



From the Pastor

THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Since this last summer, we have done a lot of work with testimonies. We heard from famous Christian leaders about their experience of conversion to faith in Jesus Christ. They testified and we listened. Then we spent eight weeks watching season one of "The Chosen", which took us on a journey through the gospels from the viewpoint of the disciples. Again, they testified, and we listened. Now, as we enter into Advent, we come to yet more testimony about Jesus Christ. This time around we are listening to the messengers of Advent who deliver God's word.

Advent is more than the weeks leading up to Christmas. If we decide to utilize its purpose, Advent can be time of great spiritual growth. We prepare for the coming of our Savior every year, so undoubtedly, the old, old, story can grow stale. We have to learn to tune our ears to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit as he reveals to us new things that we have somehow missed. This Advent we are going to hear loud and clear from these Messengers each week:

- The Angel of the Annunciation
- The Blessed Woman
- The One Who Cries in the Wilderness
- The Son

This series is inspired by the writings of Father Alfred Delp, a Jesuit priest who was arrested and sentenced to execution by the gestapo under Hitler's regime. He was killed in on February 2, 1945 and his last experience of Advent and Christmas was spent in chains, accompanied by beatings and minimal rations. Delp had friends and associates who would smuggle mail and writing supplies to him with his laundry. Thanks to their efforts, we have many letters written during his imprisonment as well as an essay called "The Shaking Reality of Advent". In this meditation, Delp singles out these messengers of Advent, but he also powerfully communicates our absolute and desperate need for Advent.

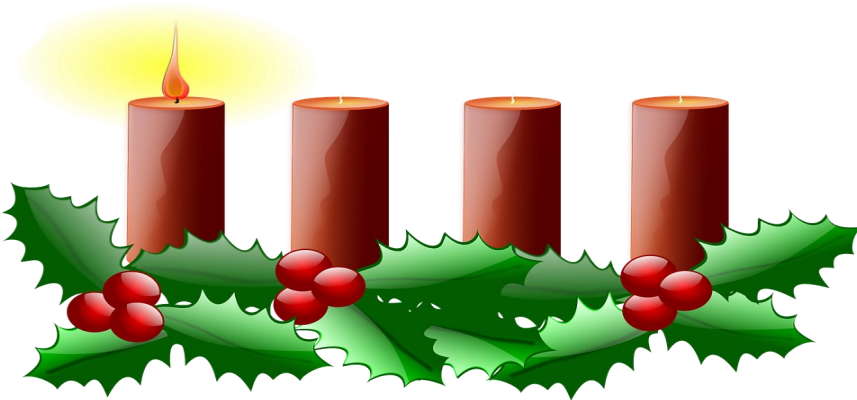
Monthly Church Events

Dec 1	8:00am - Grow Group
Dec 2	9:00am - United Methodist Men
Dec 3	HOLY COMMUNION 10:00am - Worship
Dec 4	6:45am - Breakfast club 8:00am - Monday morning Men, Prayer Shawl Knitters 8:00am - PAX - Pastor Andrew 10:00am - PAX - Tracy H.
Dec 6	4:30pm -PAX - Andrew 5:30pm - Community Meal 6:15pm - Evening Programs 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
Dec 7	10:00am - PAX - Sue 6:30pm - PAX - Julie (Remote)
Dec 8	8:00am - Grow Group
Dec 9	10:00am -UWF Christmas Party 2:00pm - Harris Miller Funeral 5:30pm - Adult Fellowship
Dec 10	10:00am - Worship
Dec 11	8:00am - Monday Morning Men, Prayer Shawl Knitters 8:00am - PAX - Andrew 10:00am - Comfort Quilters 10:00am PAX - Tracy H.
Dec 12	6:30pm - AD Council
Dec 13	10:00am - Birchwood 11:30am - Romeos/Juliets 4:30pm - PAX - Andrew 5:30 - Community Meal 6:15pm - Evening Programs 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal

As he sits in an unjust cell scribbling on clandestine pages, as the world outside literally wages war, as his faith is the only thing keeping him sane, Delp begins his essay with an observation: “There is perhaps nothing we modern people need more than to be genuinely shaken up.”

Advent is that shake up. Advent points to the darkness, the destruction, the disquiet. We listen, we take note, we acknowledge the hopelessness so that, come Christmas morning, we can fully understand the power and necessity of the Light, the Life, the Peace! I invite you to take that journey with me.

For the King,
-Pastor Andrew



ECHO UPDATE

Hello from ECHO!

It's that time of year again, time for Christmas Camp! This year Christmas Camp will be December 27-th - 29th from 9:00am to 11:30am.

Our theme will be God's Messengers (sound familiar?) I hope you will find it in your heart to volunteer and make this a memorable Christmas Camp for the kids.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby and you can choose from crafts, songs, snacks, and games. Also, which days you are available. Thank you in advance, I truly appreciate all the volunteers.

