



2021 Advent Emilie UMC

Please join us with joy and anticipation during this season of Advent as we prepare for the coming of Jesus by exploring the wonder of his boundless presence.

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

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

Sunday, November 28th – First Sunday in Advent: LOVE

Mission Focus: Spread Jesus' boundless love to children with new toys distributed through our Toys for Tots collection. Toys can be brought to worship or delivered to the church office during normal business hours Mon – Fri, 9am – 1pm, until Wednesday, Dec 8th.

9:00am – Sunday Morning Clubs for all ages

9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie Facebook page

10:00am – In Person Worship at Emilie UMC

No evening activities at Emilie UMC

Sunday, December 5th – Second Sunday in Advent: JOY

Mission Focus: Spread the boundless joy found in Jesus to the children connected to Emilie through the schools that use our building, with a collection of full-size candy canes, individually wrapped candy, and small store bought tins of cookies.

9:00am – Sunday Morning Clubs for all ages

9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie Facebook page

10:00am – In Person Worship at Emilie UMC

5:30pm – Advent Family Night (Emilie UMC Social Hall)

Join us for an evening of eating cookies, crafting, and singing carols.

ADVENT

Sunday, December 12th – Third Sunday in Advent: PEACE
Mission Focus: Spread Jesus' boundless peace by writing Christmas cards (some available in the Narthex) to shut-ins and other members of our Emilie family. Donations of stamps are greatly appreciated!

9:00am – Sunday Morning Clubs for all ages

9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie Facebook page

10:00am – In Person Worship at Emilie UMC

5:30pm – Service Club

All ages are invited to join us for a night of caroling at the homes of some of our Emilie family.

Sunday, December 19th – Fourth Sunday in Advent: HOPE

Mission Focus: Bring the boundless hope found in Jesus through the collection of nonperishable food items to feed the hungry.

9:00am – Sunday Morning Clubs for all ages

9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie Facebook page

10:00am – In Person Worship at Emilie UMC

5:00pm – God Squad Christmas Party: grades 2-5

5:00pm – Youth Group Christmas Party: grades 6-12

Friday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

5:00pm – Kid Focused Worship

Battery powered tea lights are used in place of candles.

7:00pm – Candlelight Worship

Our Sanctuary Choir and Bell Choir will help lead us in worship during this candlelight service.

7:00pm – Online Worship premieres on Emilie Facebook

Sunday, December 26th

Online & Call-in Worship ONLY (No Sunday Morning Clubs or in person worship)

9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie Facebook

9:30am – Call-in Worship

Call: 1-646-558-8656 ID: 886 7178 0664 Passcode: 732620

Advent Sermon Series: Boundless

This advent series focuses on the second readings of each lectionary week as framed by the traditional New Testament readings found in the gospel of Luke. The thread throughout the epistle passages offer us a fresh encounter with the familiar themes of joy and anticipation. In a culture saturated with the pursuit of material abundance, especially during this season, this series offers space to consider how we might recover the sense of wonder of God's boundless presence as love, joy, peace, hope, spirit, and life, even as we rehearse once more that anticipation and longing for God's entrance into the world.



Week One – LOVE

This week's mission focus: Sharing the Boundless Love of Jesus
Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to a local child through Toys For Tots. Spread Jesus' boundless love to children with new toys distributed through our Toys for Tots collection. Toys can be brought to worship or delivered to the church office during normal business hours Mon – Fri, 9am – 1pm, until Wednesday, Dec 8th. Please pray for the children and families receiving the gifts and that they might feel the boundless love of Jesus.

ADVENT

Advent Devotions

ADVENT

Day One – Sunday, November 28th

9:00am – Sunday Morning Clubs for all ages

9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie Facebook page

10:00am – In Person Worship at Emilie UMC

No evening activities at Emilie UMC

Sermon: Boundless Love

We practice looking to what seems small, because these are expressions of the boundlessness of God's love.

Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The prophet Jeremiah brings the message of God's love coming down to fulfill His promise to his people. As we begin this Advent season of preparation, may we seek out the small expressions of God's love. Make note of them and share them with someone. The practice of recognizing God's love will help prepare our hearts to witness the boundlessness of the miracle of Jesus' coming.

