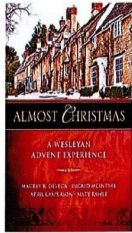


ADVENT DEVOTIONAL AND STUDY



Why not experience a little John Wesley this Advent season?

In *Almost Christmas*, author and pastor Magrey deVega encourages people to follow Christ wholeheartedly during Advent, connecting the Wesleyan heritage with traditional Advent themes of...

Love, Hope, Joy, Peace!

This 4-week Advent Study & Fellowship will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8PM beginning December 1st. You will be able to participate online or in person (in Fellowship Hall).

Almost Christmas Advent Devotionals will also be available as an additional resource for individuals and families.

Books will be available through the church office:

Study Book - \$11

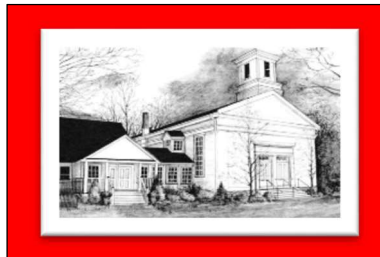
Devotional Book - \$9

Inspirational Advent Fellowship – *priceless*

For additional information contact:

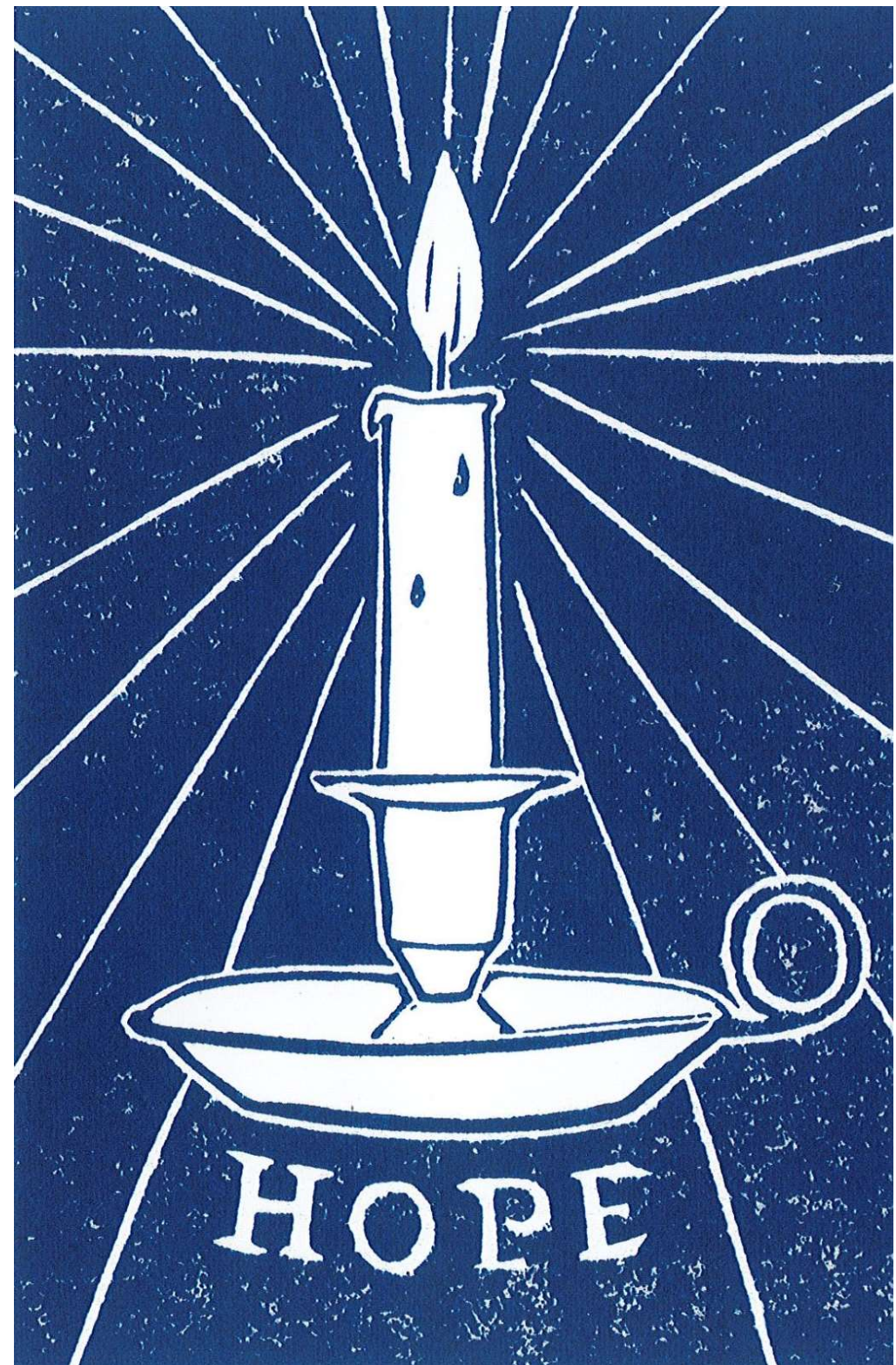
WUMC church office (203-263-4775); or,

Bud Behlman (203-206-9276; budbehlman@charter.net)



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798
(203) 263-4775 • www.woodburyumc.net



Woodbury United Methodist Church

November 29, 2020
1st Sunday of Advent

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J. S. Bach
Christopher Shay, organist

GREETING Rev. John Thomason

*CALL TO WORSHIP For the 1st Sunday of Advent
from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*

You alone, O Lord, are God.
Come down, O God!

You have done wonderful things in the past.
Come down, O God!

We need you here with us now.
Come down, O God!

We wait for you.
We wait with hope.

*OPENING HYMN *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Charles Wesley
Hymns sung by Sarah Kate and Grace Walkup

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH led by Garrett Walkup, Liturgist
