

## Pastor's Corner



Dear Disciples,

Advent is here and Christmas is right around the corner! As the weather gets colder, there is an extra sense of coziness and warmth that surrounds us. Sure, sometimes it is *too* cold, the stores are *too* crowded, the gift wish lists are *too* long, the schedules are *too* busy, and the Christmas music started *too* early. But this time of year, we are invited to wait and prepare for the coming of Christ, to nurture our faith, to spend time in relationship with family, friends and community. Here is a simple Advent activity that you can do at home by yourself, with friends, or with family.

**Step 1:** Grab 5 glass jars ( mason jars, recycled pasta sauce jars etc...) and 4 tealights OR Grab 1 container of any kind and 4 large candles. Additionally, get a container of popcorn kernels (unpopped of course!) and break out the crafting supplies!

**Step 2:** Decorate the lids, jars, and candles! Decorate 4 candles, or jars with tea lights, for each week of advent: Hope, Faith/preparation, Joy, Love. You can paint or wrap ribbon in blue or purple for advent. Get creative with it! Make sure you leave one jar empty for now, this will represent the Christ candle that is in the center of an advent wreath.

**Step 3:** Beginning on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> you will light the first candle, follow the Advent Calendar for devotions and activities. Each week of advent you will light one more candle on the wreath.

\*\* Advent Calendars and prayers can be found on a separate page or in the church narthex. \*\*

**Step 4:** Remember that empty jar we left in the middle? Each day there is something you can do, and each week there is something to think about. For example week 1: This week is about hope. Talk about things you hope for yourself, your family, your church, your community, and the world. Put a popcorn kernel in the jar for every hopeful thing you think of. Also week 1; day 1: Smile and say something nice to somebody you don't know. Put a popcorn kernel in the jar for every time you did this.

**Step 5:** On Christmas day, you will have prayed, served, and grown in faith through advent. Now it is time to celebrate the birth of Christ our Lord! We know that all things come to fullness in Christ, so take that jar of popcorn kernels you have been collecting, cook them on stovetop and enjoy!

Stovetop Popcorn Recipe: (melt 3tbsp coconut oil – or regular oil – in a large lidded saucepan. Put in 3 kernels only. Once they pop, remove the pot from the heat add a single layer of kernels, place lid on, count to 30 seconds. Then put back on heat, the kernels should pop about the same time shortly after returning to heat. Add any butter or salt you wish)

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## Immanuel's Blessings!

"Thank You" to everyone that donated diapers, wipes or money for the Diaper Drive. We collected 1,036 diapers and 500 wipes!! Diapers and wipes were delivered to Valley Diaper Bank on 11/3/17.

A big shout out to Karin Schidat and all the helpers at the German Dinner along with Rich Alves and everyone who lent a hand at the clean-up that morning.

Christian Education ministry would like to acknowledge and thank the following students for their participation in the Arts and Science Appreciation Sunday:

*Lauren Burton, Stephanie Alves and Keegan Pickney.*

## The Food Bank Corner

**Christmas Day meal items or  
flour and sugar (small bags)**

**Spooner House Meal  
Tuesday, December 26th**

**Thank you,  
Ellen & Bill Fritz  
for this month's meal.**

## Happy Anniversaries

13      *Kim & Lee Burton*

**9am-2pm**

## Happy Birthdays

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Paula Otis        | 10 Helena Anderson Rotzal |
| Donna Hanson        | Ella Campion              |
| 4 Rick Kaeser       | 11 Patrick Parnoff        |
| Victoria Napomiceno | 12 Hettylou Dow           |
| Charlotte Tottenham | 16 Mark Fletter           |
| 5 Alicia Belinsky   | 17 Kimberly Burton        |
| 7 Danielle Mazza    | 21 Patrick Skehan         |
| 9 Debra Solomon     | 23 Sharon & Fred Trede    |
| Lee Burton          | 24 Jessica Haight         |
|                     | 27 Tari Lavorgna          |

## Pastor Niki's New Hours

**Mon: 9am- 1pm**

**Sat: @ Starbucks**

(Or by appointment)

For Pastoral care, please call  
**508.439.0439**

**New baby?** Let Karin Schidat know so a rose can be placed on the font in their honor.  
203.888.5976

**Prayers: Deb Steckert (203.888.1218)** Please take a look and let me know how they are doing. Thank you.

Aaron & Jessica	Mary Ann Croves	Todd Hollis	Tyler Otis	Joyce Sauer
Joe Abate	Ruth Edgren	Illiana	Olivia Grace	Margo Steckert
Amy	Sebastian Estrada	Ernest Isberg	Olivia Rose	Dorothy Stockman
Ann Marie Lisa	Arleen Flach	Linda Kunecki	Florence Pawlak	Ed Stockman
Helen Ahearn	Francis	Sarah Leventhol	Pat Ploch	Pete Thompson
Bob Ancefsy	Gloria	Wilma Luft	Dorothy Prillip	Paul Wislocki
Marge Bailey	Louise	Ava Nebbia	Chandra & Chris Proch	JoAnn Virag
Shirley Bernardo	Art Gillette	Tacia Neumann	Charlie Ricco	Dee Voccola
Alan Burton	Gary Grabowski	Chuck O'Neil	Joanna Rooney & children	Family & friends of
Kathy Corrigan	Millie Grele	Dila Ostertag	Rose	Robert Zimmerman
			Lynne Ross	

# ADVENT CALENDAR/DEVOTIONS

## Advent Week One – HOPE

**Think:** This week is about hope. Talk about things you hope for yourself, your family, your church, your community, and the world. Put a popcorn kernel in the jar for every hopeful thing you think of. Keep a paper and write them down if you wish.

