



Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church

The Pleasant News

Sunday Worship 10:00am
Bible Study 9:00am

Pastor Christine Fodrea

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December 2025

Pastoral Ponderings

We love music at our house- especially Christmas music. Ed played trumpet in the band. I played trombone. Neither of us have our instruments now, but we remember the resounding call of trumpets and the deep resonance of the trombone summoning our hearts to contemplate Jesus' birth.



I never thought the place I live in would be a place of violence and hate; However, we are now at that point. We want to live in peace. With Christ we can. When we repent, confess our sins, and believe in Christ, following His message of love and grace, we too can have peace. Not free from problems, but peace through the problems.

We are God's beloved children, immersed in His love. When God gave us His beloved son, he immersed us in His saving love. When He gave us His spirit, God immersed us in His love from within as the Holy Spirit reminds us when we listen.

During the season of Advent, everyone pretends to be happy. During the season of Advent, there are those with a happy face moaning in grief. It is OK to be unhappy during Advent. It is OK to mourn. The Lord is there for us. The Lord holds us and guides us. The Lord comforts us until we have the strength to feel OK again.

During Advent, I want to embrace the joy of the season. I want us to embrace the warmth of our church family. I want us to embrace Emmanuel. Emmanuel- God with us. Embracing HS Holy Spirit within us, embracing His love and grace on our lives, embracing His saving grace that bring us to Him in hope, joy, peace and love every day. Embracing our Savior.

The wise men sought the child King to worship Him. Wise men today still seek Him to worship and adore him. When we are wise we continue to seek His love and grace and mercy to strengthen us, to help us live our lives closer to Him and to give others as they need.

Christmas music takes us through Advent. People look East reminds us to look for Jesus with hope. It came upon a Midnight Clear settles our hearts with the peace Christ brings to us and our loved ones. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing; makes us want to dance with joy! We immerse ourselves in love as we remember the love the Shepherds gave as they came to see the newborn King. Finally, we embrace Christ's glory as we sing Gloria! In excelsis Deo!! Come and contemplate Christ's birth with us!

Why are there 4 Sundays in Advent?

Advent is not dependent on a certain number of days before Christmas. Advent is only dependent on the 4 Sundays preceding the Nativity of Christ (December 25).

Advent has a long history and somewhat varied history. Early celebrations of Advent included 40 days of fasting much like Lent. However, it soon evolved into 5 Sundays of preparation for the nativity. Pope Gregory the VII in the 11th century fixed the celebration to four Sundays. This was to remind us of the 40 days of preparation.

40 days has biblical symbolism linked to preparation and separation from our usual everyday routines to focus on our Lord and God.

The number 4 is often connected with God's creation of the world. On the fourth day, the material creation of the world was completed. On the 5th and 6th day, the finishing and peopling were completed.

The number four also alludes to the four corners of the earth, the four directions (N, S, E, W), and the 4 elements (earth, water, air and fire).

Advent stems from the Latin word Adventus meaning coming or arrival. So, the 4 Sundays of the coming or arrival are linked to the prophecies about and acts of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hope for the coming of a Messiah to save us from oppression and slavery. Peace for the calmness the Messiah would bring to each person's life because of the freedom from slavery and oppression. Joy for the Joy the Messiah would bring at the hope of eternal life. Love for the love the Messiah would teach us about and remind us to practice in our lives.

Christmas is the day we celebrate His birth— pure, innocent, and Holy.



Can you find: evergreen, ornaments, fireplace, gifts, ribbon, bow, rug, star, teddy, snowman, bear, dove, card, mitten, Santa hat, scarf, heart, peace, lollipop, snowflake, crescent moon.

Bring completed finds to Pastor for a special prize!

Announcements and Happenings

Thank you to those volunteering to be advent
Liturgists . Our services are brighter for your service.

December 13 Wreaths across America Service 1 PM

December 14 Reindeer Games and Carry in after services

December 21 7PM Longest Night- a Service of grief and
remembrance

December 24 8PM Christmas eve Candlelight.

UPCOMING SERMON TITLES

December 7 — Live in Peace
December 14 — Celebrate with Joy!
December 21—Immersed in Love
December 28— Wise men still seek Him

CHURCH FINANCES

Please continue to support our church. You may continue to
send your financial support to Mt. Pleasant UMC, c/o Jim Ros-
enbury, 4099 CR 59, Butler, IN 46721