

WEEKLY ADVENT DEVOTIONALS are available in the sanctuary foyer. Please take as many as you need.

REMINDER: ALL GIFTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017 NEED TO BE

- given in church on December 31 or delivered to the church office by the 31st
- mailed with a postmark date of December 30 or earlier,
- or need to be made online (<https://www.hwchurch.org/giving/>) by Thursday, December 28 with a transaction date of Friday, December 29 at the latest.

MISSION MOMENT – Our missions dollars go to national church development in the Czech Republic and Sierra Leone. These partnerships are different – the Czech Wesleyan work is quite recent and reaches new disciples and starts new church groups; the longstanding Sierra Leone field needs strategic leadership preparation within hundreds of churches and programs. We pray for fruit and success in both.

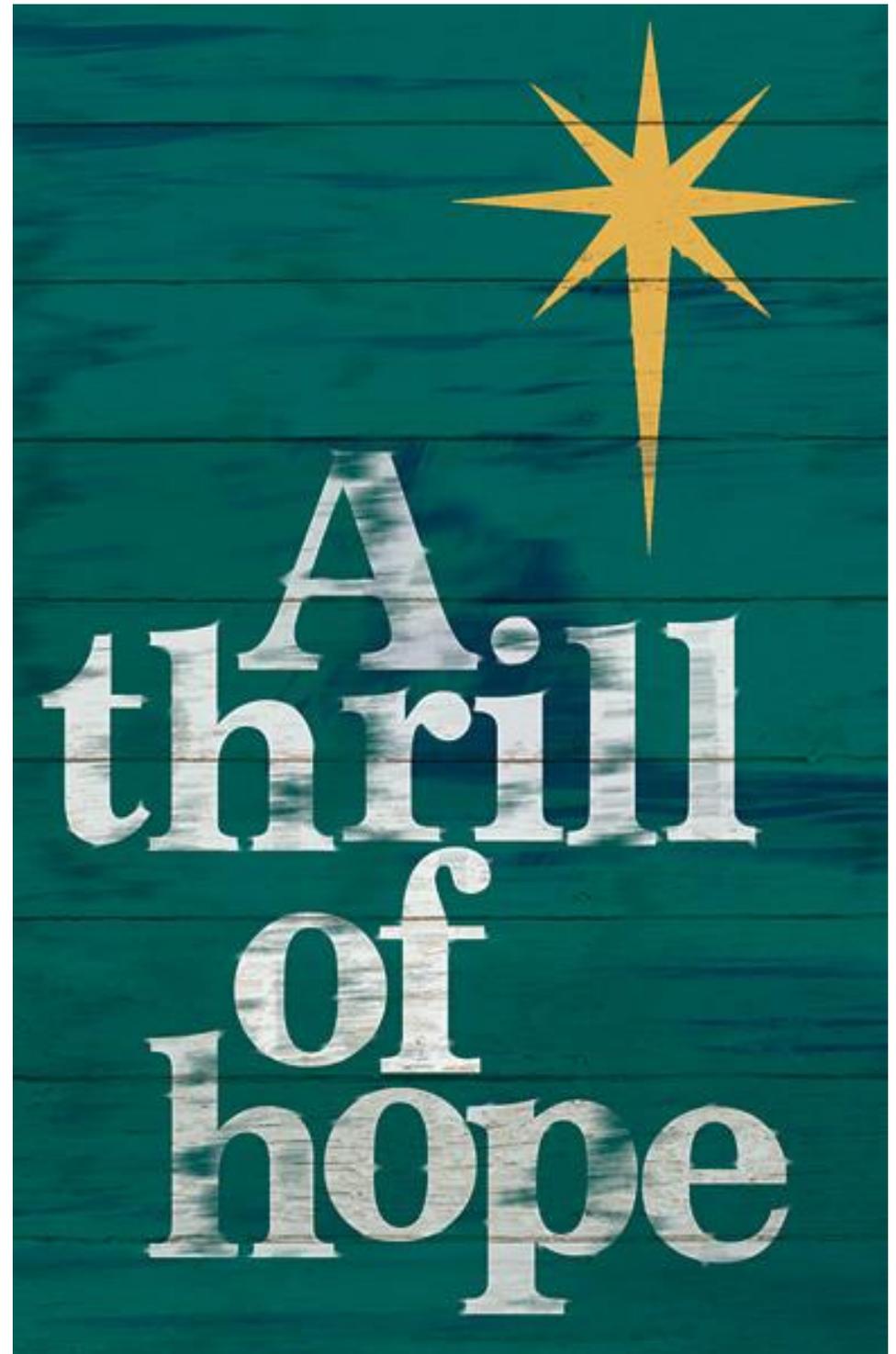
PERSECUTED CHURCH - We pray for those with specific ministry to teens in the Middle East. Everything in the culture around them is opposed to their Christian faith. If they leave for education outside their country they often don't return, depriving the small Christian community of younger leadership. Pray for young believers in Muslim settings.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Tim Nichols, Bob Brown, Jayne Swanson, Louise Prinsell, Laura Habecker, Hudson Hess, Nancy Cole, Brian Orbaker (Charlie and Connie Smith's son-in-law), Peter Lingenfelter, Ellis Brotzman, Chuck Barrett (Wendy Ott's brother), Sheryl O'Brien, Ben King, Doris Essepian, Eila Shea, Sheldon Emerson (Darby Luckey's brother), Bill Getty, Warren and Ella Woolsey, Mike Raybuck, Bev Rhett, Micah Christensen, Linda Roth, Dick Gould, Emily Crikelair; for the injured and grieving from recent shootings and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for healing and unity in our nation; and for Friends in Christ United Methodist Church (Pastor Nancy Russell).

