



Weekly Booster

CHURCH STAFF

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Kris Anderzhon,

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Sunday Facebook Host

Craig Harris,

Facebook Contributors

Pastor David B. Clark,

Barb Cunningham,

Craig Harris, Jeff Hiser

Sunday Praise Team

Terry Stafford, Linda Haldane,

Margaret Brady, Deb Finlay,

Jeff Hiser, Jodi Anderzhon

The History of



What is the History of Advent?

Advent was developed as a season of the church year in the late fourth century. It was widely practiced across Christian churches worldwide by the sixth century.

The church developed Advent primarily to provide an alternative time for the final preparation of candidates for baptism. The normal three-year preparation period included a final forty days of intense preparation during Lent. Baptism would follow at Easter.

A second season was needed after the Roman Emperor Theodosius made Christianity the legal religion of the Roman Empire in 380. At that time, approximately 15% of the Empire was Christian. After 380, the vast majority of citizens sought to become Christian. A single season could not accommodate all of those preparing for baptism.

Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” The focus of Advent is on Christian life now in light of the culmination of all things at Christ’s *second* coming. By focusing on the last things, baptismal candidates were reminded of the need for Christ to come again to make all things new as they prepared to begin their new lives in Christ.

Continued page 2

“Live in such a way that if anyone would speak badly about you, nobody would believe it.”

Reminders

December 17th

Men's Bible Study – 8:00 a.m.

December 18th

Men's Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.

Sunday School All Ages, 10:30 am

Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

HS Youth Group – 7:00 p.m.

December 21st

Advent Study - Noon

Praise Team - 5:00 p.m.

Choir – 6:45 p.m.

December 22nd

T.O.P.S. – 5:30 p.m.

The Longest Night Service – 6 p.m.

December 24th

Christmas Eve Service – 7:00 p.m.

December 25th

No Church Service

****Worship Assistants are needed on December 24th & January**

**** Fellowship Volunteers needed sign-up in Fellowship Hall**



Earring was found near the elevator.
Contact the office if you are the owner.

Advent History- Continued from page 1

Baptism would typically occur at Epiphany, the end of the Christmas Season when Christians remember the coming of the Magi and celebrate the baptism of Jesus. This is why many older baptismal fonts include depictions of the Magi bringing gifts.

Similar to Lent, Advent developed as a penitential season of varying lengths. By the eighth century, Advent was generally observed for six weeks in the East (as it is to this day) and seven in the West. By the 12th century, it became shortened in the West to four weeks.

Advent was part of the practice of the Church of England when John Wesley was a priest. When he revised the liturgical calendar for use by American Methodists in 1784, he kept Advent and its four Sundays. So, Advent was part of the Methodist ritual from the beginning.

However, the 1792 General Conference dramatically simplified the ritual, removing nearly all of the church calendar and the associated readings for each Sunday. As a result, Advent became a “lost practice” among most American Methodists for well over a century. While a few hymns related to Advent were retained, it wasn't until 1965 that specific ritual resources for Advent were included in *The Book of Worship* of The Methodist Church.

By the time Advent was restored to Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren practice in the mid-20th century, there were other significant developments in the cultural practices of Christmas that impacted Advent in our congregations. The Christmas season as a cultural practice was no longer the 12 days beginning with Christmas Eve. Instead, it had become the nearly 30 days from American Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve. This meant that even though the 1965 Book of Worship included readings and prayers focused on the second coming of Christ, many congregations expected Advent to conform to the cultural Christmas focus on the birth of Jesus.

By 1992, United Methodist liturgy and an expanded selection of Advent-specific hymns all helped United Methodists understand and reclaim the original focus of Advent on the second coming of Christ. And *Come to the Waters*, the primary United Methodist resource for preparing candidates for baptism, includes guidance for using Advent as a season for final preparation for baptism. **Go to page 5**

"Don't let bad people stop you from being a good person."

Volunteers Needed



**Last One Out:
Close Doors and
Turn Off Lights**



First United Methodist Church

**Please wear your
name tag on
Sunday mornings**



This Sunday, December 18th will be the last day to donate items for the food panty.

Church Office Hours

**** Children & Jr.-Sr. High
Sunday School** 10:15
Questers (Adults) 10:30

****Chancel Choir –**
Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

The front door to the church will be unlocked during office hours and closed only for errands and lunch.

Monday
9:00-11:00
12:00-3:00

Tuesday
9:00-11:00
12:00-3:00

Wednesday
CLOSED

Thursday
9:00-11:00
12:00-3:00

Friday
9:00-11:00
12:00-3:00

Please continue to call in advance if you need in the church to make sure someone is in the office. If you reach the answering machine please leave your name, number, and a brief message and your call will be returned. Calls after 2:00 p.m. may be returned the next business day.



