



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



**PASTOR KIRK WERNER**

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

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her King! *"Let every heart prepare Him room..."* At this time there are many preparations occurring as we anticipate Christmas Day. We find ourselves making choices as to what we will accomplish and what we will have to set aside. There are only so many hours in a day. But there is one preparation that we must not let go unfulfilled.

John Fischer speaks of this in his devotional entitled, "Rearranging the furniture." *"Ever notice how a new decoration or piece of furniture can make you rearrange a whole room? Sometimes it might be nothing more than a new flower arrangement that gets it started. With my wife, merely the thought of something different in our home can start us both pulling the couch across the room, dragging the rocking chair here and there, trying it every which way, until we finally settle on what we want... even if it happens to be what we had before!"*

*When Jesus comes into our lives, everything has to be rearranged. Sometimes we forget*

*this and center our lives around the wrong things. Suddenly we realize everything's out of whack.*

*Christmas is a great time to make sure the Savior is in His rightful place. It may mean rearranging the furniture of our lives. But that's a joyful task — hardly a task at all. Some things will have to go. The rest you'll want to move around until everything is properly around Him."*

Now is a great time to assess just where Jesus' place is in our hearts and lives. He must be at the center if we are to rejoice at His coming and experience Emmanuel..."**God with us!**" Could it be time for a little rearranging?



*Blessings to you all!*



*Your brother in Christ,*

*Kirk*





## Messages for the Month

December **02**, 2018 – **Psalm 25:1 – 7**  
“Remembrance Leads to Hope” – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – **Communion**

December **09**, 2018 – **Philippians 1:2 – 11** –  
“Grace and Peace to You” 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December **16**, 2018 – **Isaiah 12:2 – 6** – “Joy to the World, the Lord Has Come” – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December **23**, 2018 – **Christmas Musical** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

December **30**, 2018 - **Rev. Buddy Sexton** to fill the pulpit

### Our Staff

**Pastor:** Kirk Werner

**Child Care Director:** Linda Odle

**Music Director:** Trey Lister

**Director of Children's Ministries:**  
Anna Baker

#### Class of 2018:

Donna Carter, Matt Peterson &  
Greg Waldrop

#### Class of 2019:

John Carson, Courtney Scollard &  
Mike Walkup

#### Class of 2020:

Carol Jordan, Jim Slyman &  
Maurice Briere



## BIRTHDAYS



Betty Clepper – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Jeramie Walkup - 8<sup>th</sup>  
Frank Clepper - 15<sup>th</sup>  
Travis Baker - 18<sup>th</sup>  
Jeremy Cecil – 21<sup>st</sup>  
Timothy Fletcher - 28<sup>th</sup>  
Zoey Cecil - 29<sup>th</sup>  
Donna Carter – 31<sup>st</sup>



Irving & Lindsay Rosa – 15<sup>th</sup>  
Jim & Jody Hazenfield – 18<sup>th</sup>  
Rusty & Jamie Webber - 21<sup>st</sup>  
Greg & Gwen Davis – 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Laine & Bob Donnell – 26<sup>th</sup>  
Don & Debbie Banta – 29<sup>th</sup>





# NURSERY SCHEDULE



**Kids Crossing** with **Jim Odle**,  
John Carson or Courtney Scollard

**Dec 02:** Jeanne Cecil

**Dec 09:** Irving Rosa

**Dec 16:** Susan Fletcher

**Dec 23:** Travis Baker

**Dec 30:** Chelsea Peterson



**Preschool Room** with **Linda Odle**,  
Dawn Briere, Laine Donnell or Carol Jordan

**Dec 02:** Jeremy Cecil

**Dec 09:** Debbie Lutton

**Dec 16:** Brenda Clabo

**Dec 23:** Wanda Wayman

**Dec 30:** Anna Baker

## Teacher

Carol Jordan

Dawn Briere

Dawn Briere

Laine Donnell

Laine Donnell

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](mailto:jlodle@comcast.net) or put them in writing and give them to Linda Odle in the nursery. Thanks!

**We are in serious need for more helpers in the preschool room or Kids Crossing.**

It is taking more people because sometimes we have more children and because Linda Odle cannot teach at this time due to her cancer treatments. Please call Linda at 690-9358 or email her at [jlodle@comcast.net](mailto:jlodle@comcast.net) to help. There is no preparation!



## Please Remember School Supplies for New Hopewell

**It is flu & virus season!** Please help New Hopewell fight these germs with disinfectant sprays, wipes and tissues. Leave these items in the Blue Tub in the back of the church.





## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:



### CrossWalk Café

Our next Cafe' for December is our traditional **Christmas Brunch**. Following our worship service **December 2, 2018**, we will gather around the table to enjoy some of the tastiest delicacies from the kitchens of some of the finest cooks in the known world. A great time to enjoy not only wonderful food, but great conversation with some of the warmest people you could ever want to meet. (*\*There will be no morning refreshments except coffee.*)

### 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 2018

Dawn & Maurice Briere 809-2765

Jeff Hayes 573-4691

Greg Waldrop 598-0108

### January 2019

Sue & Kirk Werner 567-0767

Debbie & Don Banta 699-7560

### February 2019

Susan & Stan Fletcher 577-6099

Chelsea & Matt Peterson 356-2113



## COOKIE SWAP

Saturday **December 15<sup>th</sup>**, starting at 10 a.m. at the home of **DEBBIE BANTA**.

