



The Connection

December 2025

A monthly publication of the
**Millington United Methodist
Church**

**Our Mission: To Know Christ, and
to Make Him Known**



November Daily Scriptures

- 1—James 1:17
- 2—Luke 11:9-13
- 3—John 4:7-10
- 4—John 4:11-15
- 5—1 Samuel 1:17
- 6—Romans 5:15-16
- 7—Romans 6:23
- 8—Psalm 76:11
- 9—2 Corinthians 9:6-9
- 10—2 Corinthians 9:10-15
- 11—Ephesians 2:4-7
- 12—Ephesians 2:8-10
- 13—Ecclesiastes 5:19
- 14—John 3:16
- 15—Revelation 2:10
- 16—Psalm 68:3-6
- 17—Psalm 68:9-11
- 18—Psalm 68:19-21
- 19—Matthew 5:23-24
- 20—1 Corinthians 16:1-3
- 21—Hebrews 11:24
- 22—1 Timothy 6:6-8
- 23—1 Timothy 6:17-19
- 24—1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- 25—Jeremiah 33:6
- 26—1 Peter 1:18-19
- 27—Hebrews 9:15
- 28—Matthew 5:11-12
- 29—Matthew 6:38
- 30—1 Timothy 3:15-16
- 31—Romans 5:8-11

National Days for December

- 1—National Pie Day
- 2—National Day of Giving Tuesday
- 3—National Roof Over Your Head Day
- 4—National Dice Day
- 5—National Bathtub Party Day
- 6—National Mitten Tree Day
- 7—National Cotton Candy Day
- 8—National Brownie Day
- 9—National Christmas Card Day
- 10—National Dewey Decimal System Day
- 11—National Stretching Day
- 12—National Poinsettia Day
- 13—National Cocoa Day
- 14—National Monkey Day
- 15—National Cat Herders Day
- 16—National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
- 17—National Maple Syrup Day
- 18—National Re-Gifting Day
- 19—National Hard Candy Day
- 20—National Go Caroling Day
- 21—National Flashlight Day
- 22—National Date Nut Bread Day
- 23—National Pfeffernusse Day
- 24—National Eggnog Day
- 25—National Pumpkin Pie Day
- 26—National Candy Cane Day
- 27—National Fruitcake Day
- 28—National Card Playing Day
- 29—National Tick Tock Day
- 30—National Falling Needles Family Fest Day
- 31—National Make Up Your Mind Day

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Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8am—noon

- 3 Karily Dickson
- 9 Sam Crawford
- 9 Lee Schriber
- 9 Alex Newcombe
- 10 Kamryn Olejnik
- 13 Chad Fabbro
- 17 Jennifer Shores
- 18 Janine Britt
- 19 Becky Ostrom
- 22 Edward Ingram
- 23 Richard Lumsden
- 23 Jason Trato
- 23 Kim Blackmer



Pastor David's Corner

December is upon us and that means decorations sparkling, and bells tinkling, and lights twinkling, and carols ringing, bringing in the festive joy of the season. We don't know if we will have snow crunching under our feet or not. But we can always dream of the white Christmas like we used to know.

In Church speak we call this the Season of Advent.

Advent is a Christian season of preparation that means "coming" and is a time to reflect on the birth of Jesus.

We all have traditions passed down from generation to generation in how to decorate (or not) and what songs are customary (or not) and whether the original version is better than the newer ones. There are movies and fruitcakes and recipes and joys that center on one thing—family and love.

There is one thing about the celebration of the birth of Christ that we don't usually recognize—the Babe in the manger is the Lord of Life. He came with a purpose. To reach and live God's love among us.

For some, however, this is a somber celebration. In life there is always that transition that is inevitable. We don't want to talk about the fact that for some this is a season of missing a loved one. Yet, this is why Jesus became human. To give us the hope of eternity. This, I think, is the true meaning of Christmas.

