

# The Stidham Story

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**December 2017**



## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE

We are entering into the Advent season. The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming”. This is a time of the church proclaiming the greatest miracle of all time, that God became a human being. We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas. Advent is the time leading up to that glorious celebration.

For this Advent season, I have chosen the theme of Coming Home as the basis for our worship services.

In our culture Christmas and thoughts of home go together. Our Christmas songs such as “I’ll Be Home For Christmas,” and “There’s No Place Like Home For The Holidays” are just two examples of this. We spend time connecting with people during this season.

At the core of coming home for Christmas is the yearning for something more in life. The scriptures used in Advent tell the story of how life is best in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Each week during this season we will unwrap Christmas presents that will lead our hearts, our lives, our families, our community, and our world a place for the ultimate homecoming of Jesus.

The First Sunday of Advent comes from Isaiah 64:1-9. The theme will be: Come Down Home. In this passage, the prophet tells of a time in the future where we will be coming home to God. The prophet is speaking of the longing in every human heart for family and a connection. Our worship service will be reflecting a longing for the coming of Jesus Christ. During this service we will be invited to long for Christ’s return.

The second Sunday of Advent comes from Psalm 85:1-2,8-13. The theme will be: Home Is Where We Meet. This Psalm speaks of our lives being a highway where intersections of God’s activity meet. We will be invited to attend the streets we cross. We might find surprises at each intersection.

The Third Sunday of Advent comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24. The theme for this Sunday is: Joy Is Our True home. Our invitation this Sunday will be to be joyful. How can we share God’s joy? While Christmas is a time of joy, there are those around us who find it very difficult to have joy at Christmas.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent comes from Luke 1:46-55. The theme for this Sunday will be: Home is where we share our life. This is the passage of Mary’s Magnificent. We will be invited to be courageous as Christ makes this world God’s home.

Our Christmas Eve service will be from Luke 2:1-20. The theme for this service will be God Making this World a home. This service will be telling the story of God making this world a home through Jesus. We will be invited to become a manager for Jesus.

I am looking forward to a wonderful Advent Season of Coming home with my Stidham Church family.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike



## **BELL RINGERS ARE NEEDED**

Once again Stidham UMC members and friends will be Ringing the Kettle Bells for the Salvation Army on Saturday December 23rd. This year we will not be ringing on Christmas Eve, Because it is a Salvation Army policy not to ring the bells on a Sunday.



This will be the sixteenth year we have helped The Salvation Army raise money for the less fortunate in the Lafayette area. In the past years, our kettles have brought in about \$3,00.00 on this day. This year we will again be responsible for the door at Sam's Club and both doors at the Walmart on Veterans' Memorial Parkway (CR350 S).

Please consider spending one hour on this day to improve the lives of our local citizens. All monies raise stay here in Tippecanoe County. This is a great activity for the entire family!! Sign-up sheets will be available in the Fellowship Hall during December. If you have any questions, please see Dave or Susie Webb at church or call them at 538-3590.

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### **POINSETTIA'S**

The Worship Committee has extended the date to Sunday December 10. If you want to order, please fill out the sign-up sheet on the table in Fellowship Hall with your name, who you are Honoring or In Memory Of. Fill out a pew envelope with your name, date, check #, or cash and write "Poinsettia" at the top of the envelope and put it in the offering plate. Thank you

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### **A THANK YOU NOTE**

Kevin and Kathy Fry and the local dentist appreciate your donations of the 31 bags of candy that was donated for the Light of The Night Halloween Party at West Point on October 31.

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### **Parent's Free Night**

Friday Night December 15, from 5:00-7:30pm there will be games, crafts and a movie for the children to give parent's a night to enjoy together. Invite your friends to come and enjoy all the activities here at Stidham!

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### **CAMP FOR KIDS**

A team is working on several projects be able to send children to camp in the summer. They are selling bracelets, key chains and etc. on Sunday mornings. See Tera Driscoll if questions. The children are an important part of our church!

## THINGS GOING ON IN THE CHURCH FOR DECEMBER 2017

Helping Hand Sunday December 3 Please mark the pew envelope (“Helping Hand”)

Holy Communion Sunday December 3

Yoga Stretch & Praise” Monday Mornings December 4,11,18 at 8:00am

Bible Study Monday Nights December 4,11,18, at 6:30pm

Choir Practice Wednesday Nights December 6,13,20,27 at 7:00pm

Lighthouse Prayer Group Thursday Mornings 7,14,21,28 at 10:00am

Parents Free Night– Friday December 15, 5:00-7:30pm

**PARSONAGE OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY DECEMBER 17, 3:00-5:00PM**  
**PLEASE SEE SIGN-UP SHEET ON TABLE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Ad Council Meeting Tuesday Night December 19, 7:00pm

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES SUNDAY DECEMBER 24, 8:00PM**

