



MESSENGER



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TITUSVILLE
206 S. HOPKINS AVE, TITUSVILLE, FL 32796
DECEMBER 2020

What is Advent about?

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/what-is-advent-about>

Ryan Dunn is the Minister of Online Engagement, Rethink Church, in Nashville, TN. Ryan is an ordained deacon in The United Methodist Church.

It's the most wonderful time of the year, isn't it? A season ripened by anticipation. We're waiting for the big day to come—a day sure to be full of joy, reflection and peace. Right?

You're likely thinking I'm alluding to Christmas Day—which, in our United Methodist Tradition, we observe on December 25 (like most other Christian denominations). Culturally that seems to be the big focus this time of year. In the church, our congregations are preparing for their Christmas observances and celebrations. The time leading up to Christmas is known as "Advent." It might jar some to learn that Advent only kind of partially has anything to do with Christmas.

It is a time of heavy anticipation. It focuses on waiting for a big occurrence. But the anticipated occurrence or event is not actually fully realized on Christmas. During Advent we're anticipating the full realization of something that began at the first Christmas (when Jesus Christ was born*) but isn't yet fully realized. Technically, Christmas begins on December 25.* Everything leading up to that date is Advent. And it's important to note that distinction so we can be fully mindful of the hope that faith speaks into our human experience.

**While observing Christmas on December 25 we don't actually claim that Jesus was born on December 25. We don't know the date of Jesus' birth. December 25 has become a culturally useful day for commemorating Jesus' entry into human history.*

What is Advent?

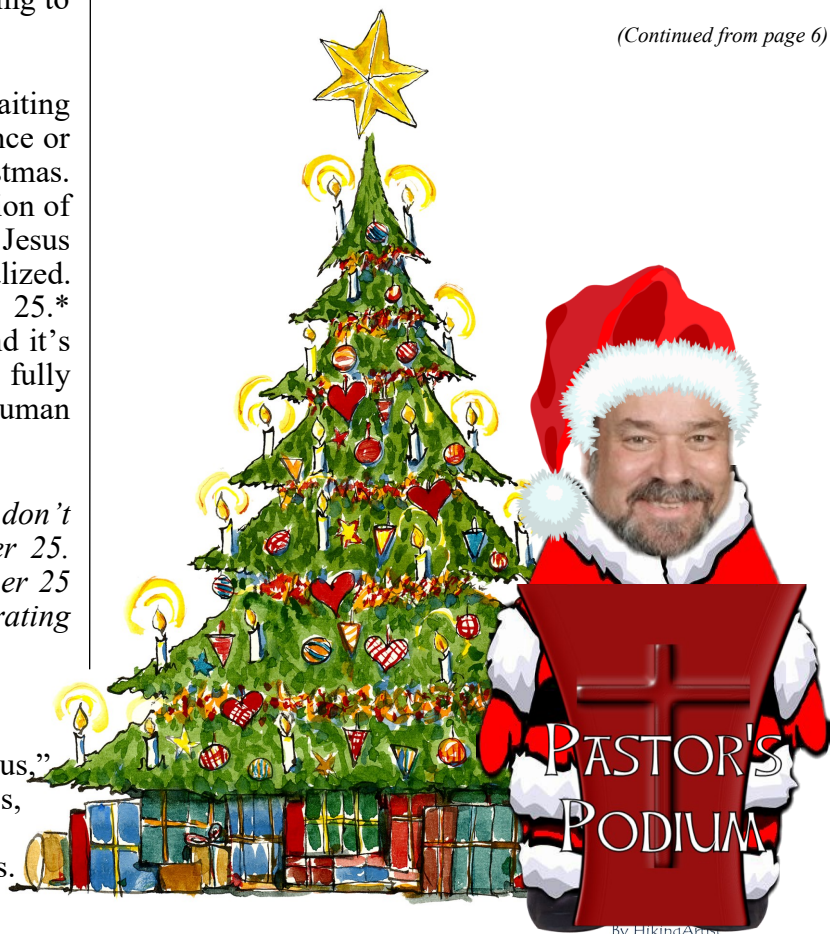
The word "advent" derives from the Latin "adventus," meaning "coming." During its earliest observances, Advent was 40 days of repentance, fasting, and prayer as new believers prepared for their baptisms. Oftentimes, these baptisms took place on the day

of Epiphany—which is a day remembering the Magi's visit to baby Jesus; it was a celebration of Jesus' incarnation on Earth.

