

# STULL COMMUNITY of FAITH

## DECEMBER 2022 – NEWSLETTER

Church office phone: 785-887-6521  
In Person or Face Book Live Worship – Sunday 11:00 am

What is Advent?

The word Advent is from the Latin word, *adventus*, which means ‘coming’ and refers to the coming of someone very important to our world—JESUS. Advent comprises the four Sundays preceding Christmas Day. Advent was originally 40 days long and it represented the 4000 years of patiently waiting on the part of the Hebrew people for the promised Messiah. Christians celebrate the season of Advent as a time of preparation and reflection in anticipation of Christ’s coming to earth as a baby at Christmas. Advent is a season of prayer and is to symbolize the new and everlasting life brought thru Jesus to us. The Advent season invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time of parties and shopping to consider how we commemorate the birth of Jesus, one of the holiest times in Christian faith.

Traditionally, the Advent readings on the four Sundays are accompanied by the lighting of candles in an Advent wreath. This goes back to the Germany in the early 1800s.

The advent wreath is a symbol of the beginning of the church year with the circular shape represents the unending love Jesus shows us; for it has no beginning and no ending. The evergreen or green color of the wreath speaks of the hope we have in God. Green also provides us with hope of newness and/or renewal as evergreens remain green all year which shows God’s faithfulness.

The candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world thru the birth of His son. Jesus comes as that light. The candlelight also reminds us to be a light to others as we reflect God’s grace to them.

The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays we celebrate Advent. They also reflect the four centuries of waiting from the prophet Malachi to the birth of Jesus. The colors of the candles usually found in an Advent wreath are three purple, one pink, and one white. Purple is a royal color as in ancient times purple dye was costly and very rare. Jesus comes to us as the royal King. We light the purple candles the first, second, and fourth Sundays in our Advent journey. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday in our journey to symbolize joy. Jesus’ birth brought so much joy and continues to do that today. The angels were also sent by God specially to bring a huge message of joy. The center candle is white and is known as the Christ candle. It is traditionally lit on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Jesus comes to us as our pure and holy Savior. He is the light of the world.

We are excited to welcome Kyle and Sherri Scheideman to our church family in January. Kyle will begin as our full-time pastor on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. (See the attached letter)

Mar-Lan continues to amaze us with their progress on the restoration of the church. The Mar-Lan team and their contractors continue to be a pleasure to work with. New wiring has been completed, technology wiring is being put into place, new lighting accents our sanctuary and balcony, much of the wood trim has been re-varnished, and the alter area is getting an updated look. We have no timetable yet for when we will be able to return to worship in the sanctuary.

Please look for information with regards to a church campus open house, sometime after the first of the year.

We give thanks for the many folks who have helped to fill our church's pulpit over the past several months, including Amarais Towle, Harvesters Food Network, Amy Wintermantel, Topeka Rescue Mission, Greg Lee, Rob Harris, John Heckathorne, Jennifer Parson, Brennen Feeback, Wayne Castle, Ed Piepergerdes, and our congregation.

Special thanks to Worden Cornerstone Church as they have been instrumental in helping us through the many transitions and loads of questions over the past year.

Many thanks to those who have donated gently used clothing/coats to the Closet after the fire.

We have established a fire relief fund to help cover any costs we encounter that insurance does not. If you would like to donate to our fire fund, please make check out to: Stull Community of Faith, with fire relief in the memo line. C/O Mary Shultz, 462 N 1600 Road, Lawrence, KS 66049; or send to the Stull Community of Faith, 1596 E 250 Road, Lecompton, KS 66050.

#### **OFFERINGS:**

1. Place the offering on the collection plate that is currently on the table inside the door of the Faith & Friendship Center being used to enter for worship on Sundays.
2. Mail your check to the church (1596 E 250 RD, Lecompton, KS 66050) or to Mary Shultz, Financial Secretary, 462 N 1600 RD, Lawrence, KS 66049.
3. Contact either Jane Edmonds (785-224-3849) or Mary (785-331-7326) to request arrangements for a pick-up of your offering.
4. Contact your financial institution and direct them to send a check to the church (Use mailing address in item #2).
5. Use the "Pay Here" button on the church's Facebook page which is then paid through PayPal to the church.

Please make all checks payable to "STULL COMMUNITY OF FAITH."

Please remember that the IRS's basic rule is that a gift must be "delivered" to the church by December 31 for it to count as a contribution for this year. That means either physically received by the church by December 31 or if sent through the US Postal Service, postmarked by December 31.

**Prayers:** All those traveling over the holiday season, those with families in hospice care, those who have lost a loved one in the past year, those who are ill with a cold and/or the flu, Amanda Wray, Jim Jackson, the family of Bill Rice, the family of Gailand Kennedy, our Worship Team and their flexibility, Birgitte turning 16 years old, and Pastor Kyle, Sherri, and their families.

Receive the newsletter via e-mail and get news faster, give Carolyn a call at 925-0190 or email [cwulfkuhle@lpa-s.com](mailto:cwulfkuhle@lpa-s.com).

## CHURCH CALENDAR

- Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, 12-1pm      Harvesters Rural Mobile on the church campus to distribute perishable food items to anyone in need. First come, first serve. \*NOTE: this is a change from our normal 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday distribution.
- 6:30pm      Advent Small Group Study in the F&FC.
- Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 7-8:30pm      Community Cupboard and The Closet open in the F&FC for anyone in need of these services.
- Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, 11am      Message from Wayne Castle.
- Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, 7pm      Administrative Team Meeting held in the F&FC.
- Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm      Advent Small Group Study in the F&FC.
- Dec 11<sup>th</sup>, 11am      Message from Pastor Ed Piepergerdes.
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm      Advent Small Group Study in the F&FC
- Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30pm      Community Cupboard and The Closet open in the F&FC for anyone in need of these services.
- Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, 11am      Message from Wayne Castle.
- Dec 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 pm      Advent Small Group Study in the F&FC
- Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12-1pm      Harvesters Rural Mobil on the church campus to distribute perishable food items to anyone in need. First come, first served.
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, 6pm      Christmas Eve Service celebrated through scripture, songs, and candlelight.
- Dec 25<sup>th</sup>      Happy Birthday Jesus!!! We will not be having worship on this Sunday. We encourage you to spend time with family and friends.
- Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30pm      Community Cupboard and The Closet open in the F&FC for anyone in need of these services.
- Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, 11am      We welcome Kyle Scheideman to the pulpit as our new pastor.



1596 E 250 Rd  
Lecompton, Kansas 66050

Prepare for Christ's Coming.