

Advent Brochure 2011

John Wesley
United Methodist Church



Advent—the Coming of Christ

*Like a child love would send to reveal and to mend,
like a child and a friend, Jesus comes.
Like a child we may find claiming heart, soul, and mind,
like a child strong and kind, Jesus comes.*

- Daniel Damon

The world has never been the same since this BIG event—God's love and grace poured out in Jesus' coming! Come close and listen to voices that both whisper and shout the life-changing news. Be inspired by words and songs and reconnect with God in a fresh, deeply meaningful way to truly experience and share Jesus' coming. Unite with us to receive God's gift in Jesus His Son and join us to prayerfully consider how to best honor and adore the Christ Child.

This season, don't settle for squeezing Christmas into your life; rather welcome the Christ child and place Him in the center of your life. What steps will you take to prepare and to celebrate Jesus' coming in a remarkable new way? How will you move toward loving in Jesus' name this Christmas? Commit to bring the warmth of Jesus' hope, peace, joy, and love to the world because the Word became flesh and made His home among us. **How would Jesus spend His time? What would Jesus give?**

CHURCH-WIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE THE WONDROUS NEWS AND WARMTH OF JESUS' COMING

*Be
involved!
Participate
with
heart
and
hands
and
voice!*

DECEMBER 3-5—WALK THRU BETHLEHEM. Give of yourself—your time, talents, gifts, service, and witness through this outreach gift. Be a part of sharing Christmas with our community. Many open hearts and willing hands are needed to create this authentic re-creation of the village of Bethlehem during the time of Jesus' birth.

Help is needed:

- construction & tear down
- booth set-up the week of the event
- staffing booths
- as Bethlehem residents in costume
- assistance with costumes
- provide food for workers

There are many ways you can serve in this outreach ministry. Join with your family or friends or offer your small group a fellowship opportunity. Last year, more than 1,000 people visited the village of Bethlehem. Sign-up and provide your contact info through Sunday's worship guide, online at www.jwumc.org, or contact Cammie DeShazer, volunteer coordinator, at camdes@comcast.net.

December 18, 6 pm—Families Sharing Christmas: All ages share a light supper, fellowship, and fun! We'll make Christmas cards and bring joy to others as we go caroling to members who are homebound. Professional singing voices not required! RSVP to the church office by December 16.

Christmas—the Day of Christ

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

*Donate
to those
in need!*

Donate the following new and gently-used clean items for children, women, and men in need.

- Swaddling clothes/
Disposable diapers, and shoes
(all sizes)

- Hats, scarves, gloves,
mittens, socks, blankets

Bring your donation(s) to the collection bins stationed in the hall in front of the Church Office.

*Purchase
a
gift!*

Purchase an uncommon Christmas gift through JW's United Methodist Women.

- An animal or portion of an animal from Heifer International
- UMCOR - Children's health, disaster relief, and hot lunch programs.
- Contribute to a child's education in Pakistan or Afghanistan.

- Nothing But Nets - Malaria Prevention.

- Adopt a Cote d'Ivoire (Africa) student

- Pure Water for the World—Haiti

- Africa University Scholarships

Visit the table in the Welcome Center in December to purchase these and many other mission gifts.

*Fill a
NAM
Bag!*

Fill a NAM bag with Christmas gifts to brighten Christmas for a girl or boy.

NAM bags are available for

pick up Sundays, November 20 and 27 in the Welcome Center.

Return NAM bags to the church by December 4.

*Alleviate
Suffering*

Through The Advance, alleviate suffering and create a better tomorrow for others in need worldwide. 100% of all donations goes directly to the

cause. Pick up a Giving Resource Guide in the Connection Corner or the display case outside the Church Office.

Jesus comes! Join us as we welcome the light of love and grace in our lives!

NOVEMBER

Sundays, November 13, 20, and 27, 9:45 am—"Follow the Star": Children, don't miss Sunday School rotation during Advent. Wise men from the east followed a star that led them to the promised King, Jesus, so they could worship Him. We can follow signs that lead us to Jesus and worship Him still today.

Sundays, 2:30–4:00 pm—3G God's Girlz and Guyz Preteen Ministry: November theme is "Attitude of Gratitude." 4th & 5th graders meet on the Youth Floor for Bible devotion, games, snack, craft, and mission focus. Bring \$2 for snacks and craft materials.

Sunday, November 27, 4:30 pm—Hanging of the Greens: Come with your families and discover the meaning of Christmas, sing Christmas hymns, and decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree. This is a special time for children and a great time for family photos.

Sundays, November 27, December 4, December 11, and December 18, 9:50 a.m., Wesley Activity Center—"The Journey, Walking the Road to Bethlehem":

Join your pastors, Rev. Jim Foster, Rev. Pam Jackson, and Rev. Matthew Smith as together we journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. This study approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt.

