



I M M A N U E L P r e s b y t e r i a n C h u r c h

A D V E N T C H R I S T M A S N E W S

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The Season of Advent and Christmas

Beginning November 29 our worship will be centered around the season of Advent, a season rooted in the early church's posture of waiting for the full unveiling of God's realm. The prophets of the Old Testament had intimations of how God was at work in the lives of God's chosen people, but the birth of Jesus began to pull the curtain back on what had been a secret—that God's favor is not just for the Jews but for all.

We will light the traditional candles of Advent—the candles of hope, love, joy, and peace. Each week we ask you to come to worship prepared to write on a slip of paper about something that happened to you the previous week to which you can testify. For example, on the Sunday we light the candle of hope, we will invite you to testify to hope, and so on through the four weeks. Your testimonies will be received along with each Sunday's offering and some will be read each week

On Christmas Eve we will meet at 4:30 pm for a service geared toward everyone, but especially children. Brian Love has written a cute play entitled "A Not So Silent Night." He needs children to fill out the cast. Please email him at rt66children@gmail.com. We will also worship in the chapel with our service of lights at 11 pm.

Make a point to take part in all of our Advent and Christmas observances. It will bring an added dimension to your season.



THIS P a s t o r ' s P E R S P E C T I V E



Rev. David Cameron
Pastor

One of my spiritual practices is to go to Kmart every day with my son, Will. It's our ritual. I've never been one to hang out in retail establishments before, so it is not my natural habitat, and I would never do it if not for Will's desire to be there. I have discovered, though, that there is much to be gained from such a regular presence.

It occurs to me that "layaway," paying in installments as you look toward a future redemption, is a micro chasm of the Advent experience.

For one, I get to know the staff – those who work the jewelry counter and restock the shelves, the security guys who are dressed like civilians and who occasionally burst out of the back room where they monitor cameras to nab a suspicious shopper, the ever-patient customer service folk, and the check out clerks. With such frequent visits I get to know something about each one. One of the employees saw Will's University of

“ It takes DISCIPLINE to wait, DISCIPLINE and HOPE and maybe some FAITH...”

see PERSPECTIVE pg 2

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New Beginnings

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club would like to invite all interested women to join us for our upcoming book discussions. We always have a thought-provoking discussion, and end with a time of sharing and prayer. Any woman who would like to be a part of this fellowship is welcome, even if you haven't had a chance to read the chosen book or haven't finished it. We generally meet on a Saturday morning about every 6 weeks. The food is always delicious, and the sharing with friends is inspiring! The following is the information for the upcoming Book Club meetings. Call the church office for addresses or directions.

Book: Diary of a Waitress: The Not-So-Glamorous Life of a Harvey Girl by Carolyn Meyer

When: Saturday, December 12 at 11:00 AM

Where: Martha B.'s House

In 1926, droves of Americans traveled by train across the United States to visit the West. They ate at Harvey Houses, where thousands of well-trained waitresses provided first-class service. The Waitresses: The Journal of a Harvey Girl tells the first-person story of one spunky girl, Kitty Evans, as she faces the often funny and painful experiences she and fellow waitresses Cordelia and Emmy endure. As Kitty writes about her escapades, a loveable teenager emerges; she embraces adventure, independence, her position as a Harvey Girl, and a freelance writing career. In this fast-paced novel, best-selling author Carolyn Meyer, who has visited and researched several Harvey Hotels, brings together an unforgettable heroine with the universal themes of friendship, identity, and young love.

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Perspective

North Carolina sweatshirt and told us excitedly that she is from Goldsboro, NC and can't wait to go back. She calls us "Carolina" and I call her "Goldsboro." Several of the clerks are young single mothers who love to talk about their children. Others are students working thirty hour weeks and going to school full time. I'm not nosy, but I occasionally hear about a failed relationship or a parent's illness or a child's sleepless night. I call it my "Kmart ministry," but it's not because I'm a pastor. These kinds of conversations are available to anyone who shows an interest.

Another thing I gain is insight into the lives of fellow customers. In preparing for Advent I've been thinking a lot about the concept of "layaway." I learned that "layaway" as a consumer service had largely disappeared, but the economic downturn of 2008 brought it back. I often hear someone making a weekly payment on something they have in layaway. The cynical side of me thinks it's just another ploy to get people to spend money they don't have on something they can't afford. The more hopeful side of me sees "layaway" as a way to help families beat back the despair of economic hardship and provide something special for their children to allow them to feel "normal."