Later, Christians began tying Advent not just to Christ's incarnation, but to an anticipated second coming of Christ. Advent became a period for renewing the anticipation and longing for Jesus' return.

Today, Advent is a period of preparation for both "advents"—or arrivals—of Jesus. Lester Ruth, a professor at Duke Divinity School and a historian of Christian worship, offered this distinction for Advent: "The simplest way I have to distinguish between Advent and Christmas is that advent uses the word "come" as a longing petition, expressed in anticipation, whereas Christmas is a commemorative reflection on how the Lord has come in Christ's birth and thus the trigger for a new redemptive order has begun."

(Continued from page 6)



By HikingArtist

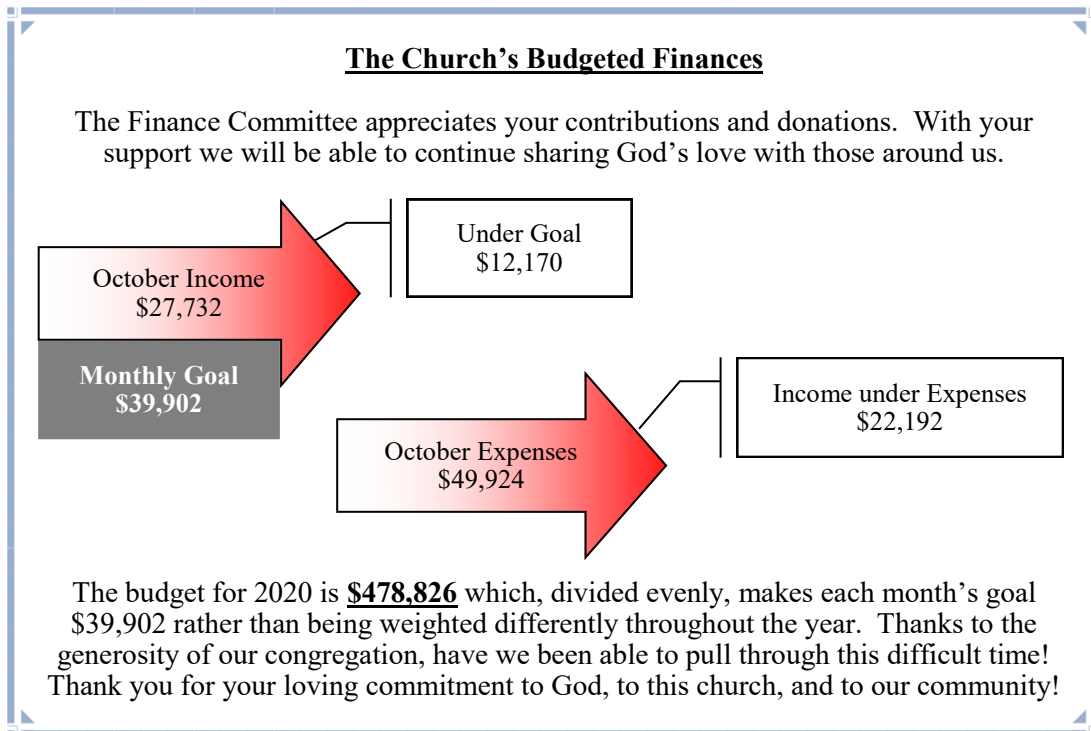
December Birthdays

- 5 Gay Hammond
- 6 Paul Harvey
- 7 C.B. Till
- 7 David Hanson
- 7 Jessica Johnson
- 7 Maxine Watkins
- 10 Sydney Herndon
- 11 Beverly Marsh

