Pentecost

Adventurer

OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT • BIRMINGHAM, AL

Vol. 50, No. 41 | Last Sunday After Pentecost | Week of November 22, 2026

News & Events

Christ in the Christmas Crunch Is Almost Here

Advent women will gather for the annual Christ in the Christmas Crunch on Thursday, December 3, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Clingman Commons. The event will feature readings and reflections, a delicious lunch, and a Ministry Market. Register through your Realm account or at AdventBirmingham.org/Women. *See page 2 for more information.*

Bring Items for Glen Iris School Food Bags the Next Two Sundays

The Advent is partnering with sister churches St. Mary's and St. Luke's to pack holiday supply bags that go home with Glen Iris Elementary students during the Christmas holidays. We will collect food for these bags on Sunday mornings, November 22 and 29. *See page 2 for more information and a list of requested items.*

Holiday Closing

The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, in observance of Thanksgiving. The office will reopen on Monday, November 30.

A Word from the Vice Dean



With Thanksgiving Day now upon us, let me just ask: What are you thankful for? Because I'm always challenged to realize that most of the things I'm thankful for could be swept away without a moment's notice. Now, I don't mean to come across like a "Debbie downer," but the reality is that family, health, and financial security – the things that immediately come to mind for me – those are temporal things which could quickly (and easily) disappear.

I mean, you may have a good marriage, but you may be going through a divorce. Everyone in your family may be healthy, but in all likelihood someone you love is struggling with cancer or dementia. You may not currently have any financial worries, but you may have just unexpectedly lost your job. In fact, chances are good that you don't have an "ideal family situation," your health (or that of your loved ones) isn't "perfect," and finances are somewhat "tight." Where are you today with respect toward these things?

My point is simply this: If all is well with you and yours today, then praise God! But if any or all of those good things were taken away, where would you be? As our General Thanksgiving (BCP pg. 58) suggests, the things we are typically most grateful for pale in comparison to our Christian hope. "We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; *but above all* for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ…."

That is, ultimately, what we all have to be most thankful for: *God's inestimable love in the redemption of the world*. Because, as it is right now, our world is broken and unpredictable and plagued by the consequences of sin and disobedience. But the hope of our redemption transcends this temporal world.

We can, indeed, be thankful for our "creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life." I know I certainly am. But, above all else, we can be thankful for God's love, in the redemption of the world, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Tom

Give thanks in all circumstances.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18a

This Sunday:

November 22, 2026

7:30 a.m. Holy Communion
Preacher: Canon Pinter

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion
In the Nave. Preacher: Canon Pinter

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion
In the Refectory. Preacher: Dean Smalley

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Preacher: Dean Smalley

We will livestream the 9:00 a.m. Nave service and the 11:00 a.m. service. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Live, YouTube, or Facebook Live to access our stream.

Adult Education (10:15-10:50 a.m.):

The Dean's Class (Refectory) – *Freed for Freedom by Christ* – Dean Pinter, Will Fagan, Mary Ann McCarty, and Leslie Housman

Look to Christ (Chapter Room) – *So Have I Loved You* – Gil Kracke

Transforming Lives Through the Translated Word in the Himalayas (Living Room) – Adam Young and Kevin Kopp

Breakfast:

8:15-9:00 a.m. in Clingman Commons

Children's & Youth Education:

Our 3s and 4s classes meet at 9:00 a.m. Kindergarten through 3rd grade start the 9:00 service in church before leaving during the children's dismissal for Children's Church. 4th grade through 6th grade and Jr. and Sr. High youth have classes between the 9:00 and 11:00 services. See Sunday's worship bulletin for locations.

The Nursery opens for our Infants, Toddlers, and 2s classes at 8:45 a.m. The Nursery is open for ages 6 weeks-5 years during the 11:00 service.