Prayer: Jesus, you are my Lord, my righteous Savior. Help prepare my heart to experience and spread your boundless love this Advent season. Amen.

Day Two – Monday, November 29th

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

As we seek out expressions of God's love, it helps us to be familiar with what love is. To further understand what God's love is like, we look to the apostle Paul's letter to the church at Corinth. Given this context, do you have a sense of wonder at the scope of God's love? It's truly amazing, isn't it?!

Prayer: You are amazing, Jesus. Open my heart and mind so that I might have a greater understanding of your love. I eagerly anticipate your return. Help me to spread your love during the waiting. Amen.

Day Three – Tuesday, November 30th**Scripture: Psalm 25:1-4**

King David reaches out to the Lord in this poem. In doing so, he reminds us that our hope is found in God. We can trust in God. We should follow David's example and ask Jesus to show us his ways and teach us his path. What a great way to spend the season of Advent.

Prayer: Oh Lord, I come to you this advent season, asking you to show me your ways. Teach me your path so that I might experience your great love and spread it to those around me. Amen.

Day Four – Wednesday, December 1st**Scripture: Psalm 25:5-10**

King David continues his plea to God for instruction in God's ways as well as forgiveness from his sins. Through God's great love, we have been gifted forgiveness. Take some time today to be silent and reflect on the forgiveness you have found in Jesus. What an amazing love he has for us. Praise the Lord!

Prayer: Oh God, thank you for your amazing gift of forgiveness. Your love knows no end. Help me to love as a forgiven child of yours, full of love and anticipation for your return. Amen.

Day Five – Thursday, December 2nd**Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

Who has helped encourage you and shown you God's love? Pray for that person today. Praise God for them and their influence. Ask God to strengthen their heart as well as your own so that love may grow by leaps and bounds this advent season.

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for the people you've placed in my life that have shown me your love. Bless them. Encourage them. Strengthen them. Please use me to further your kingdom and spread your love to others. Amen.

Day Six – Friday, December 3rd**Scripture: Luke 21:25-28**

Jesus shares with us that there will be signs pointing to his return. He challenges us to stand up and lift our heads because redemption is near. We take time during the advent season to open our eyes to the truths of God. We want to stay ready, as Jesus instructs us to do. We will stay ready by seeking the Lord, experiencing his love, and spreading it to others.

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

Day Seven – Saturday, December 4th**Scripture: Luke 21:29-36**

Jesus uses the parable of the fig tree to instruct us to always be on watch for the signs of the coming of God's kingdom. He reiterates our need to be vigilant in our readiness and preparation of our hearts.

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 love as we all prepare for your coming. Amen.



Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

¹⁵“In those days and at that time

I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land.

¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it will be called:

The LORD Our Righteous Savior.”

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails.

Psalms 25:1-10

¹In you, LORD my God, I put my trust.

²I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

⁴Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths.

⁵Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

⁶Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good.

⁸Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, he instructs sinners in his ways.

⁹He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

¹⁰All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹²May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Luke 21:25-36

²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. ³¹Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³²“Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

Week Two – JOY

Mission Focus: *Spread the boundless joy found in Jesus to the children connected to Emilie through the schools that use our building, with a collection of full-size candy canes, individually wrapped candy, and small store-bought tins of cookies.*



Day Eight – Sunday, December 5th

9:00am – Sunday Morning Clubs for all ages

9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie Facebook page

10:00am – In Person Worship at Emilie UMC

5:30pm – Advent Family Night (Emilie UMC Social Hall)

Join us for an evening of eating cookies, crafting, and singing carols.

Sermon: Boundless Joy

We practice joy by expectantly making space for the way it can surprise us.

Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4

Malachi was the last of the prophets of the Old Testament. Not only did God use him to speak of the urgent need for the people to turn back toward God, but he also spoke of the coming of the Messiah. This was incredible news to a broken world. God would send a messenger first, and then the Messiah would appear. Are our hearts open to the joy that comes when we believe the prophecy spoken by Malachi and fulfilled by our Savior?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I come before you, full of joy and wonder at the message of Malachi. Help me to be filled with an extra portion of your joy this season of Advent as I prepare for the coming of Jesus. Amen.

