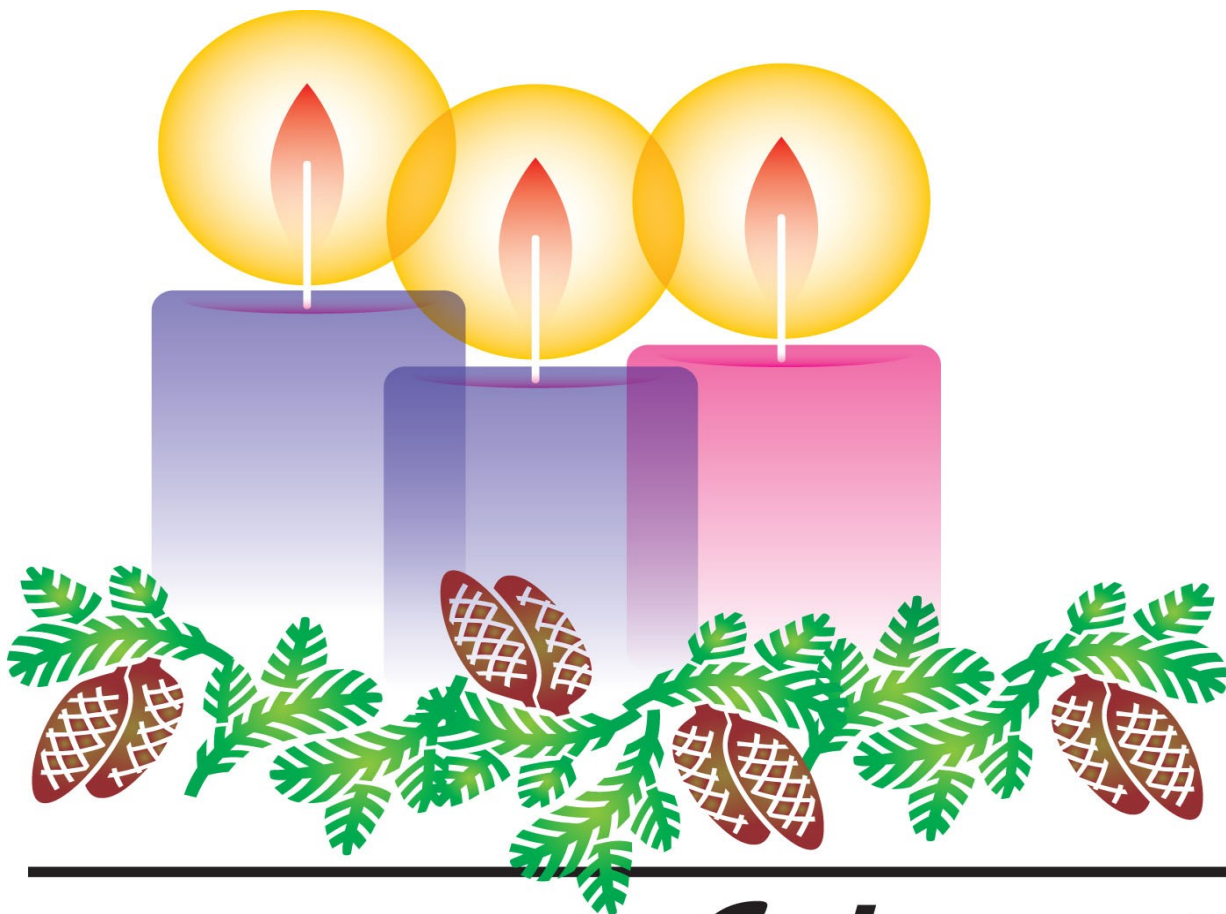




West Grove United Methodist Church

OPEN • GROW • SERVE

The Reverend Monica B. Guepet, Lead Pastor
300 North Guernsey Road
West Grove, PA 19390



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

December 11, 2016

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

OPEN

Prelude

Welcome and Ministry Opportunities

Pastor Monica

Please fill out the Friendship Register on the clipboard located on a chair in your row.

First-time guest or member, let us know you were here!

*Call to Worship (Responsive)

Tom Hoover

One: We give thanks to God who put music in the universe, so that the birds and the wind, the animals and insects, and the very stars in their course are makers of melodies.

Many: We give thanks for Jesus who lived out love and grace and gives us messages of praise to sing.

One: We give thanks to the Holy Spirit who touches the strings of our lives in dissonance and harmony.

Many: Our hearts sing in faith!

