



Kingswood
United Methodist Church
Messenger

December 9, 2018

2nd Sunday of Advent

*Do all the good you can; By all the means you can;
In all the ways you can; In all the places you can;
At all the times you can; To all the people you can;
As long as ever you can.
~ John Wesley (1703-1791) ~*

**This Sunday, in Pastor Jeff's absence, Ray Morgan will bring the message,
"Prepare the Way," from Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-15.**



Ushers: Wayne Allred, Jake Boyd, Ross Cardwell, John Cox, Dan Eurey, Bill Foust, James Hoots, Greg Kiser & John Warren

Music: Madeline Griggs – Director, Sarah Butler – Organist, Debbie Pappalardo – Pianist

Sunday School Nursery: LaRee Hansel & Pat Stone; next week – LuAnn Winfrey

Worship Nursery: Robin & Gracie Boger; next week – Mary Kiger & Emma Couch

Promises: Carolyn Cooke; next week – children will remain in the sanctuary for the Cantata

Flowers: next week – Greg & Allison Cardwell

Promises – Following “Moments with the King’s Kidz,” our children ages 3-6 (1st grade) are invited to the Promises Worship Room. The children will continue learning about the Advent wreath and focus on the biblical story of Joseph. They will be returned to the sanctuary during the closing hymn.

Worship Kits – There are inspiring worship enhancing activities available to all children as they enter the sanctuary. Please return the kits and all its contents at the end of the service.



Sunday	9:00 am	Children's Christmas Program Practice
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	10:55 am	Welcome/Worship
	6:00 pm	Children's Christmas Program – "The Simple Pageant" No Youth Gathering
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Bible Study
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Choir rehearsal
Friday	4:00 pm	Assemble treat bags

Kingswood Matters



Our lives affect those we have contact with, whether we intend it or not. It may be a positive experience for them or a negative one, but our lives *will* affect others. Only when we are determined to focus on *giving* a blessing rather than *receiving* a blessing will we have the quality of ministry to others that God desires. This Christmas be more concerned about giving a blessing!



"Don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God." (Hebrews 13:16)



The Christ Child

*“For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us; authority rest upon his shoulders;
And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually and there shall be endless peace...*

*He will establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”*

~ Isaiah 9:6-7 ~

How much we need the gift of the Christ Child, the “Prince of Peace”! Certainly, we all observe the lack of peace in our culture and world – even in our churches. Indeed, I readily see “unpeace” in myself. I violate peace not only in hasty words or angry attitudes, but also in failing to be the reconciler Jesus calls his followers to be.

So much of our culture’s unpeace arises because of greed, our proliferating needs and wants. How easily, especially at Christmastime, we and our children concentrate on all the “stuff” we want.

No matter how many presents we accumulate, there is always something else to be had – better toys, newer models, fancier clothes, faster computers and smart phones. As time goes by, toys break, the excitement wanes, and we discover the truth of the Preacher’s words: “*All is vanity*” (Ecclesiastes 1:2).

If we prepare for the true gift of Christmas, we discern the source of our yearnings in our profound thirst for God. That awareness frees us from our need to accumulate and grooms us to participate in our Prince’s reign, which he continues to establish and uphold “*with justice and with righteousness*” (Isaiah 9:7).

How much we need the Christ Child! We cannot free ourselves from all the unpeace – the subtle forms of violence against neighbors near and far, and the injustices entrenched in the wealth of our nation over against the rest of the world.

That consciousness prevents any romanticizing of Christ’s birth. He came into, and himself experienced, exactly such darkness, poverty, oppression, and confusion. And to all of us “*people walking in darkness*” he has brought “*a great light*” (Isaiah 9:2).

Moreover, because “*the light [of his salvation] has dawned*” upon us, we are transformed by his Spirit’s power into a new people who join in his work of peacemaking and justice building – always knowing that “*the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this*” (Isaiah 9:7), and not our own efforts. The Lord, the covenant of God, will accomplish the reconciling of the cosmos and embrace us in Christ’s reign to embody his purposes!

He is the “*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*” (Isaiah 9:6) who defeated the powers of darkness that threaten, hinder, usurp, and destroy the world’s peace. Now, in this in-between time before God’s reign comes to total fruition, “*His authority shall grow continually,*” and consequently “*there shall be endless peace*” (Isaiah 9:7).

May peace abound in your home and in your life this Christmas, and into the new year, knowing that the Christ Child has come, and he reigns forevermore!

Love and Blessings this Christmas,

Pastor Jeff





In the case of inclement weather, a Phone Tree message will be sent, and WXII Channel 12 will be notified of any changes or cancellations to our schedule.



This Sunday at 6:00 pm, our children will present their Christmas program, "The Simple Pageant." If you are looking for a blessing, you need to be here. Refreshments will follow the performance. Come and support our little ones.



On Sunday, December 23 the children of our church and all church members are invited to attend a Birthday Party for Jesus during the Sunday school time in the fellowship hall. It will begin at 10:00 am with a photo-op with the Angel Gabriel and end with cake.

We will have a Meet and Greet, and the adults will together share ways to keep Christ in Christmas in our family celebrations while the kids do crafts.