ADVENT

Advent Devotions

ADVENT

Day Nine – Monday, December 6th

Scripture: Luke 1:68-75

When John the Baptist was born to Elizabeth, Zachariah confirmed that John should be their baby's name. At this moment, Zachariah's voice returned and he began praising God. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to prophecy foretelling the actions the Lord would take for his people. Take a moment to reflect on what actions the Lord has taken in your life. Then give praise to God with great joy for all that he has done and continues to do for you.

Prayer: Holy God, I rejoice in you for my deliverance and the boundless ways that you fill my life. Your mighty hand is upon me and continues to fill me with wonder and awe. I will lift my voice in praise of you. You are amazing! Amen.

Day Ten – Tuesday, December 7th

Scripture: Luke 1:75-79

When the people heard about Zachariah's story, they marveled and wondered about the future of the baby, John. They marveled and said that surely the hand of the Lord was upon John in a special way. In Zachariah's prophecy, he foretold of the special role that John would play in preparing the people for the coming of the Messiah. Are you sharing the good news about the coming of Jesus with others? We should take time this advent season to share the joy with others. Think of someone with whom you could tell the Good News of Jesus to. Pray for them.

Prayer: Oh Lord, help me to be your instrument. I want to be like John and share the joy I have found in you. Fill me with the words and an opportunity to talk to ----- about you. Thank you, Jesus! Amen.



Day Eleven – Wednesday, December 8th

Scripture: Luke 3:1-3

Just as had been prophesied, the Word of the Lord came to John. He preached to the people, sharing the need of baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. We need the Lord and it is great that we can trust him to keep his promises. Praise be to God for his faithfulness.

Prayer: Holy God, thank you for being steadfast and trustworthy. We praise you for your faithfulness. Help me to know your word better so that I can find comfort and joy in your promises. Amen.

Day Twelve – Thursday, December 9th

Scripture: Luke 3:4-6

The prophet Isaiah had foretold of John the Baptist, coming to prepare the way for Jesus, our Savior. We can be filled with joy due to the messages of Isaiah and John. God used them to point to the coming of Jesus and the opportunity for us to see God's salvation. Now that is news that points to the boundless joy found in God.

Prayer: Lord, the news of salvation found in Jesus is something to shout about. Restore unto me the joy of my salvation and renew a right spirit within me. Amen.

Day Thirteen – Friday, December 10th

Scripture: Philippians 1:3-8

We should pray for joy for those who are on this walk with us. It is great that God gives us brothers and sisters in Christ to partner with in ministry. Let us go before God, rejoicing for the gift of them in our lives.

Prayer: Father God, Thank you so much for the gift of our brothers and sisters whom walk in ministry with us. We rejoice for them and how they enrich our lives. Help us all grow closer to you.. Amen.