Monday, November 28: Deadline for Walk Thru Bethlehem breakfast reservations.

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 3, 8:30 to 10:00 am—Children's Breakfast in Bethlehem: Eat breakfast at the Inn, tour Bethlehem, see the Holy Family, pet the animals, learn simple crafts, and play in the SNOW!! **Children, at least**

4 years of age on or before September 1, 2011, may participate when accompanied by a parent. Reservations are required and are limited to 20 children per tour. There will be three 30-minute tours beginning at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$2 per participant, payable to the Bethlehem Tax Collector upon arrival. Make your reservations early as the slots fill up fast! Scout troups welcome! **Make your breakfast reservations by November 28.**

Saturday, December 3, 10 am to 2 pm (SNOW DAY) and Sunday & Monday, December 4 & 5, 6 to 8 pm—Walk Thru Bethlehem:

The Wesley Activity Center will be transformed into a scene from Bethlehem complete with the Holy Family, temple, stable, and camel rides. On Saturday, December 3, there'll be SNOW! This event is for all ages.

Sundays, December 4, 11, and 18, 9:45 am—"In the Manger": Children will prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus as this Sunday school rotation will discover the significance of the Messiah's coming, not as a king or warrior, but as a baby born in a humble

place. His humble birth reminds us that the Messiah began life as a helpless baby, just as we do. Through participation in the Heifer Project, the children will understand Jesus' special connection to the poor.

Friday, December 9, 6–8 pm—Confirmation Christmas Party: Confirmands and Faith Friends celebrate the season with food, laughter, and of course, the white elephant exchange.

Sunday, December 11, 4:30 pm—"All Creation Sings" Christmas Concert: Performed by the Children's Choirs, Handbells, Chancel Choir, and Orchestra, this concert features songs of the season.

Sunday, December 11, 6–8 pm—Youth Christmas Party: "Deck the halls with boughs of holly...Tis the season to be jolly." Time again to celebrate! Although this party will not feature a fire (we'll be inside), it will still be a great time to play (reindeer) games, listen to holiday music, hang out with friends, and eat too many sweets.



Jesus comes! Join us as we welcome the light of love and grace in our lives!

December 15, 9 am–3 pm, Cramer Retreat Center–

"The Journey" Advent Retreat: Take an hour or the day to join in Christian community. Step away from the bustle to relax, pray, sing, praise, worship, and give thanks for the gift of the Messiah. Led by Reverend Pam Jackson and Sue Highfield. Interactive and contemplative options offered. Walk the labyrinth or sit by the lake. Sign in and select activities at Oxalis House. Holy Communion will be served at noon. Bring your Bible and a brown bag lunch; drinks will be provided. For directions, visit www.cramerretreatcenter.org.

Thursday, December 15, 6:30 pm– Child Development Program

Christmas Presentation: All are welcome to join us in the sanctuary as our preschoolers welcome the birth of our Savior with song and the story of the Polar Express.

December 18, 4:30 pm–"A Christmas Carol"

A seasonal favorite for children and adults. Followed by, **Families Sharing Christmas:** All ages share a light supper, fellowship, and fun! We'll make Christmas cards and bring joy to others as we go caroling to members who are homebound. Professional singing voices not required! RSVP to the church office by December 16.

December 18–Youth SPIN & Christmas Caroling: Join us for an amazing Christmas worship journey that will lead us into caroling with our neighbors.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24–CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:

5 pm–Designed especially for families with young children. Includes Communion & candle lighting.

7 pm–Contemporary service with praise band, Communion, and candle lighting.

7 & 9 pm–Traditional service with choir, Communion, and candle lighting.

11 pm–Traditional service with Communion and candle lighting.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 11:00 A.M.–LESSONS AND CAROLS: Join us for this service of Scripture and carols.

One worship service; no Sunday School.

JANUARY

January 13-15, 2012–Women's Retreat at Camp Allen:

Join us for a special time to learn more about yourself and what it means to be the disciple Jesus Christ designed you to be. Nourish, renew, and enrich our spirits through engaging in Scripture, prayer, laughter, and joy. Retreat leader Reverend Marilyn Wadkins will guide us to start 2012 in a purposeful way. Women of all ages, this is a special time to invite a friend or family member to share with you.



Sunday, January 22, noon–Pie Day: A church-wide event! We'll celebrate God's grace, compassion, mission service, and giving accomplished in 2011. We'll also look forward to God leading our John Wesley family in missions in 2012. AND, we'll eat pie—shepherd's pie, chicken pot pie, and many delicious dessert pies! Come learn ways you can serve in mission in the new year.

Saturday, January 28, 9 am to 3 pm– 12 Keys for an Effective John Wesley: Join us in identifying our strengths and making plans for the journey ahead. The entire congregation is invited!

