



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
7:00 AM - 5:30 PM Monday - Friday
PRESCHOOL AGES 3-5
ANN SMITH, Director 455-8642

Celebrating
**55
YEARS**

THE CONNECTION (USPS579-240)
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THE CONNECTION December 2025
Highland Baptist Connect, Grow, Serve, Go

Every December, the world slows down for a few days to celebrate Christmas. Christmas is my favorite holiday of the year. I love the decorations, the Christmas lights, the sounds of Christmas music, the cooler weather (even the snow), the nativity displays and especially the gathering of families to celebrate the season together, whether in person or through Facetime. For many people, Christmas has become more about the season than the Savior. They enjoy the music, the memories, and the magic of it all, but they've lost sight of the reason we celebrate in the first place is the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It's incredible when you think about it. Jesus never wrote a book. He never led an army. He never traveled more than a few hundred miles from His home. And yet, two thousand years later, His birth divides all of history into before and after. His name still captures the attention, devotion, and even opposition of the world. Christmas is not simply about a baby in a manger, it's about God Himself stepping into human history.

The apostle Paul gives us one of the clearest pictures of what Christmas really means in Philippians 2, *"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."* In other words, before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He was, and still is, fully God. That word "form" refers to the very essence or nature of something. Just like the seal of a Roman emperor carried the exact image of his authority, Jesus carries the exact image of God. When you look at Jesus, you are looking at God in human flesh.

But here's the miracle: Jesus didn't cling to His equality with God. He didn't hold onto His heavenly privileges. Instead, He *"emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant."* When Jesus came into this world, He didn't stop being God, He simply added humanity to His deity. He was fully God and fully man. That's what makes Christmas the greatest miracle the world has ever known, that God became one of us. Think about that. The Creator of the universe borrowed a stable for His birth, He borrowed a boat to preach from, He borrowed a donkey to ride on, and He even borrowed a tomb for His burial. The Son of God chose to live like a servant so that He could bring us into the family of God.

That's the heart of Christmas. The heart of Christmas is about giving, God giving us His only begotten Son. If you've ever wondered why God would do that? Why would He leave the glory of heaven to come to earth as a helpless baby? Well Paul gives us the answer through Jesus' own words in Acts 20:35: *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* That's the very heartbeat of God. Giving is who He is. Love gives and at Christmas, God gave His very best. We live in a world that says, "You'll be happier if you get more." But Jesus says, "You'll be most blessed when you give more."

Continued on the next page →

When we give of our time, our resources, our love then we’re walking in the footsteps of the One who gave everything for us. Giving doesn’t take from you what you should have kept. It gives to you what you never could have received any other way: joy, peace, and a sense of purpose that fills your heart. At this time of year especially don’t forget to give. Give to make the greatest impact you can for the kingdom of God and for His glory! That’s what Christmas teaches us. The greatest gift you’ll ever give is yourself: first to God, then to others.

Christmas is more than a story to be told. It’s an invitation to be accepted. God is inviting you to experience His greatest blessing which is a personal relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ. Maybe this Christmas finds you weary, worried, or lonely. Remember this: the same God who humbled Himself to be born in a manger is the same God who wants to dwell in your heart. He came not only to save you, but to walk with you every day of your life. So I want to encourage you to pause in the midst of the season’s busyness and simply thank God for the gift of His Son. Fix your focus on Jesus. Put your faith in Him. Give your fears to Him. And trust your future to Him. That’s why I love in Christmas!

Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Jim Norman

DECEMBER MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

November 30-Dec. 7 – Lottie Moon Christmas Emphasis

December 5 – Tullahoma Christmas Parade

December 7 – Return Angel Tree Gifts for Headstart

December 13 – OCC Shoe Box Processing Center in Atlanta, GA

Every Friday Foodshare Ministry

Our Highland Christmas Mailbox will be available for use during the month of December to distribute Christmas Cards to active attendees. Please consider giving the postage you save to our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering!

Deacon of the Week

- November 29-Dec. 5 Steve Conner
- December 6-12 Jimmy Gaddis
- December 13-19 Bradley Rogers
- December 20-26 Ben Murray
- December 27-Jan. 2 Rick Miller

Greeters – December 2025

- December 7 – Linda/ Samantha/ Kathy
- December 14 – Jimmy/ Kristy
- December 21 – Johnny/ Gayle/ Brian
- December 28 – David/ Diane
- January 4 – Jimmy/ Kristy

Security – December 2025

- November 29-Dec. 5 Jimmy Gaddis
- December 6-12 Bradley Rogers
- December 13-19 Ben Murray
- December 20-26 Rick Miller
- December 27-Jan. 2 Paco Prince

Highland Baptist Church
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JIM NORMAN
MATT KOEHLER
JIMMY GADDIS
KATHY HASTY
AMY JACKSON
ANN SMITH
MIKE STRINGFIELD
- SENIOR PASTOR
MINISTER OF YOUTH & EDUCATION
FACILITIES MANAGER
NURSERY DIRECTOR
OFFICE MANAGER
DIRECTOR - CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER
VOLUNTEER MUSIC DIRECTOR

HBC Deacon Family Assignments
2025-2026

Group	Deacon
A-BO	Roger Williams
BR-DOU	Stan Smith
DUN-F	Steve Conner
GA-HEN	Jimmy Gaddis
HES-JOR	Bradley Rogers
KI-MOF	Ben Murray
MON-RAY	Rick Miller
RID-SM	Paco Prince
SN-V	Jason Robison
W-Y	Jonathan Sipe
DEACONS	Mark Smith

Angel Tree

Thank you for choosing an angel from the Tullahoma Head Start Angel Tree for the children at Tullahoma Head Start. Please return your bags with the prices removed from the items by December 7th!



