



The Methodist Memo

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST AND
SHARING OUR FAITH WITH OUR NEIGHBORS



Grateful, Thankful, Blessed

The Measure You Give

“A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over ...”

Some cooks add a pinch of this and a handful of that. My mom was an intuitive cook—some call that being a “dumper.” She didn’t keep recipe cards. When we asked what was in the delicious food she prepared, she would tell us the ingredients, then say, “I added the right amount of each so it would taste good.” While her answer wasn’t very helpful in exactly reproducing her recipes, I learned from mom to be an intuitive cook—tasting and sensing just the right amounts—and trusting it would simply turn out delicious.

Other cooks measure with precision following an exact recipe—no substitutions, variations, or creative intuitive license. Their food is delicious, too. I’m not precisely sure why, but sometimes I chuckle when I watch precision cooking in action.

The Apostle Paul talked about measuring. He said, “... Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” Luke 6:37-38

We have a beloved connection with God between the measure of our giving and the measure of our receiving. When we offer blessing and forgiveness in generous measure, we will receive blessing and forgiveness in return. And not just in small amounts!

In God’s economy, there is a powerful connection between being generous without measure in our actions, in our love, in our sacrifice, in our sharing and being blessed in return.

In November, we celebrate Stewardship Sunday or Consecration Sunday—a time of response to how we are called to be good and generous stewards of all God has given to us and to be willing, out of gratitude and abundant faith, to return to God “a good measure.”

prayer
care
share

STEWARDSHIP



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From the Pastor's Heart (continued)

We may give for what we hope to receive in return, but we give out of gratitude for what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. And in doing so, we are blessed!

Through your commitment to bless others as generous Disciples of Christ, I invite you to prayerfully discern how God is calling you to offer financial stewardship support in 2023 for the ministries and Christian fellowship of Tinley Park United Methodist Church.

Blessings to you,

Pastor Mark



Pastor Mark's Sermon Series

November 6—ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Holy Communion

“A Saint's Life: It Isn't Easy”
Scripture: Luke 6:20-31

November 13

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

“Jesus' Words & Wisdom”
Scripture: Luke 21:5-19

November 20

CHRIST THE KING/REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

Stewardship/Consecration Sunday
“In Jesus!”
Scripture: Colossians 1:11-20

November 27

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Are You Ready?”
Scripture: Matthew 24:36-44



Centering Our Hearts Towards Advent

Starting on the fourth Sunday before Christmas for 2022, that's November 27 – Advent is a celebration rooted in deep Christian traditions. Unlike the more widely-celebrated Christmas Eve and Christmas Day holidays, Advent is about far more than gift-giving, hot cocoa, and the night of Jesus Christ's birth.

Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “visit” — is traditionally a time of remembrance and anticipation for the coming of Christ. It is also the beginning of the liturgical year for followers of the Christian faith, meaning that it is the beginning of six distinct periods of Christian observance throughout the year—beginning with Advent and ending each year with Pentecost Sunday.

We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation, and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

Advent is a time to reflect on the most crucial time in the history of our Christian faith; when God arrived in human form to live amongst his creation and create a way for all of us to escape the sin of the world into which we were born.

Let us come together and celebrate the season of Advent with our church, friends, family, and fellow believers in Christ.

Pastor Mark



Always
**GIVE
THANKS**

by Nancy Conner

*“Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles,
And sing praises to Your name.”*

~ *Samuel 2:22:50*

How many of you who are reading this newsletter still send thank you cards? Sending a thank you card or letter was—at one time—the gracious and polite thing to do. I know a number of people who have a stockpile of cards for every occasion, and they use them regularly. Whenever I give a gift to certain friends, I know a thank you will be in the mail. Times have changed, however. Today, few people send thank you cards; in fact, most of the people I know who send thank you cards are over the age of 50. What happened to this gracious tradition of giving thanks? Are people so busy today that they cannot take five minutes to write a short note of thanks to someone who helped them?

In his article “How to be Thankful in All Things,” Billy Graham writes about how Apostle Paul always thanked God—even when he was imprisoned in Rome. Paul wrote “Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:19-20, NIV). As Christians, being thankful should always be a distinctive part of our lives. Graham also states that, “Nothing turns us into bitter, selfish, dissatisfied people more quickly than an ungrateful heart. And nothing will do more to restore contentment and the joy of our salvation than a true spirit of thankfulness.”

