



## 2020 Advent Emilie UMC

*Please join us during the season of Advent as we prepare for the coming of Jesus by exploring Where We Belong.*

*The daily devotions in this booklet will also be posted on our Emilie UMC FaceBook page.*

**Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>** – First Sunday in Advent: HOPE

**Mission Focus:** Spread hope to children with new toys distributed through our Toys for Tots collection. Toys can be dropped off Sat. Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 10-11am, or during regular office hours M-F 9am-1pm, Thurs. Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 6-7pm, or Sat. Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 10-11am

**9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie UMC Face Book**

**9:30am – Call In Worship by phone (Call 215-945-5502 for details)**

**Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** – Second Sunday in Advent: FAITH

**Mission Focus:** Show an example of faith through small gifts to the children of Emilie Christian Day School, Head Start, and the Intermediate Unit. We are collecting boxes of crayons(new only), full size candy canes, packages of cookies, and card games for preschoolers (ie: go fish, uno, playing cards). Items can be dropped off:

Thurs. Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 6-7pm, Sat. Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 10-11am, or during regular office hours M-F, 9am-1pm

**9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie UMC Face Book**

**9:30am – Call In Worship by phone (Call 215-945-5502 for details)**

**5:00pm – Advent Family Night Event held on zoom, RSVP by**

**Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> for login/ call-in info and to arrange to pick up your family's craft kit**

Hang out with your Emilie family via zoom, create a nativity and sing Christmas carols. RSVP by Tuesday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> by calling the church office or via google form at Emilie UMC.com.

Family craft kit can be picked up Sat Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 10-11am, M-F 9am-1pm, Wed Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 6-7pm, or Sat Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 10-11am.

## ADVENT

**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** – Third Sunday in Advent: JOY  
**Mission Focus:** Spread joy by writing Christmas cards to shut-ins and other members of our Emilie family. Donations of stamps are greatly appreciated! Cards & stamps can be dropped off: Saturday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 10-11am, or during regular office hours M-F, 9am-1pm

**8:15am – Modified In-Person Worship (If Possible)**

**9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie UMC Face Book**

**9:30am – Call In Worship by phone (Call 215-945-5502 for details)**

**Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** – Fourth Sunday in Advent: PEACE

**Mission Focus:** Spread peace through the collection of nonperishable food items to feed the hungry.) Items can be dropped off: Saturday, Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 10-11am, or during regular office hours M-F, 9am-1pm

**8:15am – Modified In-Person Worship (If Possible)**

**9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie UMC Face Book**

**9:30am – Call In Worship by phone (Call 215-945-5502 for details)**

**Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Eve: Christ**

**5:00pm – Kid Focused Worship premieres on Emilie Face Book**

**7:00pm – Online Worship premieres on Emilie Face Book**

Grab a candle and join us for Christmas Eve Worship in the comfort and safety of your home.

**7:00pm – Modified In-Person Worship (If Possible)**

RSVP required: call the church office, or sign up online at <https://bookapew.com/app/pa/emilieumc>

**8:00pm – Call-In Worship Phone #: 1-929-205-6099**

**Meeting Code: 839 2612 4450 Passcode: 07300**

**9:00pm – Modified In-Person Worship (If Possible)**

RSVP required: call the church office, or sign up online at <https://bookapew.com/app/pa/emilieumc>

*EmilieUMC.com ~ 7300 New Falls Rd, Levittown, PA ~ 215-945-5502*

## ADVENT

Advent Devotions

## **Advent Sermon Series: Where We Belong**

Everyone may have a different definition of home and the places where we belong. Some people may find home not in physical spaces, but instead in belonging to a community that accepts us for the entirety of who God created us to be. Advent/Christmas are a sort of home coming. God found a new home among us in the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. God will find this home again in the second coming of Christ as we await that return. The dwelling places where we find Christ today can be in our mangers, surrounded by parents, shepherds, magi, and a variety of animals, as well as through the moves of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes those dwelling places can take us by surprise; sometimes those dwelling places can also be where we experience the most comfort and joy, where we truly belong in creation.

