

## The Church's Liturgical Year: Advent - "God from God, Light from Light."



### 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.**

On Nov 29th, we introduced the Celtic symbol for Hope. Christians like St Patrick 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.

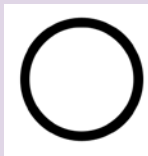
The first Sunday of Advent, this part of the symbol was used. Looking like a candle on a stand, it pointed to Jesus Christ, the HOPE and *Light of the World* who comes to *ordinary* men and women ...people open to God: like Mary, Joseph and John the Baptist in the backwater area of Nazareth.



The 2nd Sunday of Advent, the same symbol was inverted, 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.* We

discovered why the Apostle Paul wrote about Jesus being born "*In the fullness of time....*"

This third Sunday, the circle symbolizes the One that is our HOPE, Jesus Christ. The Apostle John writes, "*He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*" (John 1:2-3)



The former chaplain of the Senate preaching on John's passage asked, "What part of ALL don't you understand?" Reminders of ALL are everywhere: in jewelry, target bullseyes, sun and moon, coinage, wheels, china, even *Lord of the Rings*. Christmas is no exception.

### CHRISTIAN ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath ties the circular Christ symbol to that of light. The tradition of the lighting 4 candles placed in a circle sometimes with evergreens comes from Northern Europe. Examples:



In the 1500's Martin Luther popularized using an Advent wreath as a Christian-education device. While not described in Scripture, lighting Advent candles is

similar to the role prescribed by God for lighting the 7-candle menorah in the Temple, and the Jew's practice of lighting 8-candles for Hanukkah. Both were designed as acts of obedience honoring God and giving Him the Glory.

Like the celebration of Passover, when the Maccabees instituted Hanukkah about 165BC they expected that the candle-lighting would be a family affair celebrated in the home. Members of the family joined in to *remember* the miracle of God. This year Hanukkah's 8 nights are Dec 16 to Dec 24.

Resource — <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/hanukkah>.



**LIGHT UP CHRISTMAS** by making candle-lighting and prayer around an Advent Wreath part of your daily activities. Refocus on the coming of Christ, the true LIGHT of life. Try it as part of a meal. The family or a group gathers around the wreath and lights the appropriate candles. Do a prayer based on the Advent wreath reading and Scripture. Let the candles burn during the meal. Singles can join with others or have their own wreath and prayer time. Be open to the LIGHT and HOPE that God wants to bring to your life this Advent. Jesus, through whom ALL things were made, makes it possible.

Resource: <http://christianity.about.com/od/christmas/qt/adventwreath.htm>

BY SHARLYN STARE, STARECVG@AOL.COM

**TRADITIONAL ADVENT SYMBOLS:** **1st** — the first [purple] candle is the "Prophecy Candle" that reminds us of the prophets who foretold Christ's birth. God is faithful to fulfill His promises. "Our HOPE comes from the Lord." (Romans 15:12-13). **2nd** — the "Bethlehem Candle" symbolizes Christ's birthplace as God promised. A star led the Wise Men to Christ child. Ask God to cause you to 'get ready' for Jesus. (Luke 3:4-6) **3rd** — the "Shepherds Candle" is for the ordinary people who had their fear replaced joy and HOPE. (Luke 2:7-15). **4th** — the "Angels' Candle" is lit for God's divine messengers. They came to declare 'Glory to God' first and then announce Jesus — God with us. The Savior of the World. (John 3:16-17)

## A CHRISTMAS INVITATION

You are cordially invited to attend Supper Club on Monday, December 21st to hear dramatist Vickie



Gaynier in her portrayal of Anna. Anna was a Prophetess who was in the temple on the day that Mary and Joseph brought the Christ Child to be dedicated. She was the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher, and was very old. The Bible says she had lived with her husband for only seven years and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph. She also began

thanking God and telling everyone in Jerusalem who had been awaiting the coming of the Savior that the Messiah had finally arrived.

Vickie and her husband, Mike, have been married for thirty-seven years and live in the Cincinnati area and fellowship at Northern Hills Bible Chapel where Mike is an elder. Vickie does dramatic presentations of women from the ancient times to the present age. She received training in drama at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Through this ministry of drama the Lord has given her an opportunity to share the gospel and encourage Christians.

There will be Christmas music at the beginning of the program and a closing group carol sing led by Penny Sauer, accompanied by Tim Sillaman. A lovely catered dinner will be served at 6:15pm in Fellowship; cost is \$10.00 at the door. Make reservations by this Thursday, December 17, by calling Sally Auble, at 741-3125.

