

## The Church's Liturgical Year: Advent - The Plans of God in the Hands of God.



### THIS IS A TEST

What do you see? What does this symbol have to do with Advent?

The Advent season in the life of the Church is a time of preparation for the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth and His second coming at the end of time. In these trying times, **CHPC's 2015 Advent Preaching Series focuses on HOPE... real hope.**

Last week, Nov 29th, we introduced the Celtic symbol for Hope. Christians combined a never-ending, interwoven circle with a Celtic knot — a symbol of God's love revealed by the Holy Trinity. This whole symbol predates the use of the cross by Christians.

The first Sunday of Advent, this part of the symbol was used. Looking like a candle on a stand, it pointed to Jesus Christ, the HOPE and *Light of the World* who comes to *ordinary* men and women ...people open to God: like Mary, Joseph and John the Baptist in the backwater area of Nazareth.



This 2nd Sunday of Advent, we take the same symbol and invert it, so it seems to rest on a center point with

outstretched hands, a bit like a spinning top. It is a reminder of *the plans of God in the hands of God*. The Apostle Paul wrote about these plans to the Galatians (4:4,5): **But when the time had fully come**, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. Other translations use the phrase, *"In the fullness of time...."*

Jesus was born into a country under the military rule of the Romans. The King, Herod and his family weren't even from King David's royal line. How was this the *'fullness of time'?*

It wasn't until I took a graduate course in the Intertestamental Period that I began to see God's Plan. Before Herod, before the Romans, the Jews had been *FREE*. The *Apocrypha* is part of the Catholic and Orthodox Bibles. It contains *the Books of the Maccabees* written in Hebrew by a Jewish author after the restoration of an *independent Jewish kingdom*, about the latter part of the 2nd century BC.

In the 3rd century BC, Alexander the Great and his Greek successors conquered Israel. The Maccabee family called upon people loyal to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to oppose the invaders and the Jews who preferred the Greek culture. They trusted God, courageously undertook a bloody military campaign and won!

In 165 BC, the Temple in Jerusalem was reconsecrated so ritual sacrifices could begin again. According to Rabbinic tradition, the victorious Maccabees could only find a small jug of sacred oil to burn in the Menorah (lampstand) to rededicate

God's Holy Temple. Miraculously, one night's worth of oil lasted for eight nights.

### Hanukkah: an annual reminder.

The Jewish Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, was established to remind Jews of God's provision and their *Freedom*. A favorite game of Hanukkah is playing with a dreidel, a four sided spinning top. The Hebrew letters on each side spell out the phrase

"there happened a great miracle." Pray that this season the Jews will come to know God's Plan and greatest miracle — Jesus.



Over the years, instead of trusting God's Plan, the Jews made an alliance with the powerful Roman Republic. God set His people free, but they sold themselves into bondage to other gods. Their only HOPE was for a Messiah.

**This was the 'fullness of time' into which Christ came.** From Genesis to Revelation, God continues to speak forth His Plans to any who will listen. The prophets and ordinary people throughout history foretold His faithfulness and His miracles. At His chosen time — *His Word was made flesh and dwelled among us*. To those who believed in Jesus' name *He gave the power to be sons of God*.

That's God's Plan — to have children to reflect His Glory. Could this Advent be a 'fullness of time' for you? Will Jesus Christ set you free from your past and give you a future and a HOPE?

BY SHARLYN STARE, STARECVG@AOL.COM

### ADVENT READING:

**Today we light the 1st candle of Advent as a reminder of Jesus the Light of the World** that shines in the lives of ordinary people and warms them with God's Love. Jesus is our HOPE.

**We also light the 2nd candle of Advent for the Plans of God in the Hands of God.** From Genesis to Revelation God has announced His Plans and faithfully fulfills them. God our Father, forth-tell Your perfect plan for our lives this Advent. Hold us in the palm of Your hand. Give us HOPE in Jesus alone.

## Global Worker Update

Four CHPC Global Worker couples are deeply involved in assisting refugees from the Syrian civil war and the aggressions of ISIS, both in the Middle East and in Europe. Please keep them in your prayers. We can immediately and directly support their work financially with year-end gifts to:

### The Outreach Foundation

To give online: [www.theoutreachfoundation.org](http://www.theoutreachfoundation.org) Click on "Donate Now." Under "Designation" click on "Refugee/IDP Crisis."

To send a check: 381 Riverside Dr., Suite 110, Franklin, TN 37064 Enclose a note to apply your gift to "Refugee/IDP Crisis."

### Operation Mobilization

To give online: <https://my.omusa.org/give> and click on "Donate Directly to OM." Under "Comments" on the Donor Information page, remove "Where Needed Most" and substitute one of the options below, using the title, Partner Key, and KMP listed.

To send a check: Operation Mobilization USA, PO Box 444, Tyrone, Georgia 30290-0444 Enclose a note to apply your gift to one of the projects listed below.