**Pray:** Lord of all, you are a God of plenty, a Lord who provides for us in our need. As I begin these early days of Advent help me to believe that you know what I need. Give me the courage to listen to your voice and the freedom to open my heart to the graces you are offering me to place my trust in you. Amen.

	<i>Sun. Dec. 3rd</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>Read:</b>	<i>John 1:1-5</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	<i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i>	<i>Luke 1:5-10</i>	<i>Luke 1:11-17</i>	<i>Luke 1:18-25</i>	<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>
<b>Act:</b>	<i>Smile &amp; say something nice to somebody you don't know</i>	<i>Donate a food item to pantry</i>	<i>Write a thank you note</i>	<i>Pray for somebody at work, or school</i>	<i>Share something</i>	<i>Pay for the person behind you in line</i>	<i>Pray with somebody</i>

## Advent Week Two – FAITH / Preparation

**Think:** This week is about faith and preparing for Christ. Talk about ways that you prepare for Christ, the things that happen to nurture or challenge your faith this week. Put a popcorn kernel in the jar for every faithful thing you think of. Keep a paper and write them down if you wish.

**Pray:** Jesus, in the darkness of these Advent nights let me be guided by the light of your word. Give me the humility to be led by you and the wisdom to learn from you. I feel your light in my life and in the world. I am grateful for the Savior who awaits us, and eagerly await the time of rejoicing. Let me look forward in hope and turn to you with great trust, knowing you will guide my steps along the unknown path of this day. Amen.

	<i>Sun. Dec. 10th</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>Read:</b>	<i>Matthew 1:18-21</i>	<i>Matthew 1:22-26</i>	<i>Luke 1:39-45</i>	<i>Luke 1:46-56</i>	<i>Luke 2:1-5</i>	<i>Luke 2:6-12</i>	<i>Luke 13-18</i>
<b>Act:</b>	<i>Do something generous and don't get caught!</i>	<i>Hold a door for somebody</i>	<i>Pray for church musicians</i>	<i>High five a child/youth</i>	<i>Write a card to a friend</i>	<i>Call a friend you haven't talked to recently</i>	<i>Pray for those without food, shelter, security.</i>

**Advent Week Three – LOVE (and/or peace)**

**Think:** This week is about love and peace. Name the people who you love in your life, and talk about ways we can create peace. Put a popcorn kernel in the jar for every loving/peaceful thing you think of. Keep a paper and write them down if you wish.

**Pray:** Loving God, It is growing in my heart: An awareness and gratitude of your constant love for me; Like the sun rising in the East to warm and comfort my life and to bring new growth. Thank you for these weeks of prayer. In the spirit of the season my waiting, my patience, feels sacred. Bless my heart with generosity and make me ready to receive you. Amen.

	<i>Sun. Dec. 17th</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>Read:</b>	<i>John 1:1-5</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	<i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i>	<i>Luke 1:5-10</i>	<i>Luke 1:11-17</i>	<i>Luke 1:18-25</i>	<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>
<b>Act:</b>	<i>Thank a Sunday school teacher!</i>	<i>Invite someone to church for 12/24</i>	<i>Be early today</i>	<i>Say positive statements to those around you</i>	<i>Pray for refugees, and places of war</i>	<i>Donate to your favorite charity</i>	<i>Pray for religious leaders</i>

**Advent Week Four – JOY (shortened on this year’s calendar, this is only ONE day Sun Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> !)**

**Think:** This week is about joy! Name the things, people, places that bring you joy now, or have brought you joyful memories in the past. Put a popcorn kernel in the jar for every joyful thing you think of. Keep a paper and write them down if you wish.

**Pray:** Lord of beginnings and endings, you have walked with your children through these long days and night of advent. You have been present as we prepare our hearts for your coming. Help us to continue to follow your way. Bring us together in the joy of your promise. We thank you for every moment that makes us smile, for every person who makes us laugh, and for the hearts you have created to experience joy in so many things. Amen.

