

Fulfilling the Promises

Advent 2019

First Sunday of Advent: Time December 1

"you know what time it is" Romans 13.11

- 8:30 am Early Worship
9:40 am Adult Education
11:00 am Worship, Communion
11:15 am Children in Worship - Children will come back to join parents for Communion
4:15 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal
5:00 pm Crafts for Children
Preschool* through 5th grade will make crafts for the Advent and Christmas season. Families are encouraged to come and craft together. There are some crafts that have become a Hope Church tradition and some new ones to try. Fun easy projects for the little ones and others for the older children to use their creativity. Join the other families for the lighting of the Advent wreath and dinner following. **Young children should be accompanied by an adult or an older sibling.*
5:00 pm Youth Activity: Creating College Care Packages
5:00 pm Advent Organ Recital
Rhonda will again offer an Advent organ recital to the Hope Church and Holland community. She will be joined by Greg Bassett on French Horn and Julie Sooy on Flute.
6:00 pm Supper & Lighting of Advent Candles
A simple meal will be provided after the Advent crafts, recital, and youth activity.

Second Sunday of Advent: Change December 8

"the kingdom of heaven has come near" Matthew 3.2

- 8:30 am Early Worship
10:00 am St. Nicholas Breakfast
Nicholas was a bishop known for his kindness to people in need and to children. He gave many gifts to others in secret. The generosity of Saint Nicholas reminds us of God's love and the many good gifts that God gives to us. In St. Nicholas' spirit of giving, each child is asked to bring a small **unwrapped** gift either purchased or homemade. They can be gently used or new toys and games, toiletries for children, books or socks (adult or children sizes), etc. These gifts will be shared with people in the community. Also, each child should bring an extra shoe of his/her own. Perhaps St. Nicholas will bring gifts to fill that shoe. This intergenerational celebration will include a story, games, songs and crafts along with a breakfast of pigs in the blanket and eggs.
11:00 am Worship
11:15 am Children in Worship
12:15 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal

Bus Ministry: On December 1, there will be a second bus pick up at 4:30 pm at Freedom Village and 4:35 pm at Warm Friend.

Third Sunday of Advent: Song December 15

"come to Zion with singing" Isaiah 35.10

- 8:30 am Early Worship
9:40 am Adult Education
11:00 am Worship
11:15 am Children in Worship
12:15 pm Pizza Sunday
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! We especially encourage young families and youth to go caroling with other Hope Church members after a pizza lunch. They love to see the children and youth!

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Signs

December 22

"God is with us" Matthew 1:23

- 8:30 am Early Worship
- 11:00 am Worship
- 11:15 am Children in Worship - costumes will be available for pageant
- 12:15 pm Jubilate Choir Rehearsal

No Church School or Adult Education.

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24

- 5:00 pm Costumes available for pageant
 - 5:30 pm Family 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 way for the whole community to celebrate the music and meaning of this season as the children act out the events of the Gospel story. All children toddlers through 5th graders are invited to be a part of the presentation of the Christmas story during the family service. Costumes will be available December 15 and 22 and at 5pm on December 24 or wear a costume from home. We are gathering angels, shepherds, magi and sheep. Costumes can be very simple and Hope Church has lots of accessories to match. Visiting family and friends are welcome. ~ *Children are welcome in the service*

- 10:00 pm Young Adult Open House
If you are post high school to age 30 and in Holland for Christmas, please come to this special Christmas Eve Reception. There will be cookies, cider and hot chocolate! Reconnect with past members of Fish Club and High Hopes!
- 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.

Christmas Sunday

Sunday, December 29

- 11:00 am Christmas Season Worship Service
A worship service of carols, scripture, poetry, Christmas celebration & reflection.
- 11:15 am Children in Worship - Pre-K through 1st grade will meet

No Early Worship, Church School, or Adult Education.

Epiphany Sunday

Sunday, January 5

- 9:40 am Adult Education, Church School, and Youth Classes
- 11:00 am Epiphany Worship Service
- 11:15 am Combined Children in Worship
- 12:15 pm Epiphany Celebration during Fellowship Time

Opportunities to Give

Christmas Cookies for Caroling & Open House

On December 15 we will be caroling and sharing home baked treats with our homebound members. Please consider providing cookies for this special event. Cookies are also needed for the Christmas Eve Youth Open House. All cookies must be brought to the church by December 8. There is a sign up sheet in the gathering area and google form that can be filled out to let us know how many dozen cookies you are able to bring.

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. 1. 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. 15. For further details, please read the longer article in the Advent newsletter.

Christmas Offering

The Christmas offering will support the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) and the Frontera de Gracia Ministry, to help address immigration issues both systemically and in a particular community.

White Gift Offering

On Epiphany Sunday, **Jan. 5**, 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.