

November 29, 2007

WFMCC Weekly

Advent in the Everyday: Worship



*Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know
on what day your Lord is coming.*

Matthew 24:42



Dear Friends,

It seems hard to believe, but the holy season of Advent will already be upon us this Sunday. Many months ago in the summertime, someone suggested "everyday spirituality" as a future sermon topic. In response to that suggestion, our theme for Advent this year is "Advent in the Everyday."

Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, marks the beginning of the Christian liturgical year. It is usually seen as a period of expectant reflection and preparation for the birth, or the arrival, of Christ in our daily lives and in the life of the world. As Jesus reminds us in the gospel of Matthew, we are to keep awake and alert, because we never know just when he will appear.

This is exactly why experiencing Advent in the everyday-ness of our lives is such an important spiritual practice. Especially during this time of year that is so filled with the busyness of shopping, wrapping, and spending, it is especially ironic that the very season we are celebrating is the one that can cause us to miss the appearance of Christ in our lives the most.

Is it possible to keep awake - to notice and pay attention - to where we just might find Jesus in some surprising places in the midst of the Christmas season? I believe it is, and over the next four weeks we are going to be exploring just how we can truly experience Advent in our everyday lives through the practices of worship, faith, trust, and living our dreams.

We have many wonderful experiences planned throughout December, from this sermon series to our cantata, from "Don We Now Our Gay Apparel" to Christmas Eve. I hope you will plan to be a part of it all, and to make WFMCC an everyday part of your life throughout Advent and beyond.

Many blessings,

Lea

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Rev. Elder Dr. Nori Rost to Serve as WFMCC Temporary Pastor

1. Transition News: Rev. Elder Dr. Nori Rost to Serve as WFMCC Temporary Pastor

With guidance from Rev. Elder Lillie Brock, our board of trustees recently announced its decision to choose a *temporary pastor* for our congregation, rather than an *interim pastor*.

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What is the difference between the two? An interim pastor is generally hired for a period between 12 and 24 months, and usually has the responsibility of helping a congregation heal from a challenging or painful time. A temporary pastor, however, is hired for a shorter period of time to provide spiritual leadership and a pastoral presence when no such period of healing is necessary.

Because WFMCC is in such a period of growth and stability at this time, the primary concern of the board is to maintain our current momentum. Thus, the board has approved Lillie's recommendation for a temporary pastor who will support us in maintaining our momentum while the pastoral search committee does its work to help the church in finding and calling a new permanent senior pastor.

On November 18th Barbara Mann, vice-moderator of our board, announced the selection of our temporary pastor: the Rev. Elder Dr. Nori Rost. Nori will begin her duties on December 17th, immediately following Lea's last WFMCC service on December 16th.

If you are not familiar with Nori, you will have the opportunity to meet her on Sunday, December 9th when she will be joining us for our annual Christmas Cantata.

2. Annual World AIDS Day Service

Circle of Hope will be hosting its annual World AIDS Day Service on Saturday, December 1st, 7 p.m., at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Members of our VIP Choir will be participating in the choir for the service. Everyone is welcome to attend.

3. AIDS? In Wichita Falls?

In observation of World AIDS Day our HIV/AIDS ministry, No Day But Today!, will be presenting an educational event about HIV and AIDS. "AIDS? In Wichita Falls?" is being presented in partnership with MSU, Circle of Hope, and the Wichita Falls Public Health Department. It will take place this Friday, November 30th, at noon, in room 101 of the Dillard Building at MSU.



This event will feature a panel of speakers, including participants from No Day But Today!, MSU, and the Health Department. Please plan to attend this ground-breaking event and help us place posters around Wichita Falls to spread the word. Everyone is welcome to attend.

4. Upcoming Christmas Events

Join us this Sunday, December 2nd at 6 p.m. for "Don We Now Our Gay Apparel!" We will be gathering in our sanctuary for Christmas decorating, a dessert potluck, hot chocolate, and wonderful entertainment provided by our musicians (including the long-suffering Barbie Butches).



Please bring a potluck dessert to share at this event!

Also, during our 11 a.m. worship service on December 9th, the fabulous musicians of WFMCC and a supporting cast will be presenting our 2007 Christmas Cantata, "Light of a Million Mornings."

Finally, Dwight and Kevin would like to invite everyone to a tree-trimming party on December 9th at 4pm. Please bring an ornament for the tree and an appetizer to share. Coffee, soda and water will be provided (plus Kevin's best holiday cheesecake!); you are welcome to bring your favorite beverage.

The party is at Dwight's house, 3600 Alexandria Street (Bel Air development). For more details, please call Kevin at 940-867-8624.

5. Break the Barrier Update

Many thanks to everyone who has been contributing to our Break the Barrier Fund. Our current total is now \$3,360! These funds are set aside each month to fund our dream of hiring a full-time director of music and worship. With the continued faithfulness and generosity of the WFMCC community, we can be assured that we will be able to make this dream come true.

The next Break the Barrier offering will be received on Sunday, December 16th.

6. WFMCC Change Drive Continues

Now that we are in the final month of 2007, we haven't got much longer to fill up the two five-gallon containers in our sanctuary with loose change. Our goal is to collect "Ten Gallons of Change for 20 More Years," and together we can do it!



There are cups labeled "10 for 20" in the back of the sanctuary next to the change containers. Take as many as you like for your home, vehicle, workplace, etc., to help you collect your change. You can bring the cups back with you to church any Sunday and pour your coins into the containers.

Both containers are a little over half full at this time. Please help us fill them all the way to the top by December 31st. Every penny, nickel, dime and quarter will help us continue our ministries into our 21st year and beyond.

7. WFMCC 21st Anniversary Banquet

Tickets are on sale now for WFMCC's 21st Anniversary Banquet, which will be held on Saturday, January 26th. Join us for dinner, a silent auction, entertainment, our annual presentation of the "Spirit of the Community" Award, and a rousing bunco tournament, all to be held at the Women's Forum at 6 p.m.

Tickets cost \$21 each for adults and can be purchased from anyone on the Anniversary Committee. We also need your nominations for the "Spirit of the Community" Award, which you can place in the suggestion box located in the church foyer.

8. Pet Calendars Are Still Available

It's not too late to order your 2008 WFMCC Pet Calendars! These calendars are always adorable and make great Christmas presents for your friends and family.



If you would like to place an order, please see Ronda at church on Sundays. Calendars are \$15 each and must be paid for at the time you place your order.

9. Rider High School presents "The Laramie Project"

Starting this Friday evening and through December 11th, the Theater Department at Rider High School will be presenting "The Laramie Project, a powerful play that revolves around the hate-crime murder of Matthew Shepard.



Performances will take place on the following dates: November 30th, December 1, 4, 7, and 11, all at 7:30 p.m., and on December 2 and 9 at 2:30 p.m. After each performance there will also be a panel discussion, many of which will feature WFMCC congregants.

For more information about tickets and panel speakers, please contact the church office at (940) 322-4100. Let's turn out to support Rider High's very courageous decision to present this play to Wichita Falls!

10. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

Thanksgivings for Steve's successful surgery and continued recovery...for the fruits of the Spirit...for another day of joy and laughter...**Prayer requests for** Steve's return to church and work as soon as possible...for

Glen, after losing his wife...for Ron's dad...for Heather's grandfather who is battling ALS...for Don after losing his wife and daughter...for the Beezley's and healing and loving grace for their heavy hearts...for travel mercies for David R. as he travels to California for the holidays...for healing for Hallie and Becky...for continued strength and courage for Michael...for everyone in the congregation who is struggling.

Wichita Falls MCC

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