

Guide to the Season

November 2025



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Advent

FMCE

December 2025

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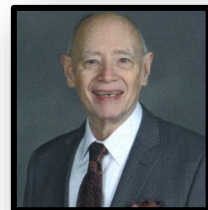
Rev. Billy Luttrell

Associate Pastor &
Minister of Music



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Family Ministries Pastor



Rev. Gary Daniel

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Reflection and Anticipation

The Advent season invites us to reflect on Christ's birth and anticipate His return. It's a powerful reminder to place our hope and trust in God's immeasurable love for us, which he proved to us by sending His Only Son to redeem us.

My own appreciation for Advent lies in its cherished elements: the candle lighting, poignant hymns, Christmas Choirs music, and the wonderful songs from Narrow Road. I am especially drawn to Mary's candle, the pink "Love" candle. As a mother, I can only imagine the depth of her love for Baby Jesus, intensified by the knowledge of His divine nature. The third verse of "In the Bleak Midwinter" perfectly expresses this:

*Angels and archangels may have traveled there, cherubim
and seraphim thronged the air; but his mother only, in her
maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.*

Wishing you and your loved ones a season filled with the hope, peace, love, and joy of Christ.

Janis Luttrell

Administrative Assistant

Longing for Jesus

One of the things I appreciate most about Methodism is the emphasis on the seasons of Advent, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. For me, Advent is one of the seasons that shapes me most deeply. It reminds me that we are a waiting people who long for God to move, guide, and renew. I think of David's words from Psalm 62:5, "For God alone my soul waits in silence; my hope is from Him." We all carry hopes, questions, and weariness, and Advent invites us to bring those honestly before God as we long for the second advent of Jesus.

In our world of instant everything, waiting feels like an inconvenience. But Advent invites us to name our longings rather than rush past them. It tells the truth about life, that we live between the already and the not yet. Christ has come, and Christ will come again. I see this longing in our community: longing for peace in the midst of chaos and heartbreak, for healing from fractured relationships, for authentic connection with others, for true rest, for joy in the mundane. Advent doesn't shame these desires; it honors them. It teaches us that longing is not a weakness; it's a sign that we were made for more than what this broken world can offer. It drives us to the only One who can restore and satisfy our souls. So we celebrate that Christ has come, we remember that He is with us, and we hope as we longingly wait for His return.

Rev. Dr. Amy Young

Family Ministries Pastor

Introduction

Advent is a season of anticipation, awaiting the coming of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Advent in the church is full of reminders and hopeful happenings to encourage the same thought throughout the season of Christ's coming.

Every Sunday in the season of Advent in each worship service we will light a candle, have a special prayer, and a special scripture reading. This season in our traditional worship our choir will also sing each benediction to end the service. As certain families come to light the candle, these candles represent specific themes: Hope, Joy, Love, Peace. You will observe one large white candle encircled by three purple candles and a pink candle. Each candle represents these themes and on Christmas Eve we will light the large white candle, the Christ Candle, at our evening Christmas Eve services. These subtle reminders help us to understand what all Christ brings to His children at His coming: hope of eternal life, peace to the world as He is the Prince of Peace, love undeniable, and joy, which is often unspeakable and magnificent.

As you continue to read throughout this Advent Guide, you will hear from our staff and why Advent is such an important season for them and what they love most about it. You will also find a list of important dates and information for the Advent season with all our worship services, special events, and serving opportunities.

Our hope and prayer as a staff is that this Guide to the Season will be a helpful tool and guide for you this Advent season. Inside, you'll find a calendar of events for the season, insight from each staff member on what Advent means to them, a calendar of special program ministry events like the Nativity play and others, and you'll hopefully have a guide as to what Advent is all about. In this season of intentional waiting and anticipation for the Lord's coming, I pray that you find peace in the waiting, peace in Christ, and assurance of His return. May this be a season for you of deep prayer, service, community, and witness to Christ and His Church.

Our church transforms in this season both in worship and in the space you see. I'm excited to journey through this season of anticipation with you as we wait on the coming of Christ together. May He always be our Hope, our Joy, our Peace, and our source of greatest Love.

Welcome to Advent at the First Methodist Church of Enterprise!

