

# The Messenger

Greg Davis, Pastor

December 2016

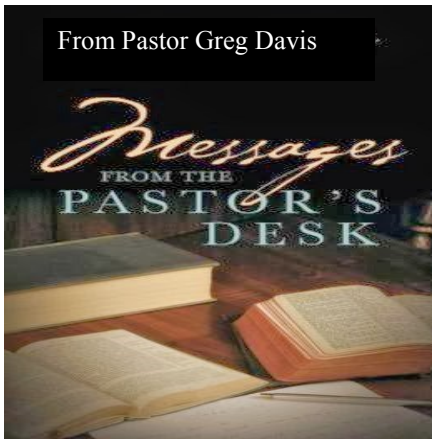


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47725

## *Mission Statement*

*McCutchanville Community Church's mission is to connect our community with God's power and hope through the love of Christ.*

## *Christ comes to all!*



There are two wonderful verses found in 1 John 4:9-10 that read: *This is how God showed his love among us; He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.* This month, I am going to go “preacher” on you. God’s love is not just words that we can read, but in actions God has taken. God’s love is not a warm fuzzy feeling. It is an event, a happening, where God has all of us in mind.

Christmas is about God manifesting Himself in love by coming to dwell among us. In fact, Scripture speaks of Immanuel, God with us (Matthew 1:23). The baby Jesus in a manger is a meek, lowly infant who is Christ the Lord, the Savior of all humankind. The manger scene is tranquil and joyful as we think of all the events surrounding this world changing event. His birth is communicating to us that God is actively involved in our very lives. The word manifest means to come out in the open, to make public. The opposite of this is to be secretive. With Jesus God comes to us with no secrets – out in the open, real personal, and alive!

Why did he come to us? Simply put, we needed him to. We are a sinful people and God sent his son to earth to die for our sins. The greatest expression of God’s love was not the manger, but that his one and only son, Jesus, died for our sins on the cross. Therefore, it is imperative that we not only have a blessed Christmas in celebrating the birth, but that we have life through receiving Jesus into our hearts.

Max Lucado writes about God “coming near” through Jesus’ birth. However, Jesus can be “far” away if you have not been willing to encounter his love for you through forgiveness of sins and making room for him in your heart. The greatest gift that you can ever receive is the peace of Christ in your heart. The greatest gift that you can give your family, your friends, your co-workers, is a life that is being lived for Christ, and being shared with others.

Friends, God loves you and there is not a thing you can do about it. How are you responding? Why not join others in church this Christmas Eve or Christmas morning and encounter God with us?

In Christ,

Pastor Greg

## THE HISTORY OF 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 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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. By the 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



### ADVENT TODAY

**TODAY**, the Advent season 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 27<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup> 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



### November’s Attendance and Giving

	Attendance	Building Fund	General Fund	Mission	Total Giving
November 6	74	\$1,040.00	\$2,211.00	\$98.00	\$2309.00
November 13	73	\$125.00	\$1691.00		\$1816.00
November 20	72	\$265.00	\$1735.00	\$2.00	\$1702.00
November 27	79	\$1,585.00	\$2681.00	\$74.19	\$4340.19
Internet Giving		\$280.00	\$2285.00		





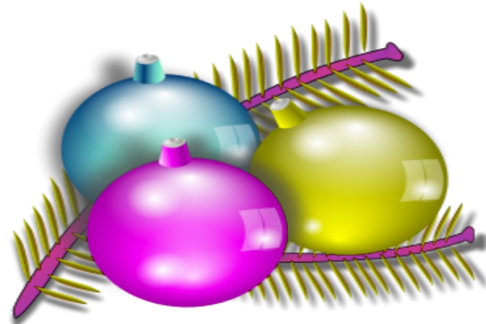
# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ruth Postal	2
James Meador	3
Michelle Kingsbury	9
John Rea	10
Lanny Taylor	11
Gerald "Jerry" Bennett	15
Elvin Reed	17
Martha Kohler	23
Carroll Feistel	28
Kristy Georgesen	31

# Congratulations!



Norman & Martha Kohler	14
Lanny & Jenny Taylor	26



We are in the process of updating the McCutchanville Community Church

Directory. If you have a cell phone number and/or email address, or have moved and changed any information, please let the office know.

