

EXPECTATION

Advent is the first liturgical season of the Christian year, marking a time of expectation of the arrival of Christ. Community UMC will offer opportunities for fellowship, study, and worship during this season.

Fellowship

Advent Party

November 30, 3:00 p.m.

Children can get into the spirit of the season as they bake cookies, make fun holiday crafts, and create fantastic gifts for their friends and family! This is a family-friendly event for children ages preschool through 5th grade and their families. Contact Beth Elders to volunteer to help.

Yuletide Brunch

December 5, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

All are invited to enjoy delicious food, good fellowship and delightful holiday entertainment, courtesy of the United Methodist Women. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the Advent season. Please call the office at (630)355-1483 to make your reservation by Monday, December 1.

Joy to the World Christmas Concert

December 7, 2:15 p.m.

We are pleased to announce that the 4th Annual Christmas Concert will start a new tradition. "Joy to the World" will be our first OneCommunity Christmas Concert, involving the whole of the music ministry of Community UMC. The concert will begin at 2:15 pm, December 7, 2008 in Fellowship Hall with a reception featuring spiced cider and the music of the Community UMC bell choirs. At 3:00 we will move to the Sanctuary for pieces by the OneCommunity Chorus, Children's Choirs, and Orchestra. This event will bring the church together for a church-wide witness of Christ's birth. Please join us as we unite our voices and instruments to herald in the Christmas Season.

Study and Discipleship

Lectionary Readings

November 30: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 7: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 14: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 21: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

December 24: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

December 25: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-14

Devotional Books for Adults and Children

Make sure you pick up your Advent Devotional, a small book with daily reflections/readings to help you center in on the real meaning of the season during this Advent! Three different books are available: adults, elementary-age children/families, and preschool-age children. Pick up your free devotional in the back of the Sanctuary, in the church office, or at OnCenter. All children's devotionals will also be available in all children's Sunday school classes and at both Children's Chapel locations. Large Print adult devotionals are available in the church office.

High-School Small Groups

December 1 – 21, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

This important time in the Christian tradition has lost its meaning to a lot of students. This Advent season we are trying something new for SHYFt (Senior High Youth Fellowship) students. Each week, small groups will meet in the homes of people. These student-led groups will have a time for food and socializing, and then will have a discussion about the importance and meaning of the Advent season as it relates to that week. There is nothing like students taking something important from scripture and applying to their lives. That's what will happen this Advent season. So if you're a high school student and you want to investigate who God is and meet up with some friends, check out the Advent groups. We'll be meeting from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. each night, at: Dec. 3, the Wesleys; Dec. 5, the Hollanders; Dec. 9, the Hartmans; Dec. 10, Debbie Craig's; Dec. 16, the Greens; and Dec. 17, the Giannasis. Contact Nick Giannasi at the church for information or directions.

Secret Angels Service Project

December 20

The service club for kids in grades 1 through 5 now includes Wesley UMC and First Congregational UCC. On December 20, they'll have a special Advent service project, helping our community. Watch the church Web site and the announcements for information about time and location.

Advent Worship

Wednesday Chapel Worship

December 3, 10, 17, and 24, 7:00 a.m.

Community UMC continues its tradition of chapel services each Wednesday in Advent. Services last about thirty minutes, and the sacrament of Holy Communion will be shared each week.

Reminiscence Service

December 9, 10:30 a.m.

This outreach service for persons with Alzheimer's is held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Sanctuary. All are welcome.

Senior Assisted Living Service

December 17, 9:30 a.m.

This service reaches out to the homebound members of our community and those living in assisted living facilities, and includes a time of fellowship.

Lessons and Carols

December 21, 11:00 a.m.

OnCenter celebrates the Christmas season with a service of Scripture readings and contemporary and traditional Christmas music.

Longest Night Service

December 21, 7:00 p.m.

This quiet service of music, Scripture, and prayer reminds us of God's presence in even the dark times. Individual pastoral prayer and anointing with oil is available during the service.

Christmas Eve Worship

Family Christmas Service

December 24, 5:00 p.m.

This interactive and informal worship service for children of all ages features traditional Christmas carols interwoven with dramatic skits and a retelling of the Nativity Story.

Candlelight Christmas Service

December 24, 10:30 p.m.

This service will include Holy Communion, special music, the familiar Christmas liturgy, and the lighting of the Sanctuary with candles.