Yours Sincerely,
Rev. Matt Jordan
Senior Pastor



“Hanging of the Greens”

Sunday, November 23, 2025 ~ 12:00pm ~ Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary
Lunch ~ Decorating ~ Worship

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### Children’s Nativity Play

Sunday, December 7, 2025 ~ 10:00am ~ Fellowship Hall

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Angel Tree Christmas Party

Monday, December 15, 2025 ~ 5:30pm ~ Fellowship Hall

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### Mom’s Day Out & Stepping Stone Preschool Christmas Program

Friday, December 12, 2025 ~ 9:30am ~ Fellowship Hall

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S.T.A.R.S. (Still Thoroughly Active Retired Servants)

December 9, 2023 ~ 11:00am ~ Fellowship Hall
Please call the Church Office to make your reservation!

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### *Noel! Come and See What God Has Done!*

Christmas Music Performance

December 21, 2025 ~ 3:00pm & 5:30pm ~ Sanctuary  
Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the  
5:30pm performance.  
Come, join the food and fellowship! Bring your favorite Christmas  
goodie to share! Tea and water provided.

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Christmas Eve Services

December 24, 2025
Contemporary Worship ~ 5:00pm ~ Fellowship Hall
Traditional Worship ~ 6:30pm & 11:00pm ~ Sanctuary

Restoration and Comfort

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.

Revelation 21:4-5

Christmas has always been one of my favorite holidays of the year! First and foremost, celebrating the birth of Jesus! Decorating our home for Christmas, making and decorating Christmas cookies, Angel Tree gift shopping with the grands, riding around the town looking at Christmas lights and decorations, attending Christmas gatherings and the Traditional Christmas Eve Service with family and friends. This year will be the first for our family without our sweet Charlie.

This Christmas season, as well as all the firsts without Charlie in the coming year, will be filled with sorrow for our family, but Revelation 21 will give us a source of hope and comfort. It can be yours as well.

In these words, we are promised a future state of complete restoration and comfort where all suffering will end because the ‘former things’ like death, sorrow, crying, and pain will be gone.

Tammy Ezzell

Director of FMCE MDO/SSP

COME, LORD JESUS

“Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me. He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him.”
~Luke 1:46-50

Mary had every right to be scared. She was young, engaged to a man named Joseph, and now told she was pregnant. And to top it all off, the news was delivered by an angel! I would be scared, too! And as Mary processed the news, I can only imagine what was going through her head – would her family disown her, would Joseph believe any of this – why me?

But Mary chose to settle on faith and not fear. Later on, when Mary visited her cousin, Elizabeth, she reminded Mary, *“You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said,”* (vs 45).

It would be nice to say that our typical response to fear is always faith. But let's be honest. Fear creeps into our minds and we focus on the “what ifs.” But what was Mary's response? She turned her attention to God in a song known as the Magnificat (which means “my soul glorifies the Lord”). The whole song is about singing of God's glory. Of course, she still had many questions in her mind, but she chose to trust God's plan and rejoice in God's glory and goodness.

Mary knew what we sometimes forget - that God is in control. She was reminded that she was chosen to be a part of God's plan for the redemption of the world. Mary replaced the fear and uncertainty that she felt with praise that God had chosen her as part of God's plan for the redemption of the world. Faith replaced fear!

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by fear and uncertainty? Advent and Christmas call on us to trust in the plan of God – to replace our doubt and fear with faith.

Prayer: God of Love, Your Son, Jesus, is Your greatest gift to us. He is the ultimate sign of your love. He is our assurance that God has not forgotten or forsaken us. Help us walk in that love and assurance during the weeks of Advent. As we wait and prepare for His coming, may the Holy Spirit guide us to deeper levels of trust and faith.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

Rev. Gary Daniel

Pastor Emeritus

Season of Waiting

Advent is a special season in the life of the church. It is a season of anticipated and intentional waiting. I had the chance to see this anticipation and waiting just a few days ago at a birthday party for a friend's child. They were letting her smash the cake and having a great time, but my son had his eyes on the cake. “Daddy, is it time to eat cake?” One question after another of the same context...is it time to eat cake? I could hardly hold him back, and once the first slice was cut for the crowd, he was the first in line.

