

The Crosswalk

First Christian Church
2501 N Park Lane

DECEMBER
2017



This time of year you may hear the word “advent” a lot. There are advent calendars, advent candles, the advent season, and four Sunday’s of advent. But what does this “advent” have to do with Christmas? Advent means ‘coming’ in Latin, so, we’re talking about Jesus “coming” into the world. But, what’s with the candles, calendars, and special Sundays?

No one is really sure as to the origin of Advent, but as early as the 500’s monks were ordered to fast during the month of December to prepare for Christmas, much as they would for the 40 days leading up to Easter (Advent has even been called “little Lent”). Like other church traditions, Advent isn’t commanded in the pages of the New Testament and so is not necessary for the church to practice, nor does it make it wrong. The purpose of this time is to prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming of Christ into our world.

The interesting thing is that there are three comings of Christ for which we should prepare. First, there is the coming that we see depicted in people’s front yards and mantles during this time of year, the nativity. We prepare for his coming as a child in Bethlehem. Second, is the coming promised in Acts 2:38 “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” We can prepare for the coming of Christ into our own lives. The third coming was promised by Jesus himself, “if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself.” As Christians we eagerly await the second coming of Christ to earth so that we might live with him forever, and we are warned repeatedly in scripture to be prepared for this event.

The Advent season officially starts four Sunday’s before Christmas (Dec. 3rd this year) and each Sunday has a traditional theme. The themes can vary depending which church tradition you’re a part of, but they usually include these four ideas:

Hope. The Christ child offers hope to a world that was lost in sin and separated from God. As we welcome him into our hearts we receive the hope of a transformed life and the promise of life eternal as well. And the Second Coming is the hope of a restored creation. A creation where there is no more death, mourning, crying, or pain. His advent brings hope.

Love. God so loved the world that he sent his only son (Jn. 3:16). Jesus loved us and gave himself up for us (Gal. 2:20). In his first coming Jesus showed us what love looks like. When he comes into our lives he enables us to love as he did, and in Rev. 19 the second coming is called the marriage of the Lamb. His advent is one of love, for God is love.

Joy. When the angels appeared to the shepherds on that first Christmas they said they brought good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Jesus said that there is joy before the angels of God when a sinner repents, and in Rev. 19 the great multitude in heaven are rejoicing at the marriage of the Lamb when he comes for his church. The advent of Christ has always been an occasion of great joy.

Peace. Isaiah 9:6 says when messiah comes he will be called the Prince of Peace. Paul says in Philippians 4 that when we live as Christ taught, “the God of peace will be with you.” And the book of Revelation closes with God wiping away every tear from our eyes, “neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore.” The coming of Christ brings peace to those who know Him.

May God be with you in every way this Advent Season. Merry Christmas!

In Him,
Ben

DECEMBER 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 PCG-6:00PM	2
3 GS 3:30PM SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	4	5 EDUCATION MTG 5:30PM	6 LBS 9:30AM SERVICE/ACTION MTG 10:30AM ABS 6:30PM	7 WORSHIP MTG 6:30PM	8 PCG-6:00PM	9
10 HBS-6:30PM GS 3:30PM SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	11	12	13 ABS 6:30PM	14 ELDERS MTG 6:00PM DEACONS MTG 6:30PM BOARD MTG 7:00PM	15 PCG-6:00PM	16
17 GS 3:30PM SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	18	19	20 LBS 9:30AM ABS 6:30PM	21	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6:00 PM SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED	26	27	28	29	30
31 						

Serving In December

December 03

Meditation: Rick Weinkauf
Servers: Bob McGuire, Carol Carson
 *John Signorelli, ?
Nursery: Sunday School - Ben & Kristen Partin
 Worship Service - ? , ?
Children's Church: Roma Weinkauf
AV Booth: Randall Coffman/PP, Tyler Tidwell/Sound
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Lord Supper Prep & Clean Up: Elisabeth White
 *Offering Prayer

December 10

Meditation: Don Skiles
Servers: Doug Tritle, *Iris Felix
 Jane Clark, John Signorelli
Nursery: Sunday School - Robert & Crystal Crawford
 Worship Service - Katie Bronson, ?
Children's Church: Sarah Skiles
AV Booth: Randall Coffman/PP, Tyler Tidwell/Sound
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Lord Supper Prep & Clean Up: Elisabeth White
 *Offering Prayer