- 11 Jim Winn
- 15 Evelyn Hooks
- 15 Pascale Daniel
- 16 Dot Cameron
- 18 Brady Tabin
- 22 Carl Breznik

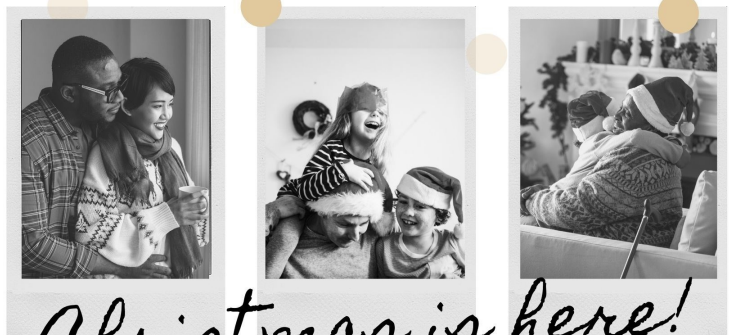
December Anniversaries

- 10 Victor & Yvette Boodhoo
- 17 Jim & Carolyn Winn
- 21 Tom & Gay Hammond
- 24 Michael & Glenda Waring
- 27 Joe & Gloria Kendall



CHRISTMAS AT
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF TITUSVILLE

*“You have been reborn not from a corruptible seed, but from an incorruptible seed through the word of God.”
— 1 Peter 1:23*



Email your favorite past Christmas picture
(limit 2 per person)
to First United Methodist Church of Titusville
at Office@fumctitusville.com
for a Christmas Eve Special Video

December Prayer Focus

- Nov. 29–Dec. 5 — Pray for joy and a sense of humor.
- Dec. 6–14 — Help us see the great light of hope.
- Dec. 13–21 — Pray for peace in all situations, no matter the circumstances.
- Dec. 20–28 — Pray for the purity to grow as a person and encounter God.
- Dec. 27–Jan. 2 — Pray for freedom from all that burdens you: past mistakes, fears, destructive habits, and hurts inflicted by others.



FUMC TITUSVILLE

THANKSGIVING OUTREACH

80 HOT MEALS
100 FAMILY SIZE MEALS

DONATED AND SERVED TO THE COMMUNITY

A collection of decorative icons in orange and yellow tones, including a maple leaf, a bottle, a globe, a pumpkin, a turkey, and a sun.

Thank you to everyone who donated food, gift cards, and their time for our Thanksgiving Outreach. With your help, we were able to bless our community. During the week of Thanksgiving, we were able to gift 80 hot meals to individuals and 100 family size meals.



FUMC 2020 Christmas Store Announcement

The Christmas Store is scheduled for Saturday, December 12, 2020, starting at 9:00 a.m. in Hennessey Hall. We need volunteers to make this a success. Could give a morning to help with gift wrapping on Tuesday, December 8th, starting at 9:00 am? If so, please contact Brenda Pittman at 321.480.0041 or see her at church. If you are unable to volunteer and wish to make a donation to help purchase toys you may do so by writing a check to FUMC Titusville with Christmas Store written in the memo line and sending it to the church office or put it in the collection plate. This is our opportunity to put a smile on the faces of children in our community this Christmas Season.

Memorial Gifts

We would like to acknowledge and thank the families and friends who have designated memorial gifts to our church this year in memory of those who have gone to be with our Lord and Savior.