*Processional Hymn

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

UMH No. 218

*Opening Prayer (Unison)

Tom Hoover

**Holy God, your prophets have long spoken
of the one who would come to save us.**

Now the promise is fulfilled, and your kingdom is coming near.

**Send us as messengers of your way,
to go and tell all the world of the wonders we have seen,
and the good news we have heard;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*Passing of the peace

Tom Hoover

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you.

GROW

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Candle of Perspective: Look! Love!

The Robinson Family

Page 8

Advent Song

"Light The Advent Candle"

TFWS, No. 2090, V. 3

Moment for All Ages

Jamie Lindtner

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

Tom Hoover

*Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:46-55

Tom Hoover

***Response to the Lessons**

Tom Hoover

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem

"A Peaceful Midnight Clear"

Chancel Choir

Children from Age 4 through Grade 4 are dismissed to meet in room #10 for Children's Worship.

Parents, please pick up your children immediately following the worship service in room #10.

Children ages birth to 3 are welcome to attend the nursery in room #15 to participate in a story and guided activities.

Sermon

"Piles of Prophets and Presents"

Pastor Monica

SERVE

***Hymn of Response**

"My Life Flows On"

TFWS No. 2212

Moment of Impact

Live Nativity

Pastor Monica

Offering

***Offertory Response**

"In The Bleak Midwinter"

UMH, 221, V.4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

***Offertory Prayer (Unison)**

Pastor Monica

Generous God, our offering can never match what you give us in Christ. From glory, Jesus came as a dependent baby, to be born in poverty in a stable, to live, suffer and die – for us. With these gifts, accept our love and praise, and help us to be more gratefully alive, serving you and our neighbors with all we have and are. Our eyes and hearts and minds fixed on the vision you have given us of your Kingdom. Amen.

Gathered Prayer

Pastor Monica

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Monica

***Hymn of Sending Forth**

"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"

UMH No. 224

***Benediction**

Pastor Monica

Choral Benediction

"Christmas Peace"

Chancel Choir

***Postlude**

** = Please stand as you are able* **Bold Print = Say in unison**

~~~~~

## **Old Testament Lesson:** *Isaiah 35:1-10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## **Gospel Lesson:** *Luke 1: 46-55*

And Mary said,  
"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

# OPEN ~ GROW ~ SERVE

*At West Grove UMC, we love God by opening our hearts to Jesus, growing our faith and serving our community and world in His name.*

Welcome to this gathering of God's people worshipping and praising God! May we continue to be moved by the Spirit to live as the body of Christ. If you have come as a guest, we hope that you'll leave as a friend and pray you'll be nourished in faith as you hear God's message for you today. We encourage you to join us again. Please honor us by signing the Friendship pad. Our Welcome Center, located in the lobby, is a place where guests and new attendees can seek information about our church.

~~~~~  
Church Office: 610-869-9334—Our Website: www.westgroveumc.org

Please remember to mute your cell phone when you enter the sanctuary for worship.



Our Assisted Listening system is available to all who could benefit from additional amplification or assistance. Please see our soundboard operators for questions or to use a unit.

Join us for Wednesdays Night Fun in Advent. Final Wednesday, December 14:

Potluck and Activity 6-8 p.m. Singing Our Songs—Join us for a carol sing.

We will have pot-luck style dinner. If you are able, you are invited to bring a dish to share. If you can't, no worries, come anyway! It is a potluck and there is always plenty to be shared! We will provide plates, utensils, drinks, and desserts. Bring the family, bring the kids, invite your friends and neighbors!

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS: Pastor Monica is teaching on **Wednesday mornings – 9:30** – Countdown to Christmas - Are you feeling the countdown to Christmas getting closer and crunchier? We refocus on the Advent (Coming) of Jesus and preparing ourselves.

THE GIFT TREE: Please visit our **Christmas Gift Tree** in the Narthex. On the tree, there are gift tags for families and individuals from our community in need. Please prayerfully consider taking a tag and helping someone in need over this Christmas season. **Wrapped gifts need to be returned to the church by Tuesday, December 13.** We ask that you sign your name on the list on the table beside the tree so that we know who took each tag.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR WAYNE ACHUFF: Sunday, December 18th, 2:00 p.m. at Lima Estates, enter at main door to Auditorium. The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Radnor Hunt Races, P.O. Box 141, Chadds Ford, PA 19317

DO YOU LIKE TO WELCOME GUESTS? CAN YOU HELP OTHERS FEEL COMFORTABLE? USHERS AND GREETERS ARE NEEDED FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS.

For 8:30 worship, please contact Rain Catoia 302-420-8475 or raindowdy@aol.com.