Miss Sue

Director of Children's Ministries

Dec 14	12:00pm - Sarah circle Christmas Party 1:00pm - UWF- Exec Board 6:30pm - PAX - Julie (Remote)
Dec 15	8:00am - Grow Group 2:00pm - Unload Food Truck
Dec 16	7:00am - Food Distribution
Dec 17	10:00am - Worship
Dec 18	6:45am - Breakfast Club 8:00am - Monday Morning Men 8:00am - PAX - Andrew 10:00am - Comfort Quilters 10:00am - PAX - Tracy H 12:00pm - Christmas Pot Luck
Dec 19	10:00am - Rebecca Circle
Dec 20	4:30pm - PAX - Andrew 5:30pm - Community Meal 6:15pm - Evening Programs 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
Dec 21	10:00am - PAX -Sue 6:30pm - PAX - Julie (Remote)
Dec 22	8:00am - Grow Group
Dec 24	10:00am - Worship 11:00pm - Candlelight Service
Dec 25	CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED
Dec 27	4:30pm - PAX - Andrew 5:30pm - Community Meal 6:15pm - Grow Groups 7:30pm - Sanctify Rehearsal
Dec 28	6:30pm - PAX - Julie (Remote)
Dec 29	8:00am - Grow Group
Dec 31	10:00am - Worship

Fall Grow Groups and Youth Group

This Christmas we are going to look at the series “Son of God/Son of Man”. One of the most amazing things about Christianity is that God became a man. We want to make sure we grasp that concept and understand the radical implications it has on the life of the people it affected when it was happening as well as our own lives today! This small group series, Son of God/Son of Man, helps us understand just how radical the event was and really grasp what was going on. The focus is that we see that the point of Jesus coming was so that we could be adopted into the family of God! today.

Lesson 1. The Crazy Promise Luke 1:5-25

Lesson 2. Son of God Son of Man Luke 2:1-7

Lesson 3. Christmas Carols Luke 2: 8-20

There is still time to sign up for Advent Grow Groups in the lobby.



Advent Grow Groups

BEGINNING DECEMBER 6TH



Classes Offered:

WEDNESDAY EVENING	SUNDAY MORNING
• AMANDA LUCAS	• BOB AND CARLA
• ANNELLE MIX	CONNOR

Thank you

Pastor Cassi Betker

Pax Teams:

As Christians, we are called to be people of prayer! There is no better way to spend time than to be with fellow believers in prayer. That is why we started up P.A.X. (Prayer Awakens eXpectation) teams! We want to spend more time as a church praying together.

Advent is the perfect time to join up with a P.A.X. team because both are all about expectation. Just as we await the coming of our King at Christmas, so also we look to God to do great things in our church and community. We wait for God to act! We live into our faith as we become people of prayer. Take a look at the calendar and see if there is a P.A.X. team that will work for you. Remote/online options are available as well!



December Birthdays

May your special day be blessed and filled with joy! If your birthday isn't listed, please call the office and let us know so we can add you to the list!

Lil Truax	12/3
Marilee Leonard	12/3
Matthew Berglund	12/4
Lynn Ruter	12/7
Cathy Sanderson	12/8

Misty Thoen	12/9
Noah Bonsell	12/11
Cassi Betker	12/11
Donna Gustafson	12/19
Tracy Hansen	12/20

Christmas Offering

As a church, we collectively support three different missionary families in three different parts of the world as they engage their communities in three very different ways. This month, our special Christmas offering will be split three ways between our missionaries. Each week in Advent we will get to hear a short video greeting from each family as we get a glimpse of their life and work. Please keep them in prayer and feel free to send them a Christmas card or some other correspondence! More information about our missionaries can also be found on our website or the welcome center in the lobby.

Steve and Kelly Solheim Where: La Esperanza, Honduras

Why: “To build relationships with young people...to disciple a new generation of leaders.”

Organization: World Gospel Mission

Mailing address: C/o World Gospel Mission

P.O. Box 948

Marion, IN 46952

More Info: <https://www.teamsolheim.org>

Craig and Christi Phillips Where: Eurasia

Why: Christi is part of a team that is working to translate the Bible into languages that do not yet have any version of scripture. Craig is serving as a teacher for missionary families and other students.

Organization: Pioneer Bible Translators

Mailing Address: Pioneer Bible Translators Attn: Craig and Christi Phillips

P.O. Box 380820

Duncanville, TX 75138

More info: <https://www.pioneerbible.org>

Tim and Kristina Lewis Where: Central Asia

Why: To “provide education and discipleship among the unreached...to establish and grow the church.”

Organization: WorldVenture Mailing Address: WorldVenture

#683 Worker Name Withheld 20 Inverness Pl. E. Englewood, CO 80112