



"WALKING A LIFE OF PASSION AND PURPOSE FOR JESUS CHRIST"

PASTOR KIRK WERNER

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Friends and **F**amily of **C**ross **W**alk,

One of the most frustrating things for me as we transition from Thanksgiving into the Christmas season is dealing with the lights on our artificial tree. Somehow over the period of storage in our attic, lights that worked perfectly when we stored the tree, now malfunction. I'm thinking that perhaps this is a spiritual warfare issue whereby the devil seeks to disrupt my focus by raising my blood pressure over these tiny twinkling wonders!

I know this to be a common problem and I'm sure there are those of you who can relate. As a matter of fact, the problem is so widespread that one business, Tesco, a British supermarket company, posted an ad for a new position — a Christmas Light Untangler. The company's website offered the following description for the 36-hour-a-week job: *"This new position will offer you the chance to show that every little bit helps, by running the unique in-store service with a friendly, flexible approach and making a genuine difference to the little things that matter to our customers this Christmas"...The first duty includes..." manning and managing the Christmas Lights Untangling stand."*

The ad went on to say that the basic duty candidates should be able to do is untangle 10 feet of Christmas lights in less than three minutes as well as check the bulbs for signs of breakage. The ideal

candidate should also *"be passionate about Christmas."*

May we maintain our passion for the true meaning of this wonderful time of year, not allowing the busyness and stress of the season to rob us of the joy declared by the angel of the Lord, ***"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you: He is Christ the Lord."*** (Luke 2:10-11)



*Your brother and Servant
in Christ,*

Kirk



Messages for the Month

DECEMBER **03**, 2017 – **Luke 1:26 - 38**
“*Breaking the Silence*” – Communion -
1st Sunday of Advent -

DECEMBER **10**, 2017 – **Colossians 3:15 - 17**
- “*Called to Peace*” – 2nd Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER **17**, 2017 – **Luke 2:8 - 14** - “*Joy for All!*” – 3rd Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER **24**, 2017 – **1 John 4:10 – 12 and 19 - 21** – 4th Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER **31**, 2017 - **Luke 10:27 – 30** –
“*Who Is My Neighbor?*” Maurice Briere

Our Staff

Pastor: Kirk Werner

Child Care Director: Linda Odle

Music Director: Joshua Jordan

Director of Children's Ministries:
Anna Baker

Class of 2017:

Maurice Briere, Greg Davis &
Lindsay Rosa.

Class of 2018:

Donna Carter, Matt Peterson &
Greg Waldrop

Class of 2019:

John Carson, Dale Lutton &
Courtney Scollard



BIRTHDAYS



Betty Clepper – 1st

Ben Johnson – 7th

Jeramie Walkup - 8th

Frank Clepper - 15th

Travis Baker - 18th

Jeremy Cecil – 21st

Gary Poplawski – 25th

Timothy Fletcher - 28th

Dale Lutton - 28th

Zoey Cecil - 29th

Donna Carter – 31st



Pat & Lisa McNabb - 14th

Irving & Lindsey Rosa – 15th

Jim & Jody Hazenfield – 18th

Rusty & Jamie Webber -21st

Greg & Gwen Davis – 22nd

Laine & Bob Donnell – 26th

Don and Debbie Banta – 29th



NURSERY SCHEDULE



Kids Crossing with Jim Odle

December 03: John Carson
December 10: Sue Werner
December 17: Kassie Harrison
December 24: Matt Peterson
December 31: Karin Morton



Preschool Room with Linda Odle:

December 03: Chelsea Peterson
December 10: Dawn Briere
December 17: Irving Rosa
December 24: Laine Donnell
December 31: Mike Walkup

If you **cannot** work your scheduled time, please swap with someone and if you *cannot find a substitute*, call Linda Odle at 690-9358 or 207-2623. When you know you can't work in the nursery, please e-mail the date(s) to jlodle@comcast.net or put them in writing and give them to Linda Odle in the nursery. Thanks!

Babies/Toddlers and Preschool Children

When you help in the children's departments you won't miss anything, because you can pick-up a complete **FREE CD** of the service right after church. You will have no preparation or teaching. Just come help. You can choose to help with the babies/toddlers/preschool or kids crossing. Again, you can pick-up a FREE CD of the complete service before you leave church.

To help please contact Ms. Linda in the nursery or call 690-9358 for more information

*Your Prayers are needed for The
Good News Club at New Hopewell
Elementary*



We really need more helpers. If you think you are interested, please talk to *Linda Odle, Carolyn Carson, Laine Donnell, or Pastor Kirk.* Better yet, come visit the GNC (Good News Club)! We meet on Wednesdays, 2:00pm until 4:30pm. We need to have more helpers. Please contact Linda Odle at 690-9358. We can use your help.

