



In the Loop

*“He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father,
Prince of Peace.”*

Isaiah 9:6

Centennial Christian Church
Ph. 309-828-2185

<https://www.centennialcc.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/centennialcc.org>

December 17, 2020



4th Sunday in Advent
JOY



The worship committee will be offering an online Christmas Eve service that will be made available the afternoon of December 24th. This is not a live event so people can watch it whenever they choose. This service will include special music as well as following more of our traditional Christmas Eve format.

In addition, there will be a brief 20 minute outdoor Christmas Eve service with candle lighting and communion at 5:00 PM in the east parking lot of the church. Dress warm, bring your blanket and join us in person. In case of precipitation or extremely cold temperatures the service will be cancelled. Cancellation will be posted on the church Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook you may call Joe at 309-531-2273 or Gwen at 309-531-2274 to check for cancellation.

Pastor's Point

It's not Christmas until you've had the *Bonanza: Christmas on the Ponderosa* album playing on repeat for a couple days.

It's not Christmas until you've watched Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney croon about "count[ing] your blessings instead of sheep."

It's not Christmas until you've been to several different open houses and hosted your own.

Until you've wrapped the last package and tied the last bow.

Until you've made fun of the sappy Maxwell House commercials and wondered how Grandma failed to see a huge reindeer coming toward her.

It's not Christmas until the children have marched down the aisle in bathrobes and angel wings.

Until the two-year-old shepherds have had a sword fight with their staffs while the pastor looks on wondering who thought it was a good idea to give the shepherds staffs.

It's not Christmas until you've sung Silent Night surrounded by your faith community,

candles — real candles —

Lit and held aloft for the final verse.

Until you've heard all nine lessons and sung the first verse of the carols in between.

Until you've shaken hands in that Body of Christ,

The words "Merry Christmas" tumbling

Out of mouths around you.

It's not Christmas.

At least not in any form we recognize.

And yet, Mary and Joseph will still go to Bethlehem.

And she will still labor among the animals,

Giving birth to God-with-us

And placing him in the manger.

And the star will still shine, and the

Wisemen will still come bearing gifts.

And we will remember that celebrating — even in new ways —

Is Holy.

Blessings for the Season,

Pastor Heather

Prayers of Petition

Diane Armstrong, Peggy Bates, Ricky Cantu, Julia Cleinmark, Muriel Dawson, Julie Dawson, Dorian, Terry Foland, Rae Geske, Scott Griffith, Jim Hawkins, Joan, Tammy Leonard, Stewart Pequignot, Lexi Peterson, Phyllis, Pete Rasmussen, Fern Scaggs, Cindy Schroeder, Joe Schroeder, Kathy Scott, Barbara Short, Rhonda Smith, Kay Vance, Vicky, Marian Wrinkle

At Home/Assisted Living

Sue Boyd, Anita Poling (Westminster), Pat Watson (Hollybrook), Elsie Wetzel

Nursing Home

Heritage Manor-Tom (Billy) Robey, Rev. Barbara Short, Don Short; The Loft-Cynthia Ferguson; Martin Health -Earl McIntyre, Sugar Creek Care Center-David Gibson

Military

Mark Brienen, Keyla Folsom, Troy Guyran, Benjamin Horn, Michael Iverson, Adam and Angie Lienhop, Clay Short, John Thomas, Darrell Walton, Christopher Wilson-Poston, Glen Whitecotton

Prayer Concerns

John Hancock, friend of Jan Keefe family, complications after heart surgery. Prayers are needed.

Linda Bachman, aunt of Desiree Fitzgerald, passed away from COVID. Please keep her family in your prayers.

David, brother of Kay Carius. Has severe arthritis in both hands and is looking for relief. Please pray that he finds relief from the swelling and pain.

Shirley, friend of the sister of Kay Carius, has muscle cancer and having surgery. Please offer prayers of support, healing and strength for Shirley and that her surgery is successful.

December Birthday & Anniversaries

Emilia Todd	12/07
Billy Robey	12/10
Ruth Roley	12/17
Denny and JoAnne Pritchard	12/27

January Birthday & Anniversaries

Becky Hines	01/10
Esther Sengpiel	01/12
Kay Davis	01/15
Laurel Poshard	01/27
Rae and Ron Geske	01/29



Advent Season

Sunday	Scripture	
November 29	Psalm 146	Hope
December 6	Micah 5:2-5	Peace
December 13	Isaiah 9:2-7	Love
December 20	Luke 1:26-45	Joy
December 24	Luke 2:1-20	

Advent Sunday Service links:

November 29th—Hope

<https://www.facebook.com/centennialcc.org/videos/723779551873466>

December 6th—Peace

<https://www.facebook.com/centennialcc.org/videos/404407240750171>

December 13th—Love

<https://www.facebook.com/centennialcc.org/videos/242928760502693>