

NORTHMINSTER CHURCH



STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Jordan Rimmer, Pastor

Kris Miller, Secretary

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Director of Music Ministries*

Dawn Kosior, Child Care

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Advent & Christmas Schedule 2018

December 2- First Sunday in Advent
Sermon Title- How the Grinch Stole Advent
Scripture- Isaiah 9:2-7

December 9- Second Sunday in Advent
Sermon Title- My Big Fat Dysfunctional
Family Christmas
Scripture- Matthew 1:18-25
*Church Christmas Party and Luncheon
following Worship*

December 16- Third Sunday in Advent
Sermon Title- It's Sort of a Wonderful Life
Scripture- Luke 1:26-38

December 23- Fourth Sunday in Advent
Sermon Title- The Nightmare before New Years
Scripture- Luke 2:8-20

December 24- Christmas Eve
4:00pm- Family Service
with scripture readings and carols
8:00pm- Traditional Service
with Communion and Candlelight

December 30- First Sunday of Christmas
This will be a special service of carols which
will give the stories behind many of your
favorite Christmas carols.



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

So, you think you know the Bible's Christmas story? Did you know that Jesus was probably born in a house and not in December? Mary probably did not ride a donkey? The wise men did not show up that night? Matthew and Luke wrote different birth narratives for different purposes? In this three week Bible Study, done Monday evenings and repeated Wednesday mornings, Pastor Jordan will dive deeply into the REAL Christmas Story and why it is so much better than you probably have ever realized.

*Monday Evenings- 7:00-8:00pm
Dec. 3, 10, 17*

*Wednesday Mornings- 10:00-11:00am
Dec. 5, 12, 18*

From the Pastor

Advent and Christmas can be a crazy time. We hang banners in the church that say faith, hope, joy, and peace. Yet so often we feel the exact opposite of those things at this time of the year. There is lots to do and a lot of pressure to look like you have it all together. So here are a few hints for have a different kind of Advent this year.

Remember the meaning of Advent. The word Advent comes from the Latin meaning *to come*. It is a season leading up to Christmas where we are meant to think about Christ coming in three ways. First, we remember that Christ came in the past-tense. We sing songs and do liturgy in which we identify with Israel and with Mary expecting Jesus to come. This drives us to think about Jesus coming to us in the present tense and he comes into our lives. We also look forward during this month to the future coming of Christ at the second coming.

Pay attention to the traditions and the symbols. They are meant to connect you with the season.

- Evergreens- represent the eternal promises of God that stay true no matter how much life feels like winter.
- Wreath- evergreens weaved in a circle to further the idea of the eternal promises which have no beginning or end.
- Christmas Tree- represents the evergreen symbol, but in our homes and filled with memories of Christmas' past.
- The Star- the symbol the wise men followed representing God's leading in our own lives.
- Lights- reminders that Jesus comes to bring light to dark times and dark places.
- The Nativity- reminds us of the center of the story.
- Songs- provide a soundtrack and, though we rarely pay attention to the words, holds a theology for the season.

Try to develop a devotional habit. Spend time daily reading and thinking about God's work in your life. I have written a few devotionals for Advent, but there are plenty of others available.

Read the Christmas story. It is found in both Matthew and Luke in the Bible. You might be surprised how many elements that you think are part of the story are not actually in the text. I suggest you read the story multiple times and marinate in it for Advent.

Take times of silence and rest. This is a season where true Sabbath rest is rarely found. Schedule it. Plan on it, or it won't happen.

Remember the difficulties of others. This is a season of deeper depression and higher suicide rates. Many people feel the sting of losses and regrets more keenly during the Christmas season. Look for opportunities to care for others during this season. This is also a season where people are more likely to accept an invitation to go to church.

Consider the practice of alternative giving. This is when you give a donation to an organization in honor of another person. It can be a meaningful experience for both you and the one who received the gift. Some ministries, such as Samaritan's Purse who does Operation Christmas Child, allow you to give specific gifts. You can then print a card that says you bought a chicken or a medicine kit in the other person's name and give it to them. You can see their options at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/gift-catalog>.

I hope and pray that you can have a blessed holiday season. *Pastor Jordan*

Christian Fellowship

Women's Luncheon
December 6 at 11:30am at Hito's
Must RSVP to Nancy Hudson

Crochet Class
Tuesday Dec. 4th at 7:00pm
at the church. Bring yarn, hook & pattern.



- 2 - Jeff, Meredith & Kai Alduk, Dennis Alduk
- 9 - Bill & Barb Taylor, Wendy Wojcik, Karyn Weisz
- 16 - Tom & Sandy Clark, Ryan Marshall,
Nancy Zaccaro
- 23 - Bob & Karen Bruce, Tom & Debbie Stoffick
- 30 - Randy & Jan Sumner, Derek & Stef Sumner

Committee Meetings:

- Christian Ed** - Tues, Dec 4, 7:00pm
- Worship** - Wed, Dec. 5, 5:00pm
- Mission** - Mon, Dec. 10, 6:00pm
- Session** - Wed, Dec. 12, 6:45pm
- Corp. Affairs** - Thurs, Dec. 20, 6:30pm

Lay Leaders:

- 2 - Paul Ubry
- 9 - Sally Dexter
- 16 - David Wilson
- 23- Jan Sumner
- 30 - David Reynolds



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| Shelly DePaolo | 12/2 |
| Pam Bartoshek | 12/3 |
| Louise McCormish | 12/3 |
| Nikki Stouffer | 12/4 |
| Rory Hudson | 12/5 |
| Angalina DePaolo | 12/9 |
| Bob Lawton | 12/10 |
| Christy Raiser | 12/14 |
| Marty Clobus | 12/15 |
| Matthew Hudson | 12/15 |
| Barbara Jenkins | 12/15 |
| Alexis Noga | 12/15 |
| Kris Miller | 12/16 |
| Carrol Robinson | 12/20 |
| Anna Scocchera | 12/20 |
| Ken Carnahan | 12/22 |
| Marcia Earl | 12/22 |
| Chuck Griffiths | 12/23 |
| Libby Strizzi | 12/24 |
| JESUS | 12/25 |
| Evan Torsello | 12/27 |
| Dan DePaolo | 12/28 |
| Tom Kaufman | 12/28 |
| Peg Alduk | 12/29 |

The Mission Committee wishes to thank everyone who filled a box, donated money to help the committee fill boxes and helped support us with their prayers. We were able to fill 126 boxes this year. Jordan was kind enough to volunteer to transport them to New Life Baptist Church on Thursday 11/15/18 with my Mom and I along to supervise (Mom) and help lift and carry (Me). We prayed for the boxes to reach the children God was directing them to. We also met an O.C.C. big wig from Baltimore, named Bill. He told us that the 2 things kids most enjoy receiving, the world over, are sunglasses and stuffed animals...make a note to yourselves for next year!

Thanks again for all of the help, support and prayers that go into this wonderful ministry!!

Mission Committee, David Reynolds

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Nick Binder; Ron Shaw; Kosey Fennick; Piper Ondrasik; Matthew Ringwellski; Soldiers & families; Politicians & elected officials; Police & protesters; Refugees; Israel; Arab world; Sudan; Victims of Natural disasters (fire, drought, flooding); Home-bound people.



*Glorifying God by reaching out,
and building up for Christ.*



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