

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2018 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKS

The 2018 GPBC Advent Booklet has been completed and copies are now available for pick-up in the Narthex. Please take **one copy per family**. The theme this year is "Jesus Is The Way" and the booklet contains 24 devotions written by church members. Thank you to all the volunteers who wrote the devotions this year. A special thank you to Lynn Walton who volunteered to transcribe and compile the submissions and to artist Jason Kissinger for creating the cover.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Christmas is rapidly approaching and at this time of year we are called to pray for our missionaries who are spreading the Good News all over the world and support them with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This year our goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is \$2500.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Invite your family and friends to join us for a beautiful candlelight Christmas Eve service on Monday, December 24, at 5pm. There will be Christmas Music, A Message with a Christmas Scene, Scriptures, and The Lord's Supper!!

CHILI AND A MOVIE

Be a Souper Servant—Bring a can or 2 or 3 and partner with the WMU on January 9, 2019, at 6:00 pm, as we donate to the Salvation Army for those less fortunate. WMU will provide a Chili Dinner (bring a salad or dessert to share). At 6:30 pm we will show "The Mully Movie". From rags to riches, following the will of God, a true story about what happened when a six year old boy was abandoned by his own family and left to raise himself on the streets. Any left over Chili will be sold, proceeds to be sent to the Mully fund in Kenya. Any questions, please contact Theresa Svoboda or Laraine Sentz.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to God and to you, an amazing family of faith! This year has been challenging, to say the least, and we are so grateful for the cards, words of encouragement, food and gifts, and especially your effective, fervent prayers. We pray that God gets all the glory as we continue this journey together. Thank you!!

Mark and Amy Boykin

Dec. 23rd ... 4th Sunday in Advent

Amy Boykin: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send divine love and light into our dark world.

Congregation: How does this happen?

Amy Boykin: God's light comes through Jesus, who became a human being just like you and me, so that he could show us the way back to God's divine love and light.

Congregation: Purify us, O God, by your daily visitation, so that when your Son Jesus Christ comes, he will find in us a mansion prepared for himself. We thank you for this time of waiting. We thank you that our time of waiting for Jesus is almost over. May we await the Light of the World with joyful anticipation, through Christ our Lord.

Amy Boykin: A reading from the prophet Micah: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Therefore, will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now, shall he be great unto the ends of the earth. And this man shall be the peace..." (Micah 5:2-5a).

Congregation: We continue to wait for the coming of Jesus. Each Sunday during Advent, we have begun in the dark, and then we have lit candles. Today, we light the candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE.

Lighting 1 Pink Candle and 3 Purple Candles

Amy Boykin: Each candle that we light reminds us that the Light of the World will soon come to us in the human form of Jesus. Now, at the end of Advent, all four candles burn bright with the hope of God who will come to us.

ALL: Our time of waiting is almost over. Blessed are we who, with Mary and Elizabeth, believe there will be a fulfillment of God's promise to us. May we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus. When he comes to us, may we be ready to help him scatter the proud, bring down the powerful, lift up the lowly. May God fill the hungry with good things. May all of God's people know fullness, justice, peace and love when the Light shines its brightness over our world, when the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us. Amen.

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