



State Line UMC

December 2021

Without Borders

Advent Meditation

The first week of Advent has to deal with the shock. Is it time? Already? Sure, the world has been giving Christmas hints for months now, but it still seems to surprise us every year. Perhaps it is because we don't start with the Christmas story. That might be a little more palatable. No, we start with the warning signs, with the forecast for cloudy skies ahead. We start with a prophetic call to look at the world we inhabit. How close are we to the kin-dom we proclaim week after week? How close are we to this coming "on earth as it is in heaven" for which we pray regularly? Advent is about being honest.

But not hopeless. Advent is about the joy of longing for home – the kind of home that will complete us, the kind of home that will transform the world. It is about helping us remember that we have a mission and a hope. We are people who see God at work in this world, and we are partners in that remaking. We are the disciples who make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Worship this week, then, is that call to remember the hope. We cast a vision in our songs and prayers that holds up the kin-dom ideal and invites everyone to get ready to head home. It's time: that's our call; it's time to go home.

So, what do we do when we get ready to go home? We make lists. We put things in order. We set our minds on our destination. So, as we decorate our sanctuaries, we are painting a portrait of the kin-dom, light and color and vibrantly green with life, even in winter.

Our arms are open to receive those who come, maybe for the first time, maybe old friends, maybe the usual crowd, but all are welcome in God's home, our kin-dom home. Pay attention this season to hospitality; it matters. It matters always, but especially this time, this threshold time. If the church is the glimpse of the home toward which we move, then take care to reflect the welcome that is being offered.

Light, of course, is crucial to Advent. We light the candles on the wreath, not to count down to Christmas, but as a beacon to call us home. "We'll leave the light on for you" isn't just a slogan for a hotel chain, but a gospel promise that we will find our way by the light that is Jesus the Christ and now is reflected in the body of Christ, the church. So, let there be light during the season of Advent. You could, as some do, bring in more and more light each week, or you could start the season with the full complement, except for the remaining candles of the wreath, but the full complement of lights glowing in the worship space.

The first Sunday of Advent, or the Sunday of hope in some traditions, or the prophecy candle in others, is the reminder that it is time to head home.

Rev. Dr. Derek Weber, Director of Preaching Ministries, served churches in Indiana and Arkansas and the British Methodist Church. His PhD is from University of Edinburgh in preaching and media. He has taught preaching in seminary and conference settings for more than 20 years.

Encounter God

Share God's love with our church family and invite friends and neighbors.

Grow in Faith

You must be intentional in growing your faith and in helping others do the same.

Serve in Christ's Love

Jesus gave us the example of helping others and charged us with sharing the faith.

Our Mission To make new disciples of Jesus Christ

Our Vision To invite and reach out to our neighbors to encounter God, grow in faith and serve in Christ's love



Birthdays

December

- 7 Ruth Hollister
- 9 Christy Garner
- 19 Sarah Beth Garner
- 19 Curtis Barr
- 20 Terry Berkley
- 20 Harry Kelley
- 26 Mary Thomas
- 29 Ellen Kennedy
- 29 Jeffrey Wine
- 29 Connie Barr



Anniversaries

December

- 18th Denny & Jackie Simmons
- 20th Jonathan & Gwenelle Trivette
- 31st Matt & Bonnie Courtney



Serving in Worship

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Worship Asst.</u>
Dec. 5	Dixie E. / Rodger K.	Ellen Avey
Dec. 12	Tim B. /Gary R.	Ellen Kennedy
Dec. 19	Bonnie C./Ellen A.	Terry Berkley
Dec. 26	Dixie E./Rodger K	Ellen Avey

Upcoming Dates

Friday, December 10 th	6:00 p.m.	Christmas Sharing Party
Monday, December 13 th	1:00 p.m.	Packing food for the Inn
Tuesday, December 14 th	6:30 p.m.	Leadership Team Meeting
Wednesday, December 15 th	5:55 p.m.	Delivering food to the Inn
Friday, December 24 th	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday, December 25 th	CHRISTMAS DAY!!!	
Sunday, December 26 th	10:15 a.m.	Casual Worship with Carols & Devotions (no Sunday School)



Tithes & Offerings

Week of November 7th: \$2834.00
Week of November 14th: **\$984.00**
Week of November 21st: **\$744.00**
Week of November 28th: \$1125.00

State Line United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 277
State Line, PA 1726

~ OR ~

Mail slot at back door

~ OR ~

ONLINE GIVING on the website



Outreach Pantry Needs for October

Please bring in donations by Sunday, December 12th.



Peanut Butter

Canned Pasta

Poptarts

Fruit Cups

Cereal



CHRISTMAS SHARING

December 10, 2021

6:00 P.M.



So, here we are again . . . another year almost to the end.

With so much uneasy things in the world, let's not think about ourselves but about those around us who may not have as much. This year instead of bringing a gift to exchange, let's bring the 'littles' a gift.

The PMI Pregnancy Resource Center (Greencastle) would love for us to share with them the following:

Diapers - Wipes

Walmart or Target gift cards

New toys for ages through 18 months

We will still have great food, fellowship, and of course dessert.

Contact Sherry Rhoe with any questions you may have.



Christmas Day Prayer

“God, our Creator, we offer this humble prayer on Christmas Day. We come to worship with a song of thanks in our hearts—a song of redemption, a song of hope and renewal. We pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth. We ask for the salvation of all our family members and friends, and we pray your blessings on all people. May there be bread for the hungry, love for the unlovable, healing for the sick, protection for our children, and wisdom for our youth. We pray for the forgiveness of sinners and abundant life in Christ. Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and power. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.”



—by Rev. Lia Icaza Willetts

Aldersgate Church, York, PA

November Leadership Meeting Highlights

The following items were discussed and decided upon at the November 16 meeting:

- The 2003 church van will be sold with proceeds returned to funds which provided purchase price, 1/3 to youth account and 2/3 to outreach
- The 2022 Shares of Ministry are \$15,522, down 1.7% from 2021; \$5000 of 2021 amount was submitted in October
- Disciples of Faith and Seekers Sunday School class checking accounts will be consolidated into Adult Sunday School account since there is only one adult class
- A 2022 proposed budget (roughly \$64,000) was discussed, tweaked, and will be reviewed for approval at the December meeting
- A \$25 donation was approved to Camp Penn Christmas (Dec. 12, all are invited)
- Membership letter responses (from about half of all sent) were reviewed
- Outreach team continues to serve others with monthly food delivery to the Inn and donation of 3 roasting chickens and two turkeys to Waynesboro Human Services
- Adult Fellowship will represent State Line UMC with a float in the Greencastle Christmas Parade
- December opportunities for all include Christmas Sharing (party, RSVP by 12/5, attend on 12/10), Camp Penn Christmas (fellowship at 4, service at 5 in chapel), Christmas Eve service (7 pm here), 12/26 (no Sunday School, worship at 10:15)

The final Leadership Team meeting of 2021 will be held at 6:30 on Dec. 14. All are welcome to attend.



1:00 p.m. – Monday, December 13th

Join the Outreach Team to help pack food for delivery. No stairs or heavy lifting required.

5:55 p.m. – Wednesday, December 15th

Help take the food down the ramp from the front door and deliver to the Inn's parking lot.

State Line United Methodist Church

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