

# StayCONNECTED



December 2023

## Pastor's Corner

The year was 735/734 BC and the people of Judah found themselves in a political crisis. During this time, Syria and Israel formed an alliance because they were threatened by the expanding Assyrian empire. They invited Judah to join their alliance, but Judah's king, Ahaz, refused. This was the reason behind the Syrians and Israelites waging war against Judah, recorded in Isaiah 7:1. Syria and Israel hoped to replace Ahaz with a "puppet king" so that Judah would then join the anti-Assyrian alliance. Isaiah 7:6 identifies this potential puppet king as "son of Tabeel," not from the line of David. Would this possible invasion of the Syrians and the Israelites be the end of the house of David? Would God's covenantal promises to David concerning his family line and kingship be abolished due to the political circumstances of Judah's day?

These are the political circumstances that the Lord sends the prophet Isaiah to speak into. He says to Ahaz in Isaiah 7:14 the words that we often quote during this advent season, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." This Immanuel sign offers a glimmer of present hope for the people of Judah. The Syrian and Israelite invasion on Judah is unsuccessful and the Lord protects His promises concerning kingship and the Davidic line. However, the Lord will soon punish Ahaz and the people of Judah due to their sinfulness. Though the Lord's judgement will be upon them through the upcoming Assyrian invasion, which is recorded in Isaiah 36, this Immanuel sign indicates that God promises to be present with them through those challenging times.

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In addition to containing immediate hope of God's presence, the Immanuel sign overflows with future hope for the people of God. In his Gospel account, Matthew quotes Isaiah 7:14 when foretelling about the birth of Jesus. Matthew 1:22-23 states, "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')." Since Matthew interprets the Immanuel sign recorded in Isaiah 7:14 as messianic, we should as well. Through the miracle of the incarnation, Jesus is literally "God with us." Jesus perfectly fulfills God's promise to His people.

Today, God is with us just like He was with His people back in the book of Isaiah. No matter what kind of mess we face in our day, no amount of political circumstances can void the promises of God. Isaiah 9:6-7 says, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this." God protected His promise to David in 735/734 BC. Likewise, His promises to us today are secure. I hope this eternal truth fills your heart with hope, joy, and peace as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Son of David and our Everlasting King, this advent season.

Merry Christmas!  
Pastor Matt

# December 2023 EVENTS

<b>Dec 1</b>	<b>Marriage Conf.</b> 6:30-8:30 pm	<b>Dec 3</b>	<b>Women's Shopping</b> see page 3	<b>Dec 15</b>	<b>Birch Alley Brass</b> 7 pm	<b>Dec 17</b>	<b>YA Christmas</b> noon
<b>Dec 1</b>	<b>Nerf Night</b> 7-9 pm	<b>Dec 3</b>	<b>BVCC Concert</b> 3 pm	<b>Dec 15-17</b>	<b>Prayer Weekend</b> Prayer & Worship Sunday 4 pm	<b>Dec 23</b>	<b>Candle Light Service</b> 4 pm



**Marriage Seminar**  
Marriage Conference  
Friday, December 1 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
At Faith Fellowship in Uxbridge  
Cost \$20 per couple



**NERF NIGHT**  
Teen Event  
Friday, December 1 7-9pm  
At Valley Chapel. Bring a nerf blaster and darts from home. Invite friends!



**Christmas Shopping**  
Women's Ministry Event  
Sunday, December 3  
More information on page 3



**Holiday Pops with the BVCC**  
THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY COMMUNITY CHORUS PRESENTS  
Sunday, December 3 at 3pm  
"Holiday Pops with the BVCC"  
Most are being performed with a 25 piece orchestra but a few are acapella



**Birch Alley Brass**  
A CONCERT FOR CHRISTMAS  
Friday, December 15 at 7pm  
Enjoy Christmas favorites with this wonderful brass ensemble!



**Family Christmas**  
Prayer & Worship  
with Pastor G  
Sunday, December 17 4 pm in the Café  
Focusing on the Messianic promises. Children's Crafts with Cydney Clossen during prayer time. Followed by fellowship and desserts for everyone.



**Young Adult Christmas Party**  
Young Adult  
December 17 12-2pm  
Valley Chapel Café. Food provided. Bring a \$10 gift for gift exchange.



**Christmas Eve Service**  
CANDLELIGHT  
at Valley Chapel  
Saturday, December 23 at 4pm  
A family-friendly service with singing, drama, candle lighting, and short message from Pastor Bob. In-Person & Livestream



# VC Young Adults

Young Adults Bible study will continue studying the Gospel of Matthew Sunday's at 9:30 AM in room 225.

Young Adult Christmas Party- December 17 from 12-2pm in Valley Chapel Café. Food provided. Bring a \$10 gift for a gift exchange.

Connect with other young adults from Nazarene Churches in New England. Jan. 13 @ 4pm at Steriti Rink, Hanover St. Boston.



### Helping the Homeless

Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter is having a Festival of Trees fund raiser Dec 2-3 in the Northbridge Town Hall. [www.bvfestivaloftrees.org](http://www.bvfestivaloftrees.org) for more information. This ministry not only helps with a night out of the weather, but also helps the homeless find a way out of being homeless.

