



HEARTS APART NEWSLETTER

20-22 DEC 2024

TRAVEL PLANNER

FEATURING:

WEEKEND EVENTS:

20-22 DEC 2024

TOOLBOX TOPICS:

WINTER DRIVING: BLACK ICE

CHAPLAIN LETTER:

“GOLD, CIRCUMSTANCE, AND MUD ”

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

FINANCIAL SURVEY



RELOCATION READINESS PROGRAM



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Relocation Readiness Program

20 Dec 2024

- * 20 Dec, Weymouth Wonderland: A Season of Stories, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities, 555 E, Connecticut Ave, Southern Pines, NC
- * 20 Dec, 2024 Durham Christmas Night Market, 5:30 - 9:30 pm, Zinc House, 6225 Wake Forest Hwy, Durham, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, Lake Myra Christmas Lights, 5:30 - 10:00 pm, Lake Myra Christmas, 10 S. Cypress St, Wendell, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, Celebration of Lights, Fri & Sat 6:00 - 10:00 pm, Sun 6:00 - 9:00 pm, Village Park, 700 W. C St, Kannapolis, NC
- * 20 Dec, That Soulful Time of the Year Fayetteville, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Seabrook Auditorium, 1200 Murchison Rd, Fayetteville, NC
- * 20 Dec, The Polar Express FREE, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St, Southern Pines, NC
- * 20 Dec, Yarn, 8:00 pm, Lincoln Theatre, 126 E. Cabarrus St, Raleigh, NC

20-21 Dec 2024

- * 20 - 21 Dec, Macon Mayhem at Fayetteville Marksmen, Fri 7:00 pm, Sat 6:00 pm, Crown Complex, 1960 Coliseum Dr, Fayetteville, NC
- * 20 - 21 Dec, Future birds, 8:00 pm, Neighborhood Theatre, 511 E. 36th St, Charlotte, NC
- * 20 - 21 Dec, Christmas on the Farm, 5:00 - 9:00 pm, Buchanan Farms, 2508 Broadway Rd, Sanford, NC

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- * 20 - 22 Dec, Cape Fear Festival of Trees, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher, 900 Loggerhead Rd, Kure Beach, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, Downtown Cary Gifting Tree Project, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Downtown Cary Park, 327 S. Academy St, Cary, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, Beat The Bomb Charlotte, 11:00 am, Beat The Bomb Charlotte, 3638 Tryclan Dr, Charlotte, NC

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- * 20 - 22 Dec, Aluminum Tree & Ornament Museum (ATOM), 12:00 Noon - 4:00 pm, The Transylvania Heritage Museum, 189 W. Main Brevard St, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, Carolina Ballet presents: The Nutcracker, Fri & Sat 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm, Sun 1:00 pm & 5:00 pm, Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, Martin Marietta Center for the Performing Arts, 2 E. South St, Raleigh, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, Light the Knights, 2:00 - 10:00 pm, Truist Field, 324 S. Mint St, Charlotte, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, Holiday Lights in the Garden, 5:00 - 9:00 pm, Cape Fear Botanical Garden, 536 N. Eastern Blvd, Fayetteville, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, Merry & Bright a Holiday of Lights, Fri & Sat 5:00 - 9:45 pm, Sun 5:00 - 8:45 pm, Santa, Fri & Sat 5:30 - 8:30 pm, Poplar Grove Plantation, 10200 US Highway 17 N., Wilmington, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, 3rd Annual Carolina Holiday Light Spectacular, 5:30 - 10:00 pm, Ballantyne's Backyard, 11611 N, Community House Rd, Charlotte, NC



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- * 20 - 22 Dec, Festival Of Lights, 6:00 - 10:00 pm, Lu Mil Vineyard, 438 Suggs-Taylor Rd, Elizabethtown, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, North Carolina Chinese Lantern Festival, 6:00 - 10:00 pm, performances 7:00 pm, 8:00 pm & 9:00 pm, Koka Booth Amphitheatre, 8003 Regency Pkwy, Cary, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, Clara's Trip, Fri 7:00 pm, Sat 11:00 am, 3:00 pm & 7:00 pm, Sun 1:00 pm & 4:00 pm, Fletcher Opera Theater, Martin Marietta Center for the Performing Arts, 2 E. South St, Raleigh, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, A Christmas Carol, Fri & Sat 7:30 pm, Sat & Sun 2:00 pm, Sat 8:00 pm, DPAC, 123 Vivian St, Durham, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, A Christmas Carol, Fri & Sat 7:30 pm, Sat & Sun 2:00 pm, Temple Theatre, 120 Carthage St, Sanford, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, Burning Coal Theatre Presents The Rainmaker, Fri & Sat 7:30 pm, Sun 2:00 pm, Burning Coal Theatre, 224 Polk St, The Murphey School, Raleigh, NC

