

ADVENT WISDOM: Creating Strength and Beauty

Advent 2017

First Sunday of Advent December 3

"From the fig tree learn its lesson..."
Mark 13.28

- 8:30 am Early Worship
 9:40 am Adult Education
 11:00 am Worship, Communion
 4:15 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal
 5:00 pm Children - Crafts
 Preschool* through 5th grade will make crafts for the Advent and Christmas season. *Young children should be accompanied by an adult or an older sibling.
- 5:30 pm **Advent Evensong Service**
 Advent Evensong is a candlelight service of evening prayers incorporating song, prayer, testimony and scripture. We begin the season of Advent mindful of the longing in our hearts for God's shalom. How do we live in hope when life seems so far from God's vision of peace? We light a candle, we sit together, and we keep looking for Christ in the darkness.
- 6:00 pm **Supper & Lighting of Advent Candles**
 A simple meal will be provided after the Advent crafts and activities.

Second Sunday of Advent December 10

"...and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything on it will be disclosed." 2 Peter 3.10

- 8:30 am Early Worship
 10:00 am **St. Nicholas Breakfast**
 This will be a time to remember the traditions of St. Nicholas and share breakfast in the Commons. There will be a special gift for each child and a gift to share with others!
- 11:00 am **Worship**
 4:00 pm **Advent Organ Recital**
 Rhonda Edgington's concert this year will include advent and Christmas themed solo organ works, congregational hymns, pieces for flute (played by flutist Julie Sooy) and organ, and a trio for soprano, flute, and organ by French composer Frank Martin. Childcare will be available.
- 4:15 pm **Jubilate Choir Rehearsal**

Bus Ministry:

Bus Ministry: On Dec. 3, there will be a second bus pick up at 5:10 pm at Freedom Village, and 5:15 pm at Warm Friend. On Dec. 10, there will be a second bus pick up at 3:35 pm at Freedom Village, and 3:40 pm at Warm Friend.

Third Sunday of Advent December 17

"...the earth brings forth its shoots..."
Isaiah 61.11

- 8:30 am Early Worship
 9:40 am Adult Education
 11:00 am Worship
 12:15 pm Pizza Sunday
 12:35 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal
 1:00 pm **Congregational Caroling**
 Share the spirit of celebration and joy with those who find it difficult to join us. Poinsettias, gift bags, and cards will be shared as we carol. You don't have to have a great voice, just a smile to share. Families and persons of all ages are encouraged to participate - many voices are needed!



Christmas Eve

December 24

"...nothing will be impossible with God."

Luke 1:37

11:00 am **Worship**

11:15 am **Children in Worship**

5:00 pm **Jubilate Choir Rehearsal**

5:30 pm **Family Worship Service & Pageant**

Christmas carols will be sung and the Christmas story will be told as we worship the Christ child together. The pageant is a wonderful event for the whole community to celebrate the music and meaning of this season as the children act out the events of the Gospel story.

~ Children are welcome in the family service

10:00 pm **Young Adult Open House**

11:00 pm **Candlelight Communion**

Scripture lessons, carols, and music will fill our worship in a celebration of the birth of Christ. We greet Christmas morning sharing communion together, celebrating Jesus' birth.

No Early Worship, Church School,

Christmas Sunday

Sunday, December 31

11:00 am **Christmas Worship Service**

A worship service of carols, scripture, poetry, Christmas celebration & reflection.

11:15 am **Children in Worship - only Preschool & K-1 will meet**

No Early Worship, Church School, or Adult Education.

Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 7

8:30 am **Early Worship**

9:40 am **Adult Education**

11:00 am **Epiphany Worship Service**

11:15 am **Combined Children in Worship**

12:15 pm **Epiphany Celebration**



Original Advent artwork by Kari Miller Fenwood

Opportunities to Give

Tree of Light

Become more involved in the lives of the community by selecting a tag off the tree in the Gathering Area beginning Dec. 3. This year, we are asking you to purchase \$25 gift cards to Meijer, Target, or Walmart, along with a Christmas card. Return gift cards with the Christmas card in an **unsealed** envelope to Hope Church by Dec. 17. For further details, please read the article on page 3 of the December newsletter.

Christmas Offering

The Christmas offering will support Hurricane Relief with RCA Churches in the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more information, please see the article on page 1-2 of the December newsletter.

White Gift Offering

On Epiphany Sunday, **Jan. 7**, bring a personal care product for a child or woman, wrapped in white tissue paper. These gifts will be brought forward during the offering, and later given to the Center for Women in Transition, a local agency assisting women and families caught in abusive relationships and empowering a hopeful future for them.