We want to include everyone in the directory. If you newly attending MCC, please give the office your address and phone information so that we can include you in the updated directory.



## The Pancake Breakfast and Manger Scene Extravaganza

Trinity Lutheran Church, Darmstadt, will have a pancake breakfast with a manger scene display on Saturday December 10 from 7:00-10:00 am. Live music will begin at 8:00.



### Prayer requests:

Cory and Annelle Mills' granddaughter Eleanor, Parker Dubber, Don Skelton, Nancy Glackman, Kennedy Abner, Mary Lou Ellis, Curtis Kinney, Dorothy Hansen, Joy Roettger, Ruth Postal, Amy Higgins, Judy Wynn, Kevin Barnett, Cheyrl Roethemeier, David and Sarah Dixon, Peggy Davidson, Marie Pickett, Amy Dubber, The homeless population.

*Do you have a prayer request you would like listed in the newsletter? Please contact the church office and let us know.*



Has God been ‘whispering’ to you about becoming more involved in the Children’s Ministry? MCC has two opportunities that will allow you to answer God’s nudge.

You probably have noticed the increase of children who are attending MCC? With this blessing of more children, we are needing volunteers for Children’s Church.

The Pioneer Club started with 10 children on Nov 2. On Nov 29, there were 28 children attending! God is blessing MCC and the children are hungry for God’s direction in their lives. Can you share your talents and an hour and a half of your time on Tuesday evening for this mission?



**Please contact Shiloh to volunteer your time and talents!**



Don’t forget to FILL and bring your Advent Tin on or before Christmas morning. Please make certain tht your name is on the side of the tin to insure that you receive credit for yearly giving.

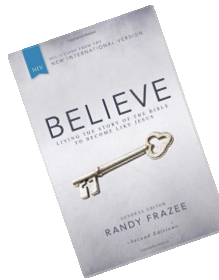
The money from the Advent collection will be donated to The United Methodist Youth Home.



Our Mitten Tree is up and ready to be decorated with mittens, scarves, gloves, and hats. The articles will be donated to The Hanger, a clothing bank for EVSC.



### The Wednesday Morning Women’s Small Group



We will begin “Believe: Living the Story of the Bible to Become like Jesus” on January 11th. If you would like to join this small group, please let Helen Finke know. Study books will be ordered by December 30 and an accurate count of participants will be needed by then.

### Christmas Caroling and Cookie Event!



On December 18 at 5:00 we will gather to sing Christmas Carols.

Several gathered to decorate the church and celebrated with

Hanging of the Greens on the first Sunday of Advent. It is hoped that the Hanging of the Greens and the ‘Caroling and Cookies’ events will become a family tradition at MCC.





# GOD'S KIDS reporting.....

Ho Ho, Ho, tis the Season! Our God's Kids got into the spirit of the Season by filling 20 Christmas Shoe Boxes for children they don't know but wanted them to have a Merry Christmas wherever they live.

Things to do...

There is much activity in each classroom as the children are busy decorating their rooms. The excitement is building up as they practice for their programs, new and old songs to learn and sing, and the Christmas parties coming up.

You Are Invited... to this year's programs. On December 2nd (that's Friday) the Angelfish, Clownfish and Jellyfish classes will have their program at 1:00 p.m. On December 9<sup>th</sup> The Rainbow Fish and Starfish will have their program at 6:30 and last but not least, the Dolphins and Whales will present their program on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Come and enjoy!

COOKIES, COOKIES and more COOKIES Each class will have a party so if the "cookie bakers" (that's the members of the church) want bake a batch, check with Terri as to the date and time of the parties.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU....Emma in the Rainbow Fish class has her birthday December 1, Arabella in the Clown Fish class will celebrate her birthday December 13 and Kason from the Seahorse class and Evie from the Dolphin class will blow out the birthday candles on the same day, December 19<sup>th</sup>. On December 21<sup>st</sup> Clown Fish, Wyatt and Starfish, Ryker will get to eat their birthday cakes. Starfish Mason will celebrate his birthday on December 23 and on December 28, Bentley will open his birthday presents. Happy Birthday to each of you and May you have a blessed and joyful year.

