



Wentz's United Church of Christ

December 2018



Advent

On Sunday, December 2 we start the journey of Advent—a time of waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus. During this period we share in the longing for the great liberator, the Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor. Individuals, families, and faith communities use a variety of rituals, symbols, and daily devotions to celebrate the coming of the Holy One.

At the church we will mark each week with a word: Joy, Love, Hope, and Peace, as well as readings, candle lighting, special music, and decorating. We will end our Advent journey with our Christmas Eve.

Gatherings in December

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------|
| December 2 8:30 & 10:45 am | Joy: A Choice? | Scott Lovaas |
| December 9 10:45 am only | A Candlelight Christmas <i>No Early Service</i> | Cantata |
| December 16 8:30 & 10:45 am | Love | Scott Lovaas |
| December 21 7:30 pm | Longest Night | Scott Lovaas |
| December 23 8:30 & 10:45 am | Hope | Scott Lovaas |
| December 24 5, 8, & 10:45 pm | Joy, Hope, and Peace Candlelight & Communion | Scott Lovaas |
| December 30 10:45 am only | Lessons and Carols <i>No Early Service/No Sunday School</i> | Dave Bickle |

Poinsettias

Order forms for poinsettias can be found on the Welcome Desk. The poinsettias are in 6' pots and cost \$10 each. They come in Red, White, Pink or Marble. Deadline for all orders, including donations to funds will be December 3. You may also contact the church office with your order: 610-584-4855 or office@wentzsucc.org



Week 1: Joy

December 2—December 8

Joy is a feeling of great happiness. It may come from doing, finding, understanding, or getting something. Joy can also come from within. Sri



Chinmoy writes about revealing the God within each of us.

True inner joy is self-created.

It does not depend on outer circumstances.

A river flowing in and through you carrying the message of joy.

This divine joy is the sole purpose of life.

Each day write down a joy. At the end of the week see if you can make a sentence out of your joys.



Wentz's UCC Annual Christmas Bazaar

December 1, 2018
9:30 am—2:00 pm

Shoppes open 9:30 am—2:00 pm

*Jewelry * Attic Treasures * Christmas Past * Baked Goods *
*Book Nook * Boutique Gifts*

PLUS! Original Recipe Homemade Cookies

Café open 10:00 am—1:30 pm

*Soup * Hot dogs * Chicken Salad * Chips * Pretzels * Pie*
Eat in/Take out

Inspirational Christmas Concert 11 am—12 pm

ALL NEW Kids Zone for ages 3 10 years

*Crafts * Movies * Face Painting * Play Area*
Don't miss out on a special visit from Santa!



Week 2: Love

December 9—December 15

One way of understanding the birth of Jesus is that God's love was given to us in a new way. But that kind of birth wasn't a one time event. How is God's love birthed anew in your life? In the lives of those around you? In the world?





Cantata

Sunday, December 9th at 10:45 am

A Candlelight Christmas

Please note there will be no 8:30 am service.



Christmas Wish List

The Wish List for Bethany Children's Home is on the Welcome Desk. It also can be emailed to you at your request. Please place your new, unwrapped gifts on the credenza in the Guild Room no later than December 10. This will allow us to deliver them to Bethany in time for them to prepare for Christmas. Thank you for your very generous and continued support.

Week 3: Hope
December 16—
December 22

Hope is a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen. In your home, you might start to see presents gather under the tree. The suspense of not knowing what is in the packages and the anticipation of the delight on friends or family members' faces when they open their gifts are a certain kind of hope. But in today's fast-paced world, hope can get crushed, especially when our prayers aren't answered right away or in the way we expect. How can you walk in hope when you feel hopeless inside?



Hope can also be a person that may help or save another. Jesus is our hope, and is like an anchor for the soul which secures us through the storms of life. He is our hope, and He gives us hope.

This week, think of the ways you can pass on that hope to others. Pick at least one, and act on it!

Sunday School Pageant December 16th at 10:45 am



The Sunday School presents their Pageant on Sunday, December 16th at the 10:45 am Service of Worship. Come and join us and they share "The Christmas Story" from a Children's Bible and sing favorite Christmas Songs.