It occurs to me that "layaway," paying in installments as you look toward a future redemption, is a micro chasm of the Advent experience. It takes discipline to wait, discipline and hope, and maybe some faith that what you're hoping for will come. In the end it will come.


Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

You are invited to our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 22 following worship. In addition to the always excellent meal provided by Holly Wambold, you'll be invited to express your interest and enthusiasm for some of our New Beginnings ideas. Here are the ideas you'll be asked to vote on:



1. **The Anchor Project** – A weekly gathering of diverse people to share a meal and engage in conversation aimed at better understanding of each other. There will be a need for volunteers to help renovate the Fellowship Hall.

see *THANKSGIVING* pg 6



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Season	Deadline	Publish/Mail
Lent	Jan 20	Jan 27
Pentecost	April 27	May 4
Ordinary Time	Aug 10	Aug 17
Advent/Christmas	Nov 9	Nov 16

Adult Education

The Circles of Advent

A 9 a.m. Sunday Adult Class

Guided by Kathryn C

Advent begins the Christian calendar and ends the calendar year. A period of approximately four weeks before Christmas, Advent thus marks both beginning and end, a circular pattern.

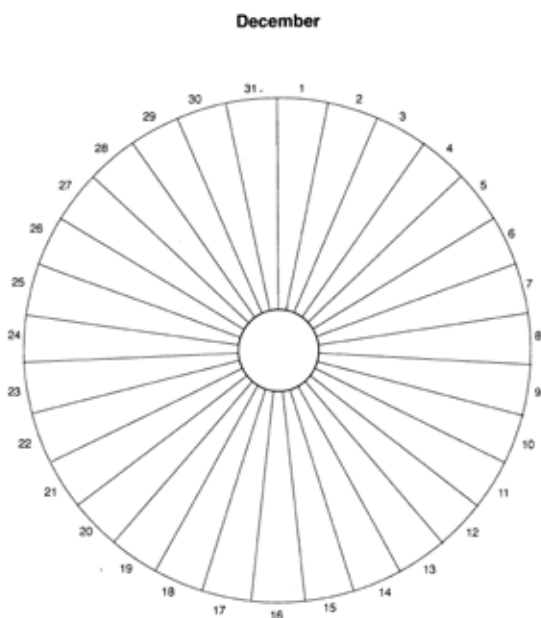
We recognize some of the circles of Advent: the wreath of candles, the gatherings of family, co-workers and friends, the cycle of hymns and other seasonal music.

Beginning November 29, we will gather each Sunday until December 22 at 9 a.m. in the 2nd floor upper room where we will use the circle of a labyrinth walk as a framework for our time together. This circular walk includes inward release, receiving, and outward return.

The transition from one year to the next often involves making plans and setting goals. Our Circles of Advent will be a practice that may help you make the transition from one year to the next with grace and openness to your longing for connecting to God and neighbor in love.

We will enjoy the following together:

- A Circle practice that helps you honor the cycle of endings and beginnings and what you want to invite into Advent.
- A Circle practice that helps you identify what you want most to receive in the new year.
- A Circle practice that helps you respond to your longings with clear intentions for how to live in the coming year.



Dr. Glenn Magelssen

**“The Fine Tuned Universe:
Its Age and Beginnings”**

Saturday, November 21, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Scientific evidence suggests that the universe is very old, roughly 13.7 billion years and that it started with a “Big Bang”. Furthermore the physical laws are fine tuned in such a way that galaxies and stars can form allowing nuclear reactions to produce the energy that sustains the “starlight” we see. Scientific evidence will be presented that supports the universe’s age and its beginning. How do we experience the motions of the earth in our faith journey? How does the vastness of the universe and the life of a star give insight into our own lives?

Glenn Magelssen has a PhD from the University of Colorado. His scientific research has included solar physics, laser and ion beam fusion, neutral nets, code development and stockpile stewardship. He has studied theology most of his life and taken a four year course called EFM from the University of the South on Old and New Testament, Christian history and Christian Theology.

Dr. Paul Shoemaker

“Evolution of a Canon ”

Friday, December 18, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Dr. Shoemaker will talk about his personal journey from being a non-believer in his childhood and during his young adult years - including the time he spent as an undergraduate student at Tech - to becoming and serving as a Lay Canon in the Episcopal Church (Diocese of the Rio Grande).

