

Advent

Advent is the church season consisting of the four Sundays before Christmas, and through Christmas Eve. Advent, by a word, is not mentioned in the Bible, but the concept is certainly present.

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word "adventus," which means "coming." The Greek word used in the New Testament is "parousia," and means "coming" or "presence," and most usually refers to the second coming of Jesus.

There are two ways to look at and understand the season of Advent. First, it is the preparation of Christ's birth in Bethlehem and looking back into the past of what happened then. This preparation is reflected in many of the prophetic writings of the Old Testament but also includes the timeline of events leading up to the birth of Jesus. Second, the season of Advent is eschatological, meaning that it can also refer to the second coming of Jesus sometime into **our** future.

Most of us are comfortable and used to thinking and celebrating Advent in the first way. We identify with the preparation of Jesus' birth. Most mothers can identify with Mary, and most fathers can identify with Joseph, as they were making arrangements for their first child's birth. We also can identify with the shepherds' fear as they were greeted by angels singing in their fields that holy night! (If I was one of those shepherds, I would have probably said, "Holy cow!" or should that be "Holy sheep!?") All of these kinds of events make sense to us and they are found in the Bible. Besides, many of us are most comfortable with what we already know or learned previously.

So how can we celebrate the Advent Season in the second way--celebrating the hope and expectation of Jesus' second coming?

Well, the neat thing here is that it makes it so relevant to us today. We know about the past preparations of Mary, Joseph, and the others, but that doesn't have a whole to do with us directly. The second-coming, however, has everything to do with us! First of all, we have to be ready! Are you prepared for Christ's return? Do you have your life and your soul in good order? Are you a strong, faithful believer who is ready to greet your judgment day before the Lord? Looking at Advent in this way, requires us to make proper preparations. It has much more to do with us!

I like to incorporate both ways of understanding and celebrating the Advent Season. After all, there is great joy in singing the shepherds' songs or thinking about Mary's smile. Advent, to me at least, would be missing something if we did not recall these past events. But I also like to include the future sense of Advent when celebrating it this month. I have to ask myself the hard questions: Am I ready? Have I made all the necessary preparations for Jesus' coming?

Here's wishing you have a wonderful Advent celebration this year!



Bob Shank

Daily Scripture Readings

December 1
Proverbs 4

December 2
Proverbs 5

December 3
Proverbs 6

December 4
Proverbs 7

December 5
Proverbs 8

December 6
Proverbs 9

December 7
Proverbs 10

December 8
Proverbs 11

December 9
Proverbs 12

December 10
Proverbs 13

December 11
Proverbs 14

December 12
Proverbs 15

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Proverbs 16

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Proverbs 17

December 15
Proverbs 18

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Proverbs 19

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Proverbs 21

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Proverbs 23

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Proverbs 24

December 22
Proverbs 25

December 23
Proverbs 26

December 24
Proverbs 27

December 25
Proverbs 28

December 26
Proverbs 29

December 27
Proverbs 30

December 28
Proverbs 31

December 29
Ecclesiastes 1

December 30
Ecclesiastes 2

December 31
Ecclesiastes 3

Gather! Grow! Make a Difference!

STEWARDSHIP

A Way of Life



	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
Needed	5121.86	5121.86	5121.86	5121.86
Envelope Giving	4029.50	3665.10	4443.00	2926.00
Cap. Imp.	162.50	129.50	375.00	205.00
Lease (Rent)	105.00	50.00		
Plate	36.00	126.75	53.25	156.00
	-(788.86)	-(1150.51)	-(250.11)	-(1834.86)

Deficit through October = \$42,363.54

Elevator	250.00	85.00	155.00	\$85.00
Balance	\$60,635.69	\$60,550.59	\$60,395.69	\$60,310.69

Please review your giving for 2014 and if behind in your pledge for 2014 please give prayerful consideration to meeting your commitment by the end of the year. Thank you to all who have made a financial commitment to SUMC for 2015. Through mid November we have received 47 pledges for a total of \$109,882.00.

The Stewardship Committee asks for your prayers as we prepare for a new year as well as prayers for our church, its programs and its growth.

The Stewardship Committee: Carole Everitt, Paul Edinger, Fran Harrison, Dan Butz, Kirsten Lee, Ruth Weber, Sharon Cottle

Family Promise

As 2014 is coming to an end soon, I want to thank everyone who helped with Family Promise in any way at all. Any help given makes the process manageable. The program only works through the efforts of volunteers. Thank you everyone!