*Sandi Ahrens
Ruth Alman
Bill & Kitty Baldwin
Fred & Martha Ball
Barbara Bender
Barbara Borman
Curtis Burnett
Linda Carris
Kathryn Carter
Jim Clark
Randy & Lynn Coleman
Janet Coleman
Bernie & Margaret Coveney
Roanne Damoff
Walter Edwards
Patsy Gadapee
Valarie Garrett
Paul & Janis Grimard
Ed & Debbie Grimes*

*Tom & Gay Hammond
Jake & Debbie Huether
Alice Johnson
French Johnson
Frank & Ann Kennedy
Jan Lichtenwalter
Mary Mackey
The Maurer Family
Trudy Metzger
Pat Morgan
Mountain Top Class
Nancy Oliver
Ed & Ingrid Patterson
Bill & Lois Queen
Jean Richards
Bob Russell
Frank & Linda Russell*

*Bonnie Sego
Georgia Smith
Jackie & Imogene Smith
Ann Snodgrass
John & Carol Stephens
James Storek
Jim & Sharen Talbert
Mary Thompson
CB & Phyllis Till
Duane & Nancy Torneden
Trinity Class
Bill & Natalie Walls
Rich & Linda Wilson
Jim & Carolyn Winn*



North Brevard



Ace Hardware of Titusville
3636 S. Washington Ave.
Titusville, FL 32780
Phone 321.267.1030
Cell 321.609.0690
Fax 321.267.3799



Melanie LeBlanc
Supply Place Manager
mleblanc20@gmail.com
www.thesupplyplace.com/1536



Titusville church breakfast serves the hungry, lonely

BY FLORA REIGADA

A weekly community breakfast at First United Methodist Church in Downtown Titusville provides nourishment for the body and spirit.

It is held 8 to 10 a.m. each Saturday in the church parking lot.

Originally in the church Fellowship Hall, it migrated outside when the coronavirus struck.

Breakfast is provided for all, whether hungry for food or the company of others while enjoying a good meal.

Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, hash browns, orange juice, milk and coffee are on the menu. People can eat on site, socially distancing, or get breakfast to go.

"We serve a wide variety of people, including the homeless," said Ken DeTorres, who coordinates the effort.

People show up on foot, bicycles or in new cars, such as the older Navy veteran who came for years.

"He was there for the company," DeTorres said. "We missed him when he stopped coming and were saddened to learn that he had passed away."

The community and other churches



SENIOR LIFE Courtesy of Ken DeTorres
Each Saturday, volunteers at First United Methodist Church in Titusville prepare a community breakfast (before the COVID pandemic) served in the church parking lot.

lend a hand.

Annie Gaudi of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Mims helps coordinate the church's assistance.

"Our youth group helps with the breakfasts four times a year," she said. "When I was a teenager, volunteering at a homeless shelter turned my life

around. I want to pass that on."

Cards are available for prayer requests. The requests are given to the church prayer chain and mentioned during services. People can remain anonymous or include only first names.

Interested persons can volunteer



SENIOR LIFE Courtesy of Ken DeTorres
Volunteers serve all who show up on Saturday mornings.

or send breakfast-designated financial donations to the church at 206 S. Hopkins Ave. in Titusville.

For information, go to functitusville.com or call First United Methodist Church at 321-269-7631 or Ken DeTorres at 321-403-6144. *FL*

*Movie in
the Park*

December 20, 5:00 p.m.
First United Methodist Church of
Titusville
206 S Hopkins Ave

Bring your own chairs
or blanket to sit on
Movie will be G rated

(Continued from page 1)

In our culture, the close ties to Christmas seemingly outweigh the anticipation of another “advent” of Jesus. We conflate the Christmas commemoration and the anticipation of Advent. Ignoring this “second coming” removes some of the urgency of our Christian call to enact God’s love and justice on Earth.

What do we mean by "Second Coming"?

Most Christian creeds of faith contain some derivation of the following statement:

“Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead.”

In The United Methodist Church, we affirm that Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead as prelude to the revealing of the new creation. So when Christ returns, a renewed creation comes, too. This new creation is marked by the unity of Creator and created alluded to in the book of Genesis. In the New Testament, this renewed creation is aligned with freedom from death, sin, and decay. So the renewed creation takes the shape of a world without the bounds of death and liberated from the systems and actions through which humans tear themselves apart from one another and from God.

There’s a lot of hope inspired by believing that such a world is possible. Advent is a season for reflecting on and renewing that hope.

What do we do for Advent?

