

NEWLETTER

First Presbyterian Church of Croswell

Web Page: <https://Croswellpresbyterian.org>

What Is Advent?

Advent is a four-week season in the Church calendar dedicated to anticipating the arrival, or "advent," of Jesus of Nazareth, the long-awaited [Messiah](#) and King. Christians from many backgrounds celebrate this time with reflections on hope, peace, love, and joy. And while their practices may look different, all focus on the hope-filled arrival of Jesus.

What Does Advent Mean?

Advent means "arrival" and signifies the start of an event or the arrival of a person. In Christian communities around the world, Advent refers to a four-week season of remembering and celebrating the arrival of Jesus on Earth. It's a time to reflect on the unexpected nature of Jesus' humble birth and join in the anticipation of when he will come again to reunite Heaven and Earth once and for all.

Why Is Advent Important?

Advent can be a simple and fun tradition of counting down to Christmas. But for others—particularly those who believe Jesus to be the incarnation of God and the long-awaited [Messiah](#)—Advent is a shared experience of meditation and prayer that celebrates the arrival of Jesus.

Who Celebrates Advent?

People from Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and other Christian traditions celebrate Advent, though the specific practices may vary from community to community. Additionally, some people celebrate Advent without the focus on Jesus' arrival, seeing the tradition as a fun way to countdown to Christmas.

How Is Advent Typically Celebrated?

In some traditions, followers of Jesus devote the first two weeks of Advent to remembering Jesus' promise to return and renew [Heaven and Earth](#). Then, during the last two weeks of Advent, these communities focus on the birth of Jesus.

In other traditions, people reflect on the concepts of [hope](#), [peace](#), [love](#), and [joy](#)—one for each week leading up to Christmas. People may light Advent candles, prepare unique wreaths, hold special church services, or read specific Scriptures each day to reflect on the arrival of Jesus on Earth.

PASTOR ON CALL

Pastor Bill Wright is available to visit church members anytime, anywhere, either for emergency situations or casual conversations. Feel free to call Bill at (810) 858-7033

December 2024



Prayer Requests

Lisa Haddix's brother early onset Alzheimer's.

Curt and Anne Soule's sister in law Lorie's father in the hospital.

Quinlyn Smith 2 yr. old daughter of Tom and Brenda Murray of Melvin liver transplant.

Carlene Black at home from hospital recovering from pneumonia.

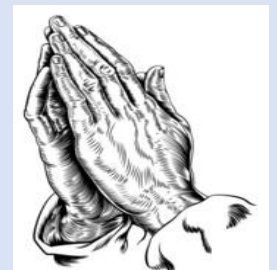
Debbie Damon cancer

Those with seasonal colds and flu.

Those recovering from surgeries and other serious illnesses.

Those in the Carolinas still recovering from hurricane Helene's aftermath.

Blessings and Happy Thanksgiving,



Inspirational Quotes for December

“Of all the months of the year there is not a month one half so welcome to the young, or so full of happy associations, as the last month of the year.”

– Charles Dickens

“December is the month of hope and faith, when even the darkest days fill with light.”

– Unknown

“December’s wintery breath is already clouding the pond, frosting the pane, obscuring summer’s memory.”

– John Geddes

“December is a good time to reflect on the year past and dream of possibilities for the year ahead a door closes and new one opens.”

– Rip Miller

“December teaches us that endings are just beginnings in disguise.”

– Madeleine L’Engle

“The magic of December lies in its ability to bring people together.”

– Richard Paul Evans

“December is the month of miracles.”

– Unknown

“The darkness before Christmas is a time to kindle our inner light.”

– Joanna Macy

“December has the clarity, the simplicity, and the silence you need for the best fresh start of your life.”

– Vivian Swift

“December, being the last month of the year, cannot help but make us think of what is to come.”

– Fennel Hudson

“The cold December wind reminds us that we are generations of survivors, ready to face any challenge.”

– Unknown

“What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.”

– Vern McLellan

“Year’s end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.”

– Hal Borland

“The spirit of December carries us forward with hope and courage.”

– John Starker

“December marks not the end of the year, but the beginning of possibilities both big and small.”

– Unknown

“Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.”

– Winston Churchill

Bible Verses for December

Isaiah 9:6 “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Luke 2:10-11 “But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.’

Matthew 1:21 “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

John 1:14 “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Galatians 4:4-5 “But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.”

Micah 5:2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

2 Corinthians 9:15 “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 1:9 “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.”

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Titus 3:4-5 “But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”

The Spiritual Meaning of December

By: Sophia Rose

Posted on 05/02/2024

Renewal and Reflection

As the year draws to a close, December offers a unique opportunity for spiritual growth and introspection. This magical month, filled with holiday celebrations and the promise of a fresh start, invites you to delve deeper into the spiritual significance of this special time. Whether you're a believer in astrology, numerology, or simply seeking a more profound connection with the universe, December holds a wealth of spiritual insights waiting to be discovered.