## **Preparing for Jesus – MANGER**

Throughout this advent season we will be preparing a manger for the coming of Jesus. You can make a manger from tongue depressors, use a basket, bowl or other similar container. Each day you will be instructed to write your prayer or offering to Jesus on a slip of yellow paper, or hay. As we approach Christmas, your “manger” will fill with hay. A video of the steps to create the manger will be found on Emilie’s Facebook page. You can also pick up a manger from the church.

## **Week One – HOPE**

**This week’s Mission focus: Sharing the Hope**

**Bring a new toy to worship to donate to a local child through Toys For Tots.** *Please pray that the children and the families receiving these gifts will know the hope of Jesus in their lives. Toys can be dropped off Sat. Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 10-11am, or during regular office hours M-F, 9am-1pm, Thurs. Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 6-7pm, or Sat. Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 10-11am*

## **ADVENT**

### **Day One – Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie UMC Face Book**  
**9:30am – Call In Worship by phone (Call 215-945-5502 for details)**

#### **Sermon: The End of the World As We Know It!**

Advent reveals that our endings and beginnings are different than God’s beginnings and endings.

#### **Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-4**

The prophet Isaiah calls for God to appear decisively, to "tear open the heavens" so the nations would tremble. He also confesses the need for such decisive intervention -- the utter sinfulness of humanity, even of those who are part of God's covenant.

Spend some time recalling the awesome deeds that the Lord has done for you. Write it on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Jesus, Show me where I need to confess so that I might prepare for your coming and be drawn into a closer relationship with you. Help me to recognize the works of your mighty hand. Amen.*

### **Day Two – Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Scripture: Isaiah 64:5-9**

The prophet changes metaphors -- from earthly catastrophe to remaking pots, begging God to be merciful when God comes. We find hope in being remade by God’s hand.

Is there someone you know who needs to hear words of hope? Write their name on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

Mail a card to them today.

*Prayer: You are the Potter, Lord, mold me into one who finds hope in you. Help me to spread your hope to those around me. Amen.*

## **ADVENT**

**Day Three – Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>****Scripture: Psalm 80:1-7**

The people cry out for restoration from the midst of exile. They know their hope comes from God.

Hope is needed in our world today. Pray for those who provide global leadership. Write your prayer on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Holy God, my hope is found in you. Bring restoration to me, my family, my church, my community, and to the world. Amen.*

**Day Four – Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>****Scripture: Psalm 80:17-19**

The people recognize that hope of life and salvation comes from God.

As we get ready to celebrate the coming of Jesus, we can get very busy. Take a ten minute break to be quiet. Ask God to help you bring calm and hope to your busy life. Write “I will rest in Jesus” on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Oh God, the author of my salvation, guide me in your ways. Lead me in your path and restore my soul. Amen.*

**Day Five – Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>****Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

In the midst of offering a greeting to the Christians in Corinth, Paul points to the end -- the coming Day of the Lord -- to call them to continue to grow and be faithful in using their spiritual gifts.

Use one of your spiritual gifts to do an act of kindness for someone else today. Pray that God brings hope through you. Write your gift on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for filling me with your Spirit. Grow me in your ways and help me to find hope in you always. Amen.*

**Day Six – Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>****Scripture: Mark 13:24-27**

Jesus give a description of the end and begins to admonish His followers to be ready.

Our family may live with us or may be far away. Think of one person in your family who needs to feel the hope of Jesus’ coming. Pray for that person today. Write their name on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Open my eyes, Jesus, so that I might see your truths. Enable me to live a life of readiness and hope. Amen.*

**Day Seven – Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>****Scripture: Mark 13:28-37**

Jesus gives clear instruction to always be on watch for the signs of our day to “come home”. He reiterates our need to be vigilant in our readiness.

There are people all around us who need to hear of God’s hope. Reach out to someone today through a visit, phone call, email, letter, or text. Share with them how they help you feel hope. Write how you feel hope on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Loving God, I come before you, seeking to see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly. Guide me in my effort to reach out to others so that they, too might live in your hope as we all prepare for your coming. Amen.*

## **Week Two – FAITH**

**Mission Focus:** *Show an example of faith through small gifts to the children of Emilie Christian Day School, Head Start, and the Intermediate Unit. We are collecting boxes of crayons(new only), full size candy canes, packages of cookies, and card games for preschoolers (ie: go fish, uno, playing cards) Items can be dropped off: Thurs. Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 6-7pm, Sat. Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 10-11am, or during regular office hours M-F 9am-1pm*

### **Day Eight – Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie UMC Face Book**  
**9:30am – Call In Worship by phone (Call 215-945-5502 for details)**

#### **Sermon: Where The Wild Things Are**

In the midst of wilderness places, God accompanies us home.

