



# December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> SS: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11:00 a.m.	<b>2</b> 6:30 p.m.: "Surviving the Holidays" program	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  Choir: 6:00 p.m.	<b>5</b> Lunch Bunch @ 11:30 @ Just Brew It	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> SS: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11:00 a.m.	<b>9</b>  Dinner Therapy: 6:00 p.m. @ Fred's	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  Choir: 6:00 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> SS: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Children's Christmas program	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> UMW: 10:00 am mtg 11:00 am: Soup Lunch	<b>18</b>  Choir: 6:00 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> SS: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11:00 a.m.  Grace Choir Cantata	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>Christmas Eve            Service – 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>Merry            Christmas!!</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> SS: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11:00 a.m.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  <b>New Year's Eve</b>				



**A**dvent, which marks the beginning of the church year, is “the first gleam of Christmas,” writes W.E. Sangster. “It heralds the entrance of the Divine into human history; it is heaven descending to earth; it is a great event casting its brilliance before it.” Sangster adds: “It is as though a trumpeter had taken his stand upon the turrets of time and announced the coming of the King. ‘Get ready,’ he seems to say. ‘Get ready. He is coming!’”

 *Welcome all wonders in one sight,  
Eternity shut in a span,  
Summer in winter, day in night,  
Heaven in earth, and God in man,  
Great little one,  
whose all-embracing birth  
Lifts earth to heaven,  
stoops heaven to earth.* 

—Richard Crashaw (1612-1649)

**H**olly was first used by pagans to decorate for the festival of Saturnalia. When Christians began celebrating Christmas in honor of Christ, they adapted that decorating practice to reflect Jesus’ life and death. Holly’s pointed leaves symbolize the crown of thorns and its red berries symbolize Christ’s blood shed on the cross. Because holly thrives and its berries retain their brilliance even in harsh winter conditions, non-Christians saw it as a symbol of eternity — which is fitting for Christians as well.



# Merry Christmas



*happy new year*