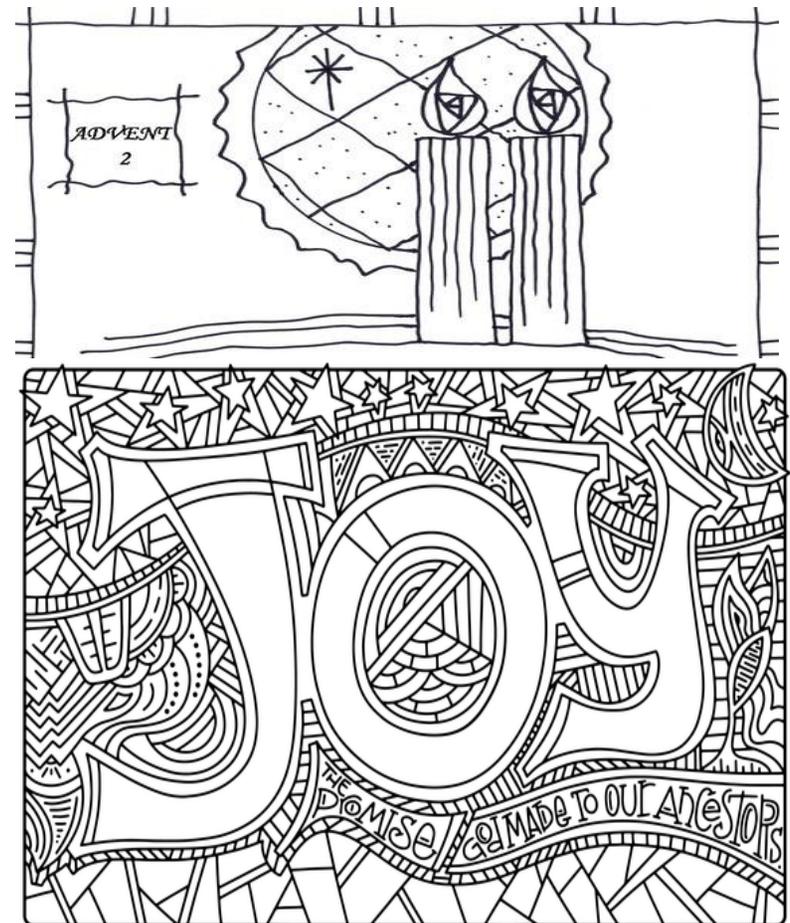
ADVENT

Day Fourteen – Saturday, December 11th

Scripture: Philippians 1:9-11

Today we want to pray our scripture, with joy, for those who join us in eager anticipation of Christ's return this Advent season:

Prayer: Jesus, we pray that our love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that we may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. Amen.



ADVENT

Advent Devotions

Malachi 3:1-4

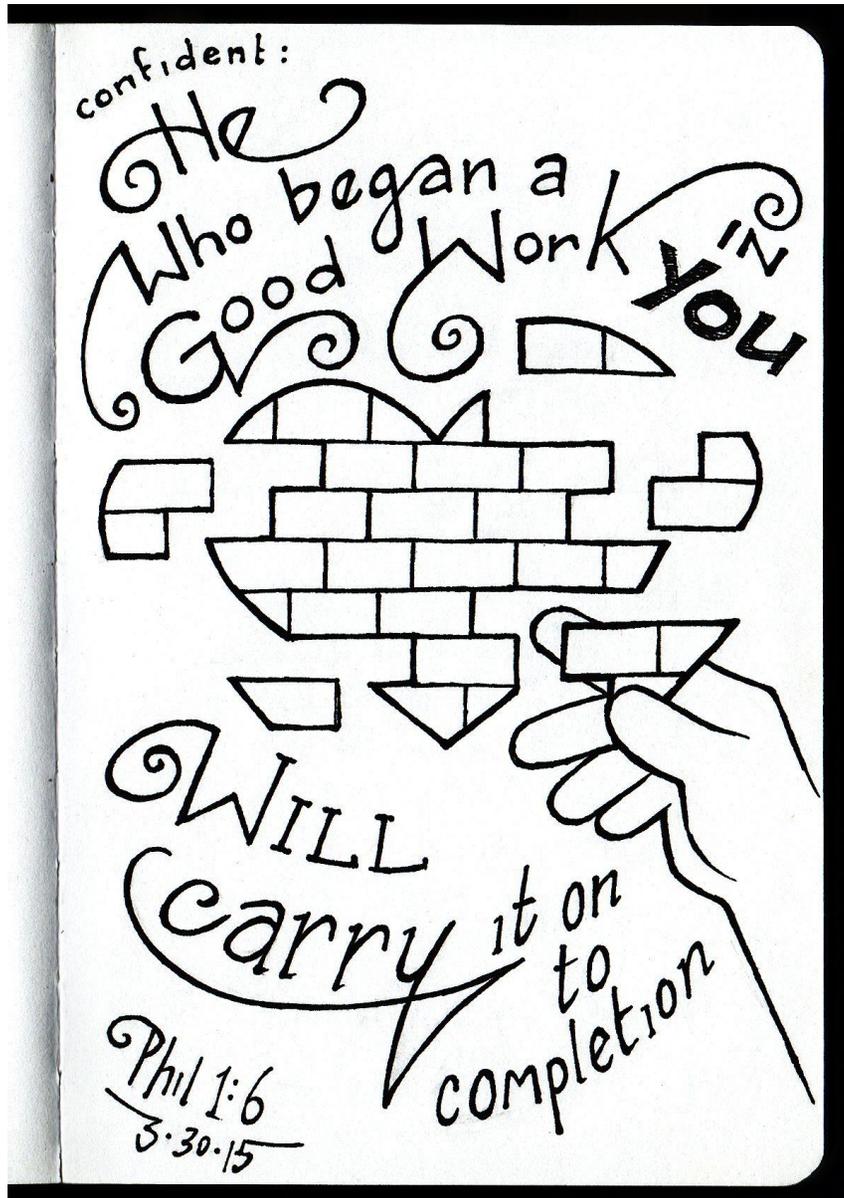
3 “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. **3** He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, **4** and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

