



Newbegun United Methodist Church
Worshiping God; Loving Jesus; Serving People
2119 Nixonton Road
Elizabeth City, North Carolina 27909
H/O - 252-334-9916
 Web site: www.newbegunumc.org

Pastor Casey Estler
 Email: casey.estler@nccumc.org

December 2020



Hope Fulfilled

When we prepare for the Christmas season we decorate the church and (when there isn't a worldwide pandemic) start to sing Christmas songs in the days leading up to Christmas. One other tradition that churches do is changing the paraments (the hangings in the church) from green to either purple or blue. Most churches use purple paraments as the color represents the royal and priestly aspect of Jesus' authority. But a select few decide to choose blue.

In the Christian world, colors are symbolic of the various seasons within the Christian calendar: white represents holiness, light, purity and the righteousness of Christ, red representing salvation and redemption offered to use by the blood of Christ, and green representing new life and even resurrection further symbolizing the new life we have with God and the resurrection of our souls. Blue, on the other hand, is not used very often, but for some churches it is simply used as a symbol for hope.

Winter is usually seen a season of darkness and even death. Looking around and seeing the dormant grass, the bare trees, the absence of animals can give on the sense that life itself seems to have fallen dormant. Especially for Christians in the past, it seems almost a shame that the birth of Christ is celebrated in such a time. But that is why many churches use blue as their parament. Throughout history, so many in the world have been desperately waiting for the end of their season of darkness; hoping against hope that someone will come to save them from their sins, to give them a second chance, hoping to be forgiven. But with the birth of Christ, that dream of salvation is realized. That long winter has now given way to spring with the birth of one man.

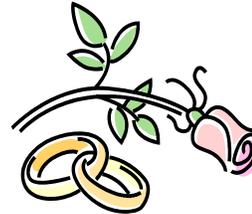
For this Christmas, see this season as a time of hope. A time where God has heard the cries for help and salvation and, loving us so much, sent Jesus into the world. By Jesus' birth we know that the long winter, that dark season, is finally over. Jesus has come to save us all. No longer will we have to wait for our savior, for he is now here!



December Birthdays ...

6 Reed Small	12 Jeff Trueblood	20 Cheyenne Darling
10 Curtis Jennings	16 Melba Norrell	27 Lindsey Darling
11 Eva Harris	David Parks	28 James Norrell
Donald Parks	17 Erin Ward	Ashleigh Ward

And Anniversaries...



Financial Update - 2020

2020 Budget	\$97,765	100%
Needed Weekly	\$1,880	1.9%
11/29/20 needed (48 Sundays)	\$90,240	92%
11/29/20 Collected	\$70,550	72%
Behind Budget	\$19,690	20%

Serving Sundays in December:

Acolytes

December 6 TBS
 December 13 TBS
 December 20 TBS
 December 27 TBS

Greeters and Ushers

December 6
 December 13
 December 20
 December 27

Readers

December 6
 December 13
 December 20
 December 27

Flowers

December 6 –
 December 13 –
 December 20 –
 December 27 –

Sound System Ministry: Roy Daniels, Bill Trueblood
Trustee for December: Roy Daniels

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Members at home:

Fannie Cowell

Family and friends at home:

Cheyenne Darling

John Spencer

Marian Powell

Family of Bill Felton

Members and friends in nursing homes:

Melba Norrell – Brookdale of Elizabeth City

Eva Harris – Cary, North Carolina

Faye Moore – Elizabeth City Rehab



- Newbegun church ministries & members
- Our school partner – Weeksville Elementary School
- Our leaders in church and government
- Our mission outreach and missionary
- Our spiritual growth
- Our financial stewardship



Thank You Letters:

American Farmland Trust

Dear Newbegun UMC,

Thank you for your recent contribution to American Farmland Trust! For 40 years, we have worked tirelessly towards the goal of saving the land that sustains us, and your generous donation is helping us make tremendous strides for farmland and ranchland preservation.

You know better than most the perils that farmers face... drought in some states, flooding in others... a changing climate requiring extensive and costly investments... intense pressure to sell land to developers and simply call it quits... high prices and other barriers that make it increasingly difficult for the next generation to enter farming. As tough as each of these problems may be, there are known solutions. Your support enables American Farmland Trust to advance those proven solutions at the national, state, and local level, to the direct benefit of farmers and ranchers across our country.

From the fresh, healthy, and local foods we need to survive and thrive, to the watersheds, critical wildlife habitat and beautiful vistas that farm and ranchland provide in such abundance, we will have a stake in ATF's essential work. Thank you for making it possible through your contribution.

AND THE SIGN SAID:

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift.

That is why it is called the present.

YEARLY BIBLE READINGS

You can read your Bible through in one year! Below is a format that lets you track how you are doing. Just check off each section as you go along. There are three readings for each day.

Have you read through the entire Bible yet? Make this the year.

Three verses a day keeps the blues away.