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- * 20 - 22 Dec, Charlotte Ballet: Nutcracker, 7:30 pm, Belk Theatre, 130 N. Tryon St, Charlotte, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, Cirque de Noël, Fri 7:30 pm, Sat & Sun 3:00 pm, Knight Theatre, 430 South Tryon St, Charlotte, NC
- * 20 & 22 Dec, Cirque du Soleil: Twas The Night Before, Fri 7:30 pm, Sun 3:00 pm, Ovens Auditorium, 2700 E. Independence Blvd, Charlotte, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, Raleigh Little Theatre presents: Cinderella, Fri 7:30 pm, Sat 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm Sun 2:00 pm & 6:30 pm, Raleigh Little Theatre, 301 Pogue St, Raleigh, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, Scrooge! The Musical, Fri 7:30 pm, Sat 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm, Sun 2:00 pm, Fullwood Theatre (Inside the Matthews Community Center), 100 East McDowell St, Matthews, NC
- 20 - 22 Dec, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!, Fri 7:30 pm, Sat & Sun 2:00 pm & 6:00 pm, Cape Fear Regional Theatre, 1707 Owen Dr, Fayetteville, NC

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- * 20 - 22 Dec, White Christmas, The Musical, 7:30 pm, Sat & Sun 2:00 pm & 6:00 pm, Thalian Hall Center for Performing Arts, 310 Chestnut St, Wilmington, NC
- * 20 - 22 Dec, A Candlelight Christmas with the North Carolina Symphony Holiday Brass, Fri 8:00 pm, Sat & Sun 3:00 pm, Meymandi Concert Hall, Woolner Stage, Martin Marietta Center for the Performing Arts, 2 E. South St, Raleigh, NC

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- * 21 Dec, 2024 King Street Winter Saturday Farmers Market, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Watauga County Agricultural Conference Center, 252 Poplar Grove Rd, Boone, NC
- * 21 Dec, 2024 Fenton Winter Makers Market, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm, Fenton Square, 21 Fenton Main St, Cary, NC
- * 21 Dec, Town of Vass Christmas Parade, 11:00 am - 12:00 Noon, Downtown Vass, 141 James St, Vass, NC
- * 21 Dec, 2024 Raleigh Winter Pop-Up Art and Vintage Market, 12:00 Noon - 5:00 pm, Trophy Brewing and Taproom, 656 Maywood Ave, Raleigh, NC



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- * 21 Dec, Pure Life Theatre presents "Motown Sound of Christmas," 3:00 - 5:00 pm, The Fountain of Raleigh, 9621 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC
- * 21 Dec, The Dinner Detective Comedy Mystery Dinner Show, 6:00 - 8:30 pm, Embassy Suites by Hilton Raleigh Crabtree, 4700 Creedmoor Rd, Raleigh, NC
- * 21 Dec, Rod Wave with Moneybagg Yo, Toosii, Lil Poppa, Dess Dior & Eelmatic, 7:00 pm, Lenovo Center, 1400 Edwards Mill Rd, Raleigh, NC
- * 21 Dec, The Raleigh Flute Choir Holiday Concert, 7:00 pm, Holly Springs Cultural Center, 300 W. Ballentine St, Holly Springs, NC
- * 21 Dec, Adrian Crutchfield: For You at Christmas ... with Love and Jazz! 8:00 - 10:00 pm, Charles LaBorde Theater at Northwest School of Arts, 1415 Beatties Ford Rd, Charlotte, NC
- * 21 Dec, Jeanne Jolly & The Mistletoes, 8:00 pm, The Rialto Theatre, 1620 Glenwood Ave, Raleigh, NC

