



Trinity United Methodist Church Newsletter



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Week of November 27, 2017

A word about Advent, Wreathes, and Candles

This Sunday, December 3, we will begin the season of Advent.

Some may not be familiar with the term “Advent” — It is a season of the church year – The beginning of the church year – The first 4 Sundays of the Church Year; the 4 Sundays before Christmas.

The Word “advent” means “*coming*”- as in someone important, a King, who is coming for a visit

The main themes of Advent are waiting and preparing. -- Waiting and preparing for the coming of Christ.

--The Hebrews still wait for the Messiah to be born. -- We wait and prepare to celebrate the coming of the messiah who *has come* as a baby, born in a stable in Bethlehem.

-- Jesus promised that one day he will return, so we wait and prepare to meet the messiah who *is coming* again

-- And Jesus is *always coming* to us in fresh, new ways every day, and so during Advent we prepare to meet the one who comes to us anew today.

There are many traditions associated with Advent. One of those traditions is the Advent wreath and candles. We mark time as we light candles each week, one this week ... two next week ..., three the next week ... - recognizing the anticipation of lighting all four candles, and it becomes a symbol of our waiting and preparing for the fullness of Christ who has come, who is coming again, and who comes daily to set things right.....

The Advent Wreath tradition began in Germany (some say began as pagan practice) adapted by the Lutheran churches perhaps in the mid-1600’s. The tradition spread to this country in the 1930’s and 40’s Used almost exclusively in Liturgical style worship until very recent times when adapted by more congregational and charismatic congregations.

The wreath is symbolic:

Wreath of greenery—eternal life in Christ

Circular—eternity of God

Candles—Christ, the light of the world—and the light of God that shines in darkness

The candles are usually purple or blue signifying royalty and penitence—

Some congregations use Red candles symbolizing the blood of Christ

Some churches use white candles signifying purity

Sometimes one candle is rose/pink colored (used 1/2 way through advent) to symbolize joy

No “official” meaning is given to the candles. They are an aid to worship and reflect the themes of the Season of advent.—waiting, preparing,

Different churches and congregations assign different meanings to the candles: meanings reflecting various aspects of God or aspects of life of faith.

Some traditions focus on waiting—each candle represents 1000 years from Adam and Eve to time of Christ

Other possibilities:

- prophesy, Bethlehem, shepherds, angels
- Mercy, Love, grace, power,
- Prayer, Penitence, Patience, Promise
- I read of one church where the candles were symbols of: Shepherds, the Magi, Angels, Joseph and Mary.

Each week in worship they would place figures from nativity as the candle was lit. Finally, on Christmas Eve the Christ candle was lit as the figure of the infant was placed in the manger of the creche’.

Generally the four candles represent Hope, Peace, Joy ,Love.

This Sunday we will renew the tradition of lighting a candle on the Advent wreath as we wait and prepare for the coming of Christ.

Searching for a Children’s Ministry Director

We are still searching for that person who will head up our ministry with children and youth. We are earnestly praying that God will send the person that God wants for this essential ministry. If you know of someone you think would be good for the job have them send a resume’ to the church. If you don’t know of anyone at least join us in prayer.

Will’s Wonderings:

The season of Advent is a time for waiting and preparing; a time for asking tough questions – not like “What am I going to get my Mom for Christmas,” but tough questions like:

"Mommy," the little girl asked, "If it were the end of the world, and everyone was getting ready to die..."

The mother stopped, and said an ultra-quick prayer for wisdom to answer this question. "Yes?" The mother prodded her daughter.

The little girl finished her theological inquiry: "If the end of the world came, would you have to take your library books back?"

That young lady did not want any unfinished business in her life.

The Season of Advent is a time of preparation; not just a time to prepare for Christmas, but also time to prepare for the coming of Christ – again. It is a time to clear up any unfinished business; mend any broken relationships; settle any doubts ... (Adapted from *Christian Voices*)

I wonder, Church, how about you? Is there some unfinished business in your life that needs to be taken care of? – some relationship that needs to be healed – some invitation that needs to be made – some gift that needs to be given – or received? Is there anything about which you would be embarrassed or ashamed if Jesus were to come today?