#### **Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11**

Three prophecies declare the hope of God's coming to rescue the exiles from captivity. In verses 1-4, a voice is to cry out "Prepare God's way" as a highway forms across the desert from Babylon to Judea. In verses 5-8, a second cry announces human ephemerality and the eternity of God's word. In verses 9- 11, whoever may still be keeping some sort of watch in Jerusalem, a city still in ruins, is called to declare from the highest height the victory of God bringing the exiles home and sustaining them.

Think of the times that God has rescued you. As you recall them, give praise to Him for delivering you. Write one on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: I kneel before you, Lord with a sense of peace, for you have delivered me time and time again. Praise your holy name! Amen.*

### **Day Nine – Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Scripture: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

A response of thanks and trust in God's deliverance.



## **ADVENT**

Advent Devotions

## **ADVENT**

Is there someone you know who needs to hear words of peace? Mail a card to them today. Write the words of peace on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Oh Prince of Peace. I trust in you for deliverance and thank you for sending your words of peace. Amen.*

### **Day Ten – Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Scripture: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

The coming fiery destruction or purification of the world as we know it means that we now, in the face of that, must strive for lives of holiness, making already now, in our midst, a place where righteousness is at home even, as we wait for new heavens and earth after that great conflagration.

Peace is something we need in our churches. Choose someone in your church family who needs to feel the peace that is found in Jesus. Pray for that person today. Write his or her name on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Oh Lord, at times we see the destruction all around us and struggle to rest in your peace. Still my heart so that I might be an instrument of your peace. Amen.*

### **Day Eleven – Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Scripture: Mark 1:1-8**

The gospel begins with the ministry of John the Baptizer, calling all to repentance and baptism for forgiveness to get ready for the kingdom of the one to come, the one who baptizes not simply with water, but with the Holy Spirit.

As we get ready to celebrate the coming of Jesus, we can get very busy. Take a ten minute break to be quiet. Ask God to help you bring calm and peace to your busy life. Write “Jesus bring me calm” on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Holy Spirit, enter into me. May my soul rest in your presence and find the peace of being yours. Amen.*

## Day Twelve – Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

**Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

The Spirit of the Lord anoints a prophet to bring good news to the oppressed, the brokenhearted, the captives, the prisoners, and the mourning -- good news that includes "the day of vengeance of our God." Why? None of these folks will get much good news in the current social order unless that order is destroyed. When that order is destroyed, rebuilding God's "ancient ruins" can begin. The prophet rejoices, clothed in the hope the good news brings.

There are people all around us who feel oppressed. Pray for a group of people who feel marginalized in today's society. Write their name on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Lord, help us as your church to preach the good news so that others might find peace and acceptance in you. Amen.*

## Day Thirteen – Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

**Scripture: Psalm 126**

A Psalm of Ascent, one of the Psalms sung by pilgrims as they made their way to the temple after it was rebuilt after the return from exile, as prophesied by Isaiah

Our family may live with us or may be far away. Think of one person in your family who needs to feel the peace of Jesus' coming. Pray for that person today. Write their name on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Father God, You rebuild my life with peace. Teach me how to be prepared for your coming. Amen.*

## Day Fourteen – Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

**Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24.**

Final greetings include a prayer that the people may now be and remain "sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (verse 23).

## ADVENT

There are people all around us who need to hear of God's peace. Reach out to someone today through a visit, phone call, email, letter, or text. Share with them how they help you feel peace. Write how they help you feel peace on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Jesus, thank you for our church and using us to be an instrument of your people. Continue to work through us to bring your everlasting peace that surpasses all understanding. Amen.*

## **Week Three – JOY**

**Mission Focus:** Spread joy by writing Christmas cards to shut-ins and other members of our Emilie family. Donations of stamps are greatly appreciated! Cards & stamps can be dropped off: Saturday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup> 10-11am, or during regular office hours M-F, 9am-1pm

Invite someone to Christmas Eve worship.