Today, however, ingratitude and thanklessness have become quite common, and common courtesy is uncommon, and people often take for granted the ways others help us. Moreover, we fail to thank God for his many blessings. Graham also reiterated that:

Ingratitude is a sin, just as surely as is lying or stealing or immorality or any other sin condemned by the Bible. One of the Bible’s indictments against rebellious humanity is that “although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him” (Romans 1:21, NIV). An ungrateful heart is a heart that is cold toward God and indifferent to His mercy and love. It is a heart that has forgotten how dependent we are on God for everything.

No matter how difficult life becomes, there is always something to be grateful for; in fact, when it feels as though we have reached the end of the line, we need to count our blessings. Let’s take a moment this Thanksgiving holiday to express our thanks to the people in our lives and to our Savior who gave his life so that we may have eternal life with him in heaven, and let’s not forget those who go without.

*“I am grateful for what I am and have.
My thanksgiving is perpetual.”*

~ Henry David Thoreau

Source: Graham, Billy. “How to be Thankful in All Things”<https://billygraham.org>. Nov. 11, 2021.

Advent
The
Arrival of the Christ



"Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern."

~Mother Teresa, Love: A Fruit Always in Season

Autumn has arrived! It's time to turn on the heat and unpack our sweaters and jackets and store away the summer clothes and sandals. It's time to clean and cover the outdoor swimming pool, and it will soon be time to turn our clocks back. But rather than lament the end of summer, let's look forward to what's ahead of us—the *Season of Advent*. This year, **Advent begins on Sunday, November 27 and ends on Saturday, December 24**. During this time, we will be busy with family and church activities, but amid the busyness of the season, we must stop and think about the most important aspect of this time, and that is the coming of the Christ Child. Let's look into the history of Advent. The following article "The Advent Wreath & Candles—Meaning, Symbolism and History" was written by Laura Richie and published online at crosswalk.com.

Advent is a time of expectation and hope filled with rich traditions. "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming," and it prompts us to pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came at Christmas. Traditions vary by country, but common ways of commemorating Jesus' birth are through Advent calendars, wreaths, and candles. Ideally, any Advent tradition should involve families in a fun activity each day of December, helping everyone remember why we celebrate Christmas. The Advent wreath and candles provide beautiful symbolism for each week of Advent as we wait for Christmas to arrive.

The History of Advent

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Most know Advent today as a time of anticipation and expectation of the birth of Christ. However, Advent began as early as the 4th and 5th centuries as a time of fasting and prayer for new Christians. The first mention of Advent occurred in 300 A.D at a meeting of church leaders called the Council of Sargossa, which gradually developed Advent into a season that stretched across the month of December. Advent consists of four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The Advent season not only symbolizes the waiting for Christ's birth but also for his final return.

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays, and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

*"If you are really thankful, what do you do?
You share." W. Clement Stone*



Advent: The Coming of the Christ Child (continued)

Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. Families begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and they light another candle each subsequent Sunday.

The light of the flickering candle flames reminds us who Jesus is: "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).



Meaning & Symbolism of the Advent Candles

The **first candle**, which symbolizes **hope** is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. The color purple symbolizes royalty, repentance, and fasting.

The **second candle**, which represents **faith** is called the "Bethlehem's Candle." The prophet Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David. The second candle is also purple to symbolize preparation for the coming king.

The **third candle** symbolizes **joy** and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy. This candle is colored pink to represent joyfulness and rejoicing.

The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace. He came to bring people close to God and to each other. This color is also purple to represent the culmination of love through the Messiah.

The **fifth candle** represents **light and purity** and is called "Christ's candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day. This candle is white to represent pure light and victory.

Advent Traditions Around the World

In Germany the time from December 1st to December 24th is called "Adventszeit," which means the time before Christmas Eve. Parents give their children calendars that count down the days. Every day in December they can open one of the doors and receive either a small chocolate in the shape of a star, a tree, or a little toy. These calendars just make the wait to Christmas Eve a little easier.



In much of the Spanish-speaking world, a custom called "Posadas" is practiced from December 16-24. "Posadas" means "shelter" or "lodging." A group of people re-enact Joseph and Mary's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. They plan a route and travel from house to house, asking for lodging. Each home plays the role of "innkeeper" and refuses to host them. At the last house, everyone is invited inside for prayer and refreshments.