Who heard bad news, then fell from his chair and died?

- a) Miriam
- b) Jephthah
- c) Eli
- d) Saul

A woman with a blood discharge was cured by touching Jesus' robe. How long has she been ill?

- a) 12 years
- b) 14 years
- c) 16 years
- d) 18 years

Where did the Athenians take Paul to?

- a) Acropolis
- b) Neapolis
- c) Areopagus
- d) Mount Athos

Check page 4 for answers in next week's booster

Birthdays and Anniversaries



18th – Bentley Bowers, Evelyn Lorimor, Charles & Sharon Hall

22nd – Pam Antons

23rd – David & Vickie Skinner

24th – Dixie Daley

26th – Marcia Allely

30th – Matthew Hobbie

31st – Todd Lundgren, Beth O'Hara, Amy Zollars

****See a wrong birthday or anniversary, or need one added, please call the office, or send an email to office@shen.church**

**Shenandoah First United
Methodist Church**

200 Church St.
Shenandoah, IA 51601

Phone 712-246-2081

Church E-mail
office@shen.church

Same address – a new look at
<https://shen.church>



<https://shenchurch.onechurchsoftware.com/>



United Methodist Church,
Shenandoah, IA

<https://www.facebook.com/methodist.church.shenandoah>



Services are now on our Youtube
channel only.

<https://www.youtube.com/@shen.church8192/streams>

*Prelude/Postlude/Accompanist: **Terry Stafford**

Call to Worship

Leader: God's Spirit has led us here.

People: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is PEACE.

L: God's Spirit has led us here.

P: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is HOPE.

L: God's Spirit has led us here.

P: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is JOY.

L: God's Spirit has led us here.

P: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is LOVE.

L: The Spirit is in this place,

P: And we know that it's the Spirit of the Lord!

“Are We There Yet? Trust”

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

New Testament Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Third Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Songs

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing #240

First Noels #245

Children's Choir

Joy to the World #246

Last Week's Attendance

In-Person Worship 75

Online Worship – 10

Our Mission:

“Know & Serve God by Sharing Christ's Love.”

Our Vision:

“We will grow in holiness, our community will thrive, & we will make a difference in our world.”

**Answers for Dec. 11th are a) honey & milk c) 350 years a) Elisha
Quiz Hints – Q1) 1Samuel Q2) Mark Q3) Acts**

United Methodists now have many rich resources to help us observe the fullness of what our Christian ancestors created the Advent season to do. We can help others prepare for baptism as we contemplate together the destiny of the universe when Christ comes in glory and then, during the Christmas Season, celebrate the gift of new birth and all that continues to unfold as we remember the birth of God with us.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.



4th Sunday of Advent - **No Fear in Love** -1 John 4: 16-21

16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17 Love has been perfected among us in

this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19 We love[a] because he first loved us. 20 Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Picture a child at a park swinging on the swings. The child's dad comes up to him while he is swinging and tells him to jump into his arms. What does that small child do? He jumps into his father's arms, of course. The child trusts that his daddy will catch him. I can almost hear this child's bubbling laughter as his father catches him in his arms. The child is not fearful that his father will not catch him. He is assured of his father's love for him.

Our scripture states that perfect love casts out fear. One of the acronyms for Fear is: False Evidence Appearing Real. The Bible says that fear is tormenting or has to do with punishment. Living in fear is not a good place to be. God has another plan, a good plan, for us. God's love casts out that fear. Perfect love drives out fear. Like that child who jumps into his father's arms, we can live a happy life when we realize God's love for us.

When we know that God loves us, it is natural for us to spread that love to others. The Bible says whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Continued page 6

Advent History- Continued from page 5

When we are filled with God's love, we will show God's love to others. That love for others will naturally pour out of us when we are filled with God's love. Many hurting people need to be shown God's love.

We need to also show that love to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. God wants us to love and be connected. By showing the love of God to others, we can be Jesus to the world.

Prayer: *Father God, help us to realize and have a revelation of your love for us. We want to trust you. Help us to send that love forth to people who need your love. We love you. In Jesus' name, Amen*

Darla Martin, Pine Bluff UMC, Shinnston, WV. Martindarla395@gmail.com

Join Pastor David each Wednesday through the Advent Season, and journey in the footsteps of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus on a virtual pilgrimage through the Holy Land. Utilizing resources from St. George's College in Jerusalem, we will engage with the gospels in a new and fresh way.