- Kathy Cook



“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you;
for this is the law and the prophets.” Matthew 7:12



Little Caesars Pizza Kits!

We'll be selling Little Caesars Pizza Kits in January, 2015 as part of a fundraising program for our church. Look for additional announcements at the beginning of the New Year! We're hoping to have the kits delivered in time for Super Bowl Sunday! Pizza Pizza!



UMW Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 13 at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Room

All women of SUMC are invited! Please contact Lois Shaffer if you have any questions.

Look for additional updates in the Sunday bulletins.

Important Dates in December

12/14 Choir Christmas Cantata

12/20 Free Movie Night - 6:00 pm in our sanctuary

12/24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30 pm

12/24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion 11:00 pm





December Birthdays

1	Tim Stewart
5	Carol Romansky
11	James Lewis
11	Emily Louise Vail
13	Eleanor Bentzoni
14	Jimmy Stewart
18	Alex Herrero
18	Carole Vuchak
20	Lydia Shank
20	James Shank
23	Robin Farrow
26	Betty Michelin
28	Rose Schwedler
28	Cindy Transue
31	Crista Kopec

If you would like a card on your special day, please call the church office - 570-421-6020.

SONG OF JOY

-Karen Vaughn

THINK

*It takes a broken heart
To write a song of joy.*

FEEL

*The creases in my heart
Making little rivers
Where new waters run.*

LISTEN

*Hear the sounds of
peace,
Running in the veins
Where sadness lived.*

SEE

*The rainbow of lights
Blending to form
A stream of hope.*

PRAISE

*You Jesus
For Your birth and
Unending life.*

SING

Amen and Amen



Once again this year I'll be collecting holiday cards to send to hospitalized veterans. Our local Red Cross chapter is not participating in the Holiday Mail for Heroes program any longer. I am going to mail the cards to the VA Medical Center in Philadelphia and they will distribute the cards to the residents. It only takes a minute to fill out an extra card or two to show your appreciation for the sacrifice members of the military community make. Please do not include any kind of letter, monetary donation or other insert in the card and don't use cards with glitter. Use a generic greeting such as "Dear Service Member" and sign your name at the bottom if you wish. You don't need to include your return address and the envelope is not necessary either; the card is what is most important. The deadline to mail the cards is December 12. Please drop off your cards to me in the church office or leave them outside my office in the box next to my door.

Thank you! Jackie

“A Christmas Carol” - starring Jim Carrey

Saturday, December 20 @ 6 pm in the sanctuary

(Rated PG; runs for 96 minutes)

An animated retelling of Charles Dickens' classic novel about a Victorian-era miser taken on a journey of self-redemption, courtesy of several mysterious Christmas apparitions.

Free popcorn!

Bottled water and movie candy available for a small fee.

SUMC t-shirts will also be available for sale.

All are welcome - children and adults



Minted Nuts

Lynn Seip

Dash Salt
1 cup sugar
2 cups pecans
1/3 cup water
1/2 tsp. peppermint extract
green food color

Boil sugar and water rapidly for 2 minutes. Remove from heat, stir in peppermint extract and green food color. Add nuts and then stir until syrup becomes cloudy. Turn mixture onto a greased cookie sheet. Break apart and separate nuts.

Graham Cracker Brownies

Kelly Edinger

6 oz. package chocolate chips
1 can (14 oz.) sweet & condensed milk
1 tsp. vanilla
12 graham crackers, finely crumbled.

Combine all ingredients thoroughly. Place in a well-greased 8" square pan. Bake in a preheated oven at 350° for 20-25 minutes.

Ginger Cookies

Krista Montgomery

1 cup sugar
3/4 cup shortening
1 egg
1/4 cup molasses
1/2 tsp. salt
2 cups flour
2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. cloves
1 tsp. ginger

Cream sugar and shortening and then add egg and molasses. Sift dry ingredients together and add them to the egg mixture. Roll in small balls and roll in sugar. Drop on baking sheet 1/2" apart. Bake 350° for 10 minutes. Yield: 80 small ginger cookies.



