



# GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

The Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury

December 1, 2025  
Volume 62, Issue 11

## **2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY Of Advent**

**December 7, 2025**

**10:00 A.M.**

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Communion**

Children's Sunday School

**11:00 AM**

Coffee and Fellowship

Dee's Alternative Gift Market

**11:15 AM**

Adult Sunday School

## **3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY Of Advent**

**December 14, 2025**

**10:00 A.M.**

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

Children's Sunday School

**11:00 AM**

Coffee and Fellowship

Dee's Alternative Gift Market

**11:15 AM**

Adult Sunday School

## **4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY Of Advent**

**December 21, 2025**

**10:00 A.M.**

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

**11:00 AM**

**11:15 AM**

Adult Sunday School

## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**December 24, 2025**

**5:00 p.m.**

Christmas Eve Worship Service



## **FROM THE PASTOR...**

### ***MOVING TOWARDS THE MANGER***

While the storefronts and festivities are declaring the arrival of the Christmas season, the Christian calendar says otherwise. In truth, we are currently in the season of Advent. According to our history, sometime after the 6th century, the Christian church designated the four Sundays before Christmas as Advent. The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical calendar. It was never meant to be seen as extending Christmas. The actual Christmas season begins on Christmas day and lasts for 12 days until Epiphany (January 6). The reason for Advent was for people to be solemnly aware of the coming of the Messiah – full of longing and hope for the Promised One. It was often seen as a time for prayer and fasting, similar to Lent. However, Advent always held that inescapable sense of "joy". The season of Advent is a time when Christians are encouraged to focus on the four comings, or "advents," of Christ: The Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah, the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, the presence of Christ in the hearts of believers, and the second coming of Jesus.

Today, Advent is celebrated by the lighting of candles on a wreath. This has become a visual expression of an invisible reality. The wreath is a circle without a beginning or end, symbolizing the Jesus' divinity, his Incarnation and his unending love for us. The evergreens, a sign of life amid the starkness of winter, point to Christ's redemptive gift of life, now and forever. With the assurance of this gift, we can eagerly pray for

Christ to return and to restore all of creation. Sometimes there are red holly berries which point to Jesus' death on the cross; or pinecones which symbolize the new life we will receive when he comes again. However, the candles on the Advent wreath help us see the contrast of the light that comes into the world in Jesus. It is when we light the candles that we see the contrast between the darkness and the light, between our sin and God's promised salvation.

The four Advent candles in the wreath are lit successively, one candle the first week, two candles the second week, and so on. On Christmas the center Christ candle is lit. This tradition of increasing the number of candles each week sharpens our anticipation as it reminds us that we are getting closer and closer to the celebration of Christ's birth. Jesus announced himself as the completion of Isaiah's promise of "a great light" when he said, "I am the world's Light. No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in." (John 8:12 – The Message). The full blaze of light in the Advent wreath on Christmas represents the fulfillment of this promise. May we prepare our homes and hearts for the coming of world's light – the birth of Jesus!

In Christ,  
Phil

### **1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY Of Advent**

**November 30, 2025**

**10:00 A.M.**

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Hanging of the Greens**

Children's Sunday School

**11:00 AM**

Advent Christmas Party

Wreath Making

Dee's Alternative Gift Market



## ADVENT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, November 30th -

Immediately following 10am worship Advent wreath making, crafts and lunch will be provided. Bring clippers and additional greens if you will be making an Advent wreath (some greens will be provided). The sign-up poster is in the Chapel.

**MISSION GIFT CARDS:** The Mission Task Force is asking for monetary donations so they can supply gift cards to the homeless in our neighborhood. You can drop off checks or cash to the church office.

## POINSETTIAS:

Order forms for Christmas poinsettias have been mailed this week to previous donors. If you would like to place an order and have not received a form, please call the church office. Checks should be made payable to the "Flower Fund." **Forms are due back November 30<sup>th</sup>.**



## COMMUNITY DINNER

December 11 - 5:30 PM

**HELP AND FOOD ITEMS NEEDED:** Volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen, clean up and to provide dessert for the Community Dinner. Please sign up or call the church office if you can help.

## WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at Noon in the chapel. All are invited. Sign-up sheet in the chapel. Please bring a small item for the food pantry.

## ADVENT WORSHIP

In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God's new world, yet we praise God who raised the "righteous branch" to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land.

## NOVEMBER

30 Advent 1 w/ Hanging of the Greens Matthew 24:36-44

## DECEMBER

7 Advent 2 w/ Communion Matthew 3:1-12

14 Advent 3 Matthew 11:2-11

21 Advent 4 Matthew 1:1-25

24 Christmas Eve @5:00pm Luke 2:1-30

**DEACON NEWS:** Please help the Deacon's by donating new toys for their Christmas Ministry. There is a bin on the Deacon's Table in the chapel where you can leave your donations.

## Dee's Alternative Christmas Market: Nov. 30, Dec. 7 & 14

Dee's Market has been a way to honor Dee Tanzola's love of the Christ-child and support local, national and international ministries. Please consider donating to one of the following ministries: Prison Ministries, Community Dinner, Peru Ministries and World Vision and share these as a gift with a friend or family member.

**MITTEN TREE** is up in the Chapel and ready for donations of mittens, gloves, and hats.



**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** A reminder to keep our military personnel in your prayers, including Nathan Wadding, Cameron Wadding, Jarrod Fetty, and Wesley Tatham.

**CHRISTMAS JOY:** The Christmas Joy Offering supports a past, present and future leaders of the church, supporting them in times of need, leadership development and education. You can use the Christmas Offering envelope in your envelope box or the Christmas Joy envelopes found in the pews. Checks should be made payable to our church. Please give with joy!

Joy

