

Advent and Christmas 2017



Advent means “coming” or “arrival.”

It is a season of preparation and anticipation as we await the birth of the Christ child. Often thought of as a spiritual journey, it affirms that Christ has come, is present in the world today, and will come again in power. That central affirmation guides our Kingdom ethics as we live “between the times.”

As we celebrate God’s inbreaking into the world at the Incarnation and anticipate a future consummation when all creation will be redeemed, we also confess our own responsibility to “love the Lord your God with all your heart” and to “love your neighbor as yourself.”

May this season of Advent, with its flurry of activities, also find you lost in wonder, love and praise, for a God who came down that we might know hope, love, peace and joy.

Calendar of Services and Activities

December 3: First Sunday of Advent – Hope

Worship and Communion at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Homily: *Handy Work*, Lori Pistor

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

December 5: Triple F Group Christmas Luncheon - 11:00 a.m.

Embassy Suites, Cary.

Join friends and celebrate the season at our annual holiday lunch event. Please RSVP Barbara Turner @ j1ht@earthlink.net

Presbyterian Women's Annual Christmas Dinner - 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

All women of the church are invited! We'll enjoy a potluck dinner. (Please bring a side dish to share.) After dinner we'll wrap gifts for graduate families of The Caring Place. Other CPC members can help Caring Place graduate families by donating gift cards for food or gas. You may put the gift cards in the envelope marked "Gift Cards" in the PW slot in the office.

December 7: Presbyterian Men's Caroling – 6:30 p.m. – Meet at CPC

Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the church for warm up. Sing at Glenaire from 7:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. then visit members door to door in the community.

December 10: Second Sunday of Advent – Love

Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sermon: *About Love...*, Medora Hix

Worship will be led by the Guatemala mission team.

Following worship, enjoy a light lunch of rice and bean bowls as they share stories and pictures from their travels. Gather in the Fellowship Hall.

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Please return all unwrapped Angel Tree gifts by today!

Youth Programs - 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Middle School Youth - Christmas Caroling with CAs

Christian Adventurers – Christmas Caroling with MS Youth

December 17: Third Sunday of Advent – Peace

Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sermon: *Present-tense Advent*, Mitzi Lesher-Thomas

“The King and Me” – A Christmas Musical Pageant at 9:45 a.m.

Join CPC youth as they take an imaginative look at events in Bethlehem around the time of Jesus' birth, and at the good news for all to share. 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall

A Service of Lament and Hope at Glenaire Chapel, 4:00 p.m.

This shared service of Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian, Glenaire, and Cary Presbyterian recognizes that for many, the holidays are laden with as much sorrow as joy. Come hear again familiar words of our abiding faith and a reminder that the persistent light of Christ still shines even in the darkest areas of our lives.

Youth Programs - 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Middle School Youth – Christmas Party (MS Room)

Senior High Youth – Christmas Party, Service Project (SH Room)

December 21: Labyrinth Walk: ‘Christ Be Our Light’ – 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Walk CPC's outdoor labyrinth by the light of dozens of candles on this longest night of the year. Meet in the lower parking lot at 5:00 p.m. for instructions and opening liturgy.

December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent – Joy (Christmas Eve)

Advent Worship and Cantata at 11:00 a.m.

Advent Cantata – ‘Journey of Promises.’ Join the CPC choir as they invite us, in word and song, to journey with the prophets a path paved by grace, stretching from darkness to light and despair to hope.

Family Service in Fellowship Hall – 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Cantata and Candlelight – 8:00 p.m.

Celebrate, in word and song, the fulfillment of our Advent sojourns as we sing once more of a babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger.

December 31: New Year's Eve

All Together Worship and Communion at 11:00 a.m.

On the cusp of the new year, gather to sing beloved Christmas hymns and celebrate Epiphany.

Advent Devotionals and Resources

A selection of hard copy devotionals are available in the Narthex.

For those interested in signing up for a daily Advent devotional delivered to your email we suggest the following:

From Luther Seminary

<https://www.luthersem.edu/advent/>

From Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Options to: download, sign up for daily email devotional,
or download their free app

https://www.pts.edu/devotional_1

From Virginia Theological Seminary

<https://www.buildfaith.org/adventword-2017/>

From Columbia Theological Seminary

<https://www.ctsnet.edu>

Search: advent

From the North Carolina Council of Churches

<https://tinyurl.com/ydbvwqpt>

Free Musical Advent Calendar App

https://www.naxos.com/feature/The_Musical_Advent_Calendar_App.asp

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