*Christmas is certainly a time to celebrate that “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son…” But what about this idea that Jesus will return? This is part of why the season of Advent is so important. It reminds us that, though Jesus came to us as Emmanuel (God with us), He also promised to one day return. Today, we are reminded to HOPE for that day; and to do so by being prepared for Jesus’ return. Prepared by living lives that reflect the love that we know in Jesus. “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!”*

 *- Pastor Randy*

***Crescentville & Frankford Memorial United Methodist Churches***

**1st Sunday of Advent *HOPE* November 27, 2022**

**Welcome**

 Chorus of Welcome *“The Family of God”*

I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God—I’ve been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!

Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod; for I’m part of the family, the family of God.

 Call to Worship *Isaiah 2*

 *In days to come the mountain where the Temple stands will be the highest one of all,*

 *towering above all the hills. Many nations will come streaming to it, and their people will say,*

 *“Let us go up the hill of the Lord, to the Temple of Israel's God. He will teach us what he wants us to do;
    we will walk in the paths he has chosen. For the Lord's teaching comes from Jerusalem; from Zion*

 *he speaks to his people.” He will settle disputes among great nations. They will hammer their swords*

 *into plows and their spears into pruning knives. Nations will never again go to war, never prepare*

 *for battle again. Now, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light which the Lord gives us!*

**Opening Hymn** *“Blessed Be the God of Israel”* # 209

 Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,

who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
 The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
 God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

 Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
 a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
 Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
 the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

 **Advent Candle Lighting**

 Reader One: “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’”

 Reader Two: We are glad. Whether we drove in or climbed up, whether we logged on or tuned in.

 We are glad to be here in this community, with this family. It is a place of joyful hope,

 of radical welcome. It is a place where, together, we can wait in wondrous anticipation

 of the kingdom to come.

 Reader One: “Many peoples shall come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

 to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God’s ways and that we

 may walk in Gods paths’”

 Reader Two: We light this candle as a sign of our hope, our joyous hope that we can be restored –

 our faith restored, our strength restored, our confidence restored, our joy restored

 as we watch and wait with all God’s people for the promise to be fulfilled.

 Response *“Kum Ba Yah”*

Come by here, my Lord, come by here. Come by here, my Lord, come by here.

Come by here, my Lord, come by here. Oh, Lord, come by here!

**Opening Prayer**

 **Most holy God, who will come to judge the earth and all that dwells therein:**

 **Help us, so that in the day of Your coming our whole spirit, soul and body**

 **will be so refreshed that we may have eternal life; Through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

 **who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

**Joys & Concerns………………….……..*Gathered Prayer…………………………The Lord’s Prayer***

*Our Father, who art in heaven,**hallowed be Thy name;**Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,*

*on earth as it is in heaven.**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses and debts as we forgive our debtors and those who trespass**against us. And lead us not into temptation,*

*but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**Gifts and Offerings**

**The Offertory** “*Light The Candle”*

**The Doxology** *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* [TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL]

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**The Offertory Prayer**

**Hymn** *“Arise, the Kingdom Is at Hand” [tune Ellacombe]* # 730

 Arise, the Kingdom is at hand the King is drawing nigh; Arise with joy, thou faithful band,

 to meet the Lord most high! Look up, ye souls weighed down with care, the Sovereign is not far;

 Look up, faint hearts, from your despair, behold the Morning Star!

 Look up, ye drooping hearts, today, the King is very near; O cast your griefs and fears away,

 for lo, your help is here! Hope on, ye broken hearts, at last the King comes in His might;

 He loved us in the ages past, when we were wrapped in night.

 O rich the gifts Thou bringest us, Thyself made poor and weak; O love beyond compare that thus

 can foes and sinners seek! For this we raise a gladsome voice on high to Thee alone,

 and evermore with thanks rejoice before Thy glorious throne.

**Gospel Lesson** *St. Matthew 24:36-44*

 [Jesus said] “But ***nobody knows when*** that day or hour will come, not the heavenly angels

 and not the Son. Only the Father knows. **37**As it was in the time of Noah, so it will be at the coming

 of the Human One. **38**In those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying

 and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. **39**They didn’t know what was happening

 until the flood came and swept them all away. The coming of the Human One will be like that.