To Serve You in December

Greeters 8:30
 7 Cliff & Diane Rogell
 14 Eleanor Bentzoni
 21 Kay Bucci
 28 Janet Woolever
 11:00
 7 Sue & Bill Weitzmann
 14 Sherry Lombardi
 21 Annie & Bob Dellicker
 28 BJ Bachman

Ushers 8:30
 DeAnn Harris
 Janet Woolever
 Norma Snow
 Irene Goforth
 Kay Bucci

11:00
 Bob Cool

Counters
 Carole Everitt & Sue Gouger

Altar Guild
 Eleanor Bentzoni & Betty Schuler

Soup Kitchen

Sunday afternoons at 4:00pm
 7 E. Stroudsburg Baptist Sr. Youth
 Pastor Doug Romaine
 14
 21 Pocono Internal Medicine - Nancy Fisch
 28

Tuesday evenings at 6:00pm



OUR CHURCH STAFF:

Ministers Everyone
Pastors Bob Shank & Ted Good
Pastor of Church Growth Gar Pollard
Pastor Emeritus Tom Anderman
Church Secretary Jackie Herrero
Interim Choir Director Jeanette Kuhns
Organist Marti Lantz
Youth Leader Vin Zelizo
Handbell Director Lynn Seip
Custodian Matt Parton

OUR CHURCH LEADERS:

Daniel's Dream Team
 Chairperson, Boyd Butz
 boydbutz@stroudsburgumc.com

Worship
 Chairpersons, Ralph Harrison, Pastor Bob Shank
 bobshank@stroudsburgumc.com

Property & Building
 Chairperson, Dick Seip relseip@ptd.net

Servant Resource Team
 Chairperson, C. J. Penwell cjpen53@ptd.net

Stewardship
 Chairperson, Carole Everitt
 caroleeveritt@stroudsburgumc.com

Missions
 Chairperson, Alberta Weber
 albertaweber@stroudsburgumc.com

Membership & Evangelism
 Chairperson, Peggy Stewart bpstew@juno.com

Lay Leader Beryl Hellgren
 bykoh@verizon.net

Department of Music
East Stroudsburg University
of Pennsylvania

presents a

Winter Choral Concert

featuring the

A CAPPELLA ENSEMBLE
CONCERT CHOIR

James Maroney, director

Wednesday, December 3, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Cecilia S. Cohen Recital Hall
Fine & Performing Arts Center
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

Open to the public at no cost

For information, esuarts@esu.edu or 570-422-3483



For assistance or
special accommodations,
please call 570-422-3759

DECEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adults 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room 6:00 PM "A Study of the Lord's Prayer" Small Group	1 Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Cherub Choir 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group	2 6:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM Missions Meeting-Lounge	3 2:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group-Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Scout Den Meeting 6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal - AweSUM Ringers - Sanctuary 7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal - SUM Celebration Ringers - Sanctuary	4 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	5	6
7 Daniel's Dream Team Meeting following Charge Conference 8:30 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adults 11:00 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 12:30 PM Charge Conference 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room 6:00 PM "A Study of the Lord's Prayer" Small Group 6:00 PM Cub Leaders Planning Meeting	8 Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Cherub Choir 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group	9 6:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room	10 10:00 AM Bible Study - Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Scout Den Meeting 6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal - AweSUM Ringers - Sanctuary 7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal - SUM Celebration Ringers - Sanctuary	11 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	12	13 8:00 AM Breakfast with Santa - Venture Crew 86 2:00 PM UMW Christmas Tea-Fellowship Room
14 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adults 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room 6:00 PM "A Study of the Lord's Prayer" Small Group	15 7:00 PM Cherub Choir 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group	16 6:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room 7:00 PM Stitch & Pray Small Group-Lounge	17 10:00 AM Bible Study - Lounge 6:00 PM Cub Pack Meeting 6:00 PM Cub Scout Den Meeting 6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal - AweSUM Ringers - Sanctuary 7:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal - SUM Celebration Ringers - Sanctuary	18 Church Office Closed 10:00 AM My Brothers' Keepers Quilting & Little Quilts-Downstairs 7:00 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Youth Group Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	19	20 6:00 PM Free Movie Night "A Christmas Carol"-Sanctuary
21 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adults 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room 6:00 PM "A Study of the Lord's Prayer" Small Group	22 7:00 PM Cherub Choir 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group	23 6:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room	24 Church Office Closed 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Sanctuary 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion-Sanctuary	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School-Children through Adults 11:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary 4:00 PM Soup Kitchen-Dining Room	29 7:00 PM Cherub Choir 7:00 PM Mostly Mondays Small Group	30 6:00 PM Soup Kitchen 7:00 PM Digging Deeper Small Group-Conference Room	31 Church Office Closed	1 Happy New Year! Church Office Closed	2	3

STROUDSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
547 MAIN STREET
STROUDSBURG PA 18360
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 122
Stroudsburg, PA

December 2014