Here's a quick interpretation:

December is a month of spiritual significance, representing completion, reflection, and renewal. It is a time to embrace the energy of the winter solstice, connect with the divine through holiday celebrations, and set intentions for the future. December offers an opportunity to practice gratitude, let go of what no longer serves you, and trust in the journey of spiritual growth.

The Power of the Number 12

In numerology, the number 12 holds a special significance. It represents completion, harmony, and spiritual enlightenment. As the twelfth month of the year, December embodies these qualities, offering a time for reflection on the past year and setting intentions for the future. By understanding the spiritual significance of the number 12, you can harness its energy to bring a sense of closure and new beginnings to your life during this transformative month.

Embracing the Winter Solstice

The winter solstice, which falls on December 21st or 22nd in the Northern Hemisphere, marks the shortest day and longest night of the year. This celestial event holds great spiritual significance, as it represents the return of the light and the rebirth of the sun. Many ancient cultures celebrated the winter solstice as a time of renewal, hope, and the triumph of light over darkness.

As you navigate the darker days of December, remember that the winter solstice is a powerful reminder that even in the midst of darkness, light always returns. Use this time to reflect on the areas of your life that need illumination and set intentions for the coming year. Embrace the stillness and introspection that the longer nights offer, and trust that the light within you will guide you through any challenges you may face.

Holiday Celebrations and Spiritual Connection

December is a month filled with holiday celebrations from various traditions around the world. From Christmas and Hanukkah to Kwanzaa and the winter solstice, these festive occasions offer an opportunity to connect with loved ones, express gratitude, and celebrate the joy and wonder of the season. Beyond the material aspects of gift-giving and feasting, these holidays hold deep spiritual significance. They remind us of the importance of love, compassion, and unity in the face of life's challenges. As you participate in holiday traditions, take a moment to reflect on the deeper meanings behind these celebrations. Consider how you can embody the values of generosity, forgiveness, and love not just during the holidays, but throughout the entire year.

Embracing Gratitude and Letting Go

As the year comes to a close, December offers a powerful opportunity to practice gratitude and release what no longer serves you. Take time to reflect on the blessings and lessons of the past year, and express appreciation for the people and experiences that have shaped your journey.

At the same time, acknowledge any challenges or disappointments you've faced, and consciously choose to let them go. Holding onto resentment, regret, or anger only hinders your spiritual growth. Instead, focus on forgiveness, both for yourself and others, and trust that everything happens for a reason. By releasing the past, you create space for new blessings and opportunities to enter your life.

Connecting with Nature and the Elements

Despite the colder temperatures and shorter days, December is a wonderful time to connect with nature and the elements. Bundle up and take a walk in the crisp winter air, noticing the beauty of frost-covered trees and the stillness of the landscape. Spend time near bodies of water, which are associated with emotional healing and cleansing. Light candles or build a fire to honor the element of fire, which represents passion, transformation, and the return of the light.

SPECIAL DAYS IN DECEMBER

Dec. 1

Basketball Day
Playboy Day
Clark Kent's Birthday
Day With(out) Art Day

Dec 2

Cider Monday
Giving Tuesday
National Mutt Day
World Trick Shot Day

Dec 3

Be A Blessing Day
International Baboon Day

Dec 4

International Cabernet Franc Day
International Cheetah Day
National Cookie Day
National Sock Day

Dec. 5

Bartender Appreciation Day
Bathtub Party Day
International Ninja Day

Dec. 6

Faux Fur Friday
Bike Shop Day
Earmuff Day
Miner's Day
St. Nicholas Day
World Pear Day

Dec. 7

National Cotton Candy Day

Dec. 8

National Day of Lard
Toilet Paper Appreciation Day

Dec. 9

Birdseye Frozen Food Day
Weary Willie Day

Dec. 10

Dewey Decimal System Day
International Animal Rights Day

Dec. 11

Kaleidoscope Day
National Stretching Day

Dec. 12

Gingerbread House Day
National 12-hour Fresh Breath Day
National Ding-a-Ling Day
National Cocoa Day
National Lost Day
Poinsettia Day

Dec. 13

Gingerbread House Day
National day of The Horse
National Guard Birthday
National Wreaths Across America Day

Dec. 14

Monkey Day
Yoga Day
Worldwide Candle Lighting Day
World Choral Day

Dec. 15

Bill of Rights Day
National Cupcake Day
National Wear Pearls Day

Dec. 16

Barbie and Barney Backlash Day
National Chocolate-covered Anything Day

Dec. 17

A Christmas Carol Day
Clean Air Day
Wright Brothers Day

Dec. 18

Answer The Telephone Like buddy The Elf Day
Give A Wine Club Day
National Re-gifting Day

