

## ADVENT

Four weeks prior to Christmas many followers of Jesus look forward to advent; His coming. During this time, we wait and prepare for His return. We also use this period of time to remember and reflect upon the desire of the Jews for a Messiah as well as our own desire for forgiveness, salvation and hope.

One of the best known practices of Advent is the lighting of the candles in an Advent wreath. This wreath is typically a simple evergreen wreath with four candles placed in the circle and a single white candle in the center. The evergreen represents the hope of eternal life that comes through Christ and a reminder of the freshness of God's love and promises. The wreath is a reminder of the never-ending circle of God's love. The light of the candles reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the World, that His birth represented light into darkness, and that we are still called to reflect that light in our dark world.

"So as Christians observe the Advent season today, we do so in hope! True, gunmen and terrorists still stalk our world; hunger destroys the lives of hundreds of thousands; oppression, injustice, and corruption haunt us and poverty and disease threaten millions. But God has come among us in Jesus, and God is at work as the Holy Spirit who is bringing thousands daily to faith in Him. God is at work in His Church in mission, making a difference to millions of lives around the world. 'God is working His purpose out,' as one Advent hymn reminds us, 'as year succeeds to year.'" Arthur Campbell Ainger (1841-1919), 'God is Working His Purpose Out.'



It is hard to believe in a few short weeks we will once again be celebrating the birth of Jesus. But whether you believe it or not Christmas is coming and it will arrive sooner than we could ever imagine.

For many, the rush to Christmas can simply be overwhelming. If we are not careful, we can forget the reason for the season and fail to prepare for the Christ child.

This year I challenge you to:

Look to Jesus every day during Advent.  
 Slow down and not rush through this time.  
 Practice love and generosity.  
 Prepare for His birth in you and those around you.  
 Experience the joy He longs to give!  
 Wait on Him . . . He is coming!

Rev. Tim Crump  
 SWID Servant



## A NEW PASTOR COMING TO NASHVILLE PARKVIEW



The Nashville Parkview Church have selected Rev. Jason (Amanda) Riggle to be their new pastor beginning January 2019. Jason is previously on staff at Terre Haute First where he has served the past twelve years.

Rev. Stan & Brenda Loutner will be retiring the end of 2018 having served our Columbus First Church as well as Nashville Parkview. Thank you Pastor Stan & Brenda for your excellent leadership and ministry here on SWID!

Great days are ahead for this fine congregation!

## JASPER SEEING REVITALIZATION

Rev. Michael (Janice) Suits and the wonderful people of the Jasper Church are experiencing days of growth and revitalization. They have made a number of facility improvements including a new roof and repair of their parking lot. But even more significant is their focus on ministering to the people of their community. So thankful for the Suits and the people of Jasper!



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