Advent: The Coming of the Christ Child (continued)

In Italy, the Feast of Santa Lucia (or St. Lucy) is celebrated on the morning of December 13. The oldest daughter in the house dresses in a white robe with a red sash, and she wears a wreath with lighted candles on her head. She carries a breakfast of coffee, gingerbread cookies, and saffron buns to her parent's bedroom. The younger daughters follow the eldest, carrying a single candle. The brothers, called "star boys," wear tall, pointed hats.

Regardless of how we choose to celebrate Advent, let's always remember the beauty and grace of Jesus, who was born into a broken world filled with darkness. However, He continues to bring light, peace, and joy into our lives. Let's remember this when we light our Advent candles.

About the author: Laura Richie is a wife, mother of three, and a registered nurse who wrote The Advent Storybook for her own children, and was called to publish the book and share the story of God's rescue with families across the world.

Source: www.crosswalk.com

The first printed Advent Calendar was created in 1908 by a German named Gerhard Lang. As a boy, his mom would sew twenty-four cookies onto the lid of a box. Each day of December, he ate a cookie. This tradition inspired him to create a calendar entitled, "In the Land of the Christ Child." Today, Advent calendars are a popular tool for families to count down the days until Christmas.

(www.crosswalk.com)



Advent Word Scramble

Try to unscramble the words below — without using Google.
Answers can be found somewhere in this publication.

1. edvnta _____
2. tiamsrshc _____
3. aeritnrapo _____
4. nalcrntecooiii _____
5. uessj _____
6. werhta _____
7. nscelad _____
8. leuprp _____
9. ores _____

Created by: MyWorksheetMaker.com

Announcements

Please Note: TPUMC has a new email address. Please update your records to: tpumc6875@gmail.com.



Hanging of the Greens will take place on Sunday, November 27 immediately after service. Please stay and lend a helping hand.

Christmas Cookie Sale this year is scheduled for Sunday, December 18 after service. Set-up for the sale and packaging of cookies will be Saturday, December 17. Please plan to shop our cookie sale, and be sure to tell your friends. More information will be available in December.

The main office of the Northern Illinois Conference will move to a new location in Chicago's East Loop. The new address is 303 East Wacker Drive, Suite 2020. The move will be effective November 1. All phone extensions and email addresses will remain the same. Additional information can be found at www.umcnic.org.

FINANCIAL STATUS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Our cash balance at September 30, 2022, was \$15,313.

Contributions for the first nine months of the year continue to look good compared to the budget. If extra contributions for Thanksgiving and Christmas are reasonably good, we should exceed budgeted revenues of \$124,975 for the year by approximately \$2,000.

Actual expenses for the first nine months of the year are approximately \$4,000 less than budgeted expenses. We should be able to finish the year at approximately \$3,000 less than the annual budgeted expenses of \$141,277 if we do not incur any unexpected expenses between now and year end.

Based on the above information, our year-end result would be as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Cash balance at 12/31/21 | \$ 24,137 |
| Estimated annual revenue | 127,000 |
| Estimated annual expenses | (138,000) |
| | <hr/> |
| Cash balance at 12/31/22 | \$ 13,137 |
| | <hr/> <hr/> |

If extra contributions for Thanksgiving and Christmas are greater than my conservative estimate, then we would be able to begin next year in better financial condition than shown above.

Chuck Okresik/ncc



Exercise your mind by completing the Thanksgiving word search puzzle.



C I X W E Y X X H X W X R F G R A T I T U D E A K
 P N O J A H S M I F S K P U M P K I N Y Z K T L L
 Y D G C H I Y S X X S B R O T H E R L D X N A Q F
 W I D M D C M B M N S I G K P Q F A M I L Y F C E
 M A G O W R C O R N B R E A D X A G O B B L E Z A
 Y N X T F J U O N T P Z L O S T U F F I N G O L S
 E P B H D G C M S K H I X T H N O V E M B E R L T
 O G I E C A Z P S U J A L N L E F T O V E R S Z P
 M Z A R C R G G Q T W R N G T H A N K F U L I D O
 I C J T Y R Y K P H I A L K R V Z A S E W L F W I
 T R A D I T I O N S S C M A S I X J G R A N D M A
 D E H K C O U S I N I D K R U G M Y C P D M O S J
 D A C U G G Y M W F S Y V N K S I W W I N A S T V
 O H I M U Y U X B G T H F P E B R V G O U S M D Z
 V D U I I U N C L E E T S I C Y V Q I J P S M W I
 M G Z Z Z J Q V J X R U R C O B Y A S N K A A D P
 K A E W I S H B O N E R N A R A F U H H G C Y R I
 Z I I O J F I P I Q E K I R N R A T G U W H F E L
 P D P G A I A D L B P E O V U O L U J Z A U L S G
 Z K Y Q T X M T N Y E Y Y E C L L M D E M S O S R
 O Q P Y I K S A H S M G Z Z O L A N D C R E W I I
 X O A W K D R I A E V O F M P S Q A A S S T E N M
 N D P W H C K C C G R P T W I U B R M U B T R G B
 P B H S Q U A S H S U S P H A R W A C O N S W P A
 W R W Z D G R A N D P A C T F F Y L N E C T N U Y

- | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|---------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Thanksgiving | pilgrim | pumpkin | turkey | dressing | cranberries |
| pilgrim | indian | autumn | pie | cornucopia | feast |
| mayflower | november | stuffing | rolls | cornbread | drumstick |
| gratitude | thankful | Massachusetts | Plymoth | squash | wishbone |
| yams | grandma | grandpa | uncle | aunt | cousin |
| family | mother | father | brother | sister | carve |
| gobble | traditions | fall | leftovers | acorns | |

*"Now is no time to think of what you do not have.
 Think of what you can do with what there is." ~ Ernest Hemingway*





The Annunciation

Sources used:
www.bbc.co.uk/religion

Living the Gospel: Daily Devotions for Advent by Greg Kandra (2018).

If you were asked to name the one moment in Scripture that has been depicted in art more than any other, what would you say? Most people asked this question responded that the Nativity was most likely the most illustrated event. This response, however, is incorrect. The answer is *The Annunciation*. “Artists have painted it, sculpted it, and imagined it more than any other” biblical event. As we know, the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her she would be the mother of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. *The Annunciation* marks the beginning of our salvation.

Mary listened to the angel and she asked, “How can this be?” The answer is this: “*It can be because God wills it; all things are possible with God.*” At first, Mary was troubled. What woman wouldn’t be? However, the message for us is that when we are troubled by what God brings to us, we need to have hope and trust. We need to understand that no matter what God challenges us to do, His light will burst through the darkness and guide us to salvation.

Mary had an unexpected visitor. We need to ask ourselves how we react to the unexpected angels in our lives. Do we try to welcome them with an open heart and mind, or do we run away? This Advent season, let’s try to face the unanticipated with courage as Mary did.



I Must Remember by Shel Silverstein

I must remember. . .
 Turkey on Thanksgiving,
 Pudding on Christmas,
 Eggs on Easter,
 Chicken on Sunday,
 Fish on Friday,
 Leftovers, Monday.
 But ah, me—I’m such a dunce.
 I went and ate them all at once.



Advent Preparation Jesus Purple Reconciliation Wreath Rose Candles Christmas

Chapel of the Holy Cross, Sedona, Arizona

Tourists visiting Sedona, Arizona, often visit the Chapel of the Holy Cross, which sits atop the area's famous red rocks. The chapel was inspired by local rancher and artist, Marguerite Brunswig Staude (1899-1988), the daughter of Los Angeles wholesale druggist and philanthropist Lucien Napoleon Brunswig. Marguerite began sculpting in the 1930s, and in 1932 she was inspired by New York City's newly built Empire State Building, which reminded her of a cross. Working with Lloyd Wright (son of famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright), she wanted to create a skyscraper cathedral shaped like a cross.



Her parents offered to purchase land for the church "wherever she wanted." Initially, Marguerite chose Los Angeles, but her proposal for the chapel was denied. Next, she wanted to construct a church along the Danube River in Budapest, Hungary, but when World War II made her plans unfeasible, she decided to build the unique chapel near her ranch in Sedona.

Holy Cross Chapel is built in Coconino National Forest, and the late Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater helped her obtain a special-use permit to build on government land. Construction began in 1954, and the chapel was completed 18 months later at the cost of \$300,000. Although a devout Catholic, Marguerite wanted the Chapel of the Holy Cross to be "open to one and all, regardless of creed." When the Chapel of the Holy Cross was completed in 1956, she dedicated it to the memory of her parents.

Source: *Little White Book: Six-minute Reflections on the Parables of Jesus* (2021)



Bill Gillooley....11/9

Thanksgiving by Ralph Waldo Emerson

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

"Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some."

~ Charles Dickens

Happy Thanksgiving