### Women's Ministry News

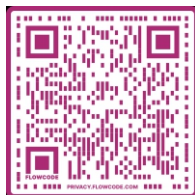


Christmas Shopping Trip - Sunday, December 3rd Join the ladies from church for an afternoon of fellowship and Christmas shopping. We will meet after church and take the

church vans to the Worcester Public Market. You can meet us at the Market too - whatever works for you! We will grab some lunch and do some shopping in the area. Sign up at the Welcome Desk on 11/28.

### Women's 2024 Events

We would love to hear from you and what you'd like to see for events in 2024. Scan the QR code below to take our short survey. Paper surveys will be available at the Welcome Desk as well. Please respond by 12/31/23. Thank you!



Save the Date Night to Shine 2024! We need your help for NTS 2024 on Feb, 8 for setup, 9 for the event and 10 for clean up. Look for volunteer sign up link in upcoming VC messengers emails.



### Romania 2023 Testimony

Scan this code to be taken to the video of the full testimony from Pastor G and Cydney. This video chronicles our trip to the trafficking safe house in Romania.



Prison Fellowship Angel Tree™ equips churches to strengthen relationships between incarcerated parents and their children and support the families of prisoners year-round.

Get ready to pick your Angel Tree tag off the tree on Nov. 26, and buy a gift or gift card for that child and return it by Dec. 10.

If you are interested in joining the team, contact Dawn Foley 774-573-4595.

We are looking for drivers to deliver the Christmas gifts earlier so that we do not run into a problem later on.



DOING THE MOST GOOD®

Want to give your hands & time to help your neighbors. Volunteering at the red kettle is a great opportunity for families and individuals of all ages.

The Red Kettle Program for Salvation Army will begin Mon. November 13 at Market 32 and Walmart Nov 18. It only requires 2 hours of your time.

It benefits our neighbors who will need fuel, medical or rent assistance this winter.

It assists our youth group here at Valley Chapel. You ask how I help. It's easy!

Click on the sign up link on our website or QR code for a list of places, times available and instructions.

Review the SignUps listed and choose the one(s) you like,

Any questions? Call Sharon Howard at 508-278-2315.





A few of our volunteers have had to step down from serving because of schedule changes/life events. We need to fill the following spots:

- 9:30 K-5 Co-Leaders (serve 2x/month or every week)
- 10:30 Grade 2/3 Co-teacher (serve 2x month)
- 10:30 Toddler Co-teacher (serve 2x month)
- 10:30 Hall Monitor (serve 1x month)

If you are interested in learning more about serving in ValleyKids please email [Kerri@valleychapel.us](mailto:Kerri@valleychapel.us) for more information.

Wednesday night youth group in the Main Campus Cafe from 6:30-8pm. Spend time with friends, enjoy group games, and be encouraged by God's Word.



Sunday morning youth class at the Lower Campus (130 Douglas St. Uxbridge MA 01569) at 9:30am. Doors open at 9am. Join us for a group Bible lesson followed by small group discussion.

Nerf Night - Friday, Dec. 1, 7-9pm Bring your nerf blasters and darts from home. Invite you friends!

Christmas party - Wednesday, Dec. 20 6:30-8pm Don't miss it! Fun things planned for the Christmas party!

Sept - Dec Youth Calendar available in the lobby

## Adult Classes Sunday 9:30 am

- Answering Christianity's Toughest Challenges in room 121
- Faith Connections in room 218
- Holiness Identity-Shaped by the Word in room 219
- Young Adults Meeting in room 225
- Unleash Your Purpose Virtual class meeting 8:30-9:30 am

## Weekly Bible Studies

- Monday - Women - 9:30 am Prayer group
- Tuesday - Men - 7 pm Studying Isaiah
- Wednesday - Women - 9:30-11:30am Prayer group
- Saturday - Men - 7 am Studying the book of Jeremiah

## New Sermon Series Begins December 3



To receive the **weekly VC Messenger email** and prayer requests, give your email to Alice at [alice@valleychapel.us](mailto:alice@valleychapel.us) and let her know you want to be added to the email list.

### SUNDAY

Classes for all ages at 9:30 AM  
SERVICE TIME: 10:30 AM

### ONLINE SERVICE

VALLEYCHAPEL.US Watch LIVE.

### GIVING

We appreciate your giving. Did you know that you can also give online? [www.valleychapel.us/giving](http://www.valleychapel.us/giving), or stop by and drop your offering in the connect box in the sanctuary, lobby, outside at our West entrance.

If you would like something in the January edition of "Stay Connected" Please send your information to Alice by December 22 to [alice@valleychapel.us](mailto:alice@valleychapel.us)



Support our Valley Chapel student ministry by ordering a Texas Roadhouse Gift Card.

Step 1: Purchase gift cards. From now through next Sunday (Dec. 3), our students will be selling gift cards that can be used at any Texas Roadhouse location. 20% of all sales will go directly towards helping our students pay for youth group events. Visit our table in the lobby to place an order. Gift cards will be available to pick up in the lobby on Sunday, Dec. 17.

Step 2: Use the gift cards at a Dine-in Night. There will be Dine-in Nights at the Texas Roadhouse in North Smithfield RD on January 8 (Monday)& at the Texas Roadhouse in Worcester, MA on Jan. 9 (Tuesday). Tell you waiter or waitress that you are here to support Valley Chapel and we will receive an additional percentage of your total check. We will also receive a percentage of takeout orders if you prefer take out rather than Dine-In. Mark your calendars for the location & date that works best for you.

## Coming in January

Men's Breakfast  
Jan 20

Child Dedication Class  
Jan 7

Child Dedication  
Jan 14