

## **Welcome to River Terrace Church**

**Today at 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM**

**First Sunday in Advent**

Series: Christmas Surprises

*"Skeletons in Jesus' Closet"*

Based on Matthew 1:1-17

Message by Pastor Brent Wassink

Special Offering: IVCF International Student Ministry/ Carla Bieber

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

### **Sunday School at 10:10 AM for All Ages**

Age 3 to 12th grade: Lower Level

Adult Forum: Gym

Sarah Arthur, author of *A Light So Lovely* will host a conversation with Charlotte Jones

Voiklis about Madeleine L'engle

and the writing process.

**Next Sunday: December 9, at 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM**

**Second Sunday in Advent**

Series: Christmas Surprises

*"Joseph Davidson"*

Based on Matthew 1:18-25

Message by Pastor Brent Wassink

Special Offering: Community Assistance Program

### **Sunday School at 10:10 AM for All Ages**

Age 3 to 12th grade: Lower Level

Adult Forum: Gym

Dr. David Stowe, Professor of U.S. Culture Studies at MSU

## Questions for Groups or for at Dinner

1. For you, is Christmas "the most wonderful time of the year"? Explain.
2. Name the outsiders in vv 2-6. Do you think most people see God's mercy as wide and deep? Do you? Explain.
3. Vv 7-11 show that God is just. Name any ways you have experienced this personally.
4. How does God's faithfulness shown in Jesus' coming benefit you?
5. What do you look forward to about Jesus' second coming?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**JOY - A Women's Christmas Kindness Event** is this afternoon from 3:00-5:30 PM. Come to receive **JOY** through the inspiring words of speaker and author Marlene Lawson. Together we will then have an opportunity to share **JOY** through random acts of kindness!

**HS Mission Trip Registration Deadline is TODAY!** To secure a spot on our July 28 - August 2 trip to Chicago, IL a \$50 deposit and signed permission slip/student covenant must be received TODAY. You can write a check to River Terrace Church or pay online.

**Ignite Sunday Night:** We invite middle school (4:15 to 6:00 PM) and high school (5:30 to 7:30 PM) students to join us for our weekly youth group meetings. We will continue our study of The Lord's Prayer, eat dinner together and have some fun! Friends are always welcome!

**Youth Bible Study on Wednesday:** Want to dig deeper in God's Word? Want to spend more time with your fellow middle and high school students? Just want a pizza dinner? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, join us on Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Friends are definitely welcome!

**Children's Christmas Choir** rehearsal will be on Dec. 2, 9, and 16 in the Music Room. All ages (preschool-gr. 5) are welcome.

**Water's Edge Youth Choir:** As part of our family Christmas service on December 23 at 10:00 AM, we are putting together another performance by our talented Water's Edge Youth Choir. Rehearsals will be on Sundays, December 2, 9 and 16 at both 10:00 AM and 5:30 PM. You must make one of the practices on December 2 or contact Brendan in order to participate.

**Come and sing with the River Terrace Christmas Choir!** Singers are invited to join the adult Choir in singing the music of the season for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. New singers and former choir members are welcome. Christmas Choir rehearsals will be on Wednesdays: Dec. 5, 12, and 19, from 6:30 – 8:00 PM in the choir loft. We will sing at the 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24. If you have questions, please contact Director Laurie Harkema at [laurieharkema@comcast.net](mailto:laurieharkema@comcast.net).

All children are invited to be part of telling the **Christmas Story in costume at the Dec. 23 Family Service** at 10:00 AM. Rehearsal is on December 16 after the second service. Contact Shalom to sign up.

**Giving Envelopes for 2019** are available in the gym this morning.

### **THIS WEEK**

**Campus Edge Fellowship:** Mon., Dec. 3, 7:00 PM, 1518 River Terrace Drive. Grad students, join us to look at Jesus and the Canaanite woman. Contact [brenda@campusedgemsu.com](mailto:brenda@campusedgemsu.com) for more information.

**Mom to Mom:** Tues., Dec. 4, 9:30 AM. Gym.

**Christian Service Brigade:** Tues., Dec. 4, 7:00 PM, Boys, gr. 1-12.

**Men's Sunrise Bible Study:** Wed., Dec. 5, 6:45 AM, Mtg. Room.

**Pastor's Bible Study:** Wed., Dec. 5, 10:00 AM, Quad.

**Prayer Gathering:** Wed., Dec. 5, 12:30 PM, Prayer Room.

**Youth Bible Study:** Wed., Dec. 5, 6:00 PM, Youth Room.

**Christmas Choir Rehearsal:** Wed., Dec. 5, 6:30 PM, Sanctuary.

**Breathing Space Yoga & Prayer:** Thurs., Dec. 6, 7:00 PM, Quad.

**Breathing Space Yoga & Prayer:** Sat., Dec. 8, 9:00 AM, Quad.

**Campus Edge Fellowship:** Sat. Dec. 8, 6:00 PM (with dinner), 1518 River Terrace Drive. Grad students, join us for dinner and then look at Jesus' sending out the disciples to *not* bring peace.

## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

**Fresh fruit donations for the Homeless Angels** is next Sunday, Dec. 9.

The Missions committee is again offering the **Nigeria Partnership Christmas Gift Catalog** this year. We will be in the gathering hall between and after the services on the next three Sundays to answer questions, receive donations and provide certificates to include in your Christmas cards to friends and loved ones.

**Reminder:** If you volunteered to deliver a **Christmas basket**, please call your family to arrange delivery between December 18-21. If there are any questions you can contact Beth Bonsall at 517-410-8651 or by email at [bduiserbonsall@gmail.com](mailto:bduiserbonsall@gmail.com).

**Giving Box:** Hats and gloves and mittens. All sizes. New or freshly washed and in good repair.

**C.A.P.:** Christmas Meal Foods – Boxed mashed potatoes, pie fillings, pie crust, brownie, muffin and bread mixes, cake mixes, frosting, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, canned fruits, vegetables, etc.

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Our continued prayers are appreciated for **Kim Emery, Lucille Kuiper, Barb Mosher, Jane Outslay, Margie Stephenson, Lynn Stewart, and Jean Wallin.**