**40**At that time there will be two men in the field. One will be taken and the other left. **41**Two women

 will be grinding at the mill. One will be taken and the other left. **42**Therefore, stay alert!

 You don’t know what day the Lord is coming. **43**But you understand that if the head of the house

 knew at what time the thief would come, he would keep alert and wouldn’t allow the thief to break

 into his house. **44**Therefore, you also should ***be prepared***, because the Human One will come

 at a time you don’t know.

 **Sermon** *“Preparing for the (Un)Known”*

**Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles’ Creed*

 I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

 And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord:

 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

 the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven,

 and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

 from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead;

 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Hymn**  *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”* # 196

 Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us,
 let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
 dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

 Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever,
 now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
 by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

**Benediction**

***Quiet Meditation, Reflection, and Prayer***

**Choral Benediction** *“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”* [VS. 1]# 213

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;

the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

As you steep yourself in the story of the Old Testament, you will see God’s faithfulness to a people who desperately need a Savior, and you will see a people who are longing for the redemption God promises as they struggle with the daily affects of sin on all of God’s creation.

**December 4. 2022 - Second Sunday of Advent**

Matthew 3:1-12 - Isaiah 11:1-10 - Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 - Romans 15:4-13

**Joys & Concerns: Keep those prayers going and thank God for His answers! To add a prayer request or share a joy, *please call the church and leave a message.***

 ***(215) 745-7115.*** Praying for others is important because it fulfills a New Testament command. (1 Timothy 2:1-3) I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior.

**Prayer Requests from November 20th**

Prayers for Eva and for our entire church family as we grieve the death of Hank Baumgartel.

Dende Korpoi asking for prayers to make the right decision for treatment of a shoulder injury.

For friends and family of Sally (Dende's Aunt) as they mourn the death of Sally.

JOY - Lawndale residents at PPH won the "Family Feud" game at PPH.

Farol asking for prayers as she works to repay student loans.

Traveling mercies for all traveling this Thanksgiving holiday.

JOY - Val is grateful that she does not live in Buffalo NY as they are receiving too much snow.

**Continuing Prayers:**

Pastor Randy & Family Sana Aman Zilpha Browne Dorothy Buzzard

Caroline (Burghaze’s Daughter) Rev. Khan Scott Meyer Ed Ingle Marva

Cass Quigley Betty Sauerwald & family Wondor Korto

Sylvia Spotts Suzanne Turner Hank & Eva Baumgartel

Prayers for the Ukraine and Russia - for world peace

Prayers for our city and end to violence

Prayers for peace and stability in Sierra Leone.

A former member and Administrative Council Chairman here at Crescentville, Ed Ingle, died on November 21st. Please keep Ed’s wife Kristen Ingle; children, Luke Ingle (Kalah) and Amanda in your prayers. Ed’s obituary can be found at Legacy.com.

**Mark your calendar**

**Don’t it on the sidelines – get involved!**

**November 27th - PLEASE HELP to PREPARE OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS**

We will join together **after worship on November 27th**

to put up our Christmas decorations.

**Wednesdays during Advent – Nov 30, Dec 7, 14, 21**

Advent Vesper Service – 7:00 PM at PPH

**December 11th after worship** – YOUTH - Practice for Christmas Presentation.

**December 18th – during worship**

**Our youth will present “Merry Christmas”**

Light refreshments after worship.

**December 24th - CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

 **Crescentville UMC 8:00 PM**  (Frankford Memorial UMC 6:30 PM)

Crescentville will have light refreshments after our service.

**December 25th – Christmas Day 10:00 AM**

Crescentville and Frankford Memorial will worship together

at Frankford Memorial UMC Church

**January 1st – New Year’s Day 10:00 AM**

Crescentville and Frankford Memorial will worship together

at Crescentville UMC Church

Hank Baumgartel went home to be with our Lord on November 17th. Please keep Eva and family and friends of Hank in your prayers as they go through this difficult time of grief.

**Service for Hank will be at Crescentville UMC**

**On Monday, November 28th.**

**Visitation will begin at 9:00 AM**

**Service will begin at 11:00 AM**