GET INVOLVED! SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!

spiritual growth & fellowship

Women's Ministry



Above: A sampling of gift items curated by our bookstore staff that will be available at Christ in the Christmas Crunch

Don't Miss Out –
Christ in the Christmas Crunch Is Almost Here

Beautiful live music, a delicious lunch, readings and reflections by fellow women of the Advent, and a Ministry Market featuring new vendors including our Youth Ministry. Invite a friend – or two – and join us for Christ in the Christmas Crunch on Thursday, December 3, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Clingman Commons. If you can, bring an unwrapped gift for Oak Tree Ministries' Christmas Village – see "Toy Drive in December to Benefit Christmas in the Village" under *Serving & Outreach (right)* for more information and a link to a wish list.

Register through your Realm account or at AdventBirmingham.org/Women before it's too late. Nursery is provided for children ages 5 and under.

worship

Lectionary

Sunday, November 22

Psalm 100 • Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Ephesians 1:15-23 • Matthew 25:31-46

Pastoral Notice: If you are going into the hospital, have need of prayer or counsel, or have a family member unable to attend church, please call the Pastoral Care Office at 205-226-3500.

serving & outreach

Glen Iris Elementary School

Preparing Christmas Food Bags for Glen Iris Students

The Advent is glad to partner with sister churches St. Mary's and St. Luke's to pack holiday supply bags that go home with Glen Iris Elementary students during the Christmas holidays. Last year dozens of volunteers gathered at St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands for a wonderful team operation of packing these food bags to help meet the needs of the hungry children in our city. Many of the students who attend Glen Iris Elementary go without basic nutrition when school is out during the break. Our Episcopal churches bless them with fun and nutritious foods. Would you consider joining us in this effort this year? We need financial and material donations as well as physical in-person volunteers.

Below is the list of requested items that Advent will supply (other churches will have their own lists):

- Ramen packs (70 boxes of the 24 pack)
- Applesauce pouches (regular flavor only – 108 boxes)
- Mandarin Orange cups (70 boxes)
- Vienna Sausages (92 boxes)
- Belvita snack packs (variety pack – 69 boxes)
- Mini candy canes (16 tubs)

Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Mission to sign up. You can purchase and bring the items to Canon Young or Anita Gray in the church office, or for collection in Clingman Commons on Sunday mornings, November 22 and November 29. You may also make a financial contribution to the Advent, marking it for Glen Iris. All items are due Wednesday, December 2. Then join other volunteers on Saturday, December 12, 2:00-4:00 p.m at St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands (1910 12th Avenue S, 35205) for packing the bags.

Oak Tree Ministries

Toy Drive in December to Benefit Christmas in the Village

We have the joy and opportunity to support the work of Oak Tree Ministries in Gate City by holding a toy drive the first two weeks of December. Christmas in the Village supplies new toys for parents and grandparents of children in Gate City to shop at 90-percent off retail price. The proceeds contribute to the summer ministry programming at Oak Tree. There will be a table in Clingman Commons on Sundays, December 6 and 13, to drop off toy donations. The Women's Ministry is also collecting toys for the Village at Christ in the Christmas Crunch on Thursday, December 3. There are also opportunities for volunteers to serve by pricing and setting up the store on Saturday, December 12, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 13, 2:00-5:00 p.m. Visit AdventBirmingham.org/Mission to see a complete wish list, volunteer sign-up, and ways to donate treats to the cause.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

serving & outreach

Lenten Lunches

Lunch Ticket Presales Will Begin November 29

Presales of Lenten Lunches tickets will start on Sunday, November 29. They make great stocking-stuffers and last-minute gifts. Tickets will be available at the Advent Bookstore. Bookstore hours are Sunday, 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., and Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Park Place Trunk or Treat



A huge thank you to Adventers who came out to the Fall Festival in our downtown neighborhood with our Park Place friends on October 29. It's a gospel reminder that God's grace, like candy from the Cooney's car trunk, is always free. Thanks be to God!

Did You Know... That We Want You to Know What's Happening?

Communication is hard! We try to communicate what's going on in several ways: the *Adventurer*, social media, the website, Sunday-morning announcements, the kiosk in Clingman, occasional direct mailings… and even more besides!

We do have several specific email lists that are active – you can sign up for any of them that are of particular interest. We have one for Parish-Wide News (we try not to use this one too often, saving it for times when it is necessary). We also have Pastoral Care Reminders, letting everyone know when there has been a birth or a death in the parish. Of course, you can get the *Adventurer* by email as well.

