

This Advent season we do have a special project we are presenting for our Advent Offering. Our church sign is currently a temporary banner over an old sign. From a distance it doesn't look terribly bad, but it presents an idea of temporariness that we would like to correct. Over the next few weeks until the end of the year, we will be collecting a special offering to hopefully, secure a more permanent-looking church sign. Ten percent of all church visitors initially attend a church because of the sign.

Church signs are one of the tools that can help people find a place where they may encounter God. In the spirit of Christmas, 20% of this offering will go to missions and church revitalization work elsewhere (Digging water wells in Africa, helping another church in Portsmouth and helping a church in rural Alabama). Depending on how God moves on people's hearts, we have four options shown below. Please do not feel any pressure to give toward this. If you do want to give, please give your normal tithes and offerings to the church first as we need to meet our ongoing obligations so we can minister well to God and people. However, if you feel led to give to this project, we would be thankful to receive your gift. Please be aware that we intend to have a capital fundraising campaign starting in 2027, so again, feel no pressure to give to this unless the Holy Spirit is nudging you to do so. If we do not meet the minimum, we will continue to save toward this. If we meet any of the four prices and exceed them, the excess will go to church opertations. All amounts include the missions giving already built into the estimated price. Option 4 is included because we don't want to limit what we believe God can accomplish through our church since He favors faith!



Option 1: A simple, basic metal sign replacing the banner- expected lifespan of the sign face = 5-8 years- estimated cost $3,000



Option 2: same as option 1, but with some lighting- expected lifespan of the sign face = 5-8 years- $5,000



Option 3: same as option 2, but remove plants; install retaining wall, nicer lighting, add plaque for basic info; expected lifespan of the sign face = 5-8 years- estimated cost $10,000



Option 4: installed by pro sign company with city permits. Lexan, backlit logo/ identification on top of modern changeable LED screen on top of retaining wall and totally new sign structure/skeleton. expected lifespan of the sign face = 20+ years- estimated cost $55,000 - 70,000

TIDEWATER CHURCH

Thanksgiving, Christmas, Advent Offering Newsletter

Nov/Dec 2026



Greetings, Tidewater Church Family and Friends!

So far, 2026 has been a great year for the church! We are excited and thankful about many things God has done.

New families, friendly faces, baptisms, new church members and improvements to the property on the inside and out. To God be the glory!

The last weeks of the year are always a special time with many activities at the church. In addition to our regular Sunday morning and First Wednesday services, we wanted to take a minute to invite and/or remind you about several holiday services and activities coming up over the next 7 weeks. Also, we will be receiving an Advent Offering. This newsletter will also explain the Advent Offering in detail. We look forward to seeing you at church over the next few weeks and encourage you, as always, to bring friends and family to any and all of these services. Please check out all four pages of this communication, so you don't miss anything. We are expecting a great Thanksgiving and Christmas season with Thanksgiving Meal Day, "The Crowns of Christmas" Program, our Christmas Party and Christmas Eve Service.

Brian D Farley Heather Farley

Dr. Brian and Heather Farley, Pastor and Co-Pastor



Sunday, November 22 is Thanksgiving Meal Day

This will be a great day. We will have regular service at 10:30, focused on giving thanks and then we will have a feast in the ministry barn. You can sign up in the cafe near the back wall to bring a main dish, side or dessert. The church office will provide: tea, lemonade, soft drinks, pizza, and ice cream to go with all the dishes. Any leftovers will be given to the homeless community. Bring your whole family. If we haven't seen you in a while, we would love to have you back.

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 NASB

Advent Season 2026

Christmas is almost here! We will again celebrate the season with Advent Candle Sundays. Each week we will light a different candle, leading up to Christmas.

Advent comes from the Latin word adventus meaning "coming" or "arrival". It is a time to reflect on the season of Christmas and its true meaning of Jesus taking on the form of man as Immanuel. Advent is a time of spiritual reflection, waiting and expectation.

1st Sunday of Advent Nov 29- Hope

2nd Sunday of Advent Dec 6- Peace

3rd Sunday of Advent- Dec 13- Joy

4th Sunday of Advent- Dec 20- Love

Christmas Eve Service- we will light the Christ candle



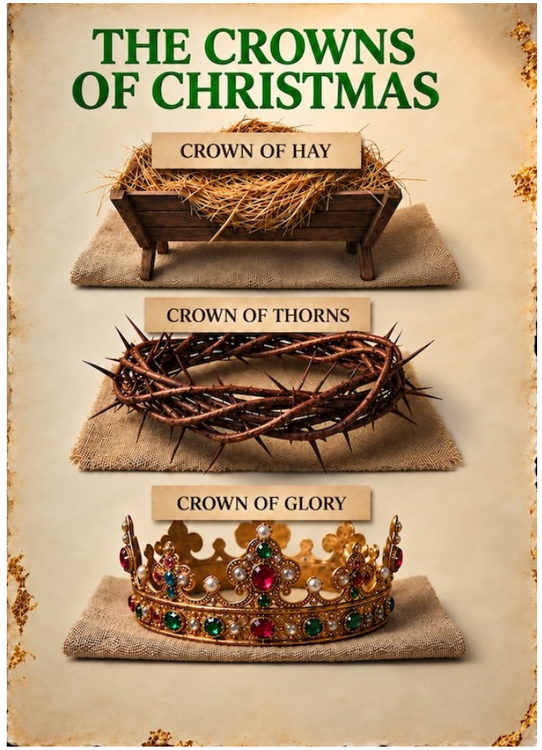
Churchwide Christmas Party

Wednesday night December 16 from 6:30-8:30 pm we will have a Christmas party that everyone is invited to attend. Unlike the Thanksgiving Meal, the church office is providing all the food. This is a time of fun and fellowship and a way to say thanks especially to all of you who make Tidewater Church possible with your hard work, faithfulness and generosity. We will have plenty of food, a game or two, video games set up for kids, and lots of fun! There will most likely be sightings of small pigs in blankets at this event.

"The Crowns of Christmas" Program

Our Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 13, at 10:30 am. This year we will consider how Jesus was laid in a 'crown of hay", how he sacrificially paid the price for our sins with the "crown of thorns" and how today He wears a "crown of glory" and will one day soon reveal Himself as Mighty King. The program will include: a Christmas choir, dancing, and a visit from the wise men. Nursery will be provided for children under the age of four. A brief salvation presentation will be given and everyone will have an opportunity to pray to receive Jesus as Lord. Bringing a friend to a Christmas program is a great way to invite someone to church with little pressure.

...For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6 NASB



Christmas Eve Service - Thursday, December 24, 12:30 p.m.

On Christmas Eve we will celebrate Jesus with a holiday service keeping Christ in the middle of all of our activities. We will sing Christmas carols, hear a brief message about the King, sing a worship song or two, light the Christ candle, receive communion and accept the last of our Advent offering. The doors will open at 12 noon. Service beigns at 12:30 and we plan for it to last no longer than an hour. A great event to bring your visitng family to enjoy.

After surveying the congregation over two services, the majority of people said they would be most likely to come at 12:30 pm in the middle of the day. We are going to give this timeslot a shot this year.