Paul is a senior research scientist at Sandia National Lab working on nuclear waste disposal problems.

CHURCH CALENDAR

2015 – 2016

SUNDAYS

NOV 22
*Thanksgiving Luncheon
Congregational Meeting*

DEC 6, JAN 3, FEB 7
*Cents-Ability & Baby Food Sunday
Communion*

DEC 14, JAN 10, FEB 14
Morningside Park cleanup

WEEKLY
AM 9:00 Adult Education
10:15 Child Care
10:20 Joy Choir
10:30 Worship – Sanctuary
11:30 Coffee Mingle
11:45 Children’s Sunday School

DEC 20
*Joy Gift Offering
Children’s Outing*

JANUARY 17
Children’s Outing

JANUARY 24
Annual Meeting

FEB 9
*Fat Sunday (Dimanche Gras)
Talent Extravaganza*

MONDAYS

Dec 21, JAN 18, FEB 15
PM 7:00 Caring Connections

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAYS

DEC 9, JAN 13, FEB 10
AM 10:30 Berean Circle Study

JAN 6
Ephiphany

DEC 16, JAN 20, FEB 17
PM 6:30 kiva.org

FEB 10
Ash Wednesday

THURSDAYS

WEEKLY
PM 6:00 Jubilee Ringers rehearsal
7:10 Chancel Choir rehearsal

DEC 24
PM 4:30 Christmas Eve Service - “A Not So Silent Night”
11:00 Christmas Vigil

DEC 10, JAN 14, FEB 11
PM 6:00 Dismas House

DEC 17
PM 6:30 Longest Night Service

FRIDAYS

DEC 4, JAN 1, FEB 5
PM 6:00 Kid’s Movie Night

SATURDAYS

NOV 21,
PM 6:30 Science and Faith Series

DEC 5, JAN 2, FEB 3
AM 8:45 Storehouse

DEC 6
PM 6:30 Science and Faith Series

JAN 23
PM 3:00 Project Share

VARIOUS DATES

AM 10:00 Women’s Book Discussion

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, JANUARY 10, FEBRUARY 14
PM 12:00 Children’s Education Committee

MONDAY, DEC 7, JAN 4, FEB 1
PM 6:30 Adult Education

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 5, FEBRUARY 2
PM 5:00 Buildings & Grounds Committee

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, JANUARY 6, FEBRUARY 3
PM 5:00 Finance / Stewardship

SESSION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, JANUARY 12, FEBRUARY 9
PM 7:00 pm

OFFICE

Office Closed—Nov 26 & 27, Dec 24 & 25, Jan 1
Office Closes at Noon—Dec 28, 29, 30, & 31
Poinsettia Order Deadline—Dec 7
Newsletter Deadline—Jan 20

Looking Ahead

The Fat Sunday (Dimanche Gras) Talent Extravaganza will be held Sunday, February 15 following worship. Be planning your act to make it one of the best.

Happy Birthday

December 2015

1 Julie C	14 Mary D
1 Kris S	14 Henry C
4 Nicholas M	15 Mary C
5 Pat B	15 Barbara S
5 Bonnie F	16 Roy M
7 Ann V	17 Kate W
8 Carol P	19 Kai H
10 Miles F	22 Marvin E
11 Barbara G	24 Jud L
11 Ron C	30 Meg R
12 Ann N	
13 Mac W	

January 2015

10 Sheryl K	19 Jessica D
12 Alex C	20 Willow S
13 Dave W	21 Robert C
14 Mary Ann H	21 Helen L
14 Claudia K	24 Marilyn L
17 Mike M	25 Michael K
18 Jane C	28 Nick W
	29 Kay S

February 2015

4 Yvonne P	24 Crystal P
5 Peggy C	25 Nikki L
6 Helen C	27 Katy L
7 Bob F	28 Don A
7 Grieta Van C	
8 Michael M	
11 Charles S	
13 Marcia S	
14 James M	
19 Siena M	
21 Mary Lou A	



Kid's Corner

Children's Ministry at Immanuel has and always will be a growing and changing entity. We have many events coming up during this Advent Season and some changes to policy about "2 adults".

The most important aspect of my job is making sure that the children and their parents feel that we have a safe and loving environment for all our activities. To encourage this we have been and are reiterating the 2 Adults at all time policy. This means a few things for parents:

- I will need an adult volunteer to sign up for every event.
- If there is not a second adult there, the event will be canceled
- Before children are dropped off, a second adult must be present
- Any adult who stays for the event will have the cost covered by IPC.

