



Conyngham United Methodist Church
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December 2024

Advent 2024: A Time of Preparing, Waiting, and Becoming...

The lights are being strung, the cookies are baking, the smells of cinnamon and pine fill the air, the first few flakes have even fallen, and so it begins; the season of waiting. Whether you are filled with excitement or longing, or both, Advent comes every year. And yet every year is a little different than the one before. Each year we are a year older, and hopefully wiser, and yet I wonder if we are ever closer to truly being ready, ready for such a time as this, the coming of Christ into our hearts.

This is the time that we are in right now. This Advent 2024, as our hearts long for Christ, as we are in the processes of remembering that sweet holy baby in the hay-filled manger, we remember that our story is entangled in the story of that holy baby, we remember that our world has been forever changed by that holy baby. But we must also look ahead, for our God in other places during this Advent season, other places that we often don't take notice of.

Jesus is no longer in that cradle, surrounded by barnyard animals, and neither does he walk the earth in the same way that he did before, and yet as we retell and reminisce about this beloved story of the birth of Christ this Advent season, it will be a blessing to us if through our remembering, we can also learn to recognize God in the world today, the same as the wise men and the shepherds recognized God in that tiny baby, as they made their way to the place where he was born those thousands of years ago.

And as we look behind, as we reminisce and get lost in the comforting and familiarity of the Christmas traditions that we partake in, we must also still look ahead to the coming of Christ again. God's shocking promise of Hope, that one day God's Kingdom will be complete in all its fullness.

And so is our task this Advent season: that we not only look back for a feeling of the past, but that we pay attention to what is, right now, that we learn to recognize our God through our reminiscing, so that we can also look ahead to what might be, so that we learn to look for the promises of our God in the midst of our waiting.

Dear friends in Christ, I pray that this Advent season blesses you with eyes that see and hearts that know the intimate and shocking love of Christ, a kind of love that becomes in us a new creation of hope for the world.

Peace and love, Pastor Sheena



December Birthdays

03 Dec Fran Phillips
05 Dec Marlee Cundro
05 Dec Ian Racho
06 Dec Cindy Howe
07 Dec Caleb Skuba
09 Dec Conner Wetzel
10 Dec Myles Bicking
11 Dec Jennifer Flores
13 Dec Gavin Huey
16 Dec Chris Gogola
17 Dec Melissa Gebhart
19 Dec Carol Seiwell
19 Dec Alma Joan Dretzel
20 Dec Sidra Gogola
29 Dec Miwa Dretzel



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

02-Jan Ivy Huey
07-Jan Emily Flaim
07-Jan Joey Dretzel
08-Jan Kirk Wetzel
08-Jan Jennifer Quinn
10-Jan Jenson Huey
12-Jan Araceli Gogola
15-Jan Hallie Cara
19-Jan Jeremy Rossi
25-Jan James Bannon

January Anniversaries

14 Jan Scott and Jean Luchi
30 Jan Gary & Millini Skuba

Lectioary

01—December

1st Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalms 25:1-10 (UMH 756)
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21: 25-36

08—December

2nd Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79 (UMH 208)
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

15—December

3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

18—December

Charles Wesley's Birthday

22—December

4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55 (UMH 199)
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

24—December

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalms 96 (UMH 815)
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20

25—December

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalms 98 (UMH 818)
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
John 1:1-14

29—December 1st

Sunday after Christmas Day

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalms 148 (HUM 861)
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

31—December

New Year's Eve or Watchnight

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalms 8 (UMH 743)
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

Valley Interfaith Council Prayer List

Please pray for the following in your daily devotions.

Kayla Baucum, Edee Boyer, Kaylee Barbush, Joanne Mumie, Irene and Robert Burger Family, Pastor Tom Cvammen, Jennifer Flores, Food Pantry Families, Fred Palmounter, Irene Healey, Mary Cristina and David Matthey, Carol Siewell, Jacqueline Walker, Marie Waschko, all cancer patients, our military personnel, as well as leaders of our country, families of addicts, Jay Wetzell, Edie Larsen, Madelyn Lawson, Larry Generose, Mary Nora Wallace, Henry Parks, Amy Kock Bergstrom, Pat Shenyo, Gretchen Brightaupt, Diane Griffith, Karen Smith, Collette Eskin, Ryan Grill and Tom Schultz.

Please pray daily for your church, its leaders and staff, Pastor Sheena Mylecraine, the Red Bird Mission Clinic, the Red Bird Mission School, the Salvation Army, United Children's Homes, Hazleton Enlarged Ministry, Heartwood Center, Emmaus Road Travelers and Drivers and the Hazleton/Valley Mission Connection.

DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

DECEMBER 01

Greeter: Rodney Hawk
Head Usher: Beverly Hilliard
Liturgist: Tammy McCauley
Acolyte: Eamon Wiley

DECEMBER 08

Greeter: Rodney Hawk
Head Usher: Beverly Hilliard
Liturgist: Osheen Jacob
Acolyte: Freddy Jacob

DECEMBER 15

Greeter: Rodney Hawk
Head Usher: Beverly Hilliard
Liturgist: Jessica Jacob
Acolyte: Joey Dretzel

DECEMBER 22

Greeter: Rodney Hawk
Head Usher: Beverly Hilliard
Liturgist: Thomas Wiley
Acolyte: Malcolm Wiley

DECEMBER 24

Head Usher: Beverly Hilliard
Liturgist: Kate Flaim
Special Music: Joe Racho

DECEMBER 29

Greeter: Rodney Hawk
Head Usher: Beverly Hilliard
Liturgist: Rosemary Mandrick
Acolyte: Hazle DeBalko



Flowers for the month of December



12/01—John and Debbie Cara have given a donation to the General Fund.