For 11:00 worship, please contact Joan Saller 610-662-9807 or ssaller@comcast.net

WEST GROVE UMC CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE: Please check your family's **information** and update addresses, cell phone numbers, emails, birthdates, etc. There are many children (and adults) in our church family who do not have their birthdays listed, and we would love to be able to wish them happy birthday! Our new directory is used by all of our congregation, so please make sure to check your information. The binder with our current directory information is at the Welcome Center in Lobby. Please make your corrections directly in the book or you may email the office at office.westgroveumc.org Thank you.



LIVE NATIVITY

Be part of something special this Christmas!

**Saturday, December 17
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

The Live Nativity is a great opportunity to take a few moments during the busy Christmas season to pause and reflect on the true meaning and purpose of the holiday. Bring your children, your visiting relatives, your

neighbors, and share the miracle of Christ's birth.

Volunteers are needed for this most special event. Please look for sign-up sheets posted in the lobby, as well as additional information in your bulletins and newsletter. The coordinator this year is Lori McClain, so if you have questions, please contact her at **llmccl@verizon.net**.

2016 Contributions to West Grove UMC

Contributions to be recorded on your 2016 Financial Statement must be in the church office by December 29th to be included in our final deposit for 2016. All contributions received after that date will be deposited in 2017 and be recorded on your 2017 Statement. Please contact Sara Ann Ramberger, Financial Secretary, with any concerns or questions.

God's Faithfulness ~ Your Stewardship

Report December 4, 2016

General Offering: \$8,773.⁵⁰

Building Maintenance Fund: \$310.⁰⁰

Combined Worship Attendance: 162

Emergency Groceries YTD: 126 Bags

***It is your tithes, offerings,
and gifts that impact
and change lives for Christ!***

Moment of Impact

Live Nativity

Our Live Nativity is a visual experience of the celebration of Christ's birth. People see from Route 1. Community members stop by. This is a vital way to tell the Christmas story. Help us tell the story by taking a role in the Nativity or offering hospitality. Let us share the true meaning of Christmas.

POINSETTIAS



Once again, we will adorn the sanctuary with poinsettias, the beautiful Christmas season flower. **Please stop by the lobby information table and pick up an order form or use the form below.** Each plant will be in a 6" pot and will be red with 4 to 5 blooms. **The cost is \$6.50 each.**

The order form enables you to place a flower in the sanctuary in honor, memory or in celebration of a special person or event. Simply fill out the form and drop it in the offering plate **by Sunday, December 11** or into Donna Fackler's mailbox in the copy room.

Those who ordered flowers, and for whom they are ordered, will be listed in the **Christmas Eve bulletins** and the **Sunday, December 25** bulletin. All flowers will adorn the sanctuary until after Christmas. You may pick up your flowers on Sunday, January 1 after the 11:00 a.m. service. Any flowers remaining after Sunday will be delivered to our homebound and nursing home residents. Thank you.



Christmas Poinsettias Order Form

Your Name: _____

No. of Plants _____ x **\$6.50** each = \$ _____ Total

(Please make checks payable to WGUMC with memo for "Poinsettias")

Check one: In Honor of: In Memory of: In Celebration of:

Meditations For Your Week

Sunday, December 11 ~ Saturday, December 17



Sunday: *“And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed’” Luke 1: 46-48.* Mary sings out God’s praises as she hears God’s gift and promises to her. Have you stilled yourself to hear God’s gift and promises to you?

Monday: *“For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.” Luke 1: 49.* Ask God to open your heart to see where God has done great things. Give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus.

Tuesday: *“God’s mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.” Luke 1: 50.* Mary sings of God’s mercies that come before her. She knew God’s faithfulness across generations. Read of God’s faithfulness in the Bible and ask others where God has been merciful in their lives.

Wednesday: *“God has shown strength with his arm; God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.” Luke 1: 51.* God is concerned not only with our outer actions, but also with our inner thoughts. Prayerfully ask God to show you where you need to depend on God’s strength and act in humility.

Thursday: *“God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;” Luke 1: 52.* God rights the world across time and place. Where is God calling you to bring down the powerful and lift up the lowly?

Friday: *“God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. God has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy” Luke 1: 53-54.* God cares deeply about hunger and justice. How have you fed the hungry and sought justice?

Saturday: *“According to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” Luke 1: 55.* God’s promises that Mary celebrates begin with the story of creation and trace through our biblical ancestors. You are a part of that line. Give thanks to God for God’s promises.