21 Dec 2024

- * 21 Dec, 2024 Heist Barrel Makers Market, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, Heist Barrel Arts, 1030 Woodward Ave, Charlotte, NC
- * 21 Dec, 2024 North Carolina Christmas Festival, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, Cabarrus Arena and Event Center, 4751 NC-49, Concord, NC
- * 21 Dec, Apex Friendship High School Band's Holiday Showcase, 3:00 pm, The Halle Cultural Arts Center, 237 N. Salem St, Apex, NC

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- * 21 - 22 Dec, A Very Merry Pop Up Market 2024, 10:00 am - 7:00 pm, Carolina Place Mall, 11025 Carolina Pl Pkwy, Pineville, NC
- * 21 - 22 Dec, The Nutcracker, Sat 10:30 am, Sun 1:00 pm, Halton Theatre, CPCC, 1206 Elizabeth Ave, Charlotte, NC
- * 21 - 22 Dec, 2024 Winston-Salem Holiday Small Biz Market, Sat 11:00 am - 8:00 pm, Sun 12:00 Noon - 6:00 pm, Hanes Mall, 3320 Silas Creek Pkwy, Winston-Salem, NC

22 Dec 2024

- * 22 Dec, Panthers vs Cardinals, 1:00 pm, Bank of America Stadium, 800 S. Mint St, Charlotte, NC
- * 22 Dec, Home for the Holidays: From Broadway to the Pines, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, Sunrise Theater, 250 NW Broad St, Southern Pines, NC
- * 22 Dec, Research Triangle Tuba Christmas, 4:00 - 5:00 pm, St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 3008 Old Raleigh Rd, Apex, NC
- * 22 Dec, Rider vs NC State, 4:00 pm, Lenovo Center, 1400 Edwards Mill Rd, Raleigh, NC
- * 22 Dec, Christmas in the Park, 5:00 - 8:00 pm, Burlington City Park, 1333 Overbrook Rd, Burlington, NC

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TOOLBOXTOPICS:

Winter Driving: Black Ice



The most basic definition of black ice is a thin coat of highly transparent ice. The reason it is transparent is because it blends in with road pavements since it is so thin, making it nearly impossible to see. It's called black ice since it looks black, like the color of the road pavement it forms on. If you do have the unfortunate luck of hitting black ice, here are a few driving tips for staying safe.

1) Resist the urge to hit the brakes.

While it's natural to want to brake when you begin to feel your vehicle swerve, braking will actually make you lose control and skid. Instead of braking, ease up on the gas and calmly tap the brakes to slow down.

2) Keep the steering wheel straight.

To avoid swerving off the road or into oncoming traffic, firmly hold your steering wheel straight. When you start to drift one way or the other, make sure you don't drastically over correct on your steering wheel.

3) Slow down by decelerating or shift to lower gear.

Slowly let go of the gas pedal to slow down. Shifting to a lower gear provides your vehicle with more control. Vehicles with paddle shifters that allow drivers to easily shift to a lower gear gives drivers more control in the ice and in the snow.

4) Head for areas of traction.

Look for areas with gravel, sand, or white snow. These areas provide your tires with some much-needed traction to gain control of your vehicle. Always be wary of the "black" parts of the road, since it can be black ice.

5) Stay calm.

While it's easier said than done, keeping calm, cool, and collected will help you get through the patch of black ice safely. If you find yourself in a stressful situation, pull over onto a safe section of the road or highway, take a few deep breaths to regain your composure, and continue driving. Never stop on the shoulder of roads as this is an extremely dangerous place where you're likely to be struck by another passing vehicle or a car that has hit an icy patch. If you need to, pull into the nearest parking lot. Think about parallel parking, you need to stay focus and calm to execute this task!

6) Practice and know how your brakes function.

The best way to improve your winter driving skills is to practice. This can be as simple as practicing in an empty parking lot and becoming familiar with how your car reacts to sudden braking on ice, or it can be done on a track designed for practicing driving on ice and snow. Before hitting the road, read up on local weather and road reports and avoid driving in adverse weather conditions. If you notice that ice is forming on your side mirrors, it's an indication that the temperatures are ideal for black ice to form. With a bit of practice and knowledge, you'll improve your chances of staying safe on the road in icy and wintry weather.



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Chaplain Letter:

Gold, Circumstance, and Mud by CH Brian Minietta

There is a story written by a father whose wife went Christmas shopping one afternoon. The father was enjoying the quiet time at home, reclining on the couch in the den, half-dozing and half-watching a college football game. Suddenly, the children disturbed his peace by loudly announcing, "Daddy, we have a play to put on. Do you want to see it?"