**OM Europe Refugee Ministry** Partner Key:0001802006 KMP id:K14715

**OM Germany Xenos Team** (where our workers serve) Partner Key: 0001801174 KMP id: K13112

**Op Mercy Jordan** (already has nearly 700,000 refugees and asylum seekers) Partner Key: 0001801488 KMP id:K14692

**Op Mercy Relief** (worldwide, including Europe) Partner Key: 0001801555 KMP id:K14682

**John and Dianne Fowler's daughter Sarah**, a Chicago mom of two little ones, is raising money for the many Syrian refugee mothers currently staying in her parents' region of Turkey. Give online at <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/moms-for-moms/>

For more information, attend the Mission Spotlight Foundation Hour on Dec. 13, or join the World Mission Team for their monthly meetings, which are announced a couple of weeks in advance in the bulletin.

### Current Foundation Hour Classes

In between services at 10:10am, we offer classes for children and adults.

**Messianic Prophecy** MC Basement - Room A

**Bible Study Helps** MC Basement - Clubroom

**Dealing With Holiday Stress** MC Basement - Room C

**Mission Spotlight** - Fellowship Hall

**Holiday Traditions** MC Basement - Room D

**Parents of elementary age kids group/class**

Class is in the Ministry Center 2nd Floor Parent Lounge.

### Children & Youth Helpers in Worship

Children ages Kindergarten through third grade are invited to a Children's Worship service each week. Start off with your families in both the 9am and 11:15am service, then listen for the announcement dismissing the kids to their special service. Just before the sermon, children will be dismissed to their special study and worship time.

This week's helpers are:

9:00am Toby K.  
11:15am Andrew and Elizabeth D.  
The Martin Family will Greet

Next week's helpers are:

9:00am Nate Smith  
11:15am Ian & Joshua S.  
The Dixon Family will Greet

## 6. sunday

8:00am	Morning Prayer	Prayer Room
9:00am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
10:10am	Foundation Hour	
	• Children's Classes	Barnabas Ctr
	• Jr. High	BC 204
	• High School	BC 205-206
	• Adult Spiritual Form.	Various
	• Parent Group	MC 2nd Floor
11:15am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
1:30pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics	Fireside Room
2:00pm	Jan Hyde Memorial Service	Sanctuary
4:00pm	CRASH	BC 205 & 206
6:30pm	Huddles	BC 205 & 206

## 7. monday

6:00pm	Community Prayer Walk	House of Joy
6:30pm	Karate	Fellowship Hall

## 8. tuesday

9:30am	Tuesday AM Bible Study	Parlor
6:30pm	MEGABLAST	Great Hall
	Super Choir	Fellowship Hall
7:00pm	The Well	Sanctuary

## 9. wednesday

6:30pm	ACA Meeting	BC 203
7:00pm	Bi-Polar Support Group	Great Hall
	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	Writer's Group	Fireside Room

## 10. thursday

8:30am	Prayer - Church & Community	Prayer Room
10:00am	Knitting Group	Atrium
6:15pm	Karate	Fellowship Hall
7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	Adult Children of Alcoholics	Club Room
7:30pm	AI-Anon	BC 201 & 202

## 11. friday

## 12. saturday

2:00pm	Praise Dancers	BC Lobby
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**"LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION" POLICY**  
When parking, remember to keep your valuables and all parcels out of sight safely locked in your trunk. Thieves can even see through dark tinted glass. Don't tempt!

December 6 - December 12 calendar

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Advent/Christmas Decor:** Honor your loved ones by contributing to poinsettia plants and greens used during December. Donors and honorees will be listed in the Christmas Eve Bulletins. *Contact Sam Routzon by Dec. 21st. Ext. 1125 or sroutzon@chpc.org.*

**Come to The Well to be refreshed in God's presence.** The Well springs up on the second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, in different locations around the city. This month The Well will be here at CHPC on **December 8th at 7pm.** Each service at The Well is a unique combination of seeking God's presence through Worship, Biblical Teaching and Testimony, Prayer and Reflection and outreach to the community.

**Calling all carolers and bakers.** December 18th 6:30pm to 8pm. The Brooks and The Wells are once again hosting the annual Cookie Swap and "Caroling in the Hood." We will have lots of fun singing carols and once again we will have our beautiful Saxophonist Penny Sauer warming our hearts and voices before we face Old Man Winter, stinging our toes and biting our nose. The cookie Swap rules are as follow: Bring a dozen take a dozen home - 2 dozen maximum. We will start at the Brooks' sing, exchange cookies and began walking through the neighborhood. Children are welcome and bring flash lights. Brooks' address is 1192 Cedar Ave. 513 851-0931.

**JOINING THE CHPC FAMILY** If you are interested in becoming a member at CHPC. Our next New Covenant Partner Orientation Classes are: Sundays January 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 10:10am. To sign up or have questions contact Michelle Hemsath 541-5676 Ext. 1123 or mhemsath@chpc.org or Pastor Dennis 541-5676 Ext. 1122 or dhall@chpc.org

**Lord's Bounty Scholarship Applications** are available. Request a scholarship application or grant form by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: The Lord's Bounty, 5852 Hamilton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45224. All scholarship application materials must be received by January 31, 2016 to be eligible.