Now for the upcoming events!

- Christmas Play - We will be performing "Not So Silent Night" during the 4:30 Christmas Eve service. Rehearsals will be November 21 and December 12, 19 and 23. All rehearsals will be from 10 to 11:30 am. We need children, teens, adults and people to help make props. For more information, please email me at rt66children@gmail.com.
- Joy Choir and Sunday School partnership - Preceding Sunday School we will be joining the Joy Choir for their practice. We will work on learning the new songs so we can add to their already awesome contribution to worship.
- VBS 2016 - Yes, we are already talking about Summer! The dates for this years VBS will be July 14-17. More information about this will be coming soon but mark your calendars!!
- Christmas Wreaths will be distributed beginning December 6. The money from the sales supports our new partnership with Wilson Middle School and the needs they have for some of the children and their families.

-Brian Love

Your Gifts of Time and Treasure

There was a stronger than usual initial response to our request for pledges to next year's ministry on Commitment Sunday. Thanks! If you have not yet turned in your pledge, please do so as soon as possible. It is very helpful in our planning process. You may use a pledge card you'll find at the back of the sanctuary or you may simply email your pledge to Katie at rt66office@gmail.com. Please include the amount and the frequency you plan to give. Also, indicate if you would like Katie to order envelopes to help track your giving. If you would like to have an automatic withdrawal set up from your bank account that can be arranged.

Talent Promoter Needed!

Easter comes early this year (March 27) which means Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 10. The past three years we have had a Fat Sunday Talent show on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday (February 7 would be the day next year.) Last year we had to scramble to get enough acts.

If we do it right, we need for someone to step up now and begin working on it. If you are willing to take it on, please contact the pastor. Maybe we could have co-promoters?

Mission & Evangelism Opportunities

Please see the below volunteer opportunities from your Mission and Evangelism Committee. We're always looking for new volunteers! If you'd like to know more, please contact Sarah Smith, Jeremy Cok, or email to rt66Missions@gmail.com. Thank you to all of our regulars. Please consider becoming one of our regulars.

☐ THE STOREHOUSE, Saturday, Dec 5, Jan 2 and Feb 6, 8:45 am to noon.

The Storehouse is a local food pantry which provides food to those in need. Immanuel volunteers do a variety of tasks for all skill levels from bagging and sorting donated food items to taking customers through the store to get food. We volunteer at the Storehouse on the first Saturday of each month.

☐ PROJECT SHARE, Saturday, Feb 23, 3:00 to 6:00 pm

Project Share is moving from its current location on Yale to the St Martin Hospitality Center downtown. Volunteers are needed to help buy the food, prepare, and serve the meal. Please email us if you're available. We volunteer at Project Share on the fourth Saturday, every other month.

☐ KIVA.ORG, Wednesday, Jan 20, Feb 17, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

We meet once a month to have a potluck, fellowship, learn about missions in another part of the world, and choose some people/groups who need a micro loan through kiva.org. Our kiva meetings generally occur on the third Wednesday of each month except December.

☐ MORNINGSIDE PARK CLEANUP

Sunday Dec 13, Jan 10, Feb 14, after Coffee Mingle

On the 2nd Sunday of each month Immanuel volunteers clean up Morningside Park. Please come to church dressed in casual clothes (or bring a change) and meet after the coffee mingle near the Silver Street entrance.

CONTINUED FROM PG 2

Thanksgiving

2. The Wilson Middle School Partnership

Specifically: Tutoring, Food and Clothing Bank, being a male presence on campus during the school day, developing an arts enrichment program.

3. **Hosting a non-profit bookstore** in the former preschool area which will be like any other independent bookstore with the additional mission of supporting adult literacy efforts in the city and offering job training.

Christmas Tea

You are invited to our annual Christmas Tea following worship on December 13. The tea is a relaxed time to enjoy the true spirit of the season as well as some of the famous goodies for which our bakers are known. Music will be provided as well.



mission &
EVANGELISM



Library Corner

“When I was a kid my parents moved a lot, but I always found them.”

