



Advent — the word means coming or arrival — a season which has two meanings for Christians. It is a time to prepare for the anniversary of Jesus Christ’s first coming-his birth to the Blessed Virgin Mary at Bethlehem two thousand years ago-and culminates in our celebration of Christmas, the twelve-day feast that lasts from December 25 to January 6. The other theme of Advent is the Second Coming of our Lord at the end of time, when he will come in great power and glory to judge both the living and the dead. The double emphasis on both the first and the second advents of Christ gives to the season its unique mixture of devotional joy: joy in the redemption that has come to us in the Incarnation, and awe before the Judgment that yet awaits us. To the spiritually discerning believer, both of these tremendous and signal events of past and future are experienced as eternally present realities.

Advent Lessons and Carols originated at King’s College, Cambridge, England in 1934, composed by Dean Eric Milner-White (who had also been responsible nine years earlier for the more widely known Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve). The service is intended to be a time of spiritual preparation, as we watch and wait for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Through our experience of sacred Word and music, the story of the coming of Christ gradually unfolds and deepens our understanding of God’s message of love and redemption. The liturgy itself embodies the sense of Advent movement — through the choir’s processions and in the increasingly powerful prophecies and promises of Holy Scripture. May these words and this music propel you quietly toward the true Joy of Christmas.

ADVENT STUDIES

- **Almost Christmas:** A Wesleyan Advent Experience; 12/3, 12/10, 12/17 6:00pm @ CUMC, Rev. Kennedy
- **A Different Kind of Christmas:** 12/4, 12/11, 12/18 11:00am @ Starbucks Lomas & Washington, Rev. Jackson Brooks
- **The Wonder of Christmas:** 12/5, 12/12, 12/19 12:30pm @ Saranam, Rev. Jackson Brooks

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- **4:00pm** Family Service, Chapel;
- **7:00pm** Lessons & Carols, Sanctuary;
- **11:00pm** Candlelight with Communion, Sanctuary
- **Sunday, December 29th**
Covenant Remembrance Service, Life Center; Potluck, 9:00am followed by **One Service**, 10:00am



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - order forms are available at the Welcome Desk and each Sanctuary entrance. Poinsettias are \$8.50 each – checks payable to CUMC – and can be in memory of or in honor of a loved one or friend.

Please contact the CUMC offices with questions.

CENTRAL TO LIFE December 15, 2019



WORSHIP



NAVIGATE



SERVE



ENGAGE



SERMON SERIES

"ADVENT"



CLOSED

CUMC offices will be **closed** December 25th - January 4th

so our staff and volunteers can celebrate in the Christmas season with their family and friends.



CUMC'S GIVING TREE

Please take a tag and bring gifts cards in any increments from local retailers such as Target and Smiths in support of CUMCs Helping Hands, Saranam, and Family Promise. We will be collecting cards at the Welcome Desk. **Today is the last day to collect cards!**

JOURNEYS OF PAUL CRUISE

Have you ever been interested in learning more about the teachings of Paul? Have you ever been interested in traveling to the places Paul wrote letters and traveled to such as Rome, Greece, and Turkey? If so, you are invited to join Rev. Kelly Brooks and Rev. Jim Hawk on an Educational Opportunities Journeys of Paul Cruise taking place **September 7-19th, 2020.**

Information is available at the Welcome Desk.

UMW BOOK CLUB

The United Methodist Women's Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, December 18th at 11:45 am** in the Conference Room. Please join us for a lively discussion of the book "Called to the Fire" by Chet Bush. Even if you haven't had a chance to read the book, please come and get a taste of what our new book club is all about.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

- Sunday School classes meet at 9:45am in rooms 105 (Elementary), 107 (ages 3 & 4), and 301/302 (Youth: 6th - 12th grade)
 - Childcare for ages 0-8 is available during worship services and Sunday School – (Located on the Lower Level of the building.)
 - Church 4 Kids takes place every Sunday during the second service. This is a time where children 0-Elementary are invited to the Chapel to spend time with one of the clergy to learn more about the scripture lesson of the day in an age-appropriate setting.
 - Youth fellowship meets every Sunday from 12:30-2:30pm in the Youth Lounge / 3rd Floor
- Contact Pastor Kelly or Stacey Hawk for more information

THIRD SPACE MINISTRIES

What is a 3rd Space? 3rd Space refers to places where people gather outside of their homes (1st space) and their workspace (2nd space). Examples of third places would be environments such as coffee shops, breweries, farmers markets, and parks.

- **Starbucks Bible Study:** (Lomas and Washington) Wednesdays, 11-12pm
- **Brewery Study:** (High and Dry on Lomas and Adams) Wednesdays, 6pm-8pm.
- **Sabbath in The Suburbs:** (High and Dry) December, 15th @ 12:30pm
- **Shared Table:** Shared Table is a community initiative where you are asked to invite your neighbors into your home for a potluck meal on any day during the last week of the month. No expectations - No requirements - Just be in community! Please share your photos and experiences on the CUMC Facebook page.

Do you have an idea for a 3rd Space Ministry?

Please Contact Pastor Kelly @ kellyb@centraltolife.org

ADULT MINISTRIES

- **Sundays:** Sunday School classes meet at 9:45am. Choose from a variety of classes. See the Pew Packets located in the pew backs in the sanctuary, or visit with the Welcome Desk volunteers for more information.
 - **Monday Bible Study:** 6:30pm, 3rd Floor
 - **Clergy Conversations:** 4th Sunday of each month, 9:45-10:45am, Life Center
 - **WOW:** Wednesdays, 9:30-11:30am, 3rd Floor
- Please contact Pastor Kelly for more information.

All announcements for the CTL News are due via email to JesusValdez@centraltolife.org by **Monday at 5pm.**



Get connected! Sign up for Central Connections, our weekly electronic newsletter, at www.centraltolife.org or send an email to Jesus Valdez at jesusvaldez@centraltolife.org.
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Services broadcast on KAZQ TV-32—Sunday, 11 am & 7 pm

