

THE MONTE VISTAN

NEWSLETTER OF MONTE VISTA BAPTIST CHURCH / MARYVILLE, TENNESSEE

COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS



Home is a place. It is where we sleep, play, and eat. It is where memories are formed and where we feel safe. Home is also people. It is a family who loves us unconditionally and always believe in us. It is no wonder that we move heaven and earth to make our way back home, especially at Christmas. The experience of being home is enhanced by the traditions we share. The theme for our Advent Season this year is "Coming Home for Christmas." Here is how it is going to unfold:

Sunday Morning Worship (Sundays, 10:30am)

"There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays" and "I'll Be Home for Christmas" capture the joy many people feel this season. For other people, it is more anxiety than joy. This range of emotions is shared by the biblical characters who approached the first Christmas with different expectations. As our story intersects theirs, we find our true home—with a God who has chosen to make his home with us (John 14).

Lighting the Christmas Tree (November 27, 6:30pm)

Preparing our homes for the season starts with decorating. On this evening, we will decorate our church home with greenery, hear the story of God's love, and light our tree.

Gathering 'Round the Table (December 4, 6:30pm)

What would Christmas be without favorite foods that have been passed down through the generations? Bring one of your family favorites and share it with your friends.

Christmas Shopping (December 4, 8:30am-noon, 5:00-7:30pm)

Tradewinds Fairtrade Shop is hosting their annual Christmas event. When you make a fair-trade purchase, the proceeds benefit someone in the world who is trying to support their family. Be a good steward and use your money for building the Kingdom of God.

Music

Our Worship Ministry is presenting "Shepherds and Kings," a musical drama about finding and sharing hope during difficult circumstances (December 11, 10:30 am).

We cannot imagine the Christmas season without hearing from our children and students. They have a unique way of interpreting a familiar story using their own talents, words, and perspective (December 18, 10:30am). Speaking of singing...

Front Porch Singing (December 18, 5:00pm)

Remember a time when we gathered on the front porch and sang our most-loved songs? We are taking our front porch into the community, to our homebound family. An evening of caroling is a way for you to bring the joy of Christmas to people who are often alone.

Christmas Memories

Our Christmas Eve worship service (December 24, 5:00pm) is the one night of the year we gather as a family and remember that God came into this world as a defenseless baby. Singing carols and sharing communion by candlelight set the stage for a peaceful and "Silent Night" together. This is our night to be "Home for Christmas."

Christmas morning worship (10:00am) is the "Joy to the World" celebration that balances the "Silent Night" of Christmas Eve. Don't worry about how you look or what you are wearing. Set the presents aside and come as you are, ready to ring in the day.

CHRISTMAS MISSIONS OFFERING

You may give your Christmas Offering for World Missions through the end of December. During our annual Walk for Mission on November 13, the congregation gave over \$6700 to support mission work in 30 countries. Our offerings will be used to love and serve others in the name of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate.



DECEMBER FOR CHILDREN

Sunday Morning Worship

December 4 1st-6th grades will worship in the sanctuary.

December 11 1st-6th grades will begin worship time in the sanctuary until dismissed to children's worship in Kids Crossing. Led by Bobby Whedbee, Ken Strickland and Holly Phillips. Adult volunteers: Michael and Lacy Lotter

December 18 Children and Youth Christmas Program. The children will remain in the service.

December 25 1st-6th grades will worship in the sanctuary. Each Sunday during Advent, there will be a special children's moment during the service.

Upcoming Events:

December 14 5:30-7:00pm Kid's Christmas Party and Dinner. We will have Chick-fil-a sandwiches for dinner followed by crafts and activities. We will also make cards and care packages for our homebound members that will be given out during the Front Porch Caroling.

December 15 SonRise Preschool Christmas Program and Art Show 6:30pm.

December 18 10:30am Children and Youth Christmas performance 5:00pm Front Porch Caroling. The children are invited to participate in caroling with the Church family for our homebound members. Meet at MV at 4:45pm.

December 21 & 28 No activities.

Upcoming:

January 13 Preteen Lock-In

THE GIFT OF GRIEF

This support group for those who may be grieving during the holiday season will meet Thursday, December 15, 7:00pm, room 240. It is facilitated by Loretta Pawlus, a certified grief counselor.

CHRISTMAS POST OFFICE

From November 27 to January 1 the preteens will operate their annual Christmas Post Office located in the downstairs Welcome Center. They invite you to bring Christmas cards for your friends that attend MVBC and place them in one of the baskets on the table in front of our post office. The preteens will sort and deliver cards to classrooms on Sunday mornings. *Cards will only be delivered within the church.* Donations are welcomed and will be used for the preteen mission projects such as care packages for homebound members or treats for police officers. *Donations should be placed in the black box located on the wall next to the post office or can be turned in to the church office.*



PrimeTime Seniors

Catered Christmas Luncheon

Tuesday, December 13, Noon

Fellowship Hall

Christmas Music by Cliff Kosier

Sign up in the church office by December 7

A BUSY WEEK FOR OCC

Monte Vista was a hub of activity during Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child. Volunteers greeted those bringing in boxes. The boxes were then stacked, counted and loaded on tractor trailers. Donors and volunteers stopped to pray over the shoeboxes and cookies and hot chocolate completed the drop-off experience.

Because of your prayers, money for postage, filled shoeboxes and volunteering, you helped make an eternal difference in the lives of children and their families all over the world. Thank you.

TRADEWINDS OPEN HOUSE DECEMBER 4

8:30-noon, 5:00-7:30pm

Find something special for everyone on your Christmas list and change lives of craftsmen and farmers around the world as you support this fair-trade ministry.

Gift possibilities include: baskets, bath & body products, bowls, bread warmers, candy bars, Christmas glass, cloth napkins, coffees, dish towels, greeting cards, jewelry, nativities, night lights, olive oil, ornaments, picture frames, purses, soup & chili mixes, spices, totes, vanilla, wallets, wall decorations, winter hats & scarves, wooden utensils

MVS DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 7 MVS will go to Maryville College after our meal to have pictures taken with Santa! Donations will support a literacy program in our community.

Thursday, December 8 at 7:10am Meet for coffee & conversation at Vienna Coffee.

Wednesday, December 14, 6:30pm MVS celebrate with a Christmas edition of our Wednesday night time. Students will bring sides and desserts and MVS will provide Chick-fil-a nuggets for our meal.

No MVS activities **December 21 & 28**. Students are encouraged to join with the MVBC community as together we celebrate the Christmas season.

Tuesday, December 27, 4:30-6:15pm Students will help serve at The Welcome Table, New Providence