**600 Marston Ln 37920**

Please bring **3** dozen of your favorite cookies, brownies or cake. Also, bring the recipe to share!  
Call/text/email any questions

Debbie 865-699-7560

[quilted4u@yahoo.com](mailto:quilted4u@yahoo.com)

Lindsay 865-603-2039

[lindsaykrosa@gmail.com](mailto: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 5:30 p.m.*

A **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** will take place at 5:30pm, at CrossWalk and will include *song, scripture, and lighting of the candles*. Please bring your family and come join us to celebrate and worship the birth of Jesus!



## 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.crosswalkpc.org](http://www.crosswalkpc.org).



## Church Cleaning Committee

Dec 05 – Dec 08 – Rhett & Donna Carter  
Dec 12 – Dec 15 – Debbie Lutton & Deb Banta  
Dec 19 – Dec 22 – Debbie Lutton & Deb Banta  
Dec 26 – Dec 29 – Stan & Susan Fletcher

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

anonymous true story

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.



### A True Heartwarming Story of Faith

anonymous true story

In September 1960, I woke up one morning with six hungry babies and just 75 cents in my pocket. Their father was gone. The boys ranged from three months to seven years; their sister was two.

Their Dad had never been much more than a presence they feared. Whenever they heard his tires crunch on the gravel driveway they would scramble to hide under their beds. He did manage to leave \$15 a week to buy groceries. Now that he had decided to leave, there would be no more beatings, but no food either. If there was a welfare system in



effect in southern Indiana at that time, I certainly knew nothing about it.

I scrubbed the kids until they looked brand new and then put on my best homemade dress, loaded them into the rusty old 51 Chevy and drove off to find a job. The seven of us went to every factory, store and restaurant in our small town. No luck.

The kids stayed crammed into the car and tried to be quiet while I tried to convince who ever would listen that I was willing to learn or do anything. I had to have a job. Still no luck. The last place we went to, just a few miles out of town, was an old Root Beer Barrel drive-in that had been converted to a truck stop. It was called the Big Wheel. An old lady named Granny owned the place and she peeked out of the window from time to time at all those kids. She needed someone on the graveyard shift, eleven at night until seven in the morning. She paid 65 cents an hour, and I could start that night.

I raced home and called the teenager down the street that baby-sat for people. I bargained with her to come and sleep on my sofa for a dollar a night. She could arrive with her pajamas on and the kids would already be asleep. This seemed like a good arrangement to her, so we made a deal.

That night when the little ones and I knelt to say our prayers, we all thanked God for finding Mommy a job. And so, I started at the Big Wheel. When I got home in the mornings, I woke the baby-sitter up and sent her home with one dollar of my tip money--fully half of what I averaged every night.

As the weeks went by, heating bills added a strain to my meager wage. The tires on the old Chevy had the consistency of penny balloons and began to leak. I had to fill them with air on the way to work and again every morning before I could go home. One bleak fall morning, I dragged myself to the car to go home and found four tires in the back seat. New tires! There was no note, no nothing, just those beautiful brand-new tires. Had angels taken up residence in Indiana? I wondered.

I made a deal with the local service station. In exchange for his mounting the new tires, I would clean up his office. I remember it took me a lot longer to scrub his floor than it did for him to do the tires.

I was now working six nights instead of five and it still wasn't enough. Christmas was coming, and I

knew there would be no money for toys for the kids. I found a can of red paint and started repairing and

painting some old toys. Then I hid them in the basement so there would be something for Santa to deliver on Christmas morning. Clothes were a worry too. I was sewing patches on top of patches on the boys' pants and soon they would be too far gone to repair.

On Christmas Eve the usual customers were drinking coffee in the Big Wheel. There were the truckers, Les, Frank, and Jim, and a state trooper named Joe. A few musicians were hanging around after a gig at the Legion and were dropping nickels in the pinball machine. The regulars all just sat around and talked through the wee hours of the morning and then left to get home before the sun came up.

When it was time for me to go home at seven o'clock on Christmas morning, to my amazement, my old battered Chevy was filled full to the top with boxes of all shapes and sizes. I quickly opened the driver's side door, crawled inside and kneeled in the front facing the back seat. Reaching back, I pulled off the lid of the top box. Inside was whole case of little blue jeans, sizes 2-10! I looked inside another box, it was full of shirts to go with the jeans. Then I peeked inside some of the other boxes. There was candy and nuts and bananas and bags of groceries. There was an enormous turkey for baking, and canned vegetables and potatoes. There was pudding and Jell-O and cookies, pie filling and flour. There was a whole bag of laundry supplies and cleaning items. And there were five toy trucks and one beautiful little doll. I could not believe my eyes!

As I drove back through empty streets as the sun slowly rose on the most amazing Christmas Day of my life, I was sobbing with gratitude. And I will never forget the joy on the faces of my little ones that precious morning.

Yes, there were angels in Indiana that long-ago December morning. And they all hung out at the Big Wheel truck stop....







Merry  
Christmas