Shalom, Brother Will

See YOU Sunday!

Up-Coming Sermons

Sermon series shaped by “Christmas Gifts That Won’t Break”

- December 3 - The Gift of Hope – Matthew 1:18-21
- December 10 - The Gift of Love - Luke 2:15-20
- December 17 - The Gift of Joy – Matthew 1:22-25
- December 24 - The Gift of Peace – Luke 2:8-14
- December 31 – The Gift of Light - John 1:1-13
- January 6 - The Gift of Baptism – Mark 1:4-11

UPCOMING Opportunities:

Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study. We are currently studying the Lectionary readings for the upcoming week. Come join us. We need your input!

Friday, December 1 – 6:00 p.m. – Methodist Women’s ornament exchange

Saturday, December 2 – 9:00 a.m. - “Hanging of the Greens” Join with us as we decorate the church for the advent and Christmas season.

Sunday, December 3 - First Sunday Covered Dish Fellowship

Sunday, December 10 – after church – Baby Shower for Michael and Mariechelle Salazar

Sunday, December 10 (NOTE DATE CHANGE) – 4:00 p.m.-- Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant

Thursday – Saturday – December 14-16 – Last Minute Toy Store – need volunteers and donations

New location: Davidson County Sheriff’s Office Service Center, 5117 Harding Place, Nashville,

Saturday, December 16 – Graceworks’ *The Manger* ministry needs folks to work in “the Blessing Room.” See Brother Will for details.

Sunday, December 17 – 3:00 p.m. -- Choir presentations – Songs of the Season

Sunday, December 24 – 4:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve worship

GraceWorks has continuous need to donations to their food pantry: **Critical Needs:** Canned green vegetables (not green beans), Canned beans, Canned meat (not tuna), Cereal, Hamburger Helper type boxed meals, Soup. Please support this important ministry with your regular donations. The box is located beside the side door.

Prayer Ministry

The following persons are part of the prayer ministry at Trinity UMC:

Elva Beard	Hal Newman	Sam Richardson
Larry Eastwood	Kenneth Stevens	Judy Richardson
Leslie Eastwood	Patricia Stevens	Charles Wilson

Part of our membership vows in Trinity UMC is that we will all pray for the ministries of our church so we are all praying, fight? However the members of the prayer ministry of Trinity United Methodist church covenant with one another to pray daily for:

- Those concerns on the prayer list of the Church and for healing of body and spirit for all persons listed;
- For each ministry of the church that each ministry would work to bring the Gospel to those within our community and most especially to bring the Gospel to those who have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior;
- For all the members of the Trinity UMC community that they be led and enabled to live as the Body of Christ;

- For our local community and all its needs, especially for those who are struggling with the burden of poverty;
- For our nation and our world that God help lead the people of the world to live in peace with God's Kingdom.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry please see Brother Will and we will be sure to add you to the list.

The Nanette Crowell Companions in Christ Sunday School Class: We enjoy fellowship beginning at 9:45 with our study beginning at 10:00. Our current study is, "Anxious For Nothing," based on the 4th chapter of Philippians All are welcome to join us as we pursue Biblical truths and the application for our lives.

Laughter is GOOD Medicine

They were having guests for dinner and at the table, the mother turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

As you are probably aware our offering income for the year is lagging behind our budgeted needs. In the coming weeks, please give generously.

Worship Leaders Schedule

December 3

Rachel Newman, **Liturgist**

Dana and Marty Bauguess, **Greeters**

Mike and Elaine Rohrig, **Ushers**

December 10

Linda Robinson, **Liturgist**

Dorise and Bill LeCates, **Greeters**

Tommy and Jo Cotton, **Ushers**

Birthdays in December

**Pam Jones, 12/6; Dorise LeCates, 12/13; Hal Newman, 12/15; Lindsey Aldred, 12/27;
Brandon Stewart, 12/29; Rachel Newman, 12/31.**

Happy Birthday to each of you!