Rodney Dangerfield

Immanuel’s Library is moving, too, but will be easy to find. Within the next couple of months, the Library will move to the former “Cry Room” a/k/a “Bride’s Room” located immediately north of the sanctuary. The Library will continue to be a multi-media site (books, magazines, DVDs, and VHS tapes) as well as a spot for kids to congregate after church. Babies, if you need to “take a moment,” please feel free to come into the Library any time and have a good cry.

A special thanks to Nikki Lane, Roy and Elizabeth Morgan and Diana Ekedal for their recent donation of books. Thank you, too, to those of you who use the library. It offers a considerable variety of books and publications – many of which can be inspirational and useful, in a practical way, in our daily lives. The DVD collection continues to grow and has titles for all age groups to enjoy.

With the holiday season just around the corner, look for a selection of pertinent books and DVDs on display in the Library.

A quick reminder: if you are unable to get to the church, books and DVDs can be brought to you. Just call the church office at 265-7628 and leave a message for the Library Committee.

Mary Ann C
Library Committee



Giving Tree

Last year the Giving Tree was generally for the Title One program through the Albuquerque Public Schools. This year it will be for Title One students who attend Wilson Middle School. There are 35 to 45 families associated with Wilson who are homeless or near homeless at any given time. We are asking you to bring \$10 or \$20 gift cards from Target, Hastings, Toys R Us, etc. Sundays November 29 - December 13. New knit hats, gloves, and scarves would also be welcome.

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a congregational meeting following worship on November 22 for the purpose of electing elders for the class of 2018.

Session

October

The Session received a welcome Membership Report noting that in August and September we received ten new members: Diane Gutterud, Gene Brooks, Tylka Vetula, Rebekah Holdridge, Jessica Duncan, Willow Storm, Eric Garcia, Tony Lopez, Laura Garcia and Charlie Baldwin.

The Session approved granting space to BSA Pack 3 to meet, and to become the official sponsor of BSA Troop 3 which has already been meeting in our facility. We are grateful for this opportunity to support both of these organizations.

The pastor reported that a new partnership is being forged between IPC and Wilson Middle School. The first step has been to organize a Guitar Club in which 11 Wilson students are receiving free lessons from Jerald Lujan, a professional jazz guitarist in Albuquerque. Future efforts will likely include tutoring and volunteering with Wilson’s food and clothing pantry.

John Sitler is leading the effort to develop a “Safe Church” policy for IPC to make sure procedures are followed that will help us avoid abusive behavior in our programs and relationships.

The budget process is underway for 2016 with plans to receive pledges and look forward to the coming year.

On a poignant note, we said farewell to Carol Pond as she moves to Tennessee to help with family needs.

November

Many items in November carried over from October. Commitment Sunday saw 31 pledges received for a total of \$64,000. Pledges are still encouraged.

John Sitler, our commissioner to the October meeting of Presbytery reported on efforts to streamline the administrative functions of Santa Fe Presbytery. Three models were presented and discussed and will be considered again at the February meeting.

We are grateful to the Building and Grounds committee for their hard work and for all who participated in the October workday. Currently a new floor is being laid in the kitchen.

The worship design task force has been hard at work putting together worship for Advent and Christmas.



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Proclaiming God's Grace Through Jesus Christ

New Partnership Emerging in a New Beginning

During the small group discussions of our New Beginnings process last year, two things emerged as of special interest to many of you: an interest in education and a desire to help people get the food they need. To those ends we are forging a relationship with Wilson Middle School on Cardenas Drive in the southwest corner of the International District (2.5 miles from IPC). Wilson has a wonderful principal, Ann Piper, who is eager to be a partner with us. A large percentage of Wilson students are eligible for free or reduced lunches and many live below federal poverty levels. Wilson is designated a "Community School" which means they have the freedom to be creative in supporting their students' families.

We have already begun our partnership with Wilson. Eleven students are participating in our Guitar Club. Ms. Piper would love for us to develop a full arts program to enrich the student's lives. In the coming weeks and months, we will have the opportunity to help tutor, to provide a male presence on the campus, and to assist with a new food and clothing pantry they're developing. Stay alert to how you can help. Thanks to Lynn Cutter and Diane Gutterud for being our liaisons to the school.

We are also continuing the discussion with Kulmeet Singh and his wife, Jasdeep Gurm, a Sikh couple developing what they're calling the Anchor Project. The idea is to invite as diverse a group as possible for a meal and to encourage conversation that will begin to break down the barriers among us. We hope to get a grant that will allow us to renovate our Fellowship Hall in the coming months.

