

December

Everything within the life of the church begins with Jesus and the church year begins with the season of Advent, the anticipation of Jesus coming into the world. Advent begins this year on Sunday, December 1, 2019 and continues for the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas.

Because of the **Hope** that we have through Jesus, the **Peace** that comes to all of us with his presence in our lives and the **Joy** that is ours knowing that He has come, we will share special times of worship together each Sunday this month. We know that it is because of God's great **Love** for us that Jesus came into the world and we will rejoice with beautiful music of the season and beloved carols.



The sanctuary will be beautifully adorned for the season with the lighted Christmas trees, wreaths on the walls a nativity that will be above the communion table and later in the month, poinsettias will add to the beauty. On the first Sunday of Advent, December 1, we will share the meaning of the different decorations and why they are used to help point to the coming Messiah, the Prince of Peace, Jesus.

The December calendar is full of wonderful activities for individuals and for families to enjoy. One of the first that is a favorite for so many is an annual instrumental Christmas concert from the Milford Community Band that is directed by Mr. Phil Steinhoff. Invite others to join you and come on Saturday, December 7 at 3 PM and enjoy the music of the Christmas season.



For many years a tradition for this church family is the annual Christmas Tea. This year it will be on Sunday, December 8 at 4 PM and the theme will be the ABC's of Christmas – Angels, Bells and Candy Canes. Many people are signing up to bring refreshments – cookies, cheese balls & crackers, there will be spiced tea, hot chocolate and other goodies. The program will be fun and inspirational and a great family event. Invite the extended family, your friends and neighbors to come and enjoy the evening together.

On Saturday afternoon, December 14, the Board of Christian Education is inviting everyone to join together for a time of Christmas Caroling. Visits will be made to nursing homes and to shut-ins to share the carols of the season. There will also be some refreshments available after the caroling. This is a joyous way of giving ourselves to those who need a blessing at this season. See you there.

There are other gatherings that will be happening so be ready for announcements each Sunday for opportunities. But plan now to share a special Christmas Eve candlelight worship on Tuesday, December 24 at 7 PM with your family and friends. Carols, beautiful music, the Scriptures of the promise of a Messiah and the birth of Jesus. We close with candles lighting the faces of each one present around the sanctuary



as we remember that Silent Night.

The beauty of this season is only matched by the joyous significance of Jesus coming into the world to be our Savior. We remember well that God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3.16). Jesus, the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. (John 1.9). Come and join us as we celebrate this time together.

In the Hope and Peace of Christ,
Rev. Taylor