December 2020

DAY	READING 1	READING 2	READING 3
1	Galatians 5:1-15	Lamentations 5	Psalms 147
2	Galatians 5:16-26	Ezekiel 1	Psalms 148
3	Galatians 6	Ezekiel 2-3	Psalms 149
4	Ephesians 1	Ezekiel 4-5	Psalms 150
5	Ephesians 2	Ezekiel 6-7	Isaiah 40
6	Ephesians 3	Ezekiel 8-9	Isaiah 41
7	Ephesians 4:1-16	Ezekiel 10-11	Isaiah 42
8	Ephesians 4:17-32	Ezekiel 12-13	Isaiah 43
9	Ephesians 5:1-20	Ezekiel 14-15	Isaiah 44
10	Ephesians 5:21-33	Ezekiel 16	Isaiah 45
11	Ephesians 6	Ezekiel 17	Isaiah 46
12	Phil. 1:1-11	Ezekiel 18	Isaiah 47
13	Phil. 1:12-30	Ezekiel 19	Isaiah 48
14	Phil. 2:1-11	Ezekiel 20	Isaiah 49
15	Phil. 2:12-30	Ezekiel 21-22	Isaiah 50
16	Phil. 3	Ezekiel 23	Isaiah 51
17	Phil. 4	Ezekiel 24	Isaiah 52
18	Col. 1:1-23	Ezekiel 25-26	Isaiah 53
19	Col. 1:24-2:19	Ezekiel 27-28	Isaiah 54
20	Col. 2:20-3:17	Ezekiel 29-30	Isaiah 55
21	Col. 3:18-4:18	Ezekiel 31-32	Isaiah 56
22	Luke 1:1-25	Ezekiel 33	Isaiah 57
23	Luke 1:26-56	Ezekiel 34	Isaiah 58
24	Luke 1:57-80	Ezekiel 35-36	Isaiah 59
25	Luke 2:1-20	Ezekiel 37	Isaiah 60
26	Luke 2:21-52	Ezekiel 38-39	Isaiah 61
27	Luke 3:1-20	Ezekiel 40-41	Isaiah 62
28	Luke 3:21-38	Ezekiel 42-43	Isaiah 63
29	Luke 4:1-30	Ezekiel 44-45	Isaiah 64
30	Luke 4:31-44	Ezekiel 46-47	Isaiah 65
31	Luke 5:1-26	Ezekiel 48	Isaiah 66

THE COLLECTION BOX in the foyer will be for TOILETRIES for the food pantry clients. We will collect soaps, shampoos, conditioners, paper products and any other related products. The Mission Committee thanks you.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

December 6 – 11:00 am – Sunday Service

December 8 – Salvation Army Bell Ringing

December 13 – 11:00 am – Sunday Service

December 17 – 9:30 am – Food Bank Ministry

December 20 – 11:00 am – Sunday Service

December 24 – 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service

December 25 – Christmas

December 27 – 11:00 am – Sunday Service

“Newbegun Strong”

In recent years, cities, communities, and organizations have added the word strong following death, disaster, and tragedy. It can also be used before anything like that may even happen. Our little church is a very good example.

From its humble beginnings over 238 years ago, Newbegun has been a beacon of hope and strength in our community – we have worked to find and improve one’s own personal faith and strength within themselves so that they might share it with family, friends, and neighbors. We have welcomed all visitors who enter our doors, Mrs. Louise Brown has baked a pie for many of them.

Years ago additions were made to our building and biblical stories were shown through new stained glass windows. We even completed a major roof replacement just a few years ago. These examples reveal Newbegun strong. Others include regular events such as our monthly food pantry and weekly collections in noisy coins for a variety of missions. At this time of the year our sanctuary is beautifully decorated for Christmas. The stained glass windows are illuminated each evening. We will continue to assist the Salvation Army with a holiday bell ringing. All of these display Newbegun strong.

This is the perfect time of the year to show thanks, spirituality, compassion, and strength – 2020 has been a most unusual year with the Covid pandemic and natural disasters. Our congregation has remained strong and we’ve been fortunate and blessed to be Covid free. Many look forward to 2021 and a new beginning. May our strength continue just like the history and name of our church – Newbegun. Go forth and remain Newbegun strong.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Yours in faith, fellowship, and love,

Roy Daniels

COVID-19 UPDATE

Currently there are 13 ½ million cases in our country. This is an increase of 5 million cases within 30 days. The death total is about 268,000 at this time – this increase is over 60,000 since the end of October and now averages over 2,000 deaths per day. Although vaccines are on the way, these numbers will continue to drastically increase. Please get your flu shots if you have not done so. Our state now has a mask mandate, requiring you all to wear masks in public places. Be safe for you, your loved ones, and for those you do not even know

Enjoy the holidays,
Roy Daniels, Finance Chair

Pie Sale – 2020

Our 28th annual pre-Thanksgiving pie sale went very well. The weather cooperated, our plan B location worked out, we got very good press, and we had plenty of pies, cakes, baked goods, and cutlery. Minus our expenses, our net proceeds from the two day pie sale are \$8,258.00. Many thanks to all who baked, planned, promoted, purchased, and worked for this wonderful event.

A Word About Giving

As we keep our 6 feet social distancing, as such we will have to find ways to keep our financial capabilities going. There are many ways to make contributions in this modern age of email, e-finance, credit, and debit cards. For our little congregation we will keep it nice and simple. Please send your offerings through the mail.

Till we are past this stage in the epidemic, use any one of the following addresses:

Newbegun United Methodist Church, 2119 Nixonton Rd. Elizabeth City, NC 27909

or

Roy Daniels, 1257 Toxey Rd. Elizabeth City, NC 27909

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED