



The Chino Valley Chimes

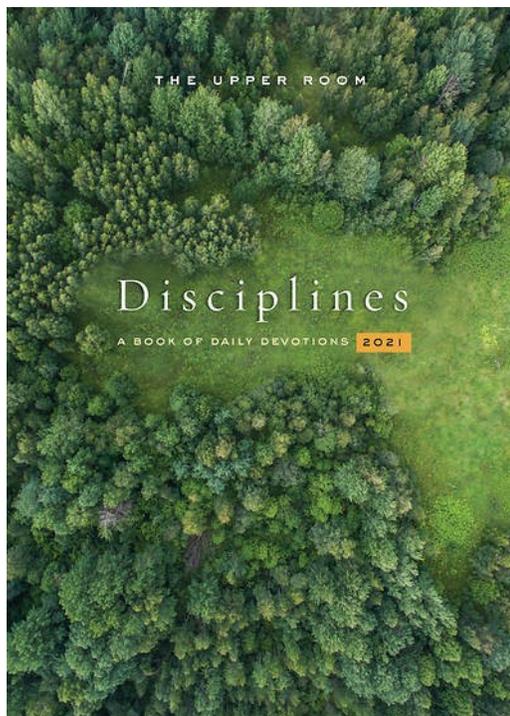
December 2020



2021 *Disciplines*

Happening this month:

Sunday Worship:
9:00am ~ Indoor Service
10:00am ~ On-line Service
11:00am ~ Indoor Service
Family Celebration Service
2nd Sunday- 4:00pm



We will be ordering the 2021 Disciplines in early December this year. This is a daily devotional, based on the Sunday readings for the week. For each day, there is a short reading and a commentary to help people understand the Scripture.

We will only order enough books for those who are interested. The cost will be \$11 plus shipping. It is also available on Kindle for \$8.50 plus tax.

Please let the office know not later than December 10 if you would like us to order a copy for you.

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A Winter Note about the Office

The weather will soon turn snowy and icy (we hope!). Our office staff may not always be able to be in the office by 8:00 am. (If the buses are on delay or cancelled, we are on delay or canceled.) Because of this, we make the following suggestions for your safety and protection.

If you are coming to the office before 10:00 am, call first to be sure someone is here and the office is open. (If the weather is really bad, call any time before you come in.) If you phone the office and do not get an answer, please leave a message. We will return the call as soon as possible.

From the Pastor



“Christmas, Christmas, time is here, time for laughter, time for cheer, we’ve been good but. we can’t wait, hurry Christmas don’t be late.” The Chipmunks. As a young child Christmas was that time of joy and cheer. We played that record over and over, and anticipated Christmas morning. Our family would be gathered and we celebrated Santa coming and the surprises that ensued! We had already experienced the pageant of the coming Christ at church and once again I was one of the burlap boys who were the shepherds. But now it was time to experience the fruits of being good. As an adult I now experience Christmas in a whole new light. As Paul said, I had to put aside “childish things.” Well, not all the way! I find it easy to navigate both the secular and the religious significance of this holiday time. What gets me going is Advent.

We know the outcome of the story, but I for one, am excited to be on my tip-toes peering into the future as the story of a coming King unfolds. Advent is a time of experiencing an active waiting. That means waiting with expectations of what we know will happen. At the same time opening myself to the unexpected that will surely happen. Like many of you my Halloween experience was shut down; Thanksgiving was a virtual experience; and I’m not sure how our family will celebrate Christmas. What I can say is my faith gives me patience and perseverance to live through these times knowing this too will pass. Still...“Hurry Christmas don’t be late, we’ve been good but we can’t wait.” Come, Lord Jesus!

In anticipation,
In Christ,

Pastor Bob



Blue Christmas
December 13th
2:00 pm

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities. We will be having a “Blue Christmas” worship service December 13th at 3:00 pm. If you are feeling “blue” or know someone who is please let them know of this service. Grace and Peace,

Pastor Bob

Notes from the Lay Leader



Well, here we are – another year almost over. So much has happened

and not happened and yet we have survived. Maybe not the way we would have wanted to have things turn out, but nonetheless, our resilience has pulled us through to another chapter in our lives.

We are coming into the season of Advent. A much-anticipated time when we, as Christians, prepare for the celebration commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, Christmas. I thought sharing a bit of history may enlighten you about the traditions of this season.