THIS WEEK: December 11 through December 18, 2016

~~ Hours for the Church Office: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. ~~

Sunday:

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship with the PraiseWorks Band
 9:45 a.m. Faith Learning Academy: Sunday School for all ages
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship with the Chancel Choir
 11:00 a.m. Jenner's Pond Worship Service (Allison Theater)
 1:00 p.m. Staff Christmas Party at the Delaney home

3:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Christmas Caroling around town!

Monday:

6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (#8, 10)
 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CMO Preschool Classes (#11, 13, 14, 15, 16)
 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Knit Wits (#1)
 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. CMO Advisory Team meeting (#1)
 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Daisy Troop #461 (#16)
 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Jr. Girl Scout Troop #453 (#12)
 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. SOS Ladies (#5)
 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Memory Bells Rehearsal (Sanc.)
 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. All Staff Meeting (#1)

Tuesday:

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CMO Preschool Classes (#11, 13, 14, 15, 16)
 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. 4-H Club (#8, 10)
 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. AG Wildcats (#1)
 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Yoga (Sanc.)

Wednesday:

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CMO Preschool (#9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16)
9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. "Countdown to Christmas" Bible Study (#3)
 11:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m. CMO Chapel Time (Sanc.)
 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Luther House Bible Study (Bldg. 1)
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Advent Fun Wednesdays (Kitchen, Sanc., Lobby)
 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Venture Crew Committee Meeting (#8, 10)

Thursday:

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CMO Preschool (#9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16)
 11:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m. CMO Chapel Time (Sanc.)
 5:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Brownie Troop 4567 (#8, 10)
 6:45 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (#6)
 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Jr. Girl Scout Troop #4317 (#12)
 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop #12 (#9, 11, 12, 13)
 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. PraiseWorks Rehearsal (Sanc.)

Friday:

6:00 p.m. Girl Scout Overnight Event (Sanc.)
 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CMO Preschool Classes (#11, 13, 14, 15, 16)
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Advent Bible Study at Jenner's Pond
12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m. SPRC Office Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon (Sanc.)
 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. GS Jr. Troop 4070 (#8, 10)

Saturday:

10:00 a.m. Girl Scout Overnight Event ends
 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Daily Reflections Group (8 & 10)
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Live Nativity (lobby, kitchen and outside)

Sunday:

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

BAPTISM SUNDAY

Children's Choir Sings

8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship with the PraiseWorks Band
 9:45 a.m. Faith Learning Academy: Sunday School for all ages
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship with the Chancel Choir and
 Memory Bells Handbell Choir
5:30 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Party at the Lindtner home

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Would you like to add someone to the Prayer Chain? Weekdays, please contact **Donna Fackler at the church office: office@westgroveumc.org or 610-869-9334.** After office hours and on week-ends, please contact **Sara Ann Ramberger at sar57ver@verizon.net or 610-869-3863.** All prayer requests will remain in the bulletin for **four Sundays.** If you would like to have the prayer concern extended, **please update your request with Donna.** Thank you.

Community Prayer Focus December: Mission Possible Mission Prayer Focus in December: UMCOR

Family of Wayne Achuff
Cory Beattie (Shaub)
Joe Bonano (Hughes)
Kylee Brown (Wiwel)
Fran Bryan
Bonnie Collins (Deckard)
Jean Conklin (Pastor Jim)
Gary Cornette (Rubincan)
Shanna Cramner (Carlin)
Dee Crawford
Family of Bill Davis (Mullen)
Colin Delaney (McGinley)
Linda Eroh (Ramberger)
Tom Fagan
Bill Fili, Jr. (Bratton)
Richard Heacock
Carol Herb (Shiplet)
Jimmy Hunt (Kr. Boyd)
Lynn Jackson
Ruth Kuch
Rosemary MacCoun
Dave McClain
Margee Michaels
Lynn Morgan (McClain)



Bill Mowery (Shiplet)
Tim Mullen
Lola Nadolny (Hruz)
Ed O'Brien
Warren Payton (Hruz)
James Pollard (Yarbrough)
Jennifer Potter (Saller)
Ron Ritter (Chalmers)
Roann Schneider
Elaine Soutar & Family
(Mundell)
Ricky Spencer (K. Smith)
Lorrie Steele
Maureen Stickel (Fackler)
Jeannie Sullivan
Fernando Tena and family
Raymond Thompson (Adams)
Danny Tiderman (Hughes)
Zach Trexler (Lytle)
Family of Lee Wilson (Stuhrke)
Ron and Marliss Wilson
Melissa Withiam (Mullen)
Pete Zinner (Mullen)