**Adult Spiritual Formation for the winter** will be a series of round table discussions on worship themes offered by the Session worship committee. This committee has been meeting for several months discerning what God wants from our worship. Building on what was presented at the congregational meeting in October we will offer 5 weeks of discussions led by team members and several others who regularly lead classes. No changes to the current worship services has been planned, but God has given this team a vision for worship that brings the congregation together within the framework already in place. Some of the topics will include: Expecting God's presence, Encountering and Experiencing God in worship, Struggling with conviction, and surrendering to God's will and Being sent into the world. There will be time for questions and open discussion. Come join us during the middle hour in Fellowship Hall, Jan. 10 - Feb. 7 at 10:10am. As a special bonus, look for an announcement next week for a preview of the class that will take place on Jan. 3.

### 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 Nate Smith  
11:15am Ian & Joshua S.  
The Dixon Family will greet

## 13. 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
4:00pm	CRASH	BC 205 & 206

## 14. monday

6:00pm	Community Prayer Walk	House of Joy
6:30pm	Karate	Clubroom
	Deacon Banquet	Fellowship Hall
7:00pm	Orchestra Rehearsal	Choir Room

## 15. tuesday

9:30am	Tuesday AM Bible Study	Parlor
4:30pm	Grief Support Group	White House
6:30pm	Super Choir	Fellowship Hall

## 16. wednesday

11:00am	Hip Hop Forum/Symposium	Parlor
6:30pm	ACA Meeting	BC 203
7:00pm	Bi-Polar Support Group	Great Hall
	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary

## 17. thursday

6:15am	Band of Brothers	Fireside Room
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

## 18. friday

## 19. saturday

9:00am	Christmas Service Rehearsal	Sanctuary
2:00pm	Praise Dancers	BC Lobby

"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 13 - December 19 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.*

**Grief Group – Tuesday, December 15** at 4:30 PM in the white house. Holidays are often difficult in the midst of grief. Join us for a special time of support through this holiday season. Questions: Contact Jeanne Schneider at jschneider@chpc.org or 513-541-5676, x1160

**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 lot's 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.

**Year End Giving - Timing matters!** To be considered a 2015 contribution for tax purposes, your checks must be postmarked and dated before December 31, 2015 (if mailed). All other contributions including cash, must be received by December 31st.

**Stock Gifts** Are you planning on giving a stock gift to CHPC? Please let Heather Lethander, Finance Manager, know the details so it can be accurately credited to your account for tax purposes.

**Community Sing at House of Joy** Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30pm. We will be joining with 3 different choirs from Cincinnati to sing a new song written for this occasion to commemorate the Black Lives Matter movement. This will be a simple way for folks to participate and learn about the Black Lives Matter movement. By the end of the night we will have recorded a new song in both audio and visual. Even if you can't sing you can participate!

**Mark your calendars** for the College Hill Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration – Sunday, January 17, at 6:30pm at Good News Church of God in Christ at North Bend and Cary.

**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

**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.)

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**There will be no Children and Worship** during the 10am Unified Service next Sunday (12/20). This service will be a musical celebration of the Advent season and appropriate for families of all ages. Children ages 0-4 will have enrichment time in the nursery, and children Kindergarten and older will worship with their families in the servic

**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.

**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.

**CRASH Christmas Party** is next week, December 20th from 6:30-8:30pm for all students grades 7-12. We will not have normal CRASH from 4-5:30pm next week.

## 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. Questions? Call Maggie Smith at 885-6147.

## SERVING IN OUR COMMUNITY

**Feast of Love needs donations** of ham and desserts for our Christmas Dinner. Please see Bev Graves to donate. Thanks!

**City Gospel Mission** is looking for advocates for men moving out of homelessness. Individuals, couples, or families would get to know someone staying at City Gospel Mission shelter to support and encourage them as they make steps to move toward sustainable housing. After they move into permanent housing, they would continue to walk alongside them, helping them develop a support network through their local church home and community. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, contact Andrew Wells: awells@chpc.org, 375-7909.

**Clovernook Center** for the Blind and Visually Impaired is looking for volunteers for Friday, December 18 from 11 AM – 2 PM to help serve at their employee lunch. If interested contact, Catie Turner at 513-728-6238.

## Prayer Page

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

### CHPC Community

Helen Aichholz	Jeff Zimmerman
Dottie Archer	Pauline Bacon
Sally Auble	Les Auble
Carol Baker	Carroll Baker

### Staff

Mike Hill - Custodian

### Officers/Leadership

Janice Long - Deacon

### Home Bound/Health Center

Mae Klusmeier

### Ministries

Hospital 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
	Gus Carpenter US Marines

### College/Career Students

Rebecca Snyder	Christina Somers
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**December 13, 2015**

**FEAR NOT**

Real Fear / Real Hope  
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. 20 **Unified Service at 10am**  
**FEAR NOT - The Victory**

Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve Services**  
5pm Family/Interactive Service  
8pm Candlelight/Communion Service

### Today's Order of Worship

Prelude  
Lighting of Advent Candle / Opening Prayer  
Songs of Praise  
Time of Confession & Forgiveness  
Welcome Guests / Dismiss Children  
Song of Preparation  
Passing the Peace  
Scripture & Sermon  
Pastoral Prayer  
Offering / Closing Song  
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.