Luke 1:68-79

68 “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.
69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David
70 (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
71 salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—
72 to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant,
73 the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
74 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,
77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,
78 because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
79 to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”





ADVENT

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

⁶ And all people will see God’s salvation.”

Philippians 1:3-11

Thanksgiving and Prayer

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Week Three – PEACE

Mission Focus: Spread Jesus' boundless peace by writing Christmas cards (some available in the Narthex) to shut-ins and other members of our Emilie family. Donations of stamps are greatly appreciated!



Please consider inviting someone to Christmas Eve worship. Details for our Christmas Eve Services can be found in this devotional booklet, the Sunday bulletin, online at EmilieUMC.com, or by calling the church office.

Day Fifteen – Sunday, December 12th

9:00am – Sunday Morning Clubs for all ages

9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie Facebook page

10:00am – In Person Worship at Emilie UMC

5:30pm – Service Club

All ages are invited to join us for a night of caroling at the homes of some of our Emilie family.

Sermon: Boundless Peace

We become peacemakers by orienting ourselves toward others.

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7

Last week we focused on joy. And what does that joy produce? Peace. True peace. The kind that surpasses all understanding. How wonderful is it that the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds!

Prayer: Prince of Peace, we thank you with all that is within us for your boundless peace. May our hearts and minds be set on you. Amen.

ADVENT

Day Sixteen – Monday, December 13th

Scripture: Luke 3:3-11

John admonished the people who came to him, warning them that they needed to produce fruit in keeping with repentance. If you need a reminder of the fruit of the Spirit, please refer to Galatians 5:22-23. The people asked John, what they should do. And the response to share with your neighbor. That is how we respond to the love of Jesus, by loving our neighbors.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, fill me with the fruit of the Spirit so that I might be able to follow the example of Jesus and love my neighbor. Amen.

Day Seventeen – Tuesday, December 14th

Scripture: Luke 3:12-18

The people listening to the word of the Lord as proclaimed through the prophet, John the Baptist continued to ask what they should do. He told them to orient themselves towards others. They should look to Jesus, who is coming to save us. We should do likewise.

Prayer: Oh God, help me to become a peacemaker by orienting myself towards others. May your Spirit open me up to loving my neighbor as Jesus teaches. Thank you for sending him to guide me. Amen.

Day Eighteen – Wednesday, December 15th

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-15

The minor prophet Zephaniah was sent to the people to provide warnings about upcoming destruction. He told them that it's not too late to turn back to God and proclaimed the coming of the Messiah. In the midst of trouble around us, we too, need to take notice of the peace that come from Jesus, our Messiah.

Prayer: Prince of Peace, I rest in your presence and take comfort in you. In the midst of the turmoil surrounding me, help me to prepare for your coming and feel your peace. Amen.

Day Nineteen – Thursday, December 16th

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:16-19

When Jesus comes, he brings us peace. We are granted relief from fear, burdens, oppression, and exile. Through Jesus we experience salvation, joy, praise, and honor.

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 peace of living in you. Amen.

Day Twenty – Friday, December 17th

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:20

During the season of advent, we eagerly anticipate the coming of our Savior, Jesus. And why wouldn't we? God tells us that at that time we will be gathered up. God will bring us home. We will be given honor and praise. All because of our Savior Jesus. Praise God!

