



buzz

Worship Preview for Advent and Christmas

This year, like many others, the American Thanksgiving weekend marks the beginning of the church's liturgical year. It also signals our shift in the Christian worshipping community to a season of the year that the big retailers already began making shelf space for in October: Christmas. To be more precise, in the church we first enter into Advent, a season of four weeks of preparation for Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ our savior. This is not to be confused with "Christmas," the secular holiday dedicated to lavish gift-giving, merrymaking, overconsumption and vague platitudes about joy and peace.

Our worship theme this year for the six Sundays of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany is "**O, that you would reveal your mystery,**" a cry to God rising out of the 64th chapter of Isaiah. With our shortened attention spans and almost nonexistent tolerance for waiting for anything, divine mystery is hard for us to accept, let alone welcome. We tend to want clear answers, and we want them revealed now!

This year's theme recognizes that the world continues to be a broken and disordered place despite our prayers for peace and despite even the first coming of Jesus over two thousand

years ago. We easily forget that the birth of the Messiah was a disturbing and threatening event to the powers of that day. As some of our worship resource materials declare, "Faithful preparation during Advent puts Christmas into its proper place, not as a comforting destination where chestnuts roast on an open fire, but as the completely disruptive in-breaking of the God who, through this birth, reveals the divine mystery and sheds new light on all things." (*Leader* magazine, MennoMedia, Fall 2014, p. 28) The reign of God (past, present and future), and not solely the coming of Jesus, will be the focus of this series, as each week gives expression to a particular cry or statement to God.

Here is a summary of the upcoming themes, Scriptures and preachers for the Sundays from November 29 through January 3.

Date	Theme	Scriptures	Preacher
November 29	Advent 1: O, that you would reveal your hope	Isa. 64:1-9; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor. 1:3-9; Mk. 13:24-37	Neil Amstutz
December 6	Advent 2: O, that you would reveal your peace	Isa. 40:1-11; Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Pet. 3:8-15a; Mk. 1:1-8	Cindy Voth
December 13	Advent 3: O, that you would reveal your joy	Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126; 1 Thes. 5:16-24; Jn. 1:6-8, 19-28	Lyle Miller
December 20	Advent 4: O, that you would reveal your love	2 Sam. 7:1-11; Ps. 89:1-4, 19-26; Rom. 16:25-27; Lk. 1:26-38	Neil Amstutz
December 27	Christmas: Your beauty is revealed	Isa. 61:10-62:3; Ps. 148; Gal. 4:4-7; Lk. 2:22-40	Cindy Voth
January 3	Epiphany: Your saving mystery revealed	Isa. 60:1-6; Ps. 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph. 3:1-12; Matt. 2:1-12	Neil Amstutz

On the Journey

Thank you for relieving Tim of his duties as chair of the congregation in September, 2015, allowing us to focus on our retirement arrangements. We are in the process of downsizing by selling our house at 508 Noelwood Drive. The buyers have already moved in under a pre-closing rental arrangement. That means we have moved and are now living at 913 Braxton Court where our grandchildren Zoë and Axel, along with Greg and Melanie Hire, have welcomed us for an interim stay of 3-6 months. We have explored condominiums in Edmonton, Alberta and Windsor, Ontario, however, it seems best for us to stay in the Goshen area for the near future. Our next steps will be to find the place God is preparing for us here once our house sale is complete. So our interim contact information is: 913 Braxton Court, Goshen IN 46526; Tim's cell is 574-361-3446 and Sharon's cell is 574-370-3433. We are deeply grateful for all the love and support shown by so many in the congregation during this transition.

—Tim & Sharon Burkholder



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Health Care Resource Group Installs AED for Church

As you may have read in a recent Buzz article, the Endowment Fund agreed to purchase an AED, or automated external defibrillator, for the church. You have probably noted that these are becoming much more prevalent in society and have seen them in places like the gym or the airport and now near the coffee station at church. I, myself, always note them when I see them because I never know when I may need one. With that in mind, the Health Care Resource Group requested one.

Now you may be wondering why should we have one at the church; most of the time we are sitting and listening and not running for our health or to catch a plane? Well again you never know when the spirit will move you and you may need one (pun intended). Additionally there have been a few episodes where someone has not been well and although an AED would not have been appropriate for them at the time, these situations usually prompt those of us who are medically inclined to think, "This could get worse and where is the AED?"

These days, most people who are certified in CPR are taught how to use the AED. So if you are knowledgeable about an AED and think someone is in distress and it would be helpful to use, please use it. The AED is useful in people who are unresponsive, meaning they are not moving and not talking and usually not breathing. The AED case has directions and guidance in it, but know that it will not shock someone unless it senses that someone needs it. In other words, don't think that you will be able to make the situation worse by using the device; it's set up to keep people safe as well as to try to save lives.

The Health Care Resource Group would like to thank the Endowment Fund for purchasing the AED. We hope that we never need it, but we are reassured that it is there if we do.

—Mandy Schmidt, on behalf of the Health Care Resource Group

Thank You

Thank you church family for all the 94th birthday wishes with visits, calls, cards, flowers and food. All was greatly appreciated.

—Mary Helmuth

JYF Christmas Sale Starting Up



Beginning today, you will have the opportunity to place orders for several items for December delivery in a Junior MYF fundraiser. As in past years, the middle schoolers will be selling soup mixes and candy, but we have added peppernuts to the menu this year.

In addition, it's been a few years since we have offered the chance to sport spiffy new Waterford apparel. We will also be taking orders for hoodie sweatshirts and t-shirts using the design above. The clothing will be available in both youth and adult sizes.

Orders will be taken on Sundays from November 22 through December 6, with delivery on Sunday, December 13. You can pay at the time of ordering or picking up. Profits from these fundraisers support the Junior MYF's participation in faith formation activities such as Winter Youth Retreat and Know Jesus, which are often identified by students as particularly important steps in their path to discipleship. The items for sale make great gifts for teachers, coworkers, friends, and family.

Next Week Buzz Deadline

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday the Buzz submission deadline will be Monday, November 23 at 5 p.m. Thanks for your cooperation.