adapted from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray
that we may always be ready to welcome him.
Come, Lord Jesus.

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love,
Come, Lord Jesus.

That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin,
Come, Lord Jesus.

Please note: WUMC's worship services are recorded and archived on the church's website, www.woodburyumc.net.

Altar flowers are given this week by *the Hibbard family* "In loving memory of *PopPop, LeRoy Hibbard.*"

The Prayer Corner:

Please remember our Confirmands: *Cody Cordova, Zachary Cordova, James Levario, Matthew Shupenis*; their adult leaders: *Catherine Mason, Meg Temple, John Thomason*; and their mentors: *Mike Boisseau, Mollie Cole, Rev. Paul Hibbard, Carolyn Shay.*

Home from the hospital: *Gary McClendon* (hip surgery on November 19 at St. Francis, Hartford)

Upcoming chemotherapy and surgery: *Mary Wilkins*, sister of *Barb Hunt* (Rochester, NY)

Please continue to remember relatives of *Rev. Betty Lines* who are seriously ill: niece *Sharon Parish* (hospice care in Idaho); and brother-in-law *Stephen Lines* (recovering from a stroke in Florida).

Recovering at home: *Ally Roche; Steve Thomas; Carol Hennessey; Paige LeBlanc*, mother of *Jessie Lynch* (Manchester, CT); *Dominic Vaiuso*, father of *Karen Williams* (Newtown); *Robert Ayers*, father of *Tacy Nettleton* (Woodstock, GA); *Carl Hinkle*, father of *Toby McGrath* (Greensburg, PA); *Donna Louise Burke*, friend of *Kathy Craig*; *Peter Gallagher*, father of *Jen Carnes* (Brookfield, CT); *Lou Calabrese* (husband of *Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese*); *Jane King*, mother of *Stephen King* and mother-in-law of *Joann King* (Sarasota, FL); *Antonio Stillitano*, grandson of *Paul Hatch*