I pray that you and yours will truly celebrate the coming King in your hearts this year.

We welcome YOU. Always.

Prayers and blessings in Christ,
Pastor David



Finance



Moment

More than a hundred years ago, Amy Carmichael, a missionary to India said, "You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving." During Advent, we think, dream and talk a lot about love.

In many, many households on Christmas morning, there will be presents opened, with paper and ribbon scattered around the room. There will be joy and happiness with gifts and new "things." For children, the delight will be highly anticipated. For adults, the greater joy may be, not receiving gifts, but in giving them, and seeing the delight of those who receive. But the real joy of Christmas is not in the **presents** that are wrapped in paper and tied up in ribbons. The real joy is the **presence** of the spirit of Jesus, who came as a child, but grew to a life of giving, even the giving of his life.

The coming of Christ into the world signals the depth of God's love for us. How do we exemplify our love for God, for the church and for the Children of God everywhere? According to Amy Carmichael, we cannot love without giving.

Thank you for the financial support you have given this year to our church and to organizations, both local and worldwide, who serve people in need.

Mission and Outreach Notes

The pretzel dipping at the 35th Annual Christmas in the Village went very well. There was wonderful attendance with over 400 pretzels being dipped. Many thanks to the church members who faithfully manned the chocolate dip, set up, and clean up! All of this was done by 6:30pm when we ran out of pretzels.

Our next project will be the gift bags that we put together in February. We are collecting items for the gift bags consisting of novelty items, homemade food, and/or purchased goodies. Anyone that would like to contribute to this cause for shut-ins, please either contact the church office or Sharon Trato, and we will be happy to collect them. Thank you and Merry Christmas to you all!

Blessings!

Sharon Trato



All Aboard the Christmas Story

On a recent train trip, I couldn't help noticing how the conductors' "welcome" speeches were all different. Unlike air travel, where safety instructions sound the same no matter who's speaking, Amtrak conductors each had their own style. One stressed that kids must stay with parents. Another warned that messy restrooms would be locked. A third cautioned that stepping off during a short stop could mean getting left behind. Each conductor emphasized what had caused trouble before.

And in much the same way, the Gospel writers highlighted different details of Jesus' birth. Matthew, writing for Jewish readers, connects Jesus to Moses, Abraham and David. He tells about Joseph's role and the wise men seeking the "king of the Jews." Luke, writing for Gentiles and society's outsiders, focuses on Mary, a humble birth and shepherds — the first unlikely visitors. Both messages tell the same story, but with unique emphases shaped by the audience.

And that's a reminder for us, too: when we share our faith, we can tailor the message. Longtime friends, curious neighbors, kids and the hurting will all hear God's love in different ways.



Christmas Prayer: The True Gift

Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope.

Our Commitment Sunday was November 30. Since we did not have a service on that Sunday because of the weather, below you will find a copy of the Pledge Card. If you wish, you may fill this out and place in the offering plate, or mail it to P.O. Box 321 Millington, MI 48746.



Millington United Methodist Church

- I will **Pray** for our Church and its ministry
- I will be **Present** at my Church for worship and fellowship
- I will **Serve** my Church as I am able
- I will **Witness** to my faith in my community
- I will give my **Gifts** to my Church for its ministry

My Financial Commitment to MUMC for 2026 is \$_____ per _____ week _____ month _____ year

Signed _____

Date _____

Candles That Tell a Story



Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent.

Depending on denomination, churches use different color combinations for the candles. Some place four blue candles around the wreath with a white one in the center, while others use all white. Many light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth, and then a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

- **The wreath:** Its circular shape represents the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The green symbolizes eternal life.
- **The four candles:** Mark the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ's birth.
- **Purple candles:** in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence. The first purple candle represents Hope; the second, Peace; and the

final purple candle, Love.

- **Blue candles:** Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- **The pink candle:** Lit on the third Sunday, it represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.
- **The white candle:** The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — "the light of the world."

The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people — "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV).