Details for Christmas Eve Services can be found online at EmilieUMC.com or calling the church office.

## Day Fifteen – Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

**8:15am – Modified In-Person Worship (If Possible)**

**9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie UMC Face Book**

**9:30am – Call In Worship by phone (Call 215-945-5502 for details)**

**Sermon: Homecoming**

God recognizes our wholeness and our brokenness when we cannot remember the places we call home.

**Scripture: John 1:6-8**

John was sent to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus.

Make a list of the things or people who make you joyful. Share them with someone. Write your joy filled things on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Loving Father, I find great joy in your coming. Help me to live a life that radically proclaims the joy I have in you. Amen.*

## Day Sixteen – Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

### *Scripture: John 1:19-28*

The witness of John the Baptizer concerning his own identity (not the Messiah, but the voice of one speaking in the wilderness) and so pointing to the reality that the one to come, the Messiah, would have an even more radical ministry than the baptizing prophet had introduced. "I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals" could be roughly paraphrased, "If you think I'm the Messiah or even claim to be, you ain't seen nothin' yet!"

Is there someone you know who needs to hear words of joy? Mail a card to them today. Write their name on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Holy Spirit, fill me with your joy so that I my words, actions and thoughts might testify for you. Amen.*

## Day Seventeen – Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

### *Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16*

Nathan brings good news and a reality check to David. The good news: God intends to establish David's lineage permanently, though conditionally. The reality: God has been present with God's people by being in their midst as they have traveled (the tabernacle, or in Christian theological terms, "incarnation"), so God has no need for David to build a temple.

Joy is something we need in our city. Think about different leaders of our city. Select one leader of our city. Pray for that leader today. Write their name on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: God, Thank you for the reality of your joy. May it radiate from me so that others see you. Amen.*

## Day Eighteen – Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

*Scripture: Luke 1:46b-55* The Song of Mary. If you don't hear and feel Mary pregnant with the end of this age and the hope for the coming one in this song, you're not listening or singing her song yet!

## ADVENT

As we get ready to celebrate the coming of Jesus, we can get very busy. Take a ten minute break to be quiet. Ask God to help you bring calm and joy to your busy life. Write "Jesus you are my calm" on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Prince of Peace, I rest in your presence and take comfort in your joy. Prepare me for your coming. Amen.*

## Day Nineteen – Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

### *Scripture: Psalm 89:1-4*

The psalmist praises God's steadfast love and recalls God's faithfulness evidenced in his covenant with David.

We are part of the covenant with David. Think of someone who helped teach you about the scriptures and the forefathers/mothers of our faith. Thank God for that person today. Write "thank you God for..." on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Jesus, I praise you for your faithfulness and steadfast love in my life and through the generations. Guide me to share your Word with others so that they might know the joy of living in you. Amen.*

## Day Twenty – Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

### *Scripture: Psalm 89: 19-26*

God's faithfulness is highlighted in the vision of his covenant with David.

Our family may live with us or may be far away. Think of one person in your family who needs to feel the joy of Jesus' coming. Pray for that person today. Write their name on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: You are coming. Lord! What a joyful thing! Amen.*

## ADVENT

## Day Twenty-one – Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

**Scripture: Romans 16:25-27**

A concluding doxology that enters the eternal praise of God for revealing the mystery of salvation intended for the whole world in Jesus Christ.

There are people all around us who need to hear of God's joy. Reach out to someone today through a visit, phone call, email, letter, or text. Share with them how they help you feel joy. Write how you feel God's joy on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Father God, I praise you that you loved me enough to send your Son Jesus so that I might have salvation. What a joyful reality. May the joy of my salvation in you show in all areas of my life. Amen.*

### **Week Four – PEACE**

**Mission Focus:** *Spread peace through the collection of nonperishable food items to feed the hungry.) Items can be dropped off: Saturday, Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 10-11am, or during regular office hours M-F, 9am-1pm*

#### **Did you invite someone to worship on Thursday?**

Invite someone to Christmas Eve worship.