Advent Liturgy and Practice

To balance remembrance and anticipation, the first two Sundays in Advent look forward to Christ's second coming, and the last two Sundays look backward to remember Christ's first coming. Advent is intended to be a season of fasting, much like Lent, and there are a variety of ways that this time of mourning works itself out in the season. Reflection on the violence and evil in the world causes us to cry out to God to make things right—to put death's dark shadows to flight. Our exile in the present makes us look forward to our

future Exodus. And our own sinfulness and need for grace lead us to pray for the Holy Spirit to renew his work in conforming us into the image of Christ.

Advent Wreath and Candles

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death as the evergreen is continuously green. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible.

The most common Advent candle tradition involves four candles around the wreath. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-colored. Sometimes all the candles are red; in other traditions, all four candles are blue or white. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth. The (optional) fifth candle represents light and purity and is called "Christ's candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day.

The Four Weeks of Advent

The four Sundays of Advent each have a specific theme or focus. The purpose of each theme is to spend time reflecting on the true meaning of the season - the life of Jesus Christ. The goal should be to come before God with a sincere heart and to worship Jesus Christ.

Week 1: Hope (or promise)

The first candle symbolizes hope and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. Reference Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Week 2: Preparation (or waiting or prophecy)

The second candle represents faith and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David. Reference Isaiah 40:3-5.

Week 3: Joy (or peace)

The third candle symbolizes joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy. Reference Matthew 2:10-11.

Continued on page 5

Notes from the Certified Lay Minister



**More
information
on Social
Principles**

The Political Community

While our allegiance to God takes precedence over our allegiance to any state, we acknowledge the vital function of government as a principal vehicle for the ordering of society. Because we know ourselves to be responsible to God for social and political life, we declare the following relative to governments:

Basic Freedoms and Human Rights—We hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections and to the freedoms of speech, religion, assembly, communications media, and petition for redress of grievances without fear of reprisal.

Political Responsibility—The strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens. What does this say to us with elections coming up?

The World Community

God's world is one world. The unity now being thrust upon us by technological revolution has far outrun our moral and spiritual capacity to achieve a stable world. The enforced unity of humanity, increasingly evident on all levels of life, presents the Church as well as all people with problems that will not wait for answers. Those problems include: injustice, war, exploitation, privilege, population, international ecological crisis, proliferation of arsenals of nuclear weapons, development of transnational business organizations that operate beyond the effective control of any governmental structure, and the increase of tyranny in all of its forms. This generation must find viable answers to these and related questions if humanity is to continue on this earth.



**The earth is the
LORD's, & everything
in it, the world, & all
who live in it.**

P s a l m 2 4 : 1

Committees, Groups, etc.

Lay Leader continued

Week 4: Love (or adoration)

The fourth candle represents peace and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace-- He came to bring people close to God and to each other again. Reference John 3:16-19.

May you find peace, love, and joy in your life.

Have a blessed Christmas and look forward to a new year full of hope.

Merry Christmas My friends,
Sandy

Family Celebration Service December 13 4:00 pm

Greetings to all in the name of the coming, risen and ever present Christ, We are on our Advent Journey. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are not too far away. Our second Sunday of the Month Family Celebration Service will focus on the beloved carols of the season. As we are still constrained by the threat of the pandemic that surrounds us, unable to have the usual celebration dinners and parties that draw us together, it seems like a good idea to come together to enjoy the carols and hymns, and even some of the seasonal songs that lift up our spirits. We hope you will join us to celebrate the season. Joy to the Earth! Pastor Bob

Everyone likes a good deal. Especially when money can be saved. Did you know many organizations such as insurance, credit card, utilities i.e. power, telephone, cable, or internet offer promotions for being a long-time valued customer? Yes, these large companies keep and maintain customers through promotional activity. It is amazingly simple. Call the company. Let them know who you are and that you have been a customer in good standing for ____ years. Then ask the question: "Do you have any promotions that I may be eligible for at this time or in the future?" Sometimes a lower interest rate can be obtained, or sometimes your utilities can be lowered for a time. An example of recent promotions received by one of our parishioners is saving \$26.00 per month for four months on phone services. Another example is a decrease in annual insurance premium of \$83.00 for not driving as much. If you so choose, those savings can be passed onto our church. Just another avenue of stewardship. Start off the new year with something positive for you and our church.



Committees and Groups, etc.



Greeting from the Finance committee,

Just a few short announcements to keep the congregation current

on a few happenings:

First, partly because of Covid, we will not be having a formal stewardship campaign this fall. Instead, you will or may have all ready received a church mailing with a short stewardship letter, a pledge card and your end of October giving statement summary.

Please read them over and we hope you will submit your annual pledge card by Dec 6. With the receipt of the Federal CARES and our Church Conference grants, our church is doing well, even considering the additional expenses brought on by Covid. We appreciate your pledge, or if you don't pledge, we would like your giving to continue in order to stay financially healthy. Of course, any increase, say 5% would help us in other ways, especially with our growth, discipleship and Community outreach to name a few.

Second, if you pay Arizona State taxes, you can deduct up to \$200 dollars per person from that debt by giving directly to a number of schools and non-profit organizations. This allows you to choose where that amount of your state tax goes! We have the legal tax form for the Chino Valley School District available at the church. If you are interested, please contact us.

Health and Happiness to all,
Ray Benny



Men's Group will not meet until further notice. They are currently looking for a new leader. If you are interested, please call Bob Haslett or the church office.

MISSIONS

Another year nearly gone by; one faced with more than unusual circumstances.

But you, the church, when called upon, came through and provided help to our local community to ensure our mission of helping people was accomplished.

A highlight of some of our projects this year were the New Horizons Assisted Living in Chino Valley - their residents and staff in Chino Valley and Prescott Valley were excited to be recognized for their tireless work spent with those who cannot take care of themselves. Chino Valley Law Enforcement – your contributions were for essential equipment to help keep our officers safe. A joint effort with Prescott UMC and Prescott Valley UMC Shoes from the Shepherd Program - helping our church children and the Chino Valley Homeless Kids. Water for the Navajo Nation - part of the Desert SW Conference call for mission.

We may not know what 2021 brings, but know that we, are blessed and as “the church with a heart”, keeps on beating, providing support to continue as a beacon of hope for those who may be less fortunate.

Our Missions team, Mary Taken, Nancy Mitchell, Donna Norris, Joyce Wise, Meg Goodall, Jacqui Flanagan, and Sandy Jones wishes all of you a *very Merry Christmas and a blessed coming new year* - one filled with peace and hope.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



BIRTHDAYS

12/8 Lyall Miller
 12/18 Joani Rose
 12/19 Janet Bailey
 12/21 Geoffrey Lam
 12/29 Tony Botel

ANNIVERSARIES

12/20 Jean & Gary Henry
 12/26 Dave & Kathy West
 12/27 John & Ilona Dean

Scripture Readings from the Lectionary

December 6, Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13;
 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
 Sermon: "The Magic of Christmas"
 Matthew 1:18-25

December 13, Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
 Sermon: "Peace That Passes All Understanding"
 Luke 1:5-25, 26-38

December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55;
 Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
 Sermon: "Season of Hype"
 Isaiah 49:6-7

December 24, Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96;
 Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20
 Sermon: "Xmas Eve: the Hungering Dark"
 Isaiah 64:1-2, Luke 21:25-28

December 27, Christmas 1

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148;
 Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40
 Sermon: "By a Different Route"
 Matthew 2:2-12

Prayers are asked for..

In our thoughts and prayers this month: Our church & church family, Pastor Bob, our youth, President Trump, our country and its leaders, our military men & women, Chino Valley Police Department, Chino Valley Fire Department, those in nursing homes.

Home bound/Care Homes: Alma Holt, Bob Reese, Beth Vandenberg, Jack & Janis Heller, Jessica Benny, Janet Bailey, Barbara Starnes-Friesen. Church members: Pastor Mike Keffer, Terry Braner, Deedee McHenry-Soir, Ilona Dean, Dave West, Ernie Sanchez, Dan Flanigan. Friends & family of members: Merle Houston, Chris Everidge, Alice Herod, Caitlin, JoAnne Ledbetter, Marge & Don Mastin, Ernie.

If you would like a name added or deleted from the prayer list, please call the church office.

CHINO VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am—12 noon

*If you do not wish to receive this publication,
please contact the church office.*



Advent Wreath

life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or