

### THE SEASON OF ADVENT

For centuries the season of Advent has marked the beginning of the Christian year. "Advent" comes from the Latin *advenire* meaning coming or arrival, referring of course to the coming or arrival of Jesus. During Advent we celebrate two "arrivals" of Jesus: His first advent when He came in the flesh at Bethlehem; His second when He shall return in glory. Our celebration of Advent reminds us that God is faithful: He promised that the Christ would come and that in His coming He would conquer sin and death for all who would believe in Him—He has come. In addition, we are filled with great hope, for since Christ came as promised, we can trust that He is coming again as promised to bring to fruition all that was achieved through His first coming. As has been the custom of the Church, we will light candles each Sunday to remind us of the advent(s) of Christ. There are many traditions as to what is symbolized by each candle. For some years we have followed a tradition that highlighted events in Jesus' first advent by lighting the Prophet Candle, the Angel Candle, the Shepherd Candle and the Bethlehem Candle. This year we are going to follow another tradition that highlights themes of Christ's advents with candles signifying Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. The fifth candle in our advent wreath is the Christ Candle. We will light it at our worship service on the Eve of Christmas as we will read through the message of the gospel through nine passages of Scripture beginning with creation and culminating with the coming of Christ who is the light of the world. This year we have the great blessing of Christmas Day falling on the Lord's Day. Gathering as we do each Sunday, we shall come together to cry "hallelujah," filled with gratitude that Christ has come, and filled with hope that Christ is coming again.

## Schedule of Activities\*

1 6:00am Women's Bible Study 9:00am Women's Bible Study 1:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	2 No activities scheduled	3 YoG Sr. High Children's Holiday Shop Service Project 7:00am Men's Bible Study	4 (Sunday) 8:15am Worship 9:00am College Breakfast/Sunday School* 9:45am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 3:00pm Women's Christmas Café 4:00pm YoG Small groups Dinner outing 8:00pm Advent at the OC*	5 6:30am Men's Bible Study	6 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 8:00pm Women's Bible Study	7 6:30am Men's Bible Study	8 6:00am Women's Bible Study 9:00am Women's Bible Study 1:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	9 No activities scheduled	10 7:00am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal	11 (Sunday) 8:15am Worship 10:45am Worship 4:00pm YoG Small Groups 6:30pm Children's Christmas Program	12 6:30am Men's Bible Study 3:30pm Administration Team	13 7:00pm Session 8:00pm Women's Bible Study	14 6:30am Men's Bible Study	15 No activities scheduled	16 No activities scheduled	17 7:00am Men's Bible Study	18 (Sunday) 8:15am Worship 10:45am Worship 19 6:30am Men's Bible Study 20 7:00pm Men's Bible Study 21 6:30am Men's Bible Study 22 No activities scheduled 23 No activities scheduled 24 7:00am Men's Bible Study 7:15pm Christmas Eve Service	25 (Sunday) 10:00am Worship 26 Offices closed (Christmas) 6:30am Men's Bible Study 27 7:00pm Session 28 6:30am Men's Bible Study 29 No activities scheduled 30 No activities scheduled 31 7:00am Men's Bible Study
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Calendar subject to change. \*College/Oread Center events - [www.oreadcenter.com](http://www.oreadcenter.com).

### Prayer & Grace Updates

Prayer cards are available in the Pew pockets each Sunday. If you have need of prayer, fill one out and place it in the offering box. Prayer requests can also be sent to [rick@gepc.org](mailto:rick@gepc.org) or [betty@gepc.org](mailto:betty@gepc.org).

If you would like to be added to the list and receive the Grace Updates and Prayer Request emails, please email [betty@gepc.org](mailto:betty@gepc.org) or [rick@gepc.org](mailto:rick@gepc.org).