As a way to honor the Christ Child's birthday, participants are asked to bring scarves, gloves, and hats to decorate our Tree of Warmth. The gifts will help keep warm those in need this winter. Members of the congregation are also invited to help decorate the Tree of Warmth (located in the narthex) with the same items.

Following the Birthday Party for Jesus, everyone is invited to join together in the sanctuary for the worship service.

Welcome New Members



Please update your church directory:

Laurie Sypole – 7220 Foster Street, Rural Hall, NC 27045, phone 336-969-5232

Ann Miller – 1418 Crestlawn Trail, Pfafftown, NC 27040, phone 939-750-4396

Karen Buoyer – 1430 Crestlawn Trail, Pfafftown, NC 27040, phone 336-813-3750

When filling out your Christmas cards this year, please consider sending a card to this address:



A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
8901 Rockville Pike
Bethesda MD 20889



New offering envelopes are available in the narthex. Please pick up your new envelopes. Do not begin using these until the first week in January. At that time, please discard any old ones. If you do not have an assigned number, please contact the church office. **ALWAYS USE YOUR ENVELOPES WHEN POSSIBLE.** Thank you.



The 2018 accounting books will be closed out on January 7. Please submit any invoices or receipts for reimbursement to the church office as soon as possible.



As in past Advent seasons, we will once again ask for a special monetary gift offering for our staff members. This is our opportunity to express our thanks for all their efforts on our behalf. **You are invited to participate by placing your donation in the offering plate or sending it directly to the church office by Dec. 9.** These gifts will be presented at the Dec. 16 worship service.



The Youth are taking orders for poinsettias that will be wrapped and placed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 23. The cost is \$12 each and **the deadline for orders is this Sunday.**



The Youth have provided mailboxes for members to send Christmas cards to each other again this year. The baskets are located in the narthex.



On Sunday, December 16 at 11:00am, the choir will perform their Cantata accompanied by an instrumental ensemble. Please join us for this special event!



This is our opportunity to brighten Christmas for some Rural Hall Elementary School families. Ornaments on the tree represent gifts requested by the children. There are also ornaments that represent the scholarship program for Kingswood Preschool. Please wrap the gifts and attach the ornament to it so we can distribute them to the right child. Some ornaments have dollar amounts. These will be used to buy food for the families. Place the checks, along with the ornament, in the collection plate or bring them to the church office by Dec. 18.



If you have ever attended the Christmas Eve service at Kingswood you know how special it is as we sit quietly with family pondering the Christmas Tree and the Cross, singing familiar carols, listening to the so-familiar yet so welcome story of Christ's coming, sharing communion, contemplating what we will do with His gift of love, and leaving by candlelight. Join us on Monday, December 24 at 5:00 pm for this special service.



The 2019 flower chart is in the church office window. Please sign up to provide altar flowers to celebrate an occasion, or in memory of a loved one.



Following is the next four weeks' Promises schedule:

- Dec. 2 – Lisa Williamson
- Dec. 9 – Carolyn Cooke
- Dec. 16 – children will remain in the sanctuary for the Cantata
- Dec. 23 – Lisa Poe



We will not meet this Sunday, but everyone is encouraged to come support the children's Christmas program at 6:00 pm.



How wonderful it is to be part of such a kind and giving church family. Your expressions of caring are very much appreciated. The visits, delicious meals, cheerful cards, surprise phone calls and humorous social media correspondences have been such an uplifting and positive part of my recovery. Both Dan and I appreciate all the expressions of Christian love you have shown to us during my time of hip surgery, physical therapy, and recuperation. It is our blessing to be a part of the Kingswood Church family. – Elaine Eurey



Thanks to everyone who participated in the Samaritan Ministries Penny Campaign. We donated 44 pounds of change to this worthy cause. Great job Kingswood!

As you bring your monthly food donations, please add some socks, gloves, a toboggan or a blanket to help the homeless in our community deal with the winter cold. Imagine having to face the winter chill without these items. We and the Kingswood Preschool will be collecting these items during the months of December and January. Let's do our part to help those in need stay as warm as possible.

REMEMBER



- **Sunday School** – this is where faith and life connect! We have great Sunday School classes for ALL ages. You are encouraged to join a class. How about doing it this Sunday? A nursery is provided during Sunday School. Please join us each Sunday at 10:00 am. You won't regret it!
- **CDs** of Sunday worship services are available in the church office.
- **Pastor Visitation** – if you desire a visit from Pastor Jeff please feel free to call him directly at 336-416-5869, or let the church office know.
- **Pastor Jeff's Prayer/Bible Study** – Come and be a part of this study on the parables of Jesus on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. We are beginning a lesson of "The Great Feast" from Luke 14:15-24. Prayerfully consider this spiritual discipline in your weekly plans. Please make note: We do not meet on the first Tuesday of the month.
- **Announcements** – if you have information to be included in this publication, please send your suggestion to: kingswood@triad.twcbc.com by Wednesday of each week.

"The Weekly Messenger" is published and sent via E-mail on Thursday of each week to those who have provided the church office with their E-mail address.
There are also printed copies on the table in the narthex.

Grace and Blessings!
We hope to see you this Sunday at Kingswood

Office hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 am – 2:30 pm, Thursday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Closed Mon. & Fri.
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