The school also needs *breakfast bars, pop tarts* and other quickie breakfast foods to give to the children who are late and haven't had anything to eat. *School supplies are always needed anytime during the school year.*





New Hopewell GNC Prayer Praises

(Only First Names for anonymity)



Alexander – Praise that Holly is doing well and going to church. Pray that this continues.

Hailey - Thank you Jesus for helping my sister get better.

Aiden – Thank you for our lives.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:



CrossWalk Café

Our next Cafe' is **December 3, 2017**. It's our annual **Christmas Brunch** (Please note that there will be no breakfast refreshments offered prior to the worship service). You are invited to come and share perhaps one of your favorite family recipes that you enjoy at Christmas time. This is a wonderful time to enjoy true fellowship during this festive time of year.



THANK YOU...KUDOS...APPLAUSE!!!

The session would like to say THANK YOU to all families for your service on the **Refreshment Ministry Team**. When you join the church, you are assigned to

this team, as we feel it is a ministry that all can participate in. You are paired with another family and given one month (every 1 1/2 – 2 years) to provide Sunday morning refreshments. Most teams take two weeks each; others share in the entire month. *It is up to you.* **Please remember that you are NOT responsible for providing breakfast for everyone.** This is just a light refreshment to have with coffee or juice. (Coffee is provided by the church.) *What the teams provide is their gift to the church in service to our Lord.* Be sure and show your gratitude... We are certainly grateful to each of you!!!

***The teams are posted on the bulletin board for the year and printed 3 months ahead in the newsletter, so that you can plan ahead.**

Sunday Morning Refreshment Schedule

December 2017

Nancye & Rusty Esch 977-4229
Betty & Frank Clepper 573-8784

January 2018

Jane & Ricardo Gracia 579-0899
Regina Miller 207-7097

February 2018

Fran & Marshall Mckenna 963-9152
Brenda & Steve Clabo 546-4830



COOKIE SWAP

Saturday **December 16th**, 9 – 10 a.m. at the home of **LINDSAY ROSA**.

5421 Shenandoah Drive 37909

Please bring **3 dozen** of your favorite cookies, brownies, bars, candy, bread, etc.

Call/text/email any questions

865-603-2039

lindsaykrosa@gmail.com



CrossWalk family, if you see a need to replenish coffee supplies such as coffee, hot/cold cups, paper towels, kitchen dish soap or men's/women's room supplies, **please let us know** by; (1) **noting what is needed on the bulletin board in the kitchen for refreshment supplies** and (2) **noting on the rest room listing in the rest rooms so that supplies can be replenished before they are completely out.** If you have questions, please contact *Judy Campbell* or *Sue Werner*. Thank you!



*Please come worship with us Christmas Eve
at our family friendly service at 5:00 p.m.*

This will be a special family time with a short story entitled "A Walk One Wintery Night." We will conclude the service with the lighting of candles by the congregation.



Check out our website!

Have you checked out our website lately? It's a great way to introduce people to our church. Navigate through the site and see pictures of various activities. There are photos of **JAM (Jesus and Me children's ministry)**, church events, a calendar of events, and the weekly messages are catalogued in the media section. This is a helpful tool in keeping informed and a good resource to refer to your friends. The web address is www.crosswalkepc.org.



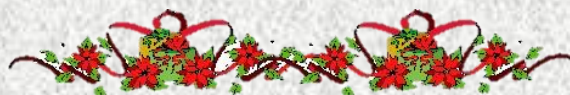
Church Cleaning Committee

Nov 29 – Dec 02 - Pat & Lisa McNabb
Dec 06 – Dec 09 – Pat & Lisa McNabb
Dec 13 – Dec 16 – Stan & Susan Fletcher
Dec 20 – Dec 23 – Stan & Susan Fletcher
Dec 27 – Dec 30 – Beth Ferguson w Cathy Tolbert

PLEASE!!



If you use the church during the week, please, be sure to take your trash with you when you leave – especially food waste.





What is Advent?

For many Christians the Advent season focuses on *expectation* and think that it serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas. This is part of the story, but there's more to Advent.

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (John 1:29), and his first miracle at Cana (John 2:1). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas.

Today, the season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. At that time, the new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from

Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6. (Advent begins on the Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year.)

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these "last days" (Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2), as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God's past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people.

