



# *Christian Caller*

December 2024 Volume 297

## ***Advent Season***

Are you celebrating this advent season just as you do every year? Is it a tradition or a meaningful journey? In Latin, advent means “arrival” or “coming.” This time of year, we celebrate the first coming of Jesus into this world to redeem His fallen people. It is a time of preparation for the birth of our Lord and Savior and to anticipate the second coming. It is a time to reflect on what that means to each of us, individually.

The season of advent begins on the Sunday closest to November 30, which is December 1 this year. It includes four Sundays, each with its own theme and its own candle lighting service.

The first Sunday represents the prophets in the Bible that predicted the coming of Jesus. The youngest child lights the purple candle. Theme is HOPE and Isaiah 9:2-6 is the scripture read.

The second Sunday represents the Bible. The oldest child lights the candle and Isaiah 40: 3-5 is read for the theme of PEACE.

The third Sunday represents John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, who foretold of Jesus' arrival. The father lights the candle and Isaiah 12:2-6 is read. JOY is the fitting theme for this Sunday.

The fourth Sunday represents Mary, the mother of Jesus. The mother lights the candle and Isaiah 1: 46-55 is read for the theme of LOVE.

The order of the themes may be altered in some churches. The first two and the fourth Sundays, purple candles are lit, representing prayer, penitence and fasting. The third Sunday, a pink candle is lit to signify rejoicing.

The fifth candle is white and lit on Christmas day representing Jesus.

An advent calendar may also be observed. Traditional Advent calendars show the story of the nativity. Each day a new verse is read. As we celebrate the coming of Christ into the world, think about what it meant to you when Jesus first came into your life. Have you kept the joy of that new relationship? Where are you in this season of your journey? Are you living your own way or surrendering to God's will? Does preparing for Christmas mean shopping and cooking? Or do you come to Him with prayer and worship? As the world celebrates Jesus' earthly birth by giving to others, think about what you can give to Jesus for His birthday.



## **Mission Statement**

**\*To Praise and Worship God**

**\*To foster Faith in Jesus Christ for the purpose of serving all people**

### **DECEMBER EVENTS**

- Nov. 30            Decorate the church for Christmas 10:00am**
- Dec. 1             Advent Candle HOPE**
- Dec. 8             Advent Candle PEACE**
- Dec. 9             Martha 1:00pm**
- Dec. 14            Men's Group 8:00am**
- Dec. 15            Advent Candle JOY**
- Dec. 22            Advent Candle LOVE**
- Dec. 24            Advent CHRIST CANDLE**  
**Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Jan. 5             Epiphany Sunday**  
**Board meeting (after church)**
- Jan. 6             Taking down the tree and decorations**
- Jan. 12            Congregational Meeting (after church)**

### **SOUP KITCHEN NEWS**

Over 2051 meals were served during the month of November. Thank you to all the volunteers that help at the Soup Kitchen we couldn't continue to serve a hot meal 3 days a week to our community without you.

The Soup Kitchen could use the following items: dog food, cat food sleeping bags and men's jeans. Please drop donations off between 11-3 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday's.

### **COFFEE HOUR**

Dec. 1 Donna  
Dec. 8 Tina & Colene  
Dec. 15 Myra  
Dec. 22 Julie  
Dec. 29

### **WORSHIP LEADER**

KJ/Myra  
KJ/Myra  
KJ/Myra  
KJ/Myra  
KJ/Myra

If you would like to help with **coffee hour** please talk to **Myra**, if you would like to be a **worship leader** please talk to **Julie**.

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Dec. 6 Janet Lowe  
Dec. 7 David McCready  
Dec. 13 Kenneth Gagne  
Dec. 15 Colene Macklin  
Dec. 15 Sharon Price  
Dec. 17 Kristi West  
Dec. 19 Jon West  
Dec. 24 Morgan Slavenski  
Dec. 27 Richard Slavenski  
Dec. 31 Matthew West

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Dec. 9 Jon & Nancey West

First Christian Church of Lebanon  
170 Grant Lebanon OR 97355  
541-258-5911  
Email: lebanonfcc@comcast.net  
Website: www.fcclebanon.org

### **Office Hours**

Monday Myra 9:30-12:30  
Thursday Julie 8:30-11:30

