

## Our Advent focus at First Presbyterian this year is Know Your Whys: Why We Celebrate

Dear Friends:

The church season of **Advent** is almost here. Amid all the upcoming fall festivities and our preparations for the holidays...how do we make time for the most important preparation of all? **How do we get our hearts ready for the coming of the Christ?** What spiritual practices help us experience the “old, old story” in fresh, new ways?

Our Christmas celebrations, I believe, can be more joyous, more meaningful, and more faithful if we take time to reflect on “**Why We Celebrate**”. We celebrate to declare “**Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift,**” (2 Cor. 9:13) and to express our joy in what God has made possible for us by sending Jesus into the world. During **Advent**, please join me in setting aside time in your daily or weekly routine to ponder the birth of our Savior. Participate with First Pres in one of the faith practices below or choose another **Advent practice** this year. **May our faith be strengthened and our celebrations more joyful as we purposefully journey through Advent together!**

Faithfully yours, **Anne Tedder**

Coordinator, Adult Faith Formation

- 1) Pick up a daily **Advent Devotional Guide** provided by the church. These will be available soon (one per household) in Welcome Center.
- 2) Do an **Advent book study**. I suggest *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes* by Cynthia M. Campbell. Available at Amazon in paperback (\$14.99) or as a Kindle book (\$8) or at Christianbook.com (paperback \$10.99 or e-book \$7.99) Four chapters, each with reflection questions and prayers. Great for you to do by yourself or in a small group. Don't wait-order now!
- 3) Attend the adult “**Sunday Short**” at 9:30 am in the Kirk on Sundays in Advent (**November 27, December 4, 11, 18**). Guest teachers will use *Awaiting the Already* to help us discover how each Gospel writer announced the Christ and uncovered Advent's tension between the past and future. **All adults welcome!**
- 4) **Listen In** as a seminary professor teaches about the Incarnation. What does it mean that God became flesh and how do we even begin to understand this great mystery of our faith? “**Incarnation: Yale Bible Study**” by Dr. Allen Hilton is easily accessible\* at home via the First Pres website. There are four sessions: each one lasts about an hour, but you can start and stop at your convenience.



\*If you are uncertain about how to access this **free** study or print the accompanying study guide, **I am available to help you** on Mondays, Nov. 14, 21, or 28. Please call/text me (864) 314-5379 to schedule a help session in person or by phone.-- **Anne**