Several of our specific ministries keep email lists as well: Children's Ministry, 20s & 30s, Women's Ministry, and our Music Ministry regularly send updates.

And of course, we are on Instagram and Facebook. Our social media is a good way to get details.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to any lists, please email Communications@CathedralAdvent.com.

education

Children's Ministry



Above: On November 8, our 2nd graders constructed story cubes to remember the details about the story of David being chosen as king.



Above: Advent 5th and 6th graders gathered on November 8 for the monthly Bible study and fellowship night. For more information on our Children's Ministry, contact Tara Davis (Tara@CathedralAdvent.com).

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting. - Psalm 100:3-4a

Advent House: Intercessory prayer for healing is on-going through the Advent House Prayer Ministry. To schedule a prayer session at Advent House (2317 Arlington Avenue South, 35205), call Kathy Logue at 205-410-4622.

advent clergy

The Very Rev. R. Craig Smalley, Dean and Rector
The Rev. Canon Thomas P. Murray, Vice Dean
The Rev. Canon James "Jay" W. Gardner III, Canon Pastor
The Rev. Canon Dr. Dean L. Pinter, Canon Theologian
The Rev. Canon Adam A. Young, Canon Missioner
The Rev. William J. Fagan, Director of Parish Life and Evangelism
The Rev. Mary Ann McCarty, Curate
The Very Rev. Dr. Paul F.M. Zahl, Dean Emeritus

diocese of alabama

The Rt. Rev. Richard T. Lawson III, Bishop

transitions:

Marriage: Nina Bidikov and Clayton Farris, on November 7

Deaths: Margaret Brown "Brownie" Evans, on November 7; Page Smith Poerschke, on November 8

memorials:

Gifts Were Given In Memory Of:

Frederick "Ricky" Wilkinson Bromberg: (Endowment Fund) by Jim and Kaye Emack; John Rowlett; Sid and Angel Trant; Steven Mazza; Virginia Page; Denise Manfra; Jimmy and Laura McLemore; The '85 Mother Mu Newboys, John Hagood; Lisa and Robert Rutherford; Catherine Schiesz; Jane Murdock; Mary Murdock Smith; Mr. and Mrs. Douglas K. Freeman; Rob and Martha Smith; Martha and Chip Grizzle; Brian Hood • (Dean's Discretionary Fund) by Jane Goings; James and Louise Wright

Cathedral Church of the Advent
2017 6th Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203-2701

Periodical Postage Paid
Birmingham, AL

Published weekly (except bi-weekly June 15-August 15) USPS 055150 for no subscription fee by the Cathedral Church of the Advent, 2017 6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.
Periodical postage paid at Birmingham, AL POSTMASTER: Send changes to THE ADVENTURER OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT, 2017 6th Ave North, Birmingham, AL 35203-2701.

upcoming events:

Interested in more information?
Watch the *Adventurer*, check social media and the website, or call the church office (205-251-2324).

Parish-Wide

Food Collection for Glen Iris Holiday Bags
Sundays, November 22 and 29
Clingman Commons

Service of Advent Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 6
9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Nave

Toy Drive for Oak Tree Ministries
Sundays, December 6 and 13
Clingman Commons

Hope4Christmas Party for Kidz2Leaders
Saturday, December 12
10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Refectory

A Ceremony of Carols
Thursday, December 17
5:30 p.m. in the Nave

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Thursday, December 17
6:00 p.m. in the Nave

Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 20
9:00 a.m. service in the Nave

Groups

Women's Christ in the Christmas Crunch
Thursday, December 3
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Clingman Commons

Caregivers Support Luncheon
Friday, December 11
Noon at Cranmer House

Ageless Adventers Third Wednesday Luncheon
Wednesday, December 16
Noon at Cranmer House

Children and Youth

Youth Park Place Partners
Wednesday, December 2
4:00-5:00 p.m. at Park Place

Youth Dinner and Devotional (Regressive Dinner)
Sunday, December 6
6:00-8:00 p.m.

AA: Monday-Friday, Coe Conference Room, noon