



FAIRFIELD GOOD NEWS

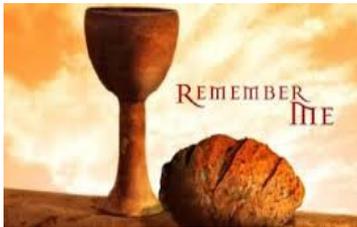


“KNOWING CHRIST AND MAKING HIM KNOWN”

December 2015

Important Events:

Dec. 6—Worship & Communion 10 am



Dec. 13— Congregation Meeting



Dec. 24— Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30 pm



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From the Desk of Pastor



Advent is a time to prepare us to celebrate what God has done for us at Christmas. It is a time for us to focus our hearts and minds, in the middle of the chaos that is going on all around us, on what really matters.

The four themes of Advent are:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Hope

Each of these themes bring us into the presence of the God who loves us so much that he sent his only Son to be our Savior. Christ was born in Bethlehem with a purpose. The purpose was to bring salvation to a lost world, to bring light into a world filled with darkness, to bring joy into a world filled with unrest, to bring peace into a world filled with hatred and violence, to bring hope into a world filled with despair.

It is a time for us to slow down and reflect on the love and mercy of our God so that when Christmas comes again we are ready to experience in the depth of our being what God has done and is doing for each of us.

I know that this is a busy time of year for you. But do not neglect the most important part of the Advent and Christmas season. Let God’s love fill you to overflowing so that you have something to share with whomever God brings into your life.

Christ is Emmanuel, “God with us”. Experience the indwelling love of God, and share that love and joy and peace and hope with everyone.

Merry Christmas to all!

Allan

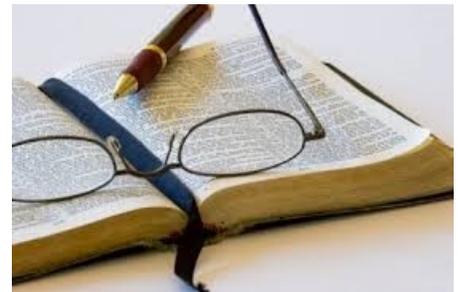
WORSHIP—DECEMBER

Dec. 6	Matthew 9:1-13	Christ Came to Be the Divine Physician
Dec. 13	Matthew 20:17-28	Christ Came to Be a Servant
Dec. 20	Luke 9:49-56	Christ Came to Be a Divine Savior
Dec. 24	John 1:1-18	What Child Is This?
Dec. 27	Luke 15:1-7	Christ Came as the Divine Seeker



BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER

Dec. 2	7:15 pm	Study
Dec. 6	9:00 am	Romans
Dec. 9	7:15 pm	Study
Dec. 13	9:00 am	Romans
Dec. 16	7:15 pm	Study
Dec. 20	9:00 am	Romans
Dec. 27	9:00 am	Romans
Tuesdays		Prayer group prayers at home

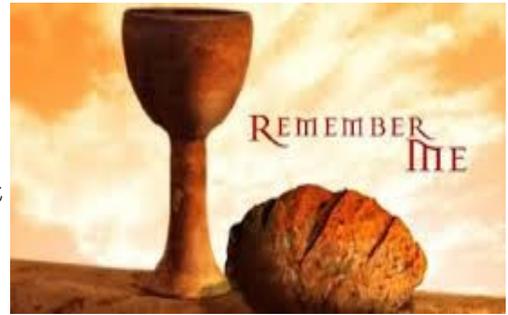


ADVENT COMMUNION

On December 6th (the second Sunday in Advent), we will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Table.

As we celebrate the coming of our Savior into the world, it is fitting that we remember the reason why he came. He came to die for our sins. He gave his life for us.

Join us on the 6th and eat with us at the Lord's Table.



CHURCH DECORATING

On Saturday, December 5th, we need your help to decorate the Christmas tree and the sanctuary.

Come at 8:30 am and help complete the preparation of the sanctuary for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Everyone is welcome.

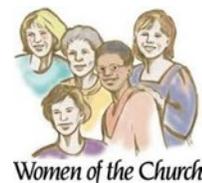


EverReady Circle Christmas Party December 14 , 7:00 pm

The EverReady Circle will hold its Christmas meeting on December 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the Myron home. It will be fun evening with desserts provided. All women of the church are invited to attend.



EverReady Circle



December 2015

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2 BIBLE STUDY 7:15 p	3	4	5 DECORATE SANCTUARY 8:30 a
6 BIBLE CLASS 9 WORSHIP 10 COMMUNION ADVENT 2	7 CONSISTORY	8	9 BIBLE STUDY 7:15 p	10	11	12
13 BIBLE CLASS 9 WORSHIP 10 CONGREGA- TIONAL MEET 11:30 a ADVENT 3	14 EVERREADY CIRCLE PARTY 7 p	15	16 BIBLE STUDY 7:15 p	17	18	19
20 BIBLE CLASS 9 WORSHIP 10 CHRISTMAS COOKIE COF- FEE HOUR CAROLING ADVENT 4	21	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:30 p	25	26
27 BIBLE CLASS 9 WORSHIP 10 COFFEE HOUR FOR CONOVERS	28	29	30	31		

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13th, following the worship service. We will have a light lunch with meeting to follow.