Prayer: You are coming. Lord! What an amazing fact! Help us to live so that others may know the truth of you. Amen.



Day Twenty-one – Saturday, December 18th

Scripture: Isaiah 12:2-6

The previous chapter in Isaiah tells of a new branch coming from the family of David. This new shoot will usher in great peace, the kind where lion will lie with lamb. Today's scripture tells us how we respond to that new branch and the peace he brings. And how do we respond to that life altering, boundless peace brought to us through Jesus? With great joy!

Prayer: Father God, Wow! You have done amazing things I can't help but shout in great joy in response to the peace you usher into my life. I proclaim your name and shout for the nations to hear of your goodness I love you, Jesus. Amen.



Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24th

5:00pm – Kid Focused Worship

Battery powered tea lights are used in place of candles.

7:00pm – Candlelight Worship

Our Sanctuary Choir and Bell Choir will help lead us in worship during this candlelight service.

7:00pm – Online Worship premieres on Emilie Facebook

Philippians 4:4-7**Final Exhortations**

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.

¹¹ John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”

¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?”

¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them.

¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy.

The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.

¹⁶ On that day

they will say to Jerusalem,

“Do not fear, Zion;

do not let your hands hang limp.

¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves.

He will take great delight in you;

in his love he will no longer rebuke you,

but will rejoice over you with singing.” ¹⁸ “I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you.

¹⁹ At that time I will deal

with all who oppressed you.

I will rescue the lame;

I will gather the exiles.

I will give them praise and honor

in every land where they have suffered shame.

²⁰ At that time I will gather you;

at that time I will bring you home.

I will give you honor and praise

among all the peoples of the earth

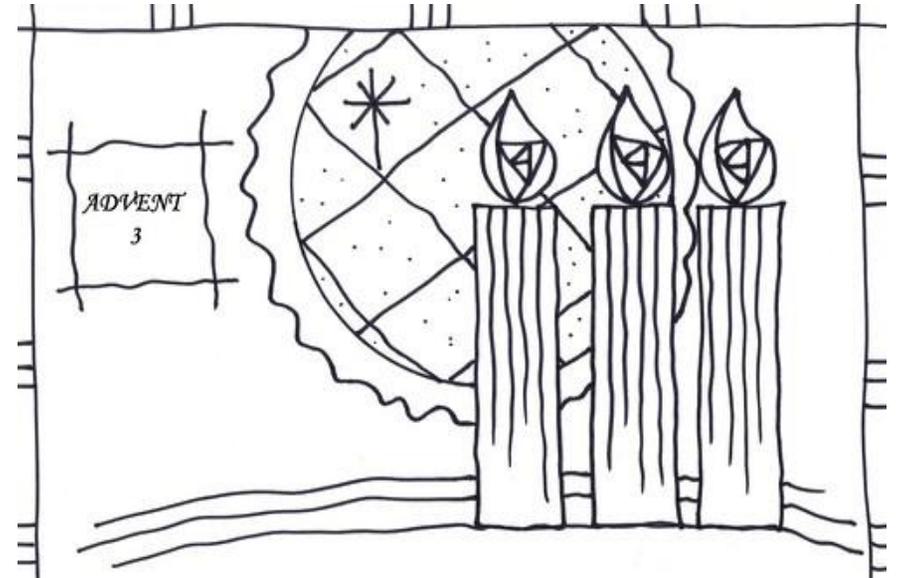
when I restore your fortunes

before your very eyes,”

says the LORD.

Isaiah 12:2-6

- ² Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and not be afraid.
The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.”
- ³ With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.
- ⁴ In that day you will say:
“Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done,
and proclaim that his name is exalted.
- ⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;
let this be known to all the world.
- ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”



Week Four – HOPE

Mission Focus: *Bring the boundless hope found in Jesus through the collection of nonperishable food items to feed the hungry.*

Did you invite someone to worship on Friday?

Details for our Christmas Eve Services can be found in this devotional booklet, the Sunday bulletin, online at EmilieUMC.com, or by calling the church office.