Outpatient treatments: *Jackie and John Fleming; Dave Davison*, father-in-law of *Gary McClendon*; *Stephanie Galaburri*, friend of *Sandy Carbonaro*; *Will Styblo*, nephew of *Jim Styblo* and *Catherine Mason* (Franklin, TN)

Homebound members: *Florence Brown, Linda Bailey*

Please continue to remember: *Jean Lilly*, mother of *Meg Temple* (Cincinnati, OH), *Manny Gesh, Jane True, Blair Feller, Marilyn Bender, Ryan DeRidder and family, Laura & Stuart Brush, Janet Grant* (sister of *Betty Lines*), and *The Thomson family of Ferndale, WA* (family of *Kathy Craig*).



Woodbury United Methodist Church

4 Church St., Woodbury, CT, 06798

Church phone: 203-263-4775

Web Site: www.woodburyumc.net

Church e-mail: wumc@woodburyumc.net

Church office hours: Tuesday- Friday, 9 AM – 3 PM

Rev. John Thomason, Pastor

Parsonage phone: 203-263-7575; cell phone: 845-707-5152

Pastor's e-mail: johnthomason1948@yahoo.com

Chris Shay, Director of Music

Kathy Craig, Office Administrator

Mark Davis, Lay Leader

Mission Statement

We are a welcoming Christian fellowship who celebrate and share God's love with everyone. We seek a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Inspired by His example, we strive to be God's hands in this world. Empowered by God's word, we proclaim the Gospel and serve through worship, study, mission, and community support.

Week of November 29, 2020

Visitors are warmly welcomed! We invite you to sign the worship register as it is passed during the announcements, or fill out a visitor's card provided by a greeter. If you wish to learn more about WUMC's ministries, please take a copy of our weekly newsletter, *The Messenger*, which is available in the narthex. Immediately following today's worship service, please join us for Fellowship Hour downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to become a member of the Woodbury United Methodist Church, please speak to the pastor. Inquirers are asked to attend a two-session Membership Orientation class before joining the church.

Today is the 1st Sunday in Advent on the Christian calendar. Advent is a season of four weeks including four Sundays. The season proclaims the comings of Christ – whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. The liturgical color is blue, symbolizing hope.

Today is also United Methodist Student Day on the denominational calendar. Observed on the last Sunday in November, this day calls the Church to support students in uniting faith and knowledge. The special offering received today supports loan and scholarship funds for United Methodist college, university, and graduate students. Please refer to the offering envelope included in your worship bulletin.

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: *Garrett Walkup*, Liturgist and Reader; *Sarah Kate* and *Grace Walkup*, Singers; *Matthew Shupenis*, Advent Candle Lighter; *Bradyn Boisseau*, *Rowan Hope Boisseau*, *Mary Grace Styblo* and *Lydia Hope Temple*, Children's Time.

That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ,
Come, Lord Jesus.

That the Advent season may fill us with hope, peace, joy, and love as we strive to follow the example of Jesus,
Come, Lord Jesus.

Let us pray:

Loving God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness and ignorance of sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE: *HOPE*

Matthew Shupenis, Confirmand

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way to salvation.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME *Come to the Manger: Hope for Advent* SkitGuys

Bradyn Boisseau, Rowan Hope Boisseau,
Mary Grace Styblo, Lydia Hope Temple

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Thomason

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Garrett Walkup

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

read by Garrett Walkup

Lessons for the First Sunday of Advent, Year B
from *The Revised Common Lectionary*

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the

nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

*Gospel Lesson: Mark 13:24-37

The Coming of the Son of Man

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

*HYMN OF PREPARATION *Open Our Eyes, Lord* Bob Cull

SERMON *Where in the World Is God?* Rev. Thomason

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* Bob McGee

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

BENEDICTION Rev. Thomason

*POSTLUDE *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* Pachelbel