We will hear about the year that has ended and our plans for the coming year.

We will approve our budget for 2016 and elect elders and deacons.

This is an important meeting and we need you to be there. Please pray for the meeting and for those God calls to serve his church.



Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour & Caroling Sunday, December 20

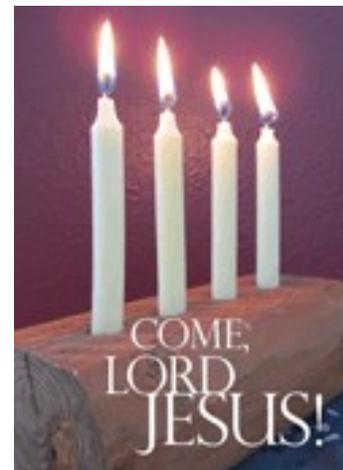
Stay after worship for homemade Christmas cookies and a cup of coffee
Then, if you enjoy singing favorite Christmas hymns, take that love to shut in people who cannot get out during this joyous season.



The wonder of Christmas

At Christmas, shivers in the spine have nothing to do with climate. Songs are sung not with the lips but with the heart. And light comes not from utilities but from the heavens.

—Author unknown



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



We gather on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is a time to hear again the real Christmas story, which began in the Old Testament and is fulfilled in the Gospels.

Our service is at 7:30 pm.

Come with your family and hear the scripture lessons, sing the carols, listen to the message, and join in the candle lighting as we close our celebration with the singing of "Silent Night".

"O Come, Let us adore him" again this night.



December Birthdays



- 11 Gene Favatella
- 12 Gail Montone
- 19 Jeremy Boling
- 20 Jessica Mirabelli
- 22 Sarah Petersen Basile
- 26 Rafael Nadal



Christmas Poinsettia

You may order a poinsettia in memory or honor of a family member, loved one or anyone you would like. These flowers will decorate our church during the Christmas season.

We will be taking orders for the poinsettias through Sunday, Dec. 13th. Each poinsettia will cost \$8.

If you would like to place an order, fill out the order form below and return it to one of the deacons.

Name _____

Number of Poinsettia(s) _____

In Memory/Honor of: _____

WINTER WEATHER COLLECTION

We are collecting new or clean, gently used bedding (sheets & blankets) and warm winter men's clothing for

Good Shepherd Mission in Paterson.



AND if you have new or clean, gently used women's clothing, bring that too. Market Street Mission and Eva's Village

will gladly take them.

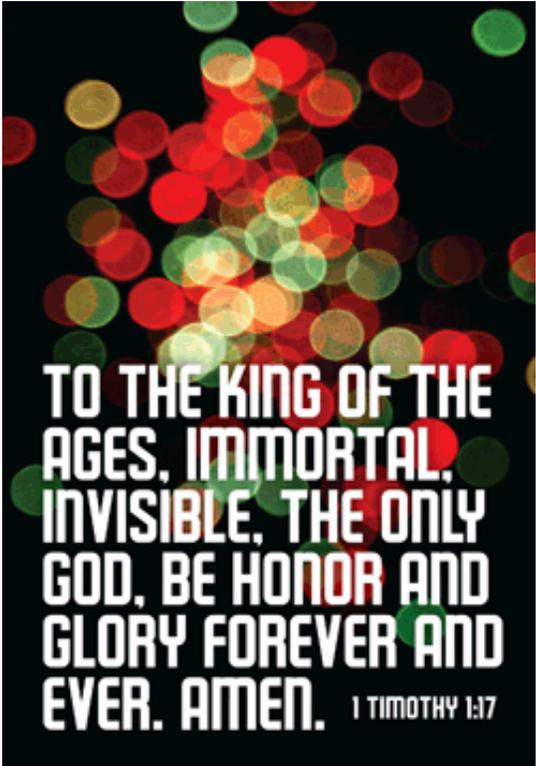


Christmas to-do list

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among brothers,
to make music in the heart.

—Howard Thurman



TO THE KING OF THE
AGES, IMMORTAL,
INVISIBLE, THE ONLY
GOD, BE HONOR AND
GLORY FOREVER AND
EVER. AMEN. 1 TIMOTHY 1:17



Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Update

Our shoeboxes have been delivered to our designated collection center. They have been checked by Samaritan's Purse volunteers and will be shipped to children around the world.

When a child receives an OCC shoebox, they have an opportunity to enroll in the Samaritan's Purse 12-lesson discipleship program, *The Greatest Journey*. Led by trained local teachers, children become grounded in their faith and learn how to share the Gospel with others. Children who complete the course receive a graduation certificate and a New Testament in their own language. The cost for these classes, materials, etc. is \$6/per child.

Our per/box shipping costs have been covered and in addition, through your donations, we have also covered the cost of *The Greatest Journey* for 18 children.