12/08—Heidi Klein will give a donation in memory of son, Cody John.

12/15—John and Debbie Cara have given a donation to the General Fund.

12/22—Open

12/29—Bruce and Beverly Hilliard will give a donation to the General Fund in memory of Leon and Betty Buffington and Foster and Blanche Hilliard.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



"Hanging of the Greens"

On December 1, right after the coffee fellowship, you are invited to join us in decorating the sanctuary for Christmas. We will be putting lights around the altar and setting up nativities around the sanctuary. We have several, but if you have a "manger scene" that you would like to share with the church for the season, please contact Carrie Joy Wiley by December 1st. She will make a display tag with your name and any story that might go with the nativity.



it's a cookie EXCHANGE

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AFTER
CHURCH SERVICE**

**Every person participating must bring
2 dozen cookies on a dish to be displayed.
(NO store bought cookies, however, they can be from a bakery)**

**You will take home 2 dozen
cookies so bring a container.**

**Extra cookies will either be sent to our
shut-ins or used for Sunday coffee
hour.**

Sign up in the Narthex

Bethlehem Dinner/Sunday, December 15th

When Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, there was no room for them in the inn. Let that not be said of us! Join with us to celebrate the love of our Savior by sharing a Bethlehem themed luncheon, right after worship service. You are welcome to come, even if you don't bring anything, but if you would like to bring Middle Eastern themed finger food, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or talk to Carrie Joy Wiley, Kayla Dretzel or Heidi Klein. Some ideas are meat and cheese, hummus and crackers, olives, Challah bread, dried fruit, or fruit trays of grapes, oranges, and nuts.



SOUP FOR LUNCH

We are again planning soup, bread/ butter, beverage, and homemade dessert on **December 17th at noon.**

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, The price is \$5.00.

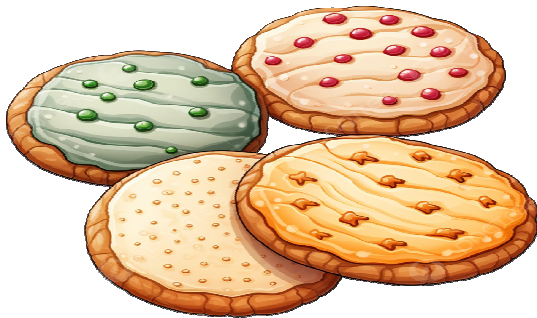


VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

WE ARE COLLECTING **COOKIE MIXES** FOR THE VALLEY FOOD PANTRY CHRISTMAS BASKETS.

DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 17TH

ITEMS CAN BE PLACED IN THE SHOPPING CART IN OUR SOCIAL



Blue Christmas Worship Service will be held at **Black Creek UMC** on **December 21st** at **6 PM.**

This is a serene and contemplative worship service open to all, but a true blessing for those who might not be rejoicing in the joy of the Christmas season.





CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
SERVICE HERE AT CUMC

DECEMBER 24TH AT 6:30 PM

FOLLOWED BY SILENT
COMMUNION

LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Christ Lutheran Church will present a **Living Nativity** on **Saturday, December 7th** and **Sunday December 8th** from 5 PM until 7 PM each night. 12 Scenes/Live Animals.

Christmas at Eckley will be held on **Saturday, December 7th**, and **Sunday, December 8th**, from 10 am to 4pm each day. The antique pipe organ will be played.

Freeland Community Choir will present "Invitation to a Miracle" **Sunday, December 8th** at **St. John's Reformed UCC, Freeland**. **Sunday, December 15th** at **Faith UCC, Hazleton**. Both performances start at 3 PM.

Adult Faith Formation: Season of Advent 2024 at **St. John Bosco's**. 4-week sessions on **Tuesdays** from 9:15 -10:30 am and 6:30-8:00 pm. **November 26, December 3, 10 and 17**. Call 570-788-1997, ext. 3 to register.

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15am Sunday School for all ages 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Hanging of the Greens	2 6:00pm Zumba 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	3 6:00pm Zumba 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	4 10:00am Religious Studies	5 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	6	7
8 9:15am Sunday School for all ages 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Christmas Cookie Exchange	9 6:00pm Zumba	10 6:00pm Zumba	11 10:00am Religious Studies	12 10:00am Plastic Mat Ministry	13	14
15 9:15am Sunday School for all ages 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Bethlehem Luncheon	16 6:00pm Zumba	17 Deadline for Cookie Mixes for Food Pantry 12:00pm Soup Luncheon 6:00pm Zumba	18 10:00am Religious Studies	19 9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	20	21 6:00pm Blue Christmas Worship Service at Black Creek UMC
22 9:15am Sunday School for all ages 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Heartwood Center	23 6:00pm Zumba	24 6:30pm Christmas Eve Worship Service followed by Silent Communion	25 10:00am Religious Studies	26 10:00am Plastic Mat Ministry	27	28 1:00pm Dretzel Private Party
29 9:15am Sunday School for all ages 10:30am Worship Service	30 6:00pm Zumba	31 6:00pm Zumba				