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Sunday, December 17	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service 5:00 p.m. – Carol Sing/Cookie Reception (Bring your instruments)
Sunday, December 24	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service 5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 31	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, January 7	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, January 14	8:20 a.m., 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – Worship Services Small Groups

For more information about church activities, and to read Pastor Wes's weekly blog, visit our website: www.hwchurch.org.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11:00 MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 10, 2017

As the prelude begins, let us observe silence as we prayerfully anticipate this hour of corporate worship of Almighty God.

Prelude: Carol Preludes onWilbur Held
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
"God Rest You Merry"

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Christopher Moeller & Kim Prins Moeller

*Hymn 122 Angels We Have Heard on High

*Words of Greeting and Peace

Ministry Spotlight: Youth

Anthem: The Word was Made FleshJames Woodman

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, how many prophets of your light, have we ignored because they were not what we were looking for? How many times have we ignored voices crying in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord?" How many times have we breathed a sigh of relief, and turned our backs on your messengers, because they did not speak the message we expected to hear? Help us hear anew, the cry of those who would lead us to Christ. Tune our ears to your heralds that we might also testify to your light. And through the coming of Christ, may we hear your words of pardon and assurance: "If we confess our sins, he will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Amen.

—adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2008 by B.J. Beu

Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

Our Response to Prayer: Welcome to Our World

*New Testament Reading: John 1:1-18

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 136 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: In the First Lightarr. Bob Kauflin

Sermon: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Pastor Wes Oden

*Hymn 117 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

*Postlude: Hymn Prelude on Hark! The Herald Angels SingRobin Dinda

*Please stand if able
Organist: Judy Congdon

Worship Leader: Jessica Romance
Acolyte: Jameson Rhett

The rose on the pulpit is in honor of the birth of Brooks Daniel Ogden on September 15, 2017 to Hannah and Luke Ogden.

Children's Worship bulletins are available in the church foyer for ages 3-12.

Nursery: We provide a fully staffed nursery for infants up to two years of age. The Nursery is located on the first floor of the Christian Education Building.

Children's Church: Children ages 2-5 are dismissed during the song before the sermon for Children's Church in room 116 in the Christian Education Building.

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. Advent is a bittersweet time: it's a time of hopeful anticipation for what God is going to do and a time of painful waiting for God to do what He has promised. Today, we are reminded that the promises of old are still true and that the presence of God with us is still real.

TONIGHT AT 5:00 you are invited to hear one of our fall semester interns, Andrew Sherman. The service will also include music by our children and other groups.

KID'S CLUB will be Christmas Caroling on Wednesday from 6-7 pm. Everyone is welcome to join one of our three groups as we leave from the Community Room and travel on foot to our neighbors—then come back for cookies & cocoa. If you enjoy baking, please bring a plate of cookies with you!

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the third Sunday of Advent. We will gather for worship for one worship service at 10:00. Pastor Wes will lead us in thinking about the carol Joy to the World! There is no Sunday School the next four weeks (December 18 and 25, January 1 and 8).

NEXT SUNDAY, 5:00 PM CAROL SING AND COOKIE RECEPTION—Bring your instruments and bring a plate of cookies to share before joining voices in celebrating our annual Carol Sing. If you are able to bring an extra plate of cookies, we have a small group that is willing to package them to be given away through the food pantry for the Christmas season.

THE FLOWER COMMITTEE WELCOMES YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS. You may purchase poinsettias we have already ordered (\$12.00) or you may bring your own on December 15. Please leave \$12 with Patty Stalker in the church office and fill out a reservation form indicating your preferences. If you wish to honor a loved one, please leave this information with Patty by December 14.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: we will host Christmas Eve services 5:00 and 7:00. Both services will include carols, candle lighting and the reading of the Christmas story. The 5:00 service will also include a time for children. The offering at the Christmas Eve services will go to aid Puerto Rico relief following Hurricane Maria.