

Our Journey Together

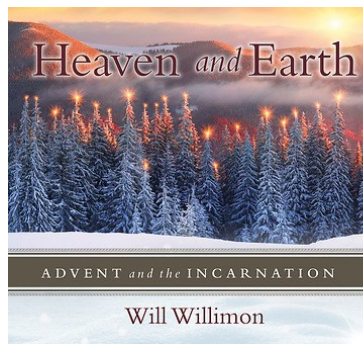
It is Advent! Which means the world outside of and all around the church revs up into high gear for all the holidays, all of the get-togethers, all of the concerts and parties and gift exchanges, and life seems to be all go-go-go from now until after New Year's. But the church calendar, the selected lectionary texts for this next several weeks, everything about Advent calls us to something different.

During this season we are called to a hopeful expectation – of preparing, of waiting, of watching, for the Incarnation of Christ, which Pastor Adam Hamilton calls “one of the foundational, and some might say scandalous, claims of the Christian faith: namely, that the God who created all that is, who sustains the universe by his power, came to us in Jesus. He did not simply inspire Jesus, or speak through Jesus as he might inspire or speak through people today. No, Incarnation claims that God actually became flesh in Jesus.”

We remember when this happened over 2,000 years ago, and we look forward, with hopeful expectation that Jesus will come to us once more.

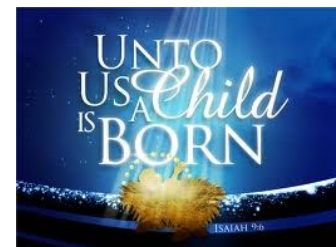
If we are to live differently from the hustle-bustle world we are apart of, if we are to live as disciples of Jesus and not of society, then we need a fresh start. Bishop Will Willimon in our study book for Advent says that it is not within our power to make a fresh start, it must come as a gift from God. He says, “What we need is a God who refuses to be trapped in eternity, a God who not only cares about us but is willing to show up among us and do something with us, here, now.”

This Advent, we are celebrating and anticipating the arrival of just such a God!



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Join our Family of Faith



Pastor Teresa will be having a meeting, December 3 following worship in the Church Library for any one interested in joining the church.

If you are interested or have any questions concerning membership of the church, please join in at this meeting.



Content Due

Do you have items you would like included in next month's newsletter?

If so, please have them into the church office no later than December 19.



December Ushers and Greeters

Dec 3, 10, 17

Greg & Beth Palmer

Dec 24, 25, 31

Dennis & Connie Fawcett

If you need to miss a week in which you are scheduled to usher, it is your responsibility to find someone to fill in for you.

Financial Update from Leadership Team

Financial Update as of October 31, 2023:

2023 General Fund Income Year to Date: \$106,169.21
 2023 General Fund Expenses Year to Date: \$137,587.10
 General Fund Difference: (\$31,417.89)



Mitten Tree



The Mitten Tree is ready for your donations of mittens, hats, scarves,

and socks.

Please bring any size of new or clean, gently used winter wear for children infant to young adult.

We will again be giving them to Helping Hands.



The Sunday School children will be presenting their program on Sunday December 17 during worship. Come and support the children in their always delightful presentation of Christmas.

Birthdays:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Dec 1 Jordan Speirs | Dec 19 Carol Winsell |
| Dec 4 Diane Moncur | Dec 20 Cassadee Deuter |
| Dec 6 Jordyn Deuter | Dec 21 MaryShaw |
| Dec 8 Spencer Fernholz | Dec 23 Danielle Grogan |
| Dec 9 Heath Smith | Dec 24 Ginger Van Zee |
| Dec 19 Arlette Heitzman | Dec 27 Dana Ruhnke |
| Dec 19 Sharon Kindle | Dec 30 Janice Wilbur |
| Dec 19 Greg Palmer | Dec 31 Sandy Greenough |
| | Dec 31 Janice Moncur |

Anniversaries:

- Dec 1 Larry & Carolyn Hall
- Dec 10 Gary & Bobbi Larson
- Dec 11 Maxon & Linda Conkey
- Dec 15 Merle & Glenda Bertsch
- Dec 16 Fred & Bev Hubbard
- Dec 19 Dana & Tania Ruhnke
- Dec 26 Bryan & Mary Breitling
- Dec 30 Heath & Hillary Smith



December Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			6:00 Meal 6:30—7:30 Youth Group 		1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Nursing Home 	12 UWF Meeting Leadership Team-5:00	13 Meals on Wheels Dec. 11-15	14	15	16
17 	18 6:15 pm	19	20 • UWF Work Day	21	22	23
24  5:00 pm	25 Church office closed Merry Christmas!	26	27	28  Food Truck Noon-1	29	30
31						

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Ponderings at the end of a day — or year

Dutch Catholic priest and theologian Henri Nouwen found it useful to reflect on several questions at the end of the day: "Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing?" Pondering such questions may prove valuable at the end of a year as well: "How did I contribute to peace in the world this past year? Did I bring smiles to others' faces? Did I offer words of healing?" Nouwen continued, and we can too: "Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love?"



Many of us set New Year's resolutions for self-improvement, asking, "What are my goals? How can I better myself, my weight, my work-life balance, my habits?" But Nouwen said of his self-inquiry: "These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and [in] the life to come." His resolution was to share God's love with others. With God's help, it can be ours as well, for each new day and each new year.