Tom Fagan - USA (Whelan)
Allan Frost - S. Carolina (Frost)
Brian Kubo - Maryland (Mullen)
LTC Eric Maxwell,
Chesapeake, VA
(The Rambergers)
Dave Springer - Fort Bragg, NC
Jimmy Strawhecker - Kuwait
(Lynne Strawhecker)
Tyler Thompson—Kandahar,
Afghanistan (Margee Michaels)
Ed Tolmie—Afghanistan
Chris Weizman - Jordan (Miller)

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY ON SUNDAY MORNING

This Sunday, December 11

Ushers—8:30
Greeters—8:30
Ushers—11:00
Greeters—11:00
Acolyte 8:30/11
Nursery 8:30/9:45/11
C. Worship—8:30/11
SS Roamers
Lay Reader—8:30
Liturgist—11:00
Moment All Ages
Hospitality 8:30/11
Counters
Sound Booth

The Delaney Family
Mike and Cindy Haley
OPEN
OPEN
Cecelia Figueroa / Madeline Jones
C. Bruno/K. Smith/J. Leaman
Amy Simonds/Amy Simonds
Fran Miller
Mark Simonds
Tom Hoover
Jamie Lindtner
Steve May / Dick & Caryl Stuhrke
George Anderson & Donna Shaub
Various/K. Schneider

Next Sunday, December 18

The Catoia Family
The Catoia Family
OPEN
OPEN
Anna Castaldi / Matthew Rinehimer
J. Lindtner/R. Catoia/A. Castaldi
Jamie Lindtner / **OPEN**
Maryanne Covington
Carolyn Barrett
Vernon Ramberger
Joan Leaman
The Covingtons / Scott Steele
Dave Talley / Denise Byers
Various/K. Schneider

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Candle of Perspective: Look! Love!

Reader 1: From the foundation of Jesse, from the stump, there shall come a new shoot!

Congregation: God's spirit shall rest upon God's prophets.

Reader 2: The prophets shall call to us look around and love God's people.

Reader 1: "Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." (Adapted from Matthew 11:4-11)

Reader 2: Today we light three candles. The first is the candle of Patience, reminding us to watch and wait for what God is about to do. [Light the first candle – purple across from pink] The second candle of Joy invites us to celebrate God's faithfulness in song and worship. [The second candle is lighted – purple to the right of lit candle] The third candle is the candle of Perspective, enabling us to look at our lives, to get rid of all those things that keep us from God, to change our ways and love as God would have us love. {Light the third candle – pink}

Congregation: Come, see the light. Let its brightness fill you. Come, feel the warmth of the light. Let it give you comfort.

Reader 1: Come, draw near to the light, for it is God's way of breaking through to you.

Reader 2: Come, rejoice in the light, for God is with us!

Please sing "Light The Advent Candle" TFWS, No. 2090, V. 3

8:30 Contemporary Worship Service

OPEN

- *Opening Song** "God Of All" PraiseWorks Band
- Welcome and Ministry Opportunities** Pastor Monica
- Please fill out the Friendship Register on the clipboard located on a chair in your row.
First-time visitor or member, let us know you were here!*
- *Celebration Set** "Father Of Lights" PraiseWorks Band
"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"
- *Passing of the Peace**

GROW

- The Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Candle of Perspective: Look! Love!**
The Reisinger Family Page 8
- Advent Song** "Light The Advent Candle" TFWS, No. 2090, V. 3
- Moment For All Ages** Jamie Lindtner
- Old Testament Lesson** *Isaiah 35:1-10* Mark Simonds
- *Gospel Lesson** *Luke 1: 46-55* Mark Simonds
- Children from Age 4 through Grade 4 are dismissed to meet in room #10 for Children's Worship.
Parents, please pick up your children immediately following the worship service in room #10.
Children ages birth to 3 are welcome to attend the nursery in room #15 to participate in a story and guided activities.
- Sermon** "Piles of Prophets and Presents" Pastor Monica

SERVE

- Moment of Impact** *Live Nativity* Pastor Monica
- Offering** "Mary, Did You Know?" PraiseWorks Band
- *Offertory Prayer (Unison)** Pastor Shirley
- Generous God, our offering can never match what you give us in Christ. From glory, Jesus came as a dependent baby, to be born into poverty in a stable, to live, suffer, and die for us. With these gifts, accept our love and praise, and help us to be more gratefully alive, serving you and our neighbors with all we have and are. Fix our eyes, hearts and minds on the vision you have given us of your Kingdom. Amen.**
- Gathered Prayer** Pastor Shirley
- The Lord's Prayer** Pastor Shirley
- *Closing Song** "My Soul Magnifies The Lord" PraiseWorks Band
- *Benediction** Pastor Monica
- *Postlude**