

*Advent*  
*at North United Methodist Church*



*Where Spiritual Journeys Meet*



## Watching our Wait

Advent may be the most controversial season of the church year.

Sure, Lent seems disagreeable with its emphasis on sin and repentance but the daily news makes a pretty strong case for why a little repentance couldn't hurt. We'd prefer to get on with the Alleluias of Easter but we

can identify with the hymns sung in a minor key and prayers of confession that sting a bit. Lent isn't pleasant but neither are the gray skies and chilly air that accompany Lent's arrival in Indiana. So we shrug and console ourselves that Lent will give way to Easter soon enough.

Advent, on the other hand, seems pushy and ill-mannered. While we're baking Christmas cookies, stringing tree lights, enjoying a favorite Christmas CD, going to parties, putting change in the bell-ringer's kettle, and scooping up some awesome Christmas bargains, Advent arrives like a Church Scrooge.

Not yet. Don't be in such a hurry. Wait.

Advent (meaning arrival) insists on sauntering while others rush toward Christmas.

Advent slows us down, even spins us around to face ancient Israel and the hopes that send us on our way. And when Advent finally marches ahead, she frequently stops and squints as if she sees her destination just on the horizon.

Wait, Advent pleads. Listen carefully. Look closely. Just imagine. There is a gift at hand but not yet in hand.

Sound too preacherly? Try this: Think of a time when you waited for a gift, something that could only be received not taken. The time you waited for test results to come back or the first child to be born. Maybe you were waiting for "yes," or "I love you," or "Let's start over." How long did you wait? What did you do while you waited? Who was with you? What was it like when the waiting ended?

Faithful waiting requires discipline. Expectant waiting doesn't just tap its foot but knows what to do and who to be and where to look. It's been my experience that people who wait faithfully behave hopefully. They don't rush; they prepare. They're a bit more intentional and careful with their time, their words, and their relationships. They remember earlier times of waiting and learn from those experiences. They know they're not home ... yet.

Shalom,



### **Advent Festival**

**Sunday, December 2, 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM**

Food, fun, families and a festive atmosphere!

We'll be stuffing gift socks for Bread 'n Bowl, creating greeting cards for those who are homebound, decorating cookies and mini-trees, meeting with Mary and Joseph, and caroling!

A pitch-in dinner begins at 6:00 PM.

Turkey and spiral ham will be served!

Please bring a large side dish, salad or dessert  
to share with 12 others.

#### **Questions?**

Contact Dana Williams at 299-4414.

**Advent 2007 - Watching Our Wait**

**First Sunday of Advent**

December 2, 2007

*Getting Ready in the Dark*

Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Lisa D. Schubert, preaching

*Holy Communion*

**Second Sunday of Advent**

December 9, 2007

*Listen Carefully*

Isaiah 11: 1-10; Matthew 3: 1-12

Kevin R. Armstrong, preaching

**Third Sunday of Advent**

December 16, 2007

*Look Closely*

Isaiah 35: 1-10; Matthew 11: 2-11

Kevin R. Armstrong, preaching

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

December 23, 2007

*Just Imagine*

Isaiah 7: 10-16; Matthew 1: 18-25

Kevin R. Armstrong, preaching

## **Jubilee Christmas Store - December 8**

**9:00 AM – 10:30 AM**

Gifts are needed for 25 families and 50 children from Coburn Place, neighbors of North Church. Here's how it works:

- The mothers will supply us with a wish list for each of their children.
- This list is used to make cards for the bulletin board near the Parlor. These cards will be made available beginning Friday, November 16.
- The bulletin board will include a card for a book, a card for one small gift (\$10- \$20) per child, a card for one large gift (\$40-\$50) per child, a card for a hat and gloves per child, and a card for a food basket for each family. If you choose to purchase food, a list of what is needed will be listed on the back of each card. Please pick up a laundry basket from the office and return the purchased food in that basket.
- Please remove all price tags from the gifts you purchase. Attach the gift card and return the unwrapped gifts to the church office by December 5. Gifts will be inventoried and missing items will be purchased so please respect the December 5 deadline to avoid unnecessary duplication and spending.

### **Volunteers are needed for:**

- **Gift sorting** - December 7 at 9:00 AM
- **Host and helpers** - December 8 from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM
- **Transportation to and from the church for parents** - December 8, from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM
- **Cookies! Lots of cookies!** - Bake cookies on December 8 for the moms to eat and take home
- **Wrapping paper, bows, tags, ribbon** - Please bring to the church by December 6
- **Babysitters at Coburn Place (38<sup>th</sup> and Park)** - December 8 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM

### **North United Methodist Women Christmas Tea - December 8**

Mark Gilgallon will present a program of Christmas music at 2:00 PM in the Parlor. All women of the church are invited to attend. Please call the church office at 924-2612 and make your reservation today. A voluntary offering of \$1.50 will be used to support a NUMW mission project.

### **Annual Charge Conference - December 9**

An all-church luncheon will begin at 12:15 PM. Make your reservation with the church office. The Charge Conference with District Superintendent Ned Steel will begin at 1:00 PM.

### **Christmas Eve Services - December 24**

**5:00 PM** - Candlelight worship with carols, drama, and music by children and youth

**7:30 PM** - Candlelight worship with Holy Communion; Lisa D. Schubert, preaching

**11:00 p.m.** - Candlelight worship of lessons and carols; special music and orchestra beings at 10:30 PM; Kevin R. Armstrong, preaching

### **Epiphany Party - January 6, 2008**

The term *epiphany* means "to show" or "to make known" or even "to reveal." Epiphany remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child. The bringing of gifts revealed Jesus to the world as Lord and King. Traditionally Epiphany is celebrated on the Twelfth Day of Christmas. Make plans to stay after church and celebrate with others in the congregation. A light lunch will be served (with kid-friendly options) at 12:15 PM. For dessert everyone will partake of the "King's Cake." Eat carefully because if you find a coin in your piece of cake, you become "King" for the rest of the party and other guests will prepare some entertainment for you. This event is great fun for the whole church family. A free-will offering will help defray the cost of lunch.





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