
The Good News

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November 28, 2021 First Sunday of Advent



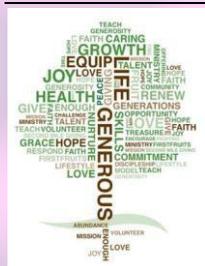
**Joint Worship with Christ United Methodist
In-person worship will be offered in the church sanctuary
at 10:00 A.M. (note time change for this service only).**

**This service will not be live-streamed or uploaded to YouTube
(however, you can view last year's service on YouTube at:
<https://youtu.be/i78KhHuhZGM>)**

Our TV broadcast on NBC at 9:30 A.M. will feature a re-run of
last year's service for the first Sunday of Advent.

Coffee Fellowship will be held in Fellowship Hall after the service. Remember to wear your face mask so it completely covers your nose and mouth throughout the service and try to observe some social distancing.

If you are not feeling well (fever or chills, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea) please stay home, take care of yourself, and take advantage of our virtual offerings. Thank you.¹



Stewardship Update

Planning is underway for our 2022 budget. If you have not had an opportunity to submit a pledge for the financial support of our ministries, **please do so as soon as possible**. Pledges can be submitted through the mail or by contacting Holly in the office. Additional pledge cards are available at the church on Sunday morning. **So far, we have received 64 pledges for a total of \$122,258.**



Christian Education News

Just a friendly reminder—there is no Sunday School or nursery November 28. The nursery will be open but unattended; parents who wish to use the nursery will need to stay with their children. Sunday school and nursery will resume on December 5.

Thanksgiving Baskets Delivered!

Our 3rd annual Thanksgiving Basket Offering Project wrapped up on Sunday, November 21. Six Thanksgiving dinners (plus some extras) were delivered on Monday, November 22 by **Sue Turton, Suzan Seery, Linda Grossman** and **Janet Koostra**. Many thanks to Sunday school families who donated money and the following food: green beans, corn, peas, carrots, cereal, potatoes, stuffing, gravy and cranberries. The Christian Service Board provided turkeys, pies and disposable roasting pans. Members of the Christian Education Board donated cereal, olives, bread, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix and pancake syrup. **Linda Grossman** brought the celery and onions. **Dave Neagle** tossed in some pancake mix and syrup plus some other non-perishable food. And some of our Sunday school offering bought milk, butter and filled in a few items. A great big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this possible for the families who now have Thanksgiving dinner.

Free Advent Devotional

If you're looking for a creative spiritual guide through Advent, try downloading (for free) Kate Bowler's 4-Week Advent Devotional. You can download it at: <https://katebowler.com/advent/>

If you would like us to download and print a copy for you, just let Rev. Lynne or Holly know.

Entering into the Unexpected – an Advent Journey

"We're expecting." It's that familiar two-word proclamation about an upcoming birth. The snarky side of me always wants to ask, "Expecting what?" or "Does that include expecting the terrible twos, raging adolescence, and college tuition?" I tend to shush my snarky side and simply live into the joy of the moment. The holiday season tends to bring with it its own sense of "we're expecting...." We're expecting joy. We're expecting fun parties. We're expecting the formation of great new memories and the continuation of long-held traditions. Maybe we're expecting that this year will finally be the year that....

....The family get together won't be fraught with political division;
....We really will get all the shopping and decorating done on time;
....There really will be peace on earth and good will toward all.

I'm not so sure that we should get all excited about expectations at all. What if we were to be open to all the unexpectedness that the Biblical Christmas story holds? The shepherds weren't expecting the angels. The wise men weren't expecting to find a king in a stable. And Mary certainly wasn't expecting to be expecting.

What if we were to go ahead and simply set the stage and then watch and wait and listen? What if we went ahead and did the decorating and baking and wrapping and then simply sat back and wondered what it is that God is at work preparing to "birth" into this world?

As we prepare to step into the first week of Advent, our tradition turns to the Advent wreath and the first candle, often referred to as the Hope Candle. We tell the Biblical stories of our ancestors in faith who had long hoped for a messiah. We rejoice that when Jesus was born, that hope was fulfilled.... But not in the way it was expected.

May we make preparations that remind us that the long, love-filled story of which we are a part, is filled with the unexpected and may that give us hope. It's a story full of twists and turns and new life in so many unexpected ways.

May your first steps into Advent be blessed with unexpected hope.

Rev. Lynne



Warm, cozy mittens lined with fleece will be available for purchase on Sunday morning at the church- November 28th and December 5th. These will keep you warm and make great gifts for all on your giving list! **Price is \$20.00 per pair.** Sizes range from small-xxl. The sale of the mittens supports the other mission projects of the UCC/CUMC combined sewing group.

Family Promise is Hiring!

Our friends at Family Promise are going to be hiring a Family Advocate! This is a full-time position for someone who is passionate about serving children and their families. Have a look at the job description on their website: <https://www.familypromisegf.org/>