barnard
- 6 - Bob Rawls
- 9 - Cohen Bryce Hayes
- 19 - Marsha Angell
- 24 - Lauren Berryhill
- 25 - Grace McDougall
- 26 - Eben Coarsey
- 27 - Diane Hamby

### Anniversaries

- 11 - Jim and Janna Brown
- 13 - John and Xochitl Koppelmeyer

Steve's sermon's are always available  
On Facebook and Youtube.  
You can easily find it at:  
[www.gracestatesville.org](http://www.gracestatesville.org)

## Budget

Needed year to date: \$92,790.00  
Received year to date: \$77,832.00  
UNDER budget: \$14,958.00  
Weekly needs: \$2062.00

## Advent Offering

### The Joy(s) of a Baby

The Mission Board is asking everyone to please bring baby items every Sunday in lieu of \$\$\$. Most needed are: Diapers (all sizes but especially 5&6) and Pull-ups, wipes, jarred food and formula. All items will be donated to ICM.



## Church Maintenance

**Wardo**

## Scripture for the Week

Isaiah 11:1-9, Matthew 2: 16-18,  
and Luke 2: 25-35

## Sunday's Sermon

"Sorrow and Joy, Love and Longing in Advent."

## Leader

**Chris Brown**

## Reader

## Reader's Choir

Grace Christmas/  
5th Street Resident staff  
Potluck  
Is back!!

Mark your calendars!  
December 4th.  
5:30pm.

Bring your favorite dish or 2 to share. Deacons will provide drinks and bread.

Lots of Fun! And Games!!