

## Members of the West Lawn UMC Prayer Team

Dan Allan

Judy Alvarez

Jody Anderson

DeAnne Bechtel

Sandi Burt

Tracey Davis-Witmyer

Darrell Denny

Elyse Elliott

Jody Funk

Jenna Galan

Karen Guers

Jenn Heist

Pastor Lisa Hoopes

Sarah Kahando

Tina Krize

Alex Massengale

John Moyer

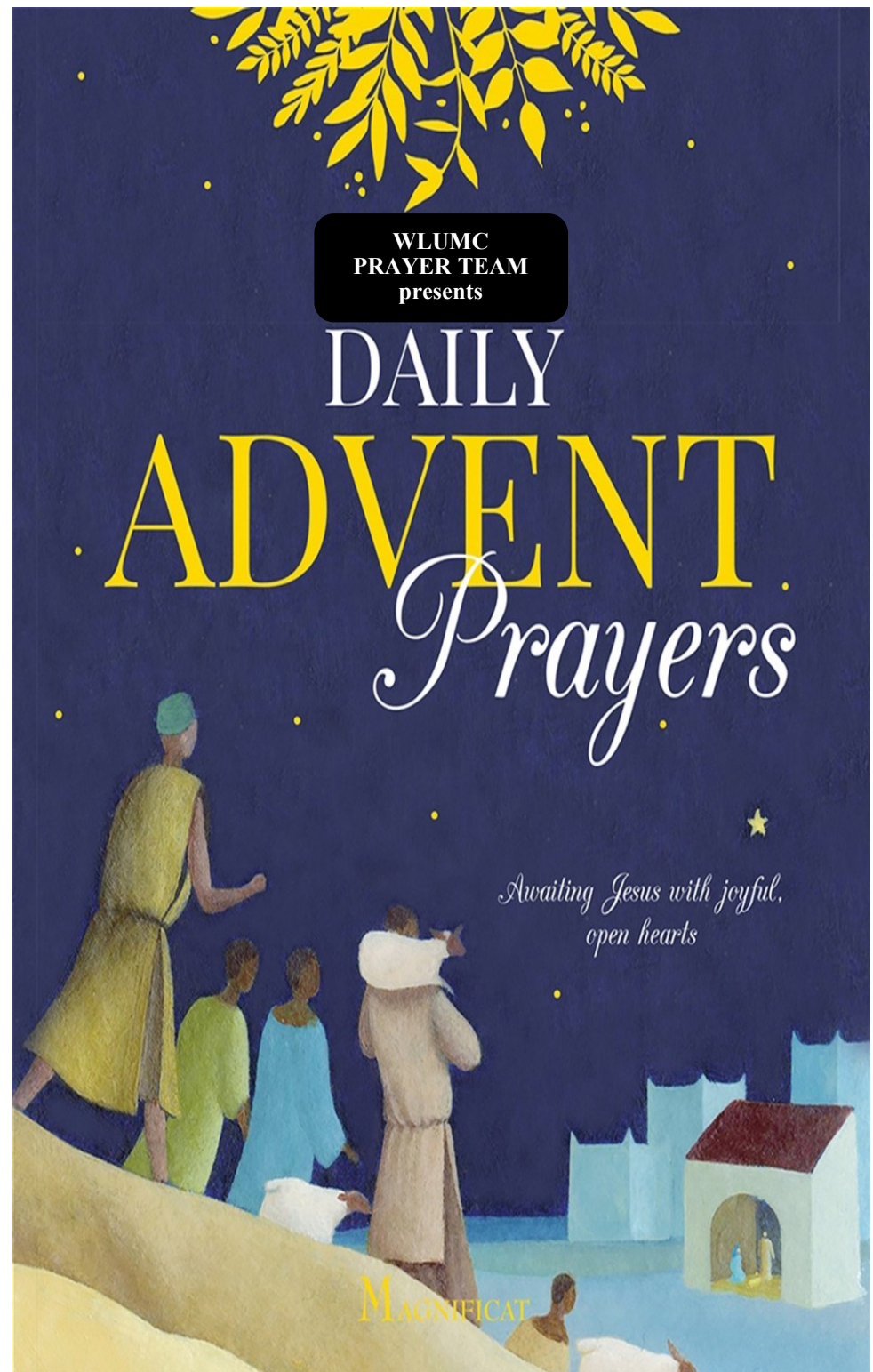
Carolyn Ortwein

Mike Reinert

Jim Schweitzer

Joe Stemler

Scott Szoke



## Introduction

Advent, a Latin word meaning “the coming”, is a word often heard during the weeks leading up to the Christmas season. Officially established by church leaders in the sixth century, Advent was originally meant to be a time when Christians reflected on the meaning of Christmas and when new believers spiritually prepared themselves for baptism. Beginning on the Sunday nearest November 30<sup>th</sup> and running until Christmas Eve, Advent was essentially four weeks set aside to contemplate what the coming of Jesus meant not only to the world but to every individual’s soul. Hence, while recognized and organized by the church, Advent was also supposed to be a time of personal retrospection and growth.