SAVING COINS In February God's Kids will participate in HOP-N-ING program to support the Evansville Rehabilitation Center. This is a service project that the kids do as well as learn about disabilities and how to understand people who have them. Church members have an opportunity to help with the fun fund- raiser by becoming a sponsor and give a donation. More about this project later - just save your coins. Last year God's Kids raised \$588.00 - that's a lot of hopping!

PROFILE OF THE MONTH: Teacher Ashley Tapp

My name is Ashley Tapp. I currently teach the Clownfish two year old room for God's Kids and am the nursery attendant on Sunday morning for MCC. I have been with God's Kids for four and a half years and absolutely love it. I adore everything about two year olds; it is at this age that the children absorb and learn so much as they grow. Each have a twinkle in their eye as they learn about Jesus!

My husband and I have four beautiful children together: Issac (12), Hayden (12), Jonathan (8), and Bryan (6). They are the light of my life and I am blessed to be their Mom and teacher here. When I have free time, I really love playing board games with my children and I enjoy reading. Our whole family enjoys going to the park to play and especially love to play basketball!

My children and I have been attending MCC and are busy each Thursday evening in the Pioneer Club. It is a blessing to be a part of this church.

# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00-7:30 Gym Reserved	2 God's Kids 2 Year old Christmas Program—1:00 pm	3 Gym Reserved 11:00-3:00
4 Second Sunday of Advent	5 6:30 Staff Parish Reserved 6:30 Room 203 Reserved 6:00 Gym Reserved	6 10:00 Pastor Greg with God's Kids 6:00—7:30 pm Pioneer Club 6:00-8:30 Gym Reserved	7 6:00 Gym Reserved 6:30 Choir Practice	8 12:30-1:30 GK Advisory Board 6:00-7:00pm Trustee Meeting 6:00-7:30 gym reserved	9 Unity Class Lunch at Canton Inn—11:30 am 6:30 God's Kids 3 Year Old Christmas Program	10 Gym Reserved 11:00-3:00
11 Third Sunday of Advent	12 6:30 Room 203 Reserved 6:00 Gym Reserved	13 10:00 Pastor Greg with God's Kids UMW Lunch at Carosuel-11:30 am 6:00—7:30 pm Pioneer Club 6:00-8:30 Gym	14 6:00 Gym Reserved 6:30 Choir Practice	15 6:00-7:30pm-Gym Reserved 6:00-7:00 pm Finance, Ad Council & COM	16 God's Kids Pre-K Christmas Program 6:30 pm	17 Gym Reserved 11:00-3:00
18 4th Sunday of Advent Connection Church Fellowship Hall at 12:00 pm 5:00 Caroling & cookies	19 6:30 Room 203 Reserved 6:00 Gym Reserved <b>God's Kids Closed</b>	20 10:00 Pastor Greg with God's Kids No Pioneer Club 6:00-8:30 Gym Reserved	21 6:00 Gym Reserved 6:30 Choir Practice	22	23	24 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service at McJohnston Chapel  Gym Reserved 11:00-3:00
 <b>He is BORN!</b>	26 6:30 Room 203 Reserved 6:00 Gym Reserved	27 No Pioneer Club 6:00-8:30 Gym Reserved	28 6:00 Gym Reserved 6:30 Choir Practice	29	30	31 Gym Reserved 11:00-3:00
 1 January <b>Bring on the NEW YEAR!</b>	2 6:30 Room 203 Reserved 6:30 Staff Parish 6:00 Gym Reserved	3 10:00 Pastor Greg with God's Kids No Pioneer Club 6:00-8:30 Gym	4 6:00 Gym Reserved 6:30 Choir Practice	5	6	7 Gym Reserved 11:00-3:00