It seems our Advent observances could benefit from a greater emphasis on the advent that is yet to come, and a diminished emphasis on the advent remembered in our Christmas celebrations (there’s time for that when Christmas actually arrives). So how can we re-orient ourselves towards longing this Advent?

One of the ways we reflect on Advent in communal worship is by utilizing an Advent wreath—a simple wreath surrounding four exterior candles and one central candle. The four exterior candles represent the hallmarks of a renewed creation: joy, hope, peace and love. The central candle represents the presence of Christ. Each Sunday, one more of the exterior candles is lit. Finally, the Christ candle is lit as a reminder of Christ’s ongoing presence. We, of course, can bring this practice home, creating our own Advent wreaths and contemplating our own longings for more joy, hope, peace, and love.

We also utilize music for reflection. Many songs communicate our Advent longings. Unfortunately, these songs are overshadowed during this season by songs that are explicitly Christmas-themed. Take a listen to some more

Advent-aligned songs, listening for the expectations and longings they communicate.

Devotionals present weekly or daily opportunities for an explicit focus on a topic. [We offer a weekly Advent devotional](#). Our friends at UpperRoom.org offer [a free daily devotional](#) that is Advent-focused during this season. Our friend, Shane Claiborne, also recommends CommonPrayer.net. [It offers daily prayers](#) speaking into our Advent expectations during this season.



December 2020

First United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00am Joyful Noise Rehearsal	2 9:30am Patchwork Friends 6:00pm Handbell Choir	3 10:00am PEO	4 1:00pm Food Pantry	5 7:30am Garden Club 8:00am Comm. Breakfast 10:00am Moonlight Quilters
6 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	7	8 10:00am Joyful Noise Rehearsal	9 6:00pm Handbell Choir	10	11 1:00pm Food Pantry	12 8:00am Comm. Breakfast 9:00am Christmas Store
13 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	14 10:00am Sara Fernandez Bible Study	15 10:00am Joyful Noise Rehearsal 3:00pm Dove Circle	16 9:00am ADK 6:00pm Handbell Choir	17 10:00am PEO 5:30pm Leadership Team Mtg.	18 1:00pm Food Pantry	19 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
20 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 5:00pm Movie in the Park	21	22 10:00am Joyful Noise Rehearsal	23 6:00pm Handbell Choir	24 Christmas Eve 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service 	25 Christmas Day 	26 7:30am UM Men Breakfast 8:00am Comm. Breakfast
27 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship	28	29 10:00am Joyful Noise Rehearsal	30 6:00pm Handbell Choir	31 New Year's Eve 		



First United Methodist Church

206 S. Hopkins Ave.
Titusville, FL 32796

Worship Services: 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Church Office — 8am-4pm (closed 12:00-12:30)

Masks are required while visiting the office

Phone: (321) 269-7631

Fax: (321) 269-8359

E-mail Address: office@fumctitusville.com

Website: www.fumctitusville.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fumctitusville

Twitter Handle: [@MethodistFirst](https://twitter.com/MethodistFirst)

Instagram Handle: [@UnitedChurch321](https://www.instagram.com/UnitedChurch321)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCChscOCLDe-wGkXHftvzGX9Q>



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FUMC Staff

- | | |
|--|----------|
| Reception Desk | Ext. 201 |
| Rev. Wayne Cook - Pastor | Ext. 202 |
| Mario Davis - Administrative Assistant | Ext. 203 |
| Glenda Waring - Membership Secretary | Ext. 204 |
| Rayelynn Henderson - Finance Secretary | Ext. 204 |
| Lisa Mick - Dir. of Children's Min. | Ext. 205 |
| Lauren Peterson - Student & Adult Min. | Ext. 205 |
| Tom Mosier - Facilities Manager | Ext. 206 |
| Leah Patterson - Custodian | |
| Carol Henn - Dir. of Music Ministries | |
| J.D. Daniel - Organist | |
| Steve Rossi - Sound Tech | |
| Josh Huss - Lights and Visuals | |
| Dr. Bob Titus - Pastor Emeritus | |