Saturday, December 10th, Evan Lee Kelso was baptized by Pastor David Clark at the Shenandoah First United Methodist Church. Evan was surrounded by his family, friends, and big sister, Emma. Evan is the son of Andrea Robison and Wyatt Kelso.



Do you have winter coats and winter clothing you no longer wear and are taking up space in your closet or storage? If you answered yes, consider donating them to the Hispanic Center. All sizes are accepted. "Share the Warmth!"



The United Methodist Men will have their monthly breakfast this coming Sunday, December 18, 2022, starting at 8:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All men are welcome!



Dixie Dailey will celebrate her 85th birthday on December 24th. Her family will honor her with a card shower. If you would like to send a card to help her celebrate, her address is 600 S. Center, Shenandoah, Iowa 51601



I want to thank my church family for your prayers, calls, and card when I had surgery and was in the hospital. You are all very special to me and I appreciate your concern. I am thankful to be doing well.
Karen Foster

Advent Quiz



1. What does the word Advent (from the Latin adventus) mean?

- Before Christmas
- Arrival or coming
- To go on an adventure
- A website for online Christmas coupons
- All of the above

2. True or False: Like the 40 days of Lent, Advent is a fixed number of days before Christmas.

True False

3. Which of these Advent hymns was written by Charles Wesley?

- "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
- "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
- "Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
- "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

4. Who originated Watch Night services?

Martin Luther
John Wesley
John the Baptist
Henry VIII
President William McKinley

5. According to tradition, approximately how far did Mary travel to visit Elizabeth?

10 miles 50 miles 100 miles 500 miles

6. Why are the Advent candles arranged in the shape of a circle?

They make a wreath, and wreaths are Christmassy.
It is the easiest way to see all four candles.
It takes up the least space.
Circles symbolize eternity.
None of the above.

7. What is a Jesse Tree?

Another name for a Christmas tree
The tree is decorated with Chrismons
A tree that blossoms at Christmastime
A representation of Jesus' family tree

8. On the third Sunday of Advent, some churches light a pink candle on the Advent wreath. Why?

*Pink (or rose) is a color of joy. *Pink signifies Mary. *It represents the positive outlook we have in Christ.
*The rose color symbolizes Jesus' childhood. *The rosebud is a sign of new birth.

9. Do you know how the Advent calendar began?

Chalk lines were drawn on the door to mark the days.
Religious families hung pictures on the wall, one for each day.
A candle was lit for each of the 24 days in December.
A mother fixed candies on a cardboard calendar for her son.
All of the above

10. What is the meaning of the Hebrew word "Emmanuel"?

Mighty king Christ's child
God with us
All of the above None of the above

Answers on page 10

Join us next Thursday evening, December 22nd at 6:30 p.m. for "The Longest Night Service." The merriment, excitement, and joy of the Christmas season do not always express the complexity of feelings experienced throughout the holidays. This Longest Night Service creates a sacred space for those who are in a place of loss, pain, loneliness, and doubt. Through a time of reflective prayers, songs, and silence we will seek to encounter a God that meets us in the depths of our life.



Adopt a Family

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Adopt-A-Family project this past month. Gifts were purchased for a nine-year-old male, a six-year-old female, and a four-year-old female. Each child received a plush throw, shirts, leggings/jeans, socks, shoes, hat and mittens from our Hat & Mitten tree, gift cards to McDonald's and Wal-Mart. Also, purchased were toys and coloring books and colored pencils. A grocery gift card to Hy-Vee and a gas card for the family were included in a Christmas card. The gifts were

delivered to designated location for pick-up on Monday, December 12th. A total of \$458 was donated by our generous church family.



Answers to the Advent Quiz

1. What does the word Advent (from the Latin adventus) mean?

Arrival / coming

2. True or false: Like the 40 days of Lent, Advent is a fixed number of days before Christmas.

False

3. Which of these Advent hymns was written by Charles Wesley?

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

4. Who originated Watch Night services?

John Wesley

5. According to tradition, approximately how far did Mary travel to visit Elizabeth?

100 miles

6. Why are the Advent candles arranged in the shape of a circle?

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A representation of Jesus' family tree

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Pink (or rose) is a color of joy.

9. Do you know how the Advent calendar began?

All of the above

10. What is the meaning of the Hebrew word "Emmanuel"?

God with us



This Sunday, December 18th will be the last day to donate items for the food pantry.

Please join us Christmas Eve

**CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE**

**December 24
7:00 PM**



Join us Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m. Celebrate this holiday through Christmas carols, sharing in communion, and singing Silent Night by candlelight. We hope to see you there! Reminder: there will be no in-person worship on Christmas morning.