

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

CELEBRATE RECOVERY meets Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Good Shepherd Room on the lower level of the sanctuary. *Celebrate Recovery is a biblical and balanced program that has helped people overcome their hurts, hang-ups, and habits. Based on the actual words of Jesus found in the Sermon on the Mount, CR has helped people for over twenty-five years grow toward full Christ-like maturity.*

MISSION MOMENT – Short term funding in December assists Crystal Schierer currently in Romania and The Smalleys and Miranda Hayes heading to Eleuthera at the end of the month. We pray for these ministries especially geared to families and children to bear Kingdom fruit.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Recently more than 30 ex-prisoners from Iran, now living as refugees in Turkey, received trauma counseling. Many who were formerly house church leaders have found personal healing and help in their ongoing ministries in Turkey. Let's pray for healing for all who need healing from harsh treatment for following Jesus.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for Norm Smithley and his family at the death of his mother, for the family of Doris Essepien and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Ray Ott, Eileen Spear, Sheryl O'Brien, Bill Breuer, Roselyn Danner, Gwen Mercer, Bethie Liddick, Bill Getty, Bev Rhett, Nancy Cole, Gus and Louise Prinsell, Florence Teuber, Phil Main, Emily Crikelair, Mike Raybuck, Sheldon Emerson (Darby Luckey's brother), Eila Shea, Peter Lingenfelter, Izabela Daugherty (Dave and Karen's daughter-in-law), Dan Gurley, Paul Johnson; for the injured and grieving from tragedies and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the Genesis Bible Church (Pastor Marc Chamberlain).

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Sunday, December 9	8:20 a.m., 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – Worship Services 5:00 p.m. – <i>Messiah</i> Sing-a-long
Sunday, December 16,	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service 5:00 p.m. – Carol Sing/Cookie Reception (Bring your instruments)
Sunday, December 23	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Monday, December 24,	5:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 30	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, January 6	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, January 13	8:20 a.m., 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – Worship Services Small Groups

Hope



Nations will come to your light and kings
to your dawning radiance. –ISAIAH 60:3

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11:00 MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 2, 2018

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

Prelude: *Chorale Prelude on "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland"*J. S. Bach
(BWV 659; for translation of text, see hymnal #114)

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Adenuga Family

*Hymn 119 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

*Words of Greeting and Peace

Anthem: *Advent Canticle*Mark Shepperd
Dianna Clem, flute; Marissa Perez, oboe

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

**Doxology*

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Silent Night*arr. Mark Hayes
Dianna Clem, flute

Prayer of Confession

Father, in this season of Advent, when we grasp for power and things, remind us that Christ came in weakness, in humility as a child. When we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us Lord. When we reduce Christmas to things, have mercy on us, Father. When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and believing in Your Son, let your grace fill us. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope in Christ alone, that we may watch and wait and once more rejoice to hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer / **The Lord's Prayer**

Please feel free to use the altar as your place of prayer as we bow in humility before our loving heavenly Father.

If kneeling is difficult for you, please use the red chairs or stand by the altar rail.

Song of Preparation: *Emmanuel*

*New Testament Reading: Matthew 1:1-25
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 109 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Sermon: **Unwrapping Christmas in History**
Pastor Wes Oden

The Lord's Supper

*Hymn 116 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

*Postlude: *Chorale Prelude on "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland"*J. S. Bach
(BWV 661; for translation of text, see hymnal #114)

*Please stand if able

Organist: Judy Congdon

Worship Leader: Austen Kewin

Acolyte: Abigail Reitnour

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

<p>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 and is available during services.</p> <p>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.</p>

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The season of Advent is a time of expectancy and preparation. As the world centers much of its attention upon the commercialization of Christmas, Advent is a time for Christians to prepare—body, mind and spirit—to celebrate the birth of the Savior. As we prepare, let us open ourselves to the truths of God's word and to the leading of the Holy Spirit to make Christ the center of our Christmas.

HOLY COMMUNION: We practice open communion in the Wesleyan Church: all who come in faith of Christ's redeeming power are welcome. As the ushers release your row, come to the front, tear off a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, eat it, then return to your seat by the outside aisle. Feel free to remain at the altar rail in prayer. If you prefer to be served in your seat, inform the usher; we have trays of bread and cups to serve you. Pastor Wes has cups of juice and gluten-free wafers at the communion table. If you desire the grace of God in your life, enabling you to love God with all of your being and to love others through the Spirit in you, you are invited to receive the bread and cup of God's grace in Christ for the sins of the whole world.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the Second Sunday of Advent. In our worship at 8:20, 9:40 and 11:00, Pastor Wes will focus on *Unwrapping Christmas in Our Relationships*.

NEXT SUNDAY EVENING AT 5:00 you are invited to join in a congregational sing-a-long performance of Handel's *Messiah*. We will have scores of the music available. If you have a copy, bring it with you.

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 have a time for children.