Day Twenty-two – Sunday, December 19th

9:00am – Sunday Morning Clubs for all ages

9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie Facebook page

10:00am – In Person Worship at Emilie UMC

5:00pm – God Squad Christmas Party: grades 2-5

5:00pm – Youth Group Christmas Party: grades 6-12

Sermon: Boundless Hope

We practice hope by seeing the world upside down.

Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah foretold of a time when a woman would bear a son who would shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord. The Savior will usher in a time with security and peace. When Mary gave birth to the Savior of the world, Jesus, this prophecy was brought to fruition. We get to claim the hope that comes from Jesus. Praise God!

Prayer: Jesus, you are my good shepherd and I find great hope in being part of your flock. I submit my life to you. Amen.

ADVENT

Day Twenty-three – Monday, December 20th

Scripture: Hebrews 10:5-10

As Christmas approaches, we buy gifts for others. So, what does the Lord want from us? He wants us to do his will. Jesus wants us to accept his free gift of salvation and become his followers. Let us spend some time reflecting on the will of God in our lives and move in that direction.

Prayer: Oh Lord, thank you for your gift of salvation. We accept your sacrifice. May we see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly. Amen.

Day Twenty-four – Tuesday, December 21st

Scripture: Titus Luke 1:39-45

When Mary visited Elizabeth, the baby in her womb leaped for joy and she was filled with the Holy Spirit. May we also jump for joy and shout out the blessings of God in response to Jesus. Blessed are all who believes in Jesus!

Prayer: Jesus, you are the one who saves me. May I jump for joy in response to your blessings. Help me to spread the Good News of the hope found in you. Amen.

Day Twenty-five – Wednesday, December 22nd

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

Mary's song of praise offers a reminder to us to count our many blessings as we prepare for the coming of our Savior. What the Lord has done for us is boundless. We should take some time to offer thanks and praise.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, fill me with praise and thanksgiving. Great is your goodness and I lift your name up high. I take a moment now to acknowledge some of the innumerable things you've done for me during this season of Advent. Thank you, my Savior. Amen.

Day Twenty-six – Thursday, December 23rd

Scripture: Titus 3:4-7

The waiting for Jesus to come can be hard. Our hope is found in him. We need the help of the Holy Spirit to wait well. May we increase in our ability to live as redeemed people.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, thank you for descending upon me. Give me the strength to wait well. Help me to live a life that glorifies you. Amen.

Christmas Eve – Christ

Day twenty-seven –
Friday, December 24th
Christmas Eve: Christ



5:00pm – Kid Focused Worship

Battery powered tea lights are used in place of candles.

7:00pm – Candlelight Worship

Our Sanctuary Choir and Bell Choir will help lead us in worship during this candlelight service.

7:00pm – Online Worship premieres on Emilie Facebook

Sermon: Boundless Spirit

We practice openness to God’s spirit whenever we confront the darkness.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:6-7

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!

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.

ADVENT

Advent Devotions

Day Twenty-eight – Saturday, December 25th 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 went to find Him. And they did. Have you? Share the good news! Merry Christmas!

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



Sunday, December 26th

Online & Call-in Worship ONLY (No Sunday Morning Clubs or in person worship)

9:30am – Online Worship premieres on Emilie Facebook

9:30am – Call-in Worship

Call: 1-646-558-8656 ID: 886 7178 0664 Passcode: 732620

Micah 5:2-5a

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”
³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.
⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.
⁵And he will be our peace
when the Assyrians invade our land
and march through our fortresses.

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:
“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;
⁶with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.
⁷Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
I have come to do your will, my God.’”^[a]
⁸First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin
offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—
though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹Then he said,
“Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to
establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will, we have been made
holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Luke 1:39-45**Mary Visits Elizabeth**

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country
of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted
Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in
her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud
voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women and blessed is
the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of
my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting
reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she
who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

Luke 1:46-55**Mary’s Song**

⁴⁶And Mary said:
“My soul glorifies the Lord
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.
⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.



Luke 2:1-14

The Birth of Jesus

² In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

