



Mission:

To call all people to be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Vision:

We engage in relationships by creating environments where together we experience God.

Values:

We value following Jesus
We value God's Word
We value loving relationships
We value serving Jesus
We value sharing Jesus

Church Staff:

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Encounter Church of Palmyra

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Welcome!



Come, Lord Jesus

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

Welcome to Encounter Church!

If you are visiting today, please stop by the Information Center located in the cafe at the back right of the lobby. There you can obtain information about Encounter Church, ask questions or get directions to help you find your way around the church building. Welcome!

Everyone is invited to the Multi-Purpose Room/Gym immediately following the 9:30 service. This is a time of light refreshment and an opportunity to get to know each other. Enjoy!

Please join us next Sunday, the Second Sunday of Advent, when guest teacher, Ryan Cagno, shares the message, **Defiant Hope**. In Advent, we remember and celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world, and the hope that brings. Yet even as we celebrate this, the reality is our world and our lives are often messy and broken. What kind of hope can we claim in the face of this reality? Join us next Sunday as we consider the lives of John the Baptist (and George Bailey!) and the type of reality-defying hope we find in Jesus.

Angel Tree Update: Wonderful news – all of the angel gift tags have been taken, but there are still ways for you to help connect a child with their incarcerated parent. Consider taking an angel tag to make a monetary donation towards a gift card for a caregiver. You might also consider volunteering to help deliver gifts. Wrapped presents and monetary gifts are due by **Sunday, December 10**. Please contact Renee Dreisbach at (717) 580-3819 with questions. Thank you!

Child Dedication: Next **Sunday, December 10**, we will be having **child dedications** during our worship celebrations. If interested in having your child dedicated, contact the church office or make a note on your Connect Card.

Impact Youth: There's still time to sign up for this summer's Jr. or Sr. High missions trips. The **Jr. High** group is heading to **West Virginia** and the **Sr. High** is off to **Guatemala** with Champions in Action. Registration deadlines are approaching. Applications can be found online, picked up in the Youth Room or at the Information Center.

Encounter Young Adult Bible Study: This engaging group meets on **Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm** here at the church. All Young Adults (18+) are welcome to come out for a great night of fellowship and fun!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Celebration: Please join us on Christmas Eve, **Sunday, December 24 at 3:00