**Give a Christmas Gift to our Global Workers!** (1) Please pick up a red or green marked envelope from the table on Main Street next to the atrium doors. (2) Fill it with a donation of any amount, cash or check made out to CHPC. (3) Place it in the offering plate during worship or deliver it to the church office during the week. Each of our global workers will receive an Amazon gift card at Christmas. Call Mary Sue Verhagen 542-7829 if you have questions or would like to send something personal to a Global Worker. (these contributions are not tax deductible.)

## THANK YOU

Many thanks for the Team that 'decked' the Sanctuary and Atrium: Dave Freas, Jan Scheyer, Sam & Barry Stare, Art Stattman, Luke Verhagen and Jim Warner. Open to helping take down the decorations? Contact Barry Stare 542-2442 or bzuthr@me.com.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**The December Theme** in BLAST (K-3) and MEGABLAST (4-6) is Compassion: "caring enough to do something about someone else's need," and our memory verse is John 3:16: "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." Please pray this month that our children would learn to reflect God's character of compassion by caring for others' needs. For more information on what kids are learning as well as ideas on how to engage with them on this subject, check out the Parent Cue on [chpc.org/forms](http://chpc.org/forms).

**CRASH (7-9th grade)** meets today from 4-5:30pm in the CRASH room. Come for snacks, games, large group Bible study, and small groups.

**Huddles (10-12th grade)** are tonight from 6:30-8:30pm in the CRASH room.

**CRASH Christmas Party** will be December 20th from 6:30-8:30pm for all students grades 7-12.

**Parents of elementary age kids group/class** will meet during the Foundation Hour in the parent lounge of the ministry center (take the elevator in the atrium to floor 2). We will be continuing our discussion on the book Parenting Beyond Your Capacity, talking about how we connect better with other families as we are raising our children. If you have not been to the group before, now is a great time to come check it out.

## SERVING IN WORSHIP & ARTS AT CHPC

**Calling All Instrumentalists** How about a CHPC orchestra for Christmas Eve? Calling all orchestra instrument players - woodwind, brass, string, timpani: Email Mike Parker at [mparker@chpc.org](mailto:mparker@chpc.org) with your questions or interest.

## SEND ADORABLE GREETING CARDS AND SUPPORT 3C'S



The art of 3C's children is featured on some very delightful Christmas Cards, Thank You Notes, Notecards, Envelope seals, To Do Lists and Gift Tags. Cards are a wonderful value at \$5.00 per dozen. Orders of three (3) dozen or more can be personalized. There is something for everyone at the table on Main Street. Questions? Call Maggie Smith at 885-6147.

## Prayer Page

"... without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers," Romans 1:9

### CHPC Community

Alexis Wilsey	Marilyn Wilsey
Kim Wittkamp	Dottie Zimmerman
Nancy Wolf	Ron Wolf
Jessica Yaw	Nick Yaw

### Staff

Robyn Hubbuch - Director and Children & Families

### Officers/Leadership

Ruth Irby - Deacon

### Home Bound/Health Center

Betty Henderson

### Ministries

Prayer & Care Ministry

### Global Workers

### In the Military

Adam Steveley US Army	Chris Jaeger USMC
Cary Jaeger USMC	Kirk Kalmbacher US Coast Guard
Zach Scharf Army National Guard	Nyjoel Baker US Air Force
Danny Holian US Navy Pilot	Will Connor US Army
Joey Nieberding US Army	Peter & Amanda Leugers US Navy

### College/Career Students

Noah Sherman	Clara Smith
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December 6, 2015

**FEAR NOT**

The Plan

Preaching: Rev. Drew Smith

### Welcome to College Hill Presbyterian Church

Thank you for worshiping with us today. Single, married, with children or not, there are many opportunities for knowing Christ, worshiping, personal growth and discipleship, service and ministry within the church and beyond the walls.

Visitors - Stop by the welcome table or the desk in the Atrium to find out more about College Hill Presbyterian. Return and become part of this dynamic Church Family.

### Upcoming Services

Dec. 13	FEAR NOT - Real Fear / Real Hope
Dec. 20	<b>Unified Service at 10am</b> <b>FEAR NOT - The Victory</b>
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Services 5pm Family/Interactive Service 8pm Candlelight/Communion Service

### Today's Order of Worship

Prelude  
Call To Worship / Opening Prayer  
Songs of Praise  
Dismiss Children  
Scripture & Sermon  
Pastoral Prayer  
Healing Stations  
Communion  
Offering  
Announcements  
Charge and Blessing  
Postlude

### Available Help

Ushers have copies of the song lyrics for the 9am service. Ushers can also provide help with wheelchairs and equipment for hearing assistance. Handicapped accessible restrooms are located off the exit hallway to the right side of the main platform. This exit also leads to handicapped parking spaces.