This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Luke 2:12

December Nursery Volunteers

Nursery Director – Kathy Hasty – If you are not able to serve on your assigned date then please contact Kathy Hasty.

Wednesday December 3: Kim Dodson and Kathy Hasty

Sunday December 7:

Bible Study: Kelly Farris

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Kelly Farris, Julie Rogers

Evening Worship: Scarlett Carpenter, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday December 10: Kim Dodson and Carrie Newton

Sunday December 14:

Bible Study: Liz Bond

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Linda Bolinger, Kathy Hasty

Evening Worship: Kim Dodson, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday December 17: Kim Dodson and Kathy Hasty

Sunday December 21:

Bible Study: David Inocencio

Morning Worship: David Inocencio, Kim Dodson, Leah Prince

Evening Worship: Linda Bolinger, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday December 24: No AWANA

Sunday December 28:

Bible Study: Liz Bond and Lauren Fults

Morning Worship: Kim Dodson, Lauren Fults, Rick Miller

Evening Worship: Terri Stone, Kathy Hasty

Wednesday December 31: No AWANA

Men, I want to encourage you to attend our Men's Bible study on Sunday nights at 5 pm. Starting December 7th, we will be doing a 7-week study on Heaven by Randy Alcorn. If you would like to participate and would like a study guide to use, let me or Dwayne Thames know. We were made to be with Jesus and live with Him in Heaven. Heaven is our home. Randy Alcorn explains it best, saying, "Nothing is more often misdiagnosed than our homesickness for Heaven. We think that what we want is sex, drugs, alcohol, a new job, a raise, a doctorate, a spouse, a large-screen television, a new car, a cabin in the woods, and a condo in Hawaii. What we really want is the person we were made for, Jesus, and the place we were made for, Heaven. Nothing less can satisfy us." Men, I want to encourage you to be a part of this. Let this be an opportunity to connect with other brothers in Christ and grow in your faith.

Parents, with the end of the year right around the corner, it will soon be time to start planning for summer camp. Centri Kid will once again be at Lee University June 8th – 12th. A deposit of \$125 is due January 15th. We are registered for 15 spots on a first-come, first-served serve. Once you pay your deposit, your kid(s) will be locked in.



Youth camp is June 22nd – 26th in Birmingham, AL, at Samford University. Deposits of \$100 are due by January 15th. Both youth and children's camp deposits can be made online. Through our church giving

page. Be sure to designate it "Kid's Camp or Youth Camp," and please let me know when you pay so that it can be recorded properly. It can be paid anytime. We will be having our Chili Cookoff (Feb. 6th) and Cruise Inn (Date TBD) fundraiser next year to help with costs. If you are interested, let me know. The church covers the cost of the chaperone. If you would like to provide or need financial assistance, please let me know. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Matt Koehler, Minister of Youth & Education

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Tullahoma Christmas Parade Foodshare MC 9-11:30 AM Hilda Corley	6
7 Security Training Mtg. 3:00 PM Men's Bible Study 5:00 PM Ken Tatum	8 Herb Whittemore	9 Prime Timers Noon	10 Jensen Rogers	11 Savannah Myers Lucas Koehler	12 Foodshare MC 9-11:30AM	13 OCC Atlanta Trip Briana Miller
14 Deacons Meeting 4 PM	15	16	17 Happy Birthday Jesus Party Lee Anne Wells Matthew Hasty	18	19 Foodshare MC 9-11:30AM	20 Titus Myers
21 Christmas Cantata 10:30 AM Businesss Meeting 6:00 PM	22	23	24 Drop-In Lord's Supper 5-7PM Church Offices Closed Bernadette Davis S.W. Stone	25 Christmas Day Church Offices Closed	26 Church Offices Closed	27 Amy Raymond
28	29	30 Jo Bates	31 No Wednesday Night Services Roger Williams	<div><div>Sound Volunteers – Dec. 2025 12/3/25 & 12/7/25 – Ben Murray 12/10/25 & 12/14/25 – Ben Howell 12/17/25 & 12/21/25 – Ben Murray 12/28/25 – Andrew Newton 12/31/25 & 1/4/26 – Ben Murray Wednesday Nights – Janice Davis</div><div>Childrens Church – Dec. 2025 12/7/25 – Jonathan, Coral 12/14/25 – Joanna, Ryan 12/21/25 – Mary James, Ann 12/28/25 – Mark R., Julie 1/4/26 – Matt, Coral</div></div>		

Highlands Highlights

Counters for December
Linda Conner, Becky Moffat



white
ELEPHANT
gift swap

Prime Timers
Pot-Luck Lunch
Tuesday, December
9th at Noon.
Bring your favorite
party food to share
and a \$10-\$15 White
Elephant gift for a
gift exchange.

함께
ENSEMBLE
TOGETHER

함께
JUNTO
함께
ZUSAMMEN
함께
BAMATE



Together, we find the lost, give help to the hurting,
share the hope of Christ, and witness God grow His Church
around the world. Your generosity today changes lives.

INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD

**GIVE TODAY AT
LOTTIEMOON.COM**

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MERRY
Christmas
& A HAPPY NEW YEAR
OUR CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON
DECEMBER 24TH - 26TH



2025