Daddy didn't, but he knew that he should; so, he went into the living room and sat down, a one man audience. He saw quickly that it was a Christmas play. At the foot of the piano bench was a flashlight. It was turned on and wrapped in "swaddling clothes" and lying in a shoe box. Then six-year-old Rex came in wearing Daddy's bathrobe and carrying a mop-handle. He was followed by ten-year-old Nancy, who announced, "I'm Mary, and this is Joseph." Then four-year-old Trudy entered with pillowcases over her arms which she waved about, saying, "I'm an angel."

Finally, in came eight-year-old Anne, riding a camel. At least, she moved as though she was riding a camel, because she had on her mother's high-heeled shoes. She was bedecked in all the jewelry available and carried a pillow, on which were three Christmas presents. She went over and bowed before the "Holy Family" and announced, "I am all three Wise Men. I bring precious gifts: gold, circumstance, and mud!"

That was all. The play was over. But Daddy did not laugh. He did not correct his daughter. Rather, he prayed because he realized how near his little daughter had come to the truth of Christmas. Of course she had meant to say, I bring precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but even as she mixed up the words, she had gotten right the heart of Christmas. She had underscored the message of Christmas because Christ reminds us that we can indeed bring to God our gold, our circumstances, and yes, even our mud! We can bring to God our gold...that is our money, our possessions, our substance, our tithes and offerings, and the material things that are so valued in the world we live in.

We can also bring to God our circumstances...that is our joy and sorrows, our victories and defeats, our biggest concerns and our smallest worries. We worship a "God with us" who is interested in every aspect of our life. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from God and His love. Finally, we can bring to God our mud...that is, we can bring our weaknesses, our failures, our foibles, our mistakes, our inadequacies, and even our sins. We can bring to God our mud, and somehow, every time, through the miracle of His grace, he can redeem our mud and reshape it and use it for good! As you reflect on your gold, circumstances, and mud this holiday season, your Religious Support Team is ready and willing to reflect with you. If we can assist in any way, please feel free to reach out to the Chaplain's office at 910-951-2515.

****100% Absolute Confidentiality *100% Confidential**



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Celebrated Days in December

St. Nicholas Day

Celebrated in many European cultures, St. Nicholas Day on December 6 honors Saint Nicholas, the 4th-century Bishop of Myra, known for his kindness, charity, and commitment to justice. Saint Nicholas, the inspiration behind the modern-day figure of Santa Claus, is also called Father Christmas, Papa Noel, and Kris Kringle. As the patron saint of Greece and Russia, he is celebrated for his anonymous acts of generosity and his efforts to reward good deeds and call out injustice.

This day is a time to embrace the spirit of giving and kindness, making it an excellent opportunity to spread joy during the holiday season.

Winter Solstice

The Winter Solstice on December 21 marks the shortest day and longest night of the year, officially ushering in the start of winter. While not a holiday, it is a significant observance for many cultures around the world, symbolizing renewal, reflection, and the gradual return of longer daylight hours. Businesses typically follow normal working hours on this day.

Christmas Day

A cherished holiday for millions of Christians around the world, Christmas Day is celebrated on December 25 with a variety of traditions centered on family, giving, and joy. From decorating trees and exchanging Christmas gifts to sharing meals and attending religious services, the day holds deep cultural and spiritual significance. It's a time for connection, reflection, and spreading kindness.



Financial Survey

Take our financial survey here!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcAd7G6pUrrkF8BzD14RK4hJSHfFwDR3iaGUyLZKn5bA_Tlw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Do you want to reduce the amount you owe on your AER loan? Improve your financial knowledge and receive a \$250(E5 and above) or \$500(E4 and below) credit on your current loan balance by watching the Financial Literacy Training videos at:

[Caution-www.financialfrontline.org](http://www.financialfrontline.org) < Caution-<https://www.financialfrontline.org/tools-and-resources/educational-videos/> > and completing a short quiz (scoring 80% or higher) within 90 days. (Members of Active, Guard and Reserve on title 10 Only)

To go directly to the quiz or view your account online, check your balance, make a payment, view payment history, and more - follow the link:

[Caution- https://aerprod.powerappsportals.us](https://aerprod.powerappsportals.us) < Caution-<https://aerprod.powerappsportals.us/> > . First time users will have to create an account using two-factor authentication.

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