In this light, the Advent hymn "*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*" perfectly represents the church's cry during the Advent season:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

While Israel would have sung the song in expectation of Christ's first coming, the church now sings the song in commemoration of that first coming and in expectation of the second coming in the future.

To balance the two elements of remembrance and anticipation, the first two Sundays in Advent (through December 16th) look forward to Christ's second coming, and the last two Sundays (December 17th – 24th) look backward to remember Christ's first coming. Over the course of the four weeks, Scripture readings move from passages about Christ's return in judgment, to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Messiah, to New Testament passages about the announcements of Christ's arrival by John the Baptist and the Angels.

While it is difficult to keep in mind in the midst of holiday celebrations, shopping, lights and decorations, and joyful carols, Advent is intended

to be a season of fasting, much like Lent, and there are a variety of ways that this time of mourning works itself out in the season. Reflection on the violence and evil in the world cause us to cry out to God to make things right—to put death's dark shadows to flight. Our exile in the present makes us look forward to our future Exodus. And our own sinfulness and need for grace leads us to pray for the Holy Spirit to renew his work in conforming us into the image of Christ.

While Advent is certainly a time of celebration and anticipation of Christ's birth, it is more than that. It is only in the shadow of Advent that the miracle of Christmas can be fully understood and appreciated; and it is only in the light of Christmas that the Christian life makes any sense. It is between the fulfilled promise of Christ's first coming and the yet-to-be-fulfilled promise of his second coming that Karl Barth penned these words: "Unfulfilled and fulfilled promise are related to each other, as are dawn and sunrise. Both are promise and in fact the same promise. If anywhere at all, then it is precisely in the light of the coming of Christ that faith has become Advent faith, the expectation of future revelation. But faith knows for whom and for what it is waiting. It is fulfilled faith because it lays hold on the fulfilled promise." The promise for Israel and the promise for the church is Jesus Christ; he has come, and he will come again. This is the essence of Advent.

Justin Holcomb



"Christmas means giving. The Father gave His Son, and the Son gave His life. Without giving there is no true Christmas, and without sacrifice there is no true worship."

~Gordon B. Hinckley~

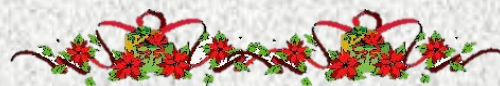
The Golden Gift

Some time ago, a friend of mine punished his 3-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold

wrapping paper. Money was tight, and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box to put under the tree.

Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you, Daddy." He was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, but his anger flared again when he found that the box was empty. He yelled at her, "Don't you know that when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside of it?" The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into the box. All for you, Daddy."

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl, and he begged her forgiveness. My friend told me that he kept that gold box by his bed for years. Whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there. In a very real sense, each of us as parents has been given a gold container filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.



Every Gift Was Handed Back

This year I stopped to contemplate the kind of gift I'd bring

To lay at the nail-scarred feet of my Gracious Heavenly King.

He's given my very life to me, and the blessings I hold dear,

But I can't come up with anything appropriate, I fear.

Every time I give Him something, He more than doubles the return...

I gave to Him my weakness, His strength He then confirmed
Would always be there for me to securely hold on to.
I gave Him my shattered life – He gave me life anew.
I gave Him my pain and heartbreak, all that troubled my weary soul –
He gave me hope and happiness, and made my body whole.
I gave Him all my doubts and fears, the things that stood in the way
Of my daily service in His name – He made them go away.
I offered Him my feeble voice, to sing His praise in song –
He filled my heart with a melody, that will last my whole life long.
I offered Him my hands to serve, to help out those in need,
He gave me the talent to use these tools, so that I would succeed.
I gave Him my life completely, to show His light in a world of night,
He gave me a wonderful testimony, a way to share His light.
I offered Him my eyes to see all that they could take in –
He showed to me a world of fear, unhappiness and sin.
For every gift I gave to Him, He handed back to me
Instructions for their uses – endless possibility
To reach a world that needs to find the Saviour that I found,
So, on and on, I serve, for to Him in love I'm bound.

anonymous



Lunch with God

There once was a little boy who wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer, and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old woman. She was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old lady looked hungry so he offered her a Twinkie. She gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. Her smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered her a root beer. Once again, she smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave but before he had gone more than a few steps; he turned around, ran back to the old woman, and gave her a hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever. When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? She's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face and he asked, "Mother, what did you do today that made you so happy?" She replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God."

But before her son responded, she added, “You know, he’s much younger than I expected.”

Too often we under estimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. **Embrace all equally!**

Kathy Pinto