Dec. 19

Look For an Evergreen Day
National Emo Day

Dec. 20

Mudd Day
National Sangria Day

Dec. 21

Crossword Puzzle Day
Forefathers Day
Go Caroling Day
Humbug Day

Make Music Day in Winter

National Flashlight Day
Short Girl Appreciation Day

Shorts Day

Yule

Dec. 22

Be A Lover of Silence Day

Dec. 23

Festus Day
Human Light Celebration

Dec. 24

Christmas Eve
Eggnog Day

Dec. 25

Christmas Day
Christmas Pudding Day

Dec. 26

Boxing Day
National Candy Cane Day
National Whiner's Day
National Thak-you Note Day

Dec. 27

Howdy Doody Day

Dec. 28

Holy Innocents Day
National Chocolate Day
Pledge of Allegiance Day

Dec. 29

Peeps Days
Tick Tock Day
YMCA Day

Dec. 30

Bacon Day

Dec. 31

Make Up Your Mind Day
National Champagne Day
New Year's Eve
No Interruptions Da
Universal Hour of Peace Day
World Peace Mediation Day

WEEK EVENTS

- Wk.1 Cookie Cutter Wk
National Hand Washing Awareness Wk
Older Driver Safety Awareness Wk
- Wk 2 Recipe Greetings For The Holidays Wk
Human Rights Wk
Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over
- Wk 3 Christmas Bird Count Wk
Cookie Exchange Wk
Gluten-free Baking Wk

MONTHLY EVENTS

- Bingo's Birthday Month
Buckwheat Month
National Tie Month
Adopt A Turkey Month
Operation Santa Paws
Spiritual Literacy Month



From your little Library in the corner....

Merry Christmas from your little Library in the corner....

Here are some good books for your Christmas holiday reading!!

“In *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*”, Mitch Albom gives us an astoundingly original story that will change everything you’ve ever thought about the afterlife – and the meaning of our lives here on earth. With a timeless tale, appealing to all, this is a book that readers of fine fiction, and those who loved *Tuesdays with Morrie*, will treasure.” From “*The Five People You Meet in Heaven*”, by Mitch Albom. (Purple Dot – Adult Fiction)

“David’s life story is punctuated with nevertheless. The runt of eight brothers, nevertheless, he was chosen to be the King of Israel. Nicknamed “Twiggy” by his nine-foot-nine-inch adversary, nevertheless, he slew Goliath with a trip of leather and a pebble. As king, he committed the double crime of adultery and murder; nevertheless, he was called ‘a man after God’s own heart. Do you need a nevertheless to be written into your biography? Fortunately, God has plenty to go around.” From *Facing Your Giants*, by Max Lucado. (Yellow Dot – Children)

“I have often said that the first thing I am going to do when I get to Heaven is to ask, ‘Why me, Lord? Why did You choose a farm boy from North Carolina to preach to so many people, to have such a wonderful team of associates, and to have a part in what You were doing in the latter half of the 20th century?’ I have thought about that question a great deal, but I know also that only God knows the answer.” From *Just As I Am: The Autobiography of Billy Graham*. (Turquoise Dot)

A Very Merry Christmas to you all!! Happy reading!

Reading is
Snow Much
Fun!



2nd Margaret Pomeroy
6th Gale Oldford
9th Rachael Bales
Joan Tucker
11th Cindy Fockler
13th Allen Hosler
17th Scott Pomeroy

18th Tom & Debbie Damon

25th “HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS”
.....Merry Christmas!

Dates to Remember



DECEMBER 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 <small>1st Sunday of Advent</small> 10 am Worship Hanging of the Greens	2	3 #GI ^{VE} ING TUESDAY	4	5	6	7
8 <small>2nd Sunday of Advent</small> 10 am Worship with Holy Communion	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 <small>3rd Sunday of Advent</small> 10 am Worship	16	17 6 pm Deacons 7 pm Session Meeting	18	19 Food Truck Valiant Ministries 12-2 p.m.	20	21
22 <small>4th Sunday of Advent</small> 10 am Worship	23	24	25 	26	27	28
29 <small>1st Sunday of Christmas</small> 10 am Worship with Rev. Linda Fuller	30	31 				

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KIDS CORNOR

LET IT SNOW!

X S Z D I Q N U D E E D F H B M Q K N K
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AVALANCHE	BLIZZARD	CARDINAL
CHIMNEY	DECEMBER	FIREPLACE
FOOTPRINTS	QUILT	GLISTENING
HIBERNATE	MAGICAL	MISTLETOE
PENGUIN	POLAR	GINGERBREAD
SHOVELING	SLEIGH	SNOWBOARD
SNOWFLAKE	TOBOGGAN	WONDERLAND