Today, fifteen hundred years after the first Advent season, many families use the symbols of Advent – wreaths, candles, and calendars – to bring the spiritual meaning of Christmas alive in a way that teaches minds, touches hearts, and reflects the purpose of the tradition.

Advent heightens the senses and emotions and sets the stage for the wonder of Christmas. Advent also plants the spiritual seeds that grow into an understanding of the reason for this special season. Christmas is still Christmas without Advent, but the festive four-week countdown puts the holiday into the proper perspective.

May these Advent prayers, prepared lovingly by members of the West Lawn UMC prayer team, enhance your preparation for the coming of our savior, Jesus the Christ.



**Monday 12/19:** Lord, I praise you for your unconditional Love. I thank you for your Peace that surpasses all understanding. Knowing you fills my heart with Joy. Allowing you to be in control of my life gives me Hope. Jesus, I thank you and I worship you not only during this Advent season but every day of my life. Amen

**Tuesday 12/20:** Your love and grace, especially across the backdrop of the many troubles and hurts out in the world today, give me a sense of hope. My faith in your son provides me with the strength and belief that no evil in our world cannot be overcome.

**Wednesday 12/21:** Isaiah :3  
*He will delight in obeying the Lord.  
He will not judge by appearance  
nor make a decision based on hearsay.*

**Thursday 12/22:** Dear Father, I know the season of Advent brings many mixed emotions and feelings to many of us, myself included. I am awed to read the workings of your Grace, of the Holy Spirit, and how you prepared the world for the coming of your son.

**Friday 12/23:** Many of us look to you and ask why or how we deserve such forgiveness, for our sins, imperfections. With an open heart, we can welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives, feel as it nurtures and develops our Faith that your forgiveness is not transactional, but rather a result of unconditional love.

**Saturday 12/24:** Dear Father, in remembering the true and monumental sacrifices made by you and your only Son, for me, my transgressions, my heart is filled with gratitude and thankfulness. Your Son's blood has wiped my slate clean, lifted a burden that I could never carry on my own.

**Sunday 12/25:** On this Christmas Day, with joy and thanksgiving, we greet the Christ child. Welcome the Light of the World!

## Advent Prayers for 2022

preparing to share greetings, gifts and meals with others. May the joy that fills our hearts at this time remain with us throughout the year. We pray in your name. Amen.

**Wednesday 12/14:** Lord, your Holy Word in Luke 1: 46-47 reveals that the Virgin Mary said, “My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit REJOICED in God my Savior.” May each of us rejoice in knowing that if we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, then we have been redeemed and saved eternally. We praise you, Lord. Amen.

**Thursday 12/15:** Lord, restore in our hearts the amazement of the shepherds, who saw you, who witnessed you entering into history, into the story of our lives. Your presence among us has started each of us on a journey towards you, O Lord, to the light you represent, and to the gift a baby gave us; a gift so great it caused the death of our King instead of us. May that awareness keep us from ever thinking that this season is simply another in a long list of seasons, but rather the joyous story of our rebirth because of Your birth and ultimate sacrifice. How can that awareness do anything but make us rejoice and fall to our knees, knowing that Advent is a season unlike any other. May that awareness of your advent give us joy every day and remind us of your love daily.

**Friday 12/16:** Isaiah 11: 1 *Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And Branch from his roots will bear fruit.*

**Saturday 12/17:** My prayer this Christmas season is to be a faithful example of Your goodness and grace. I am forever reminded that all that I have in my life was a gift from You! Use me to bless others with my time and treasures as a reflection of Your goodness. And thank you God, for the greatest gift of all... Your Son Jesus, my Lord and Savior! Amen

**Week 4: Focus Scripture: Luke 1:30-33 “What Kind of King?”**

**Sunday 12/18:** Father God, Thank you for all of your blessings and grace during this Advent season. In a world that is full of darkness, it is your light that shines in us and through us allowing us to be your hands and feet on Earth. Thank you for the gifts you provide to us all. We are so humble and thankful for your presence in our lives. Amen

**Week 1: Focus Scripture: Isaiah 64:1, 4-5, 8  
“Last Things First”**

**Sunday 11/27:** Lord Jesus, As we approach the celebration of your birth at Christmas, allow us to feel the hope and peace and the love and joy that only you can provide through your blessings and grace every day of our lives. Amen

