

## CHRISTMAS and ADVENT CALENDAR

Friday, November 29	Christmas Parade at 6pm
Saturday, November 30	Decorate the church for the holidays at 10am
Sunday, December 1	Luncheon following worship and caroling to our homebound members.
Tuesday, December 3	Pianos being tuned at 4pm
Wednesday, December 4	Choir Rehearsal at 5pm Church Board Meeting at 6:30pm
Wednesday, December 11	Choir Rehearsal at 5pm
Saturday, December 14	Soup Supper and a movie 4pm – 7pm
Sunday, December 15	Set up for the Living Nativity following worship
Wednesday, December 18	Choir Rehearsal at 5pm
Saturday, December 21	Living Nativity and Sloppy Joe Supper 5:30 – 7:30pm
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Worship at 7pm

**Sandwich Luncheon and Caroling** – Plan to join us after worship on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> as we share in a luncheon and then gather around the piano to Carol to our homebound members and friends over the cell phone. Please bring a favorite sandwich or finger food.

**Dinner and a Movie** – Invite your friends and family to join us Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 4pm – 7pm. Dinner will be Potato Soup and Tomato Bacon Soup from the Curve, along with sandwiches, Debbie’s cookies and a drink. The movie will begin right after everyone gets their food. We will be watching “Elf.” Baskets will be out for donations toward our dinner.

**Living Nativity** – This year’s Living Nativity will be Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be three sessions: 5:30 – 6:15pm, 6:15 – 7:00pm, and 7:00 – 7:30pm. We need 10 volunteers for each session to play the nativity characters. Costumes are made to fit over coats to keep warm. If you can’t stand, we can have seats for you. Sloppy joes, chips, cookies and drinks are available for \$5.00. Invite your friends and family! All ages are invited to participate. Sign up in the Chapel or contact Pastor Julia.

**First Christian Post Office** – Christmas Cards can be dropped off in the box in Robinson Hall until December 15<sup>th</sup>. They will be sorted after worship and ready for pick up December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please limit your cards to those who attend regularly and our homebound members.

**Pastor on Vacation** – Pastor Julia and Jim will be in Michigan December 26 – January 4 to visit friends and family. If there are any emergencies, please contact Board Chair Jeff Bryan.

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

**Brownie Mixes** for Pete’s Pantry so every family can have something sweet for the holidays. They will be turned in Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Blessing Baskets** for “Turn Away No Longer” to help foster families in Madison County. Needed: Laundry supplies, dish detergent, kitchen and bath spray cleansers, sponges, paper towel, toilet paper, baggies (all sizes), Kleenex, etc.

**Sweatpants and underwear** for the Elementary School to have on hand in case of emergencies. Child large or adult small are best.

Dear Friends,

December, 2024

As I write this, the first snow of the season is falling outside my window. It reminds me how swiftly life happens. This marks our 14<sup>th</sup> Advent and Christmas season together. Jim and I would like to take a moment to wish you a very Merry Christmas. During this season, we will be celebrating Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. I pray that all four of these would fill your life in every way this holy season and beyond. I am so grateful to God for our life together as a church family. This Christmas, as in all previous years, we celebrate “Immanuel” (God with us). Without Christ’s presence among us we would be lost. Through God’s presence working within us we are being healed, transformed, reconciled and made whole. I pray you have a fantastic Christmas. This year, we’ve added a new way to gather together as a church family for an evening of good food and a movie for all ages on December 14<sup>th</sup>. I invite you to participate in our annual Living Nativity December 21<sup>st</sup> as we experience the joy of that first Christmas. Along with sheep, a donkey and cow, we need your help by signing up to portray one of the characters. We have 30 slots to fill. More information is included on the other side of this letter. This is our gift to the community and we need everyone’s help in spreading the news!

Blessings to you all! Pastor Julia

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

1 Janice Armstrong  
1 Joyce Moore  
2 Cindy Davis  
2 Gage Swegman  
4 Linda Miller  
5 Tom Colvill  
10 Chere Saunders  
12 Jan Malston  
14 Leon Armstrong  
14 Ardonna Horgos

14 Pastor Julia Bratton  
17 Angie Humphrey  
19 Dustin White  
27 Joyce White  
29 Ariana Cabrera

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

6 Jerry & Susan Heiden  
13 Larry & Heather (Sayre) Teichert  
20 Brad & Stacy Austin