The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles—it's a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.

Heartfelt Christmas Quotes

"Because of his boundless love, Jesus became what we are that he might make us to be what he is."
—Irenaeus, third-century Christian apologist

"Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."
—Dale Evans

"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts."
—Janice Maeditere

"Jesus did not come to make God's love possible, but to make God's love visible."
—Author unknown

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."
—Calvin Coolidge



His Many Names, Our Great Hope

Long before the manger in Bethlehem, the prophet Isaiah pointed God's people to the promise of a Savior. In Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) we read: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Even before Jesus' birth, his names revealed who he is and what he would bring. Each title carries a promise that still impacts our lives today.

- **Wonderful Counselor.** Jesus brings wisdom and guidance for every situation. In moments of confusion, we can lean on him to direct our steps with love and truth.
-
- **Mighty God.** He is strong enough to carry our burdens and powerful enough to overcome sin, fear and death itself.
-
- **Everlasting Father.** Jesus reflects the heart of God the Father, offering care that is constant and unchanging. His love doesn't fade with time or circumstance.
-
- **Prince of Peace.** In a world filled with turmoil, Jesus offers a peace that goes deeper than circumstances, a peace that guards our hearts and minds.
-

At Christmas, we celebrate more than a baby's birth. We celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise, a Savior with many names. Each one reminds us of his eternal love and presence. This season, let his names bring you comfort, strength and peace.



An Inescapable Date

We celebrate Christ's birth by referring to it in the date placed on all our coins, civil records and vital documents. It is inscribed upon metal and written on parchment and engraved on the cornerstones of great buildings. It is on every newspaper, every check, every deed, and it is universally acknowledged at the beginning of a new life.

Every human transaction is related to the birth of Christ. It cannot be avoided or evaded. God has seen to it that this event is more widely advertised than anything on earth that is or that ever has been.

-Dr. Walter Wilson

Reconsider the Rush

The Christmas rush leads to stress for many people. But author Burton Hills viewed the madness from another perspective:

"Eventually, the hour comes when the rushing ends and the race against the calendar mercifully comes to a close. It is only now, perhaps, that we truly recognize the spirit of Christmas. It is not a matter of days or weeks, but of centuries — [more than] twenty of them now since that holy night in Bethlehem. Regarded in this manner, the pre-Christmas rush may do us greater service than we realize. With all its temporal confusion, it may just help us to see that by contrast, Christmas itself is eternal."



December 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 8:30am Women's 4th Day	3	4	5	6
7 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 2nd Sunday of Advent	8	9 8:30am Women's 4th Day	10	11	12	13
14 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 3rd Sunday of Advent	15 Fellowship Hall closed all week for Needy family distribution	16 8:30am Women's 4th Day	17	18	19 Needy family distribution	20
21 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 4th Sunday of Advent	22	23 8:30am Women's 4th Day	24 Christmas Eve Church office closed	25 Christmas Day Church office closed	26	27
28 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	29 Church office closed	30 8:30am Women's 4th Day Church office closed	31 New Year's Eve Church office closed			

A Note from Barb...

Here we are at the end of another year. I have learned a lot this year, many things of which I never wanted to learn. But through it all, even though this year didn't end like I had hoped and prayed for, I can see now that God has prepared me for all that I have experienced.

I miss my husband terribly, but I have been able to spend so much more time with him in these last few months, and I was able to show him how much he meant to me. And he has reinforced in me just how much he loved me when he continued to "fight" the demon we call cancer. Although he lost his fight with cancer, he ultimately won the victory over death and will live in heaven for eternity. And some day we will all be together again.

So, as me and my family start to experience all the "firsts" without Scott, I know we will make it because God will be with us through them all.

Thank you to my church families that have been there for us throughout all of this. God's blessings on you all. And....Merry Christmas!



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Our Mission: To know Christ and to make Him known

Check out our Sunday sermon online on our Facebook page at :

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