**Monday 11/28:** Lord, I praise you for your unconditional Love. I thank you for your Peace that surpasses all understanding. Knowing you fills my heart with Joy. Allowing you to be in control of my life gives me Hope. Jesus, I thank you and I worship you not only during this Advent season but every day of my life. Amen

**Tuesday 11/29:** Dear Father in heaven, As Christmas gets closer, we find our lives getting busier. We make lists of to do's, and to get. Remind us to not lose sight of your son Jesus, the reason for this season! May we pause and ask You for leading and guiding as we purchase gifts for others. What would be a blessing to them? And may we be mindful to be a source of Your love and light for all to see this Advent season. Amen

**Wednesday 11/30:** Lord God, This life is full of disappointments, yet you remind us that your Son Jesus gives us hope. He is our true King who rules forever, and we are his people. We thank you Lord Jesus, during this Advent, that you came to save us, and that you will return in glory, in final victory, someday. Keep us close with you now and in your Kingdom forever, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we pray in Jesus' Name, Amen!

**Thursday 12/1:** Dear Lord, It is advent season once again. As we live our lives and, as we relive the story of your birth every year, this season becomes routine, the message and the characters in the story remain the same. In its repetition, it becomes a cliché; a story that loses its meaning a little with each retelling. Disinterest replaces the wonder we once felt, and we question the reason for so much excitement; yet even in our disaffection, we feel envious of the unadulterated joy felt by children. Where did our first love go, Lord? Why do we move

from your shadow and the love felt in that place? How could this story ever become old, trite, the same old, same old?

**Friday 12/2:** In this season of excitement and anticipation, may we remember that our Savior Jesus, who lived, died, and has been resurrected, is the true reason for this season. May we all seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33) Amen.

**Saturday 12/3:** Isaiah 9:2 *The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.*

**Week 2: Focus Scripture: Mark 1:4-5**  
**“The Kingdom Comes Near”**

**Sunday 12/4:** Father, During Advent, help me to live my life in a way that is pleasing to you. Allow me to humble myself and ask for your forgiveness. Keep me mindful of all of the blessings that you have provided me throughout my life. I know it is through your grace and your love that I have the strength to live each day like the true gift it is. I thank you for being the light in my life. Amen

**Monday 12/5:** Dear Lord God, awaken us, that we may be ready when your dear Son comes, that we may receive him with joy and serve you with pure hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Tuesday 12/6:** Lord, your Holy Word in Luke 1: 46-47 reveals that the Virgin Mary said, “My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit REJOICED in God my Savior.” May each of us rejoice in knowing that if we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, then we have been redeemed and saved eternally. We praise you, Lord. Amen.

**Wednesday 12/7:** Lord, your Holy Word in Mark 1:4-5 reveals how John the Baptist baptized in the wilderness and preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of our sins. What excitement and anticipation those people must have felt knowing that someone even greater than John would be baptizing with the Holy Spirit!

**Thursday 12/8:** Isaiah 11:2

*The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him,  
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
The Spirit of counsel and strength,  
The Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*

**Friday 12/9:** Heavenly Father: As we enter this Advent Season, we are reminded of the real reason for Christmas. Sometimes our thoughts and actions tend to stray and we get caught up in other distractions, thus losing our focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Help us to keep Jesus’ birth in our thoughts and actions and help us to put aside the glitz and trappings and center our thoughts and actions on the true Christmas and the One who started it all at the manger in Bethlehem. This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen

**Saturday 12/10:** Preparation, for something so great and magnitudes beyond our comprehension don’t begin to explain the miracle of your Son’s birth, and how we can grasp the sacrifice of coming down into our lives, to heal, to teach, to suffer, to surrender life, so that our sins may be forgiven.

**Week 3: Focus Scripture: Luke 1:39-48 “Rejoice Always”**

**Sunday 12/11:** Father God, as we look forward to remembering the birth of Jesus, our most precious gift, let us thank You for the many other blessings You have given us. Help us to find and share joy each and every day. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, Amen

**Monday 12/12:** Heavenly Father, we thank you for this season of Advent. As we celebrate the coming to earth of your son as a baby, keep our minds focused on him rather than the Commercialism of the season. May we experience the hope and peace that Christ’s coming promises for our world. Inspire and strengthen us to share this Good News of Christ’s birth with others. In Jesus’ name, amen,

**Tuesday: 12/13:** Lord, we thank you for the Advent season. Many people Seem happier at this time, going about daily activities with Christmas Carols playing in the background, reaching out to those we may not see as often as we’d like and