

## News of New Haven United Methodist Church

*"Making Disciples for Jesus Christ in the world, by being God's Love in Action"*

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According to the dictionary, "*Advent is the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.*" In the Christian faith, Advent is the first season of the Christian church year leading up to Christmas and including the previous four Sundays. For Christians, advent is a time of preparation and waiting for the arrival of Jesus, whether it is the first coming (birth) of the Christ Child, or the expected return of Jesus or second coming.

For me, Advent is meaningless unless we understand that it is the identity of Jesus that gives this event meaning. Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah of God, and the savior of the world!

This the key theological piece that makes Advent important. Without this understanding, the birth of Jesus would have been no different than any other baby born into an insignificant poor family. And yet, when this child was born and wrapped in bands of cloth and laid on some hay in a barn, the angels of heaven sang! They sang Glory to God in the heaven and on earth, peace to all of humanity! They appeared to some smelly old shepherds in the middle of the night, and the shepherds, over coming their fear, went forth to find this child who was to be the savior of the world.

More than two millennium later we still look for this child. On the first Sunday of Advent, we light a candle as a symbol of expectation. The expectation that the light sent from God will shine in the darkness to show us the way to salvation!  
O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Expectantly waiting,

Pastor James





## Sunday Mornings 10:00 - 10:40am

During Advent, the Fellowship Class (and visitors) will meet in Israel on **Sunday mornings at 9:45**. We are visiting the homes of the four Gospel writers to see how they celebrated the coming of Jesus.

Our first stop was Mark’s basic and simple home. Clearly, Mark was not interested in Christmas decorations or even the miraculous birth of Jesus. Mark’s focus was on the Good News and that Jesus came to change our lives forever--bringing hope for our despair. “Good Christian friends rejoice, Jesus Christ was born to save”, was Mark’s theme song.

Matthew’s home was much bigger and way more inviting. We were seated at the Christmas table with Jesus’ extended family. (He listed them in the first chapter) It was amazing and no one was excluded or felt unwelcome. At Matthew’s table we learned the true meaning of Christmas—God demonstrates His love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. All of us!

Next Sunday we visit Luke’s home and then we will stop at John’s place. There is one more stop before we return to spend Christmas in our own homes.

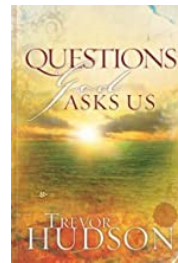
If you would like to join us, here is the link:

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://zoom.us/j/95266221837?](https://zoom.us/j/95266221837?pwd=bGduKzl1RctiSitYaFF4ZEh3aEcwZz09)  
[pwd=bGduKzl1RctiSitYaFF4ZEh3aEcwZz09](https://zoom.us/j/95266221837?pwd=bGduKzl1RctiSitYaFF4ZEh3aEcwZz09)

You may be prompted to enter the numbers below when you join.

Meeting ID: 952 6622 1837  
Passcode: 5ka1nw

## Also Sundays @ 10:00am Interlude Class



New book **“Questions God Asks Us”** by Trevor Hudson. We are always asking God questions, for healing, for life decisions, for others in our lives, for jobs or better jobs, but what questions does God ask us? Join our lively class discussions as we seek to find the questions and answers. Book is available to purchase on line at Amazon.com.

Call Stacey Schifferdecker for more information and ZOOM sign in directions.

## Tuesday Evenings 7:00 - 7:45 pm



### Roundtable Connection Class All are welcome!

Meeting on Zoom

Tuesday evenings 7:00 – 7:45 p.m.

We are traveling through the book of Genesis looking at the familiar and sometimes unfamiliar stories through the lens of the ancient Jewish Rabbis.

We would love to have you join us as we explore the ins and outs of these stories.

For more information or to get the link to Zoom

Call or text Jone Friesen at 918 445-1576

Email at [jone.w.friesen@gmail.com](mailto:jone.w.friesen@gmail.com)



With Covid-19 cases on the rise, we want to assure you that we are committed to safety and sanitation procedures for our in person participants at church. That being said, we want to encourage you to join and participate in our virtual Children's Church at Home Facebook group! We have some fun things lined up for the season of Advent and Christmas. We're looking to add value and content to our virtual group in a way that our church is represented as the family that it is! Please consider contributing a video or written post to our Children's Church at Home Facebook group. It could be anything from a fun at home diy project, to a story time, to helpful resources for parents. I know that if we all put our heads together, we can continue to make this group special for our kids in these trying times.

Thank you to all who have completed Safe Sanctuary Training! This training is a requirement (along with a background check) if you wish to volunteer in any capacity with our children, youth, or vulnerable adults (and we hope you will!). The recording of the training is available, and we ask that you complete the last signature page in the policies and procedures handbook to let us know that you've been exposed to the material. Please contact Cynthia Edelman, office manager, for materials. Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers!!

Sincerely,

Brittany Fox, Director of Children's Ministries



The Staff Parish Relations Committee invites you to join us in showing our appreciation for our church staff by gifting them a Christmas bonus. These bonuses have become an annual tradition and we feel they are especially important this year given all the new challenges our staff has faced.

Please mark your donation with "**Staff Bonus**" and place it in the offering plate or bring/mail it to the church office by **DECEMBER 6**.

Thank you so much for considering this opportunity to show your appreciation. This heartfelt bonus from our congregation will help make this Christmas even merrier for our staff!

Tonya Ford, SPRC Chairperson



*Thank you*

We want to thank our Church for the out pouring of love and concern after the death of our beloved Bob Walker.

He was a man of deep faith and a help for so many. Missing him is painful but we know he is with God, which gives us comfort.

Eileen Walker and Family







7 Jim Harris  
 8 Evan Stevenson  
 13 Michael Foster  
 14 Dee Kemp  
 15 Claire Graham  
 16 Linda Blackford  
 Susan Lamkin  
 17 Kathryn Stevenson

21 Cathy Amos  
 Kelly Sartain  
 24 Linda Joyce  
 25 Jesus  
 26 Bruce Oliver  
 27 Dianna Horn  
 30 Meghan Lamkin



**PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .**

Greg Gotcher  
 George Stephenson  
 Jan, Doyle &  
 Dwayne Boyd  
 Marion Wilkerson  
 Betty Fine  
 Karyn Maio  
 Joe Sanders  
 Tom Black  
 Kelly & John Sartain

Don Gregory  
 Dodie Wood  
 Guy & Jan Duffield  
 Our Military & First  
 Responders  
 COVID-19 HEROES



*In Our Thoughts  
 & Prayers*



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