

Covenant Church Newsletter
408 N Sacaton St, Suite k
Casa Grande, AZ 85122-4437
520-876-2888

www.covenantprescg.org email: office@covenantprescg.org

A Christ centered covenant community;

Loving God,
Loving people,
Making disciples

December 2020

Pastor's Ponderings

Every year, Christians *start* the year with the season of Advent. Yes, the Christian year, that is the calendar of seasons and holidays that annually tell of our faith, *starts* in December (and sometimes, as it does this year, on the last Sunday of November).

Advent is the first of a series of Christian seasons (called the liturgical calendar) that can be conveniently remembered by the acronym ACE LEAPT – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity (for the record, some traditions also have something called “ordinary time,” which is mostly the long stretch between Pentecost and Advent).

Well, back to Advent. The word itself comes from the Latin term "adventus" which means "arrival" or "coming." We are, of course, awaiting the coming of our King, which in itself is an exciting prospect, but the days prior, are generally marked with thoughtful and somber preparation. In this regard Advent is a little bit like Lent: we know a good thing is coming, but we do well to consider why, and to prepare our hearts in every way possible.

There are many ways to work through the four Sundays, four themes for focus on each of the successive days. Most of these include hope, peace, love, joy, faith, preparation. Some traditions, however, have other variations. For example, some traditions have the Prophecy Candle, the Bethlehem Candle, the Shepherds Candle, and the Angel Candle. The main point is that throughout the season of Advent we are considering various aspects of the story and its meaning.

As you are also no doubt aware, there are three different colors of candle featured in the Advent Wreath. Three of the candles are purple, as this was the color of royalty in the ancient world, and so represent Christ as King. But purple is also the color of prayer and penitence (which is why we see it also in association with Lent). One of the candles is pink, which of course stands out, and many people think it is to be lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent, as a kind of culmination. The truth, however, is that the pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word for “rejoice.” The pink candle represents rejoicing in the coming of Jesus, and is sometimes thought to be on the third Sunday as a special note of encouragement as the waiting grows long, and the nights grow

dark. Finally, the fifth candle in the Advent wreath is white, the Christ Candle, lit on Christmas Eve, and signifying the beauty, purity, love, hope, joy, and peace of Jesus Christ.

Many families have an Advent Wreath at home, and follow a series of readings and prayers in a time of family devotion. We had this tradition with our own children, and recently learned that our daughter is continuing this with her daughter as well!

May God be with us, each and every one, as together we walk through the darkness into the pure Light of Jesus Christ, preparing our hearts once more for his glorious coming!

In Christ,

Brant

Thank You Letter

Dear Covenant Presbyterian Church:

The Casa Grande Elementary School District has been the recipient of the ongoing support of programs, special projects and activities by individuals and various organizations. The involvement of concerned citizens and businesses that are supportive of the District's efforts is appreciated.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the 600 personal whiteboards with erasers, and 60 jump ropes you donated to McCartney Ranch Elementary School. Your donations are greatly appreciated. The Governing Board formally acknowledged your donation at its meeting held November 10, 2020.

Again, thank you for your continued support of the Casa Grande Elementary School District.

Sincerely,

JoEtta Gonzales, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Men's Bible Study

The Men of the church meet each Thursday at 11:30am, all men are welcome, and you can bring a sack lunch if you like. Wearing a mask is optional. If you would like to be part of the Bible study, please call Brant for more information (520-876- 2888 or 480-458-7628).

Neighborhood Help Team

The Neighborhood Help Team is continuing a service for those who could use a little bit of help. We would like to help you in replacing A/C filters or with some landscape trimming on the 4th Saturday of each month. Contact Nelson Moore in person or call him @ 520-483-0461.

December Calendar

- 6 Communion
- 9 Prayers at the flagpole, McCartney Ranch Elementary at 9:00am
- 9 Prayer Night, 6:30pm at Carol and Wiley's
- 10 Worship Team Meeting, 1:00pm
- 10 Session Meeting, 6:00pm
- 23 Prayer Night, 6:30pm at Carol and Wiley's
- 24 Christmas Eve Service, 7:00pm

December Birthdays

- 13 Rex Little

December Anniversaries

No anniversaries