A few weeks after the shoeboxes are shipped, we will know to which countries they were delivered and then we will be able to see stories of the children who have received shoeboxes by going to <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ> and click on OCC Stories.

God with us

Faith isn't about knowing all of the right stuff or obeying a list of rules. It's something more, something more costly because it involves being present and making a sacrifice.

Perhaps that's why Jesus is sometimes called Immanuel – "God with us." I think that's what God had in mind, for Jesus to be present, to just be with us. It's also what he has in mind for us when it comes to other people.

—Bob Goff, *Love Does*

Advent

Praying through Advent

By Nola Boezeman

Unlike the secular calendar year, the church year does not begin on January 1. It begins four Sundays before Christmas Day with the season of Advent. The word "advent" means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire time of Advent is on the three comings of Christ: remembrance of the birth of Jesus the Christ in the first advent, celebration of the second advent of God's Spirit given to believers, and anticipation of the third advent of the return of Christ as king.

Advent is a time of expectation, preparation, and longing. We wait, watch, and prepare for the coming of Christ Jesus into our lives. While the secular calendar places Christmas at the end of the year, it is fitting that as followers of Christ we begin our church year in anticipation of the nativity of our Savior, whose birth reminds us that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

The following guide is an invitation to set aside the busyness and anxiety that often overwhelm us during the weeks preceding the celebration of our Savior's birth. It is intended to be used with an Advent wreath, but can be adapted if your family does not use an Advent wreath. All family members should be invited to participate in some way, to intentionally engage in a time of prayer and preparation for the coming of the Messiah, Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings!



First Week of Advent: HOPE

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).

Daily Scripture readings:

- Sunday, November 29: Isaiah 64:1-9
- Monday, November 30: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- Tuesday, December 1: Mark 13:24-37
- Wednesday, December 2: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- Thursday, December 3: Isaiah 2:1-5
- Friday, December 4: Isaiah 60:18-22
- Saturday, December 5: Romans 15:4-13

Prayer:

God of hope, we are the clay and you are the potter. Restore us, Lord God of hosts; let your face shine. Wake us up and keep us alert with the expectant hope that we will beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks. Strengthen us; give us enough hope to keep us from complacency, to keep us working for the kingdom of God, and to keep us living faithfully so that in all things you will be glorified through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Second Week of Advent: PEACE

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Daily Scripture readings:

- Sunday, December 6: Isaiah 40:1-11
- Monday, December 7: Psalm 85
- Tuesday, December 8: 2 Peter 3:8-15

- Wednesday, December 9: Mark 1:1-8
- Thursday, December 10: Isaiah 11:1-10
- Friday, December 11: Isaiah 9:1-7
- Saturday, December 12: Revelation 21:1-6

Prayer:

Everlasting God of Peace, in the wilderness of the Jordan you sent a messenger to prepare the way for the coming of your Son, whose first advent was surprising and unexpected--a humble birth in a stable in the middle of the night. We don't know when or how, but we know Christ will come again. We wait in anticipation, not in fear, as we prepare to welcome our Savior, the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, the one who makes all things new. Come soon, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Third Week of Advent: JOY

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Daily Scripture readings:

- Sunday, December 13: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
- Monday, December 14: Psalm 126
- Tuesday, December 15: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- Wednesday, December 16: John 1:6-8, 19-28
- Thursday, December 17: Psalm 98
- Friday, December 18: Luke 2:8-15
- Saturday, December 19: Romans 16:25-27

Prayer:

O God who brings joy, loves justice, and leads us in the path of righteousness: we pray that those who sow in tears may reap with shouts of joy. Keep us as alert as the shepherds living in the fields so that we will see and bear daily witness to the perfect gift that you have made known to us in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Fourth Week of Advent: LOVE

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Daily Scripture readings:

- Sunday, December 20: 2 Samuel 7:1-16
- Monday, December 21: Luke 1:26-38
- Tuesday, December 22: Luke 1:39-45

- Wednesday, December 23: Luke 1:46-56
- Thursday, Christmas Eve: Luke 2:1-20

Prayer:

God of love--God who is love--you are the source of our hope, peace, joy, and love. As we strive to further your kingdom on earth by sharing these virtues with others, give us the courage to respond in faith as Mary did. We have nothing to fear because you are with us always, along with your Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Christmas Day: December 25

Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5).

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-14

Prayer:

Loving God, thank you for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, the true light that darkness has not overcome. The Lord is come! Christ is born! Hallelujah--Amen!

The Christmas Season

It's not over on December 25!

We often think of Christmas as a single day, but it is actually a season of the year. It begins with Christmas Day, December 25, and continues for 12 more days until January 6, known as Epiphany or Three Kings' Day. Epiphany means "insight" or "revelation." This day recalls the magi, who revealed Jesus to the world as Lord and King by bringing gifts to honor his birth.

Consider saving one gift to open on Epiphany, January 6, to celebrate the gift-giving of the magi. Continue to use your Advent wreath throughout the Christmas season by lighting the Christ candle before dinner, saying, "Christ is born! Hallelujah!"