

# Memorial United Methodist Church

December 2, 2018

First Sunday of Advent

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## Welcoming and Announcements

### Call to Worship - Responsive

It's time to get ready.

### It's time to worship.

It's time to get ready.

### It's time to be strong.

It's time to get ready.

### It's time to love.

Let's worship together, that God may strengthen our love this day.

## Opening Prayer

Christ Jesus, come to us now. Enter our hearts and our lives once more, that we may pay heed to the signs all around us. Awaken us to the reality that time is precious. Make your ways known to us, and lead us in your truth. Stir your love in our hearts, that your church may be strengthened as we worship and work in your world. In your loving name, we pray. Amen.

◆ Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" 211  
Verse 1

## Lighting the First Candle of Advent

God of hope and promise, protection and strength, you made covenant with us to send your presence to earth.

God of hope and endurance, you foretold of the coming kingdom of God.

**We, God's people, affirm your covenant with us. We stand ready, hearts full of hope, for God will fulfill the promises made to God's people. As the psalmist declares, so do we: "All the Lord's paths are loving and faithful for those who keep his covenant and laws."**

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle of HOPE to remind us to stand alert and seek the kingdom of God in our midst. (Candle of Hope is lit)

◆ Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" 211  
Verse 4

Sharing of Joys / Concerns / Testimonies

Prayer for our concerns

Reading of the Psalm

◆ Hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem" 230

◆ Scripture Reading  
Please stand for the reading of the Scripture

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

◆ Doxology 95  
WE STAND TO PRAISE GOD

## Children's Moment

### Prayer of Confession

Ever-present God, remind us this day that you are always with us. Strengthen us as we worship together, that we may pay attention to the signs of your presence all around us. When our feet wander, guide us back to your path. When our attention drifts and we lose our way, teach us the way we should go. If we waste the time you have given us, help us make you and your teachings first. Remember us according to your faithful love. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

## The Message

◆ Hymn "Take Time to Be Holy" 395

◆ Benediction

Postlude

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◆ Please stand as you are able  
***The altar is always open. You may come to the altar to pray anytime.***

God is good and righteous in all things, teaching us the way we should go. God welcomes us into the arms of mercy and love.

## *Welcome to*

Memorial United Methodist Church  
509 Market St., Spencer, WV 25276  
304-927-4427 Church Office      304-519-2016 Parsonage  
[www.spencermemorialumc.org](http://www.spencermemorialumc.org)

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### **Joys:**

Living testimonies to the saving grace of God

### **Concerns:**

Rosalee Caldwell

Mary Kendall

Shelia Nichols

Jarrold Henderson

Leonard May

Jennifer Gandee-Barker

Holly Smith

Ramona May

Harold Lowe

Betty Rader

Robert Starcher

Clara Wyatt

Andy Cheek

Dee Cheek

Gloria Longo

Elva May

Unspoken

The Unchurched

Those affected by the recent natural disasters

Families suffering the loss of loved ones

To add a concern to the Prayer list - please complete a Prayer card  
and place it in the Offering Plate.

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### **This Week's Activities and Announcements**

Invite a friend.

Sunday School - Job A Man of Ebduring Faith

Today, Dec. 2 - PPRC meeting after Worship

We still have T-Shirts and 2019 Calendars- These make  
excellent Christmas Gifts and help the Backpack Program  
feed children in Roane County.

Christmas in Burlington - Your gifts for the children at  
Burlington are due today. We will be taking the collected gifts  
to them the week of Dec. 10.



**PREPARE THE WAY**  
ADVENT TO EPIPHANY

*Memorial United Methodist Church*

*509 Market Street*

*Spencer, WV 25276*

*304-927-4427*

*With the love of Christ in our hearts, let us share signs of  
love and peace with our neighbors.*

**MEMORIAL UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**

# December

# 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <b>10:00 Hanging of the Greens</b>
2 First Sunday of Advent <b>9:30AM Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 Worship</b>  <b>Burlington Gifts Due</b> <b>PPRC after Worship</b>	3	4	5	6 9:00AM Packing BackPacks	7	8
9 Second Sunday of Advent <b>9:30AM Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 Worship</b>	10	11 <b>All Committees Meeting 6:00PM</b>	12 <b>2:00 MFB Delivery</b>	13 9:00AM Packing BackPacks	14	15
16 Third Sunday of Advent <b>9:30AM Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 Worship</b>	17	18	19 9:00AM Packing BackPacks	20	21	22
23 Fourth Sunday of Advent <b>9:30AM Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 Worship</b>	24 Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29
	No School - Christmas Holiday					
30 <b>9:30AM Sunday School</b> <b>11:00 Worship</b>		31				
	No School -	Christmas Toy Drive for Burlington Children's Home - all this month. Bring your gift of new, unopened and unwrapped toys or sporting goods for the children at the Burlington Campus. Please, <b>NO</b> toy guns or bows.				



**CHECK CALENDAR EACH WEEK FOR UPDATES**

Don't Forget the 2019 Calendars and "God Provides a Way T-Shirts" Support the Back Pack Program

## ADVENT

Advent is a season of four weeks including four Sundays. *Advent* derives from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming." The season proclaims the comings of the Christ—whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. Each year Advent calls the community of faith to prepare for these comings; historically, the season was marked by fasts for preparation. Each Sunday of Advent has its distinctive theme: Christ's coming in final victory (First Sunday), John the Baptist (Second and Third Sundays), and the events immediately preceding the birth of Jesus Christ (Fourth Sunday). In addition to the acts and services of worship on the following pages, see The Great Thanksgiving for Advent and the scripture readings for Advent in the lectionary.

### What do the candles in our Advent wreath mean?

The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in [Advent](#), are used with one larger white candle in the middle as the Christ candle. Other churches prefer three purple or blue candles with one candle being rose or pink, to represent joy.

While the Advent wreath with its four candles did bring light to churches, it was not to illuminate the interior as much as to

symbolize the coming of Christ. The Advent wreath began in the time of the Protestant reformer Martin Luther.

During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world. The order and exact wording vary among churches, but the wreath continually reminds us of whom we are called to be as followers of Jesus.