Sunday, January 29, 6 pm–Endowment Series Concert: Join us for an evening of great organ music as we welcome artist Aaron Wilson. The organ is known as the "King of Instruments." The power and majesty of the organ has graced churches the world over. The John Wesley UMC organ is a thrilling combination of pipe and technology. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity!

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 25, 2012–Prayer Seminar: Why emphasize prayer? Simply put, because God and Jesus do! A rich prayer life is essential for living and loving as Jesus did. Prayer is gift, privilege, call, and responsibility. Save this date and plan to be encouraged toward a vibrant prayer life. Children's prayer seminar session available (4 years–5th grade) with an adult registration; childcare provided for 3 years and younger. Adult and children's registration, please.

Worship

Worship is the 'heartbeat' of every community of faith, and we strive to assure that our worship services are meaningful, uplifting, and relevant for all who attend. "Passionate Worship, whether traditional or contemporary, means an extraordinary eagerness to offer the best in worship, honoring God with excellence and with an unusual clarity about the purpose of connecting people to God." We hope you will connect here at John Wesley UMC through a service of worship and find a warm, welcoming congregation where you experience the movement of God's Spirit in your life. **The Sermon Series this Advent in both traditional and contemporary worship is "Journey to Bethlehem."**

Holy Communion is shared the first Sunday of each month and is open to all. Baptisms are also celebrated in the life of the worshipping community.

Traditional Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am, Sanctuary

You'll experience Biblically-based sermons with real-life messages. You'll share prayer in community and in quiet solitude. You'll sing congregational hymns and listen to anthems sung by our Chancel Choir, all accompanied by piano and pipe



organ. Reciting historic creeds express what we believe as Christians.

Mosaic Contemporary Worship 8:50 am, Wesley Activity Center

This Spirit-led worship celebration connects people to God through Jesus Christ to share hope and bring growth, healing, and change. God's Word through scripture, prayer, contemporary songs of praise, and use of multimedia engage all ages and backgrounds—adults, families, youth and children. Come as you are; it's not a matter of who's wearing what. Most importantly, Mosaic is about people being open to experience the presence of God and share Christ's love in ways that are relevant to everyday life, helping you to realize your God-given potential.



During Advent, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be shared each Sunday in Contemporary Worship. A unique and special gift on Sunday, December 4, will be to receive

Holy Communion in "Bethlehem."

MOSAIC - Many people, one in CHRIST

Chapel Prayer

This contemplative place of meditation offers an opportunity to be still and listen for the quiet voice of God. Experience the joy and peace of meeting God in a quiet place and receive life-sustaining grace.

Helpful Information

John Wesley United Methodist Church
5830 Bermuda Dunes, Houston, TX 77069
281-444-2112, www.jwumc.org

The **Church Office** is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
The **Walking Track** is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 to 8:30 p.m. and
Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Contact Information

To email staff members, type the 1st initial then the last name of the staff person@jwumc.org.
(dreding@jwumc.org)

Pastors

Rev. Jim Foster, Senior Pastor	x102
Rev. Pamela Jackson, Associate Pastor	x113
Rev. Matthew Smith, Associate Pastor	x103

Adult Ministries

Sue Highfield, Director of Adult Ministries	x104
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Youth Ministries

Katie Eichler, Director of Youth Ministries	x121
Eric Pugh, Director of Youth Ministries	x106

Children's Ministries

Bonnie Daily, Director of Parent's Night Out	x212
Amy Dewbre, Director of SACK Children's Summer Camp	x214
Jennifer Dietel, Child Development Program Receptionist	x200
Patty Hutchins, Director of Children's Ministries	x111
Patricia Johnson, Director of Nursery/Childcare	x210
Barb Lindsey, Director of Child Development Program	x202
Karen Muhl, Children's Ministries	x115
Shawn Thomas, Assistant Director of Child Development Program	x201

Music & Fine Arts Ministries & Fine Arts Academy

Cora Byers, Wedding Coordinator	281-370-2693
David Davis, Contemporary Worship Leader	x122
Jean Galloway, Director of Fine Arts Academy	x116
Phil Hooper, Director of Music & Fine Arts	x107
Judith Nelson, Pianist	
Marie Shelor, Sound Coordinator/Technician	
Lisa Trewin, Director of Children's Music Ministries	x127

Administrative Staff

Dorothy Adams, Administrative Assistant	x118
Rachel Atkins, Business Manager	x101
Denise Conley, Church Receptionist	x114
Monica Lester, Financial Administrative Assistant	x105
Debbie Reding, Director of Membership & Communication	x100
Julie Thompson, Administrative Assistant	x119



Jesus Comes!

May the light of love and
grace be in our hearts
this season and always!