When we think of Advent, it's a lot like waiting for cake. You can see it on the horizon. You know the best part is yet to come, and despite all the waiting and angst and anticipation, you know it will be worth it. For us, we aren't waiting on the Messiah to come as a young infant, but we are waiting on the return of the King to finish His business and bring in the new heaven and the new earth.

There are many signs and wonders taking place among us now. I hear it nearly every day, “Is Christ coming soon?” The great evangelist, Billy Graham, said, “I do not know if Christ is coming soon, but I know we are a day closer than yesterday.” Our time to “eat our cake” will be soon, and it will be in the presence of the King in His Kingdom.

As we hear Scripture, sermons, songs, and have special services focusing us on His return, let us not forget that the time will soon come, but we must be patient. We must continue to be in a season of Advent.

In Christ,

Rev. Matt Jordan

Senior Pastor

CELEBRATING THE ADVENT SEASON

I look forward to each of the different seasons celebrated in the life of the church. Celebrating the season of Advent is one of my favorites. It is a time of anticipation, spiritual reflection, and preparation as we focus on the coming of Jesus Christ.

As we celebrate during this season of waiting, it gives us a chance to look backward. As we sing the Advent hymns and read the prophecies and stories from the Old Testament, we realize the hundreds of years the people waited for baby Jesus to come for the first time. Isaiah, Micah, Zechariah, and Daniel made detailed predictions about the coming of a savior that reach back seven hundred years.

Not only does Advent give us a chance to look backward, but Advent also gives us time to look forward. As we wait for Jesus to return, we can be preparing ourselves by praying and spending time in reflection daily. Reading the scriptures or devotions daily, reading the Christmas story in Luke or the Old Testament prophecies from Isaiah, Micah, Zechariah, and Daniel will help in anticipation of Jesus second coming.

During the season of Advent we can not only look backward and forward, but it also gives us a chance to look inward. By looking inward, it gives us a chance through the power of the Holy Spirit, to welcome Christ into our lives for the first time or to renew a closer relationship with Jesus. Looking inward also gives us a chance to cultivate hope, peace, joy, and love in our hearts.

The church has chosen to live through liturgical seasons each year to help remember the past, and to strengthen the future. By looking backward, forward, and inward during the season of Advent it gives us a deeper anticipation of Christmas and the Christmas season. I hope during this season of Advent you might take the time to look backward, look forward, and look inward, and discover Jesus for the first time or in a new and exciting way.

“Sing”cerely,

Rev. Billy Luttrell

Associate Pastor & Minister of Music

The Sacred and The Ordinary

Every year as Advent begins, I’m reminded why this season is my favorite, not only because of the lights, music, decorations, food, or excitement but also because Advent is a season of holy waiting. In a world centered around acquiring the newest, the best and instant gratification, Advent is a time to slow down, enjoy, and wait. For me, waiting is a hard one, as patience is a fruit of the spirit I have yet to acquire. But waiting has a different meaning for me during the Advent season. As a Kid Min Director, I get to let my inner child and my grown-up faith collide and lean into the wonder, the whimsy, the magic, and most importantly, the celebration of Jesus’ birth and His future return.

Advent feels like opening the most amazing advent calendar you could ever have. Behind each little door is something way better than chocolate or a toy. You get hope, peace, joy, love, and maybe a little glitter sprinkled in. You slow down and enjoy it all because you know something good is on the way. For me, advent isn’t just in the polished, peaceful, quiet moments but the mess, sparkly, loud, kid-filled ones too. It’s the season where the sacred sneaks up on us in the middle of the ordinary. It’s the time spent reading and studying God’s word while surrounded by twinkling lights and drinking coffee out of a grinch mug. It’s wondering about Jesus’ second coming as kids decorate cookies and make a nativity craft. It’s all the simple things that make life so extraordinary.

Kid Min December Dates

Saturday Dec 6 Whoville 10am FH

Sunday Dec 7 Nativity Play 10am FH

Friday Dec 12 Movie Night 5pm Lighthouse Room

Sunday Dec 14 Assembling Blessing Baskets 5pm Lighthouse Room

Monday Dec 15 Angel Tree 5:30pm FH

Wednesday Dec 17 Delivering Blessing Baskets 5:30pm FH

Friday Dec 19 Handprint Ornament and Christmas Party 5pm YBMH

Milesa Eagan

Director of Children’s Ministries