**Read:** John 1:14

**Act:** Bring Somebody to worship with you! Have a wonderful and very Merry Christmas!

## Adaptations:

- **For busy (or forgetful) people:** At the beginning of the week, read “THINK” section and try to keep thinking of that one piece every day of the week. Start or end your day with the Prayer.
- **For those who live alone:** See if you can find a friend to call and do it together over the phone, maybe even get together to decorate your jars/candles if possible.
- **For constant travelers:** Make a “cheat sheet” for the car to help remind yourself.
- **For families with kids:** get (or paint) 22 red popsicle sticks and 22 green(or 22 blue and 22 purple) put the scripture verses on one color popsicle stick and the actions on another color. Each week (or day) do the “think” and “pray” sections. Make the popsicle sticks part of the daily routine, take an action color in the morning so they can find times to do it and take the scripture one at night so they can read before bed.

## Help someone in need this Christmas season

We are asking congregation members to provide Christmas stockings or gift cards (Walmart, Target or Stop & Shop) for people served by Birmingham Health Group (domestic abuse/mental health issues/addiction) - there is a poster in the Narthex with additional information.

Stockings and gift cards are due December 10, 2017. Thank you for your help in this ministry.

## New Hall Use Form

The hall use form, along with Building Use Regulations, Apporval Process & Conditions Checklist, has been revised and a copy has been placed at the top of the bulletin board in Borchert Hall. Copies are also in the mailbox slot marked *Hall Request Forms*. Please make sure you use the new form when submitting a request. If you would like an electronic copy, please email the office at [immanuelct@sbcglobal.net](mailto:immanuelct@sbcglobal.net). A copy of the new form will also be on our website at [www.immanuel-oxford.org](http://www.immanuel-oxford.org).

## MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS

Memorials will be taken again. Settas are **\$13ea**. Deadline date to order is Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Contact Jan Cormack: 203.888.2260.

December Ministry						
		Ushers	Assisting Minister	Lector	Acolyte	Coffee Hour
<b>3</b>	8:15	<i>Judy Gulish &amp; Peter Wright</i>	<i>Lillian Thompson</i>	<i>Paula Otis</i>	<i>Avry &amp; Jainna Marcinczyk</i>	<i>Loretta Dempsey</i>
	10:30	<i>Rick Kaeser &amp;?</i>	<i>Julie Cormack</i>	<i>Beth Alves</i>	<i>Tori Alves &amp; Samantha Seres</i>	<i>The Alves family &amp; Karen Keenan</i>
<b>10</b>	8:15	<i>Kelly Cormack &amp; Janet Edgren</i>	<i>Julie Cormack</i>	<i>Janet Edgren</i>	<i>Ethan Andes &amp; Jayden Urbanowicz</i>	<i>Lydia O'Connell</i>
	10:30	<i>Vicki Napomiceno &amp; Sons</i>	<i>Ellen Fritz</i>	<i>Vicki Napomiceno</i>	<i>Lauren Burton &amp; Stephanie Alves</i>	<i>The Robinson's</i>
<b>17</b>	8:15	<i>Betty &amp; Jerry Lower</i>	<i>Wendy Cegelka</i>	<i>Lynn Nesshoever</i>	<i>Avry &amp; Jainna Marcinczyk</i>	<i>The Burton's</i>
	10:30	<i>Charlotte Tottenham &amp; Troy Adcox</i>	<i>Andrew Napomiceno</i>	<i>Charlie Rippel</i>	<i>Jack Mullen &amp; Josh Napomiceno</i>	<i>The Rippel's</i>
<b>24</b>	10:30a	<i>Beth &amp; Rich Alves</i>	<i>Lillian Thompson</i>	<i>Vicki Napomiceno</i>	<i>Samantha Seres &amp; Tori Alves</i>	-
	6:30p	<i>Anne &amp; Rob Dow</i>	<i>Julie Cormack</i>	<i>Beth Alves</i>	<i>Tori &amp; Stephanie Alves</i>	-
	10:00p	<i>Al Meyer &amp; Charlie Rippel</i>	<i>Teresa Mentgen</i>	<i>Teresa Mentgen</i>	<i>Kinley Mentgen &amp; Lauren Burton</i>	-
<b>31</b>	10:30	<i>Kim &amp; Lee Burton</i>	<i>Julie Cormack</i>	<i>Karin Schidat</i>	<i>Samantha &amp; Brando Fletter</i>	-
<b>Altar Guild:</b>			<i>Debby Steckert &amp; Jan Cormack</i>			

# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8:15am - Worship 9:20am - Sunday 9:30am - Choir 10:30am - Worship	27 6:30pm - Adult 7pm - Cantata 7pm - Scouts	28	29 6pm - Scouts	30 7pm - Christian	1 9am - Cantata	2
10 8:15am - Worship 9:20am - Sunday 10:30am - Worship 2pm - Cantata 6:30pm - Youth	11 6:30pm - Adult	12	13 6pm - Scouts	14 Scouts	15 8am - Scouts Merit	16
17 8:15am - Worship 9:20am - Sunday 10:30am - Worship	18 6:30pm - Adult	19 7pm - Congregation 7pm - Scouts	20 6pm - Scouts	21 11am - Borchert Hall	22 11am - Borchert Hall	23
24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27 6pm - Scouts	28	29	30 12pm - Borchert Hall
31 New Year's Eve 9:20am - Sunday 10:30am - Worship	1	2	3	4	5	6