Details for Christmas Eve Services can be found on the online at [EmilieUMC.com](http://EmilieUMC.com) or calling the church office.

## Day Twenty-two – Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

**8:15am – Modified In-Person Worship\***

**9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie UMC Face Book**

**9:30am – Call In Worship by phone (Call 215-945-5502 for details)**

#### **Sermon: Pitching The Tent**

Humanity can try to build a house for God, but God finds creative ways to dwell with humanity.

**Scripture: Luke 1:26-38** The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will become pregnant by God and bear the Son of the Most High whose throne will be eternal. She consents. Do we?

## **ADVENT**

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## **ADVENT**

For God so loved us that He sent His one and only son so that we might have eternal life. What a loving truth. Our response to Jesus' coming should be to give our lives to Him. Sing a song of praise to God for His love. Write a phrase from the song on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: I am filled with great love from you, Lord. Thank you for loving me so greatly. I submit my life to you. Amen.*

## Day Twenty-three – Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

**Scripture: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

The coming fiery destruction or purification of the world as we know it means that we now, in the face of that, must strive for lives of holiness, making already now, in our midst, a place where righteousness is at home even, as we wait for new heavens and earth after that great conflagration.

Peace is something we need in our churches. Choose someone in your church family who needs to feel the peace that is found in Jesus. Pray for that person today. Write how you feel the peace of Jesus on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Oh Lord, at times we see the destruction all around us and struggle to rest in your peace. Still my heart so that I might be an instrument of your peace. Amen.*

## Day Twenty-four – Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Scripture: Titus 2:11-14**

Jesus came to bring salvation to all. While we are awaiting his return we are eager to do what is good.

Choose an action that does good for the kingdom of God and do it. Write it on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Jesus, you are the one who saves me. Fill me up with an eagerness to spread your word and do good for you. Amen.*

## Day Twenty-five – Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

### *Scripture: Titus 3:4-7*

The Holy Spirit brings us peace that comes to us through our rebirth as Jesus' followers. This is not a result of our good works, rather it is a merciful gift from God.

Take some time in prayer to remind yourself that you are God's heir. Write "I am a member of God's family" on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Holy Spirit, thank you for descending upon me. I am grateful to be a member of God's family. Amen.*

## **Christmas Eve – Christ**

### Day twenty-six – Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

#### **Christmas Eve: Christ**

**5:00pm – Kid Focused Worship premieres on Emilie Face Book**

**7:00pm – Online Worship premieres on Emilie Face Book**

Grab a candle and join us for Christmas Eve Worship in the comfort and safety of your home.

**7:00pm – Modified In-Person Worship (If Possible)**

RSVP required: call the church office, or sign up online at <https://bookapew.com/app/pa/emilieumc>

**8:00pm – Call-In Worship** Phone #: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting Code: 839 2612 4450 Passcode: 07300

**7:00pm – Modified In-Person Worship (If Possible)**

RSVP required: call the church office, or sign up online at <https://bookapew.com/app/pa/emilieumc>

#### **Sermon: The Gift of Fragility**

What is our calling in response to God's embodiment in such powerful fragility?

### *Scripture Reading: Luke 2:6-7*

## **ADVENT**

Sounds so simple. Yet the complex miracle of Jesus' birth was foretold centuries before and would save the world. Immanuel, God with Us, was born as a baby to pay the price for our sins. Such a remarkable act of love from our Savior. Praise be to God for his indescribable gift!

Take time today to thank Jesus for coming to be with us so we can know him personally. Write "Happy Birthday, Jesus" on a yellow slip of paper and add it to your manger.

*Prayer: Lord, thank You for coming to us, that we might be able to live with you forever. You are the best gift of all! Amen.*

## **Day Twenty-seven – Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Merry Christmas!**

### *Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20*

Surely all the shepherds had seen babies before. So why leave their sheep to find this particular baby? Because the angel had told them, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." So they found Him. Have you? Share the news!

As you add Jesus to your manger, remember that you are adding him to your life. Come, Lord Jesus!

*Prayer: Lord, thank You that You are available to all who will seek You. I am grateful that I found you. Amen.*

