

Weekly Park Branches

Thursday, November 18, 2021

This Week's Sermon

"Can You Handle the Truth?"

Scriptures

John 18:33-38

Contact Us

adminoffice@parkpres.org

724-775-2936

Dear Friends,

Can you believe that the new year is just 10 days away?

"What? 10 days, Todd—come'on!—you know January 1 is NOT 10 days away! What's going on?"

What's going on is the Christian calendar year, friends; the new year begins on Sunday, November 28th, the Sunday we enter into Advent. Sunday, November 28th is just another Sunday on the Julian calendar that the world uses.

What is Advent "about?" The term "advent" is adopted from Latin *adventus* meaning "coming; arrival", translated from the original Greek word *parousia*. In the New Testament, *parousia* is the term used for the Second Coming of Christ. Thus, the season of Advent in the Christian calendar anticipates the "coming of Christ" from three different perspectives: the physical nativity in Bethlehem, the reception of Christ in the heart of the believer, and the eschatological Second Coming.

How do we "anticipate" all of this? Many people keep an Advent calendar in their homes, or make use of an Advent devotional. Most church families make use of an Advent wreath with candles that are lit each of the four Sundays that occur during this season. For many, a "hanging of the greens" event is another way to mark the start of Advent, as well as the placement of a Christmas tree in the home or sanctuary. And, of course, there are the other decorations we put in our homes or businesses.

What are some of the ways you prepare for the arrival of Jesus Christ?

Beginning Sunday November 28th, I invite you to join me for a series of four Adult Education classes that will focus upon this period of waiting.

- Have you ever heard of a Jesse Tree? Well, we will discover—or re-discover—an age-old Advent activity on November 28th!
- Enjoy Christmas carols? Well, I think we all have our favorite song—or two—or 20! But did you know that one Christmas carol once served as a subversive, underground catechism? Curious about which one? Come on Sunday, December 5th, to find out (and, yes sing it!).
- What can you say about Handel's Messiah? I think all of us would agree that it is one of the great treasures of the season, for we often hear it sung during this time of year. On Sunday, December 12th, we will see how this masterwork came to be and how, down the years, it has come to be envisioned—and performed--very differently.
- And, finally, on December 19th—on the Sunday where we remember the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary--we will look at how this moment in time, The Annunciation, has inspired artists down the years to portray this moment of great joy—and no little mystery.

We will meet in the Worship and Music Room, Room 206, beginning at 9:45 a.m., each Sunday. Our time together will feature Powerpoint images, as well as musical excerpts heard in high quality sound!

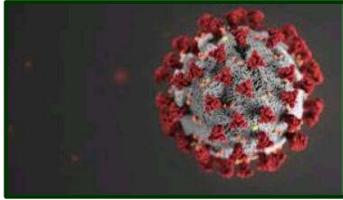
Come—and bring a friend!

Faithfully,
Todd

Sunday Worship as Park Apart

The worship video will be available on Sunday at 11:00 am and you can continue to find us anytime thereafter at <https://www.parkpres.org/swl-sunday-worship-live>. The bulletin for the service can also be found on the [Sunday Worship page](#) of our site. If you have announcements or prayer requests, please send them to Pastor Todd on Sunday morning via text at 612-554 6527 or email at revallen@parkpres.org.

Mask Policy



Due to the highly transmissible nature of the Delta variant, the Session strongly encourages masks to be worn by all, vaccinated or unvaccinated, out of consideration for fellow church members and guests. Should you forget your mask, disposable masks are available in the sanctuary. Thank you for your cooperation in this new policy as we strive to serve one another well.

News from the Deacons

The Deacons have detected a potential need for drivers to and from appointments for congregants. In 2022, we would like to create a phone chain or email list of potential drivers within the church as well as a resource of external resources for such needs. Please begin thinking if you would like to be added to the phone chain or email list. More to come in 2022!

Thanksgiving Eve Service – Vanport Presbyterian Church



There will be a Thanksgiving Eve Communion service at 7:00pm on Wednesday, November 24th at the Vanport Church. Pastor Todd will be leading the service.

TIGER PAUSE Kids' Christmas Shopping Event

Tiger Pause is hosting a Kids Christmas Shopping event! Hundreds of gift items will be available. A gift wrapping station will be available ... please bring your own shopping bag! Dates for the Christmas Store are November 26, 27, 29 and December 11, 13-17, 18. Additional details are on a flyer that's on the Gathering area calendar board.



Theater Event

Harley Allen will be performing in "Elf the Musical" at The New Castle Playhouse. The show dates are December 10,11,12,16,17,18, and 19. Tickets are available on the Playhouse website at: www.newcastleplayhouse.org.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, Dec 5th following worship, for the purpose of electing Elders, Deacons, an Auditor, the 2022 Nominating Committee members.

Poinsettias for the Christmas Season



Starting Sunday, November 14th, we will once again have an opportunity to purchase beautiful poinsettias for the Christmas season in memory or in honor of someone special. Order forms are available on the Park Church website, in the office and at the sanctuary doors. All forms and payment (cost is \$6.30) must be in by December 5th. You can mail your order to the church or place in the collection plates in the sanctuary. Please specify color choice. Any questions, call Cheryl Leonard at 724-728-2606.



Celebrating Birthdays next week:

Mary Matthews	11/21
Bunny Madden	11/24
Wanda Good	11/25
Samuel Hardy	11/27