December 17

Meditation: Jerry Gibson
Servers: John Signorelli, *Wanda Jones
 ?, ?
Nursery: Sunday School - Marilyn Wright, Wanda Jones
 Worship Service - Richard & Christina Barnes
Children's Church: ?
AV Booth: Randall Coffman/PP, Tyler Tidwell/Sound
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Lord Supper Prep & Clean Up: Elisabeth White
 *Offering Prayer

December 24

Meditation: Doug Dalton
Servers: Brenda Gibson, Jackie Morey
 *John Signorelli, Richard Barnes
Nursery: Sunday School - Jackie Morey, Wendi Noon
 Worship Service - Brian & Colleen Buss
Children's Church: Nova Noon
AV Booth: : Randall Coffman/PP, Tyler Tidwell/Sound
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Lord Supper Prep & Clean Up: Elisabeth White
 *Offering Prayer

December 31

Meditation: Jim Jones
Servers: Brenda Gibson, Jackie Morey
 *John Signorelli, Richard Barnes
Nursery: Sunday School - Jackie Morey, Wanda Jones
 Worship Service - Brenda Gibson, Jane Clark
AV Booth: Randall Coffman/PP, Tyler Tidwell/Sound
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Lord Supper Prep & Clean Up: Elisabeth White
 *Offering Prayer

In Our Prayers

Bettie Peters - hip surgery
 (church member)

Judy Folkner - cancer
 (Kathy Morrow's friend)

Nick Williams - ALS
 (Altus teacher)

Jo Parnell - inoperable lung cancer
 (Lee Barnes' son's mother-in-law)

Debbie Cleland - cancer
 (Christina Barnes' co-worker)

Periodically the Prayer List will be updated. If we remove someone that you still want on the list, please let us know and we will be glad to put them back on..

If you have a prayer need or know of any changes, please contact the church office.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/15 Jane Clark
 12/17 Lynette Crawford
 12/18 Jim & Wanda Jones
 12/21 Mark & Jackie Morey
 12/23 Brenda Risner
 12/23 Rick Weinkauf
 12/23 Tara Coffman
 12/25 Jerry Gibson
 12/29 Randall & Tara Coffman

Sunday Services

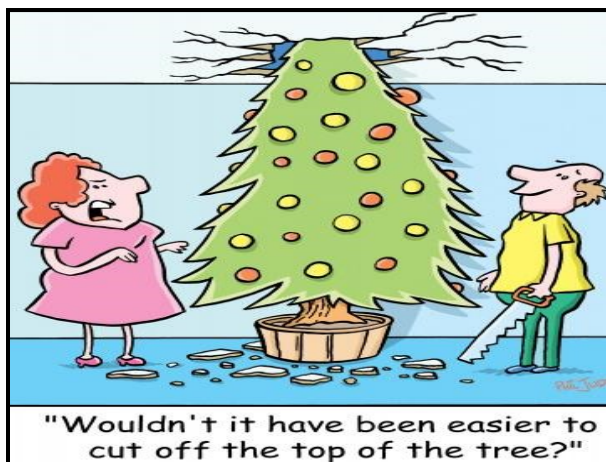
Sunday School 9:30 am
 Worship Service 10:30 am

Wednesday Services

Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm

Secretary's Report October 2017

Average Attendance	54.25
Average Visitors	4.25
Total Average Attendance	58.5
Total Offerings	\$14,054.00



Your Elders

Phil Carson, Randall Coffman, Doug Dalton,
 Jerry Gibson, Jim Jones

Your Deacons

Richard Barnes, Jane Clark, Crystal Crawford,
 Brenda Gibson, Wanda Jones, Brenda Risner

Join us for...

Carols & Candlelight



Christmas Eve

December 24th

6:00pm



MEET YOUR NEW CHURCH SECRETARY

KELI JONAS

Keli was our former church secretary so some of you will already know her.

Her first official working day will be Tuesday, January 2, 2018. Welcome, Keli!!!!!!