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## FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR GROCERY CART EACH MONTH

JANUARY– CASH DONATIONS

JULY– MACARONI AND CHEESE

FEBRUARY–CANNED MEAT OR TUNA

AUGUST–PAPER PRODUCTS

MARCH–SPAGHETTI SAUCE OR NOODLES  
(NO GLASS JARS)

SEPTEMBER–CASH DONATIONS

APRIL–PAPER PRODUCTS

OCTOBER– PEANUT BUTTER

MAY– CASH DONATIONS

NOVEMBER–SOUP & CRACKERS

JUNE–CANNED FRUIT

DECEMBER–OATMEAL OR CEREAL

# ADVENT

How do I say thank you? Thank you for those that participate in the Day of Thankful Prayer. Thank you for those who create the beautiful Prayer Quilts and then give me the opportunity to tie a knot of prayer for the well being of the recipient. Prayer is a deep and abiding way to love and be a sharing person. Thank you to my prayer partners that meet every Thursday. I ask all of you to keep the requests for prayer coming. It's free!

I thank the church for being open on Thursday mornings. The warmth is appreciated on those cold winter mornings. The air-conditioning is a plus we look forward to each summer. These comforts are not free! I thank you the providers, for your support.

The year is winding down. One last month in 2017. I think of the opportunities I have successfully completed and sadly the ones that have slipped through my fingers. I am eternal optimist. I will put each lost goal at the top of my list for the new year. I thank God for a next year. He gives me the hope of being productive in the coming months.

I am in the beginnings of Advent I welcome Jesus into my life again and again. I am so glad he keeps giving me one more time to become a better disciple. I contemplated on what my life would be without God's precious gift His Son the Christ Child. I fear everything would be colored in shades of gray and lots of black everywhere. Jesus gives me hope, love, mercy and forgiveness to guide me everyday. These goals come in beautiful shades of gold, blue, green and red. Without color its like days when the sun doesn't shine. I drag through each one in anticipation of sunshine tomorrow. Thank you God for each tomorrow.

I look forward to Christmas day now as I did as a child. There was and still is lots of activity in the sewing room and the kitchen. Lists are flying around by the cell phone.

Jonathan looked at one of the many catalogues that show up in the my mail box everyday. He circled many gift suggestions, then remembered "Grandma has a limit." So glad he remembered I enjoy the preparation each Christmas season and the day when family gathers at my house and we share fellowship in food and gifts. The Magi prepared us by showing us how to give gifts to those we hold so dear.

Many tales have been brought to us of good deeds throughout the ages, of miracles of acts of love and forgiveness. The master storytelling Charles Dickens brought us a character he named Scrooge. Through this tale we learn about the love, mercy, hope and forgiveness by following Scrooge and tiny Tim. The last words were "God bless us everyone."

The music of the season is a matter of choice. Some pieces I could hear only once and be happy. Others put a smile on my face, I remember Christmas happenings of the past. The hymns of the season warms my heart and I feel close to the first Christmas, long ago.

This time of year gives me the time to be sharing and caring. The bell ringers for the Salvation Army are to be praised for giving time at a cold and busy season. Lum supports a gift giving day for parents to select and wrap gifts for children that would be forgotten on Christmas day. Others of us have our own special way to support the less fortunate.

I begin my Advent time reading the prediction of the coming of Jesus Christ in Isaiah 7:13-17. I then turn to the first Chapter of Matthew and Luke 1 and 2, to reread the birth of Jesus Christ. As I read I reconsider my life and how I can become a better bearer of the way He wants me to live my faith.

Have a joyous December, Christmas Day and a special New Year.

Love and Prayers,

Betty Greene



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS 2017

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES 2017

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 7 Tim Driscol
- 13 Fern McDowell
- 16 Susie Webb
- 19 Pam DeVault
- Tera Driscol
- 22 David Joseph



- 7 Ray & Mary Lou Coogle

- 10 Dave & Arletta Brown



**PRAYER LIST**

Dear Heavenly Father,

We ask that you be with all that are on our prayer list, those who are going through health, issues, personal struggles, and other worries they may have. Let us show our faith and our love to one another each and every day. Amen



Marcy Helms and Family, Mariam Brown, Sue Whitehead, Kizer Family, Jim Withers, Lucy Keller, Darrell Wethington, Dennis & Carolyn Hockstra, Bonnie Watts, Naomi Weaver, Dale Dexter, Virginia Perkins, Bud Dillon, Don & Jan Plantenga, Pat Baugh, Al Cummins, George & Doris Carlton, sandy Kukman, Our Military and Our World Leaders and those who are prayed for silently.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

**How will I thank God for the gift of salvation?**

**Today I will give thanks for the many blessings God has given me.**

**When my life seems to be falling apart, Jesus can give me peace.**



Would appreciate January Newsletter articles to be in the office by Thursday December 26

THANK YOU