



## FAITH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

December, 2016

### CHURCH CALENDAR

#### Thurs., Dec 1

6:30 pm. Girl Scouts

#### Sunday, Dec. 4

9:30 am. Christian Ed.  
classes

10:30 am. Worship

#### Saturday, Dec. 10

9-5 Threadbare Ladies  
2 pm. Cookie Exchange

#### Sunday, Dec. 11

9:30 am. Christian Ed.  
classes

10:30 am. Worship

Caroling/Pizza Lunch  
Family Promise begins

#### Monday, Dec. 12

10 am. Monthly Bible  
Study - Christmas Brunch  
at the Carlton House  
Community Room

#### Sunday, Dec. 18

9:30 am. Christian Ed.  
classes

10:30 am. Worship

Christmas Offerings  
received

#### Monday, Dec. 19

10 am. Chatty Stitches

#### Saturday, Dec. 24

7 pm. Christmas Eve  
Service

### Seven Reasons to Celebrate Advent

**"1. Advent reminds us we are not the center of God's plan.** Remember that God has a grand plan that is so much larger than just you & your family.

**2. Advent reminds us of generations of saints longing for the Messiah.** Advent gives us an opportunity to imagine the long-awaited coming of the Messiah, who was promised thousands of years before his birth in Bethlehem.

**3. Advent connects us to centuries of church tradition.** Advent is an opportunity to imitate the faith of many faithful leaders who have gone before us.

**4. Advent brings slowness in the midst of a frantic season.** The Christmas holiday in the U.S. seems to verge on the point of insanity at times. Advent gives us an opportunity to slow down the pace. Whether through daily devotional readings, candle-lightings or other Advent traditions, we take time to pause and reflect - and be still.

**5. Advent teaches us patience.** God can grow patience in our hearts by demonstrating that God is patient. By remembering the longing for Christ's first coming, we see God's mercy and His patience.

**6. Advent demonstrates the rarer jewel of Christian discontentment.** What are we to make of the souls of martyrs under the altar of God crying out, "How long, O Lord?" (Revelation 6:10) We don't have to look very far to find reasons to grow in discontentment these days in our sin-broken world around us. During Advent, the promise of Jesus coming again can relieve some of our discontent in these difficult times.

**7. Advent fortifies confidence in the promises of God.** Our remembrances and expectations direct us toward the Second Advent of King Jesus. We are assured in the promises we yet await. Jesus said he is coming soon. (Revelation 22:12). We have to remember that our concept of 'soon' is much different than our

### **Sunday, Dec. 25**

There will not be any classes and no service this morning. Enjoy your Christmas!!

### **FAMILY PROMISE**

Our next hosting of homeless families begins the week of December 11- 17. Begin thinking if you would be able to provide a meal, a dessert or stay an overnight. There is a sign-up sheet being passed around on Sundays. See Terri Haithcock for any further details.

### **CHRISTMAS FAMILY PROJECT**

**We have our family!**

Mom, Dad, a 3 yr. old girl, a 13 yr. old girl and a baby girl that is due Feb. 3, 2017. There will be tags on the small Christmas tree as in previous years.

Please take a tag and purchase the item designated on the tag. Check your Sunday bulletins for more details or see any of the Deacons.

Lord's. Our confidence in the second coming of Christ inspires missions, enables Christian fellowship and mutual encouragement and equips us for joyful suffering. (Matthew 24:14), (Hebrews 10:25), (Hebrews 10:34)."

If you did not grow up with the tradition of Advent in your family or church, consider the benefits to your Christian walk this Advent season by joining those in the Christian faith who have found great benefit by preparing during Advent and for the great celebration of Christmas.

Join us at church during this special season as we join our voices together in saying, *O come, O come Emmanuel.*

*- excerpts taken from an article by Ryan Shelton.*

## **COOKIE EXCHANGE**

### **A Yummy Time for All!**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016  
AT THE CHURCH  
2:00 PM.**

***Bring a couple dozen cookies, label ingredients, bring an empty container, go home with a variety of cookies and a smile!!***

### **CAROLING**

**December 11, 2016**

Please join us as we have a Pizza lunch after worship this Sunday and go caroling to our shut-ins!! All are welcome to come!!



**Christmas Special Offerings**  
**Will be received**  
**Sunday,**  
**December 18**

**2016 Christmas Fund Offering (UCC) "God's Love Colors Everything"**

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This offering provides assistance to those clergy, lay employees & their families who have so faithfully served the Church and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs.

**2016 Christmas Joy Offering (PCUSA) - "The Wondrous Gift is Given"**

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Half of the offering supports the continued ministry of educating and forming Christian leaders. The other half honors those leaders who serve and have served the church well and now find themselves in need because of tragedy, health concerns or financial hardship.

**MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY - CHRISTMAS BRUNCH**  
**Monday, December 14, 2016**  
**10:00 am.**

**Where? At the Carlton House Community Room**

*Please come for a festive time of fellowship! The room will be decorated in the Christmas spirit and we will have a piano to sing Christmas songs to.*

*Please RSVP to Jane Urish so she can make plans.*

**DON'T FORGET THE BASKET RAFFLE & CRAFTS SALE**

**We have some wonderful baskets & crafts!!**

*The Basket raffle & Craft sale continues thru December 8. Drawing will be on the morning of December 9. The baskets and crafts are displayed in the Pastors Office. Tickets are \$1/ticket or 6/\$5. See JoAnne Urish or June Cogan.*

**Christmas Eve Service**

**Saturday, Dec. 24**

**7:00 p.m.**



*Terri Haithcock will be leading our service. We will celebrate Jesus, "The Light of the World" Please come & invite your friends and family - it is going to be a very inspirational service. Special music is also planned. More details to come.*

*As of now, there will not be a Christmas morning service, Dec. 25. You will be informed if that changes.*

**Church Directory**

The directory is being updated. Please look at your entry in it on the desk in the office and correct any changes, additions or deletions that need to be made. There will be an extra sheet next to the directory to write your changes. Thank you!

**NEW YEARS EVE PARTY**

December 31, 2016 - January 1, 2017  
7:00 pm. - 12:05 am.

Bring a dish to share, a game or a puzzle to share, and your friends and family for a fun night to ring in the New Year!!

*May the Spirit of Christmas bring you peace...*

*The gladness of Christmas give you hope...*

*The warmth of Christmas grant you Love.*

*Merry Christmas*

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