GIFT GIVING TIME-

Wentz's Giving Tree: This year Wentz's will be providing gifts and clothes for 12 children from the North Penn School District, Oak Park Elementary School. Each child is allowed to request a gift card, toy, and clothing item not to exceed \$30.00 each. Please choose a gift tag from

the giving tree and return it to the church, with the card, by December 16 for our youth to wrap. If you are purchasing a gift card, please give it to Cianne Landis, Scott Lovaas, or Kim DuBree to secure. If you have any questions, please contact Kim DuBree (215)527-9963 or kimdubree@gmail.com

Longest Night Service

Friday, December 21st

7:30 pm

*Come and join us in sharing
and hearing prayers, Scripture,
and music that acknowledge that
God's presence is for those
who mourn, for those who struggle —
and that God's Word
comes to shine light*



Decorating the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 23

Immediately following worship



Please join us as we decorate the Sanctuary for our Christmas Eve Services with poinsettias and candles. All Welcome!

Somehow, Not Only for Christmas

Somehow, not only for Christmas,
but all the long year through,
the joy that you give to others,
is the joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend in blessing
the poor and lonely and sad,
the more of your heart's possessing
returns to you glad.

-John Greenleaf Whittier, Quaker poet

Week 4: Peace

December 23—December 29

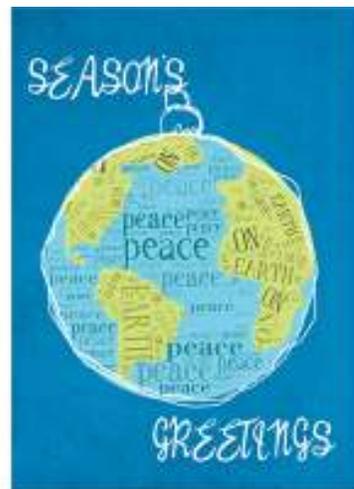
Celebrating Advent means doing more than just going through the motions of decorating, baking, or counting the days until Christmas. It means slowing down just a bit and being more intentional about the rituals in which we participate. Christmas is not just about remembering and finding meaning in the events of Jesus' birth. It is also about noticing how God is being born anew in and around us. And, perhaps most of all, Christmas is about us participating in that birth; witnessing it and helping God to be born.

So, the season of advent helps us to be able to celebrate Christmas by giving us opportunities, in fits and starts, to turn our minds to what is most important in our lives. This week we turn our attention to the long for peace.

Peace isn't simply the absence of conflict between people or groups. Peace has an important inner component. Thomas Merton certainly thought that peace with others begins within us. He writes:

So instead of loving what you think is peace, love other [people] and love God above all. And instead of hating the people you think are warmakers, hate the appetites and the disorder in your own soul, which are the causes of war. If you love peace, then hate injustice, hate tyranny, hate greed—but hate these things in yourself, not in another. (from New Seeds of Contemplation)

In other words, it is easy to see how the actions of others are creating conflict, but much more difficult to pay attention to and change the ways our actions do the same. Ironically, we can't change others. We can judge others, but we can only change ourselves.



A silhouette of a nativity scene set against a sunset sky. The scene includes Mary, Joseph, the infant Jesus in a manger, a shepherd with a staff and sheep, and three camels. The background features a starry night sky with a prominent bright star.

Christmas Eve Services

Monday, December 24th

5, 8, & 10:45 pm

*All with Candlelight &
Celebrating Holy Communion*

A festive Christmas message featuring a soft, bokeh background of light and snow. In the foreground, several white Christmas ornaments with gold star patterns are scattered on a white, textured surface.

Merry Christmas

*May the joy and wonder of the holiday season
warm you throughout the coming year!*

*A Little
Reminder*

One Service at 10:45 am

Sunday, December 30

No Sunday School

Looking ahead to January

Beginning January 6 our worship time will move to one service at 10 am. Sunday School begins at 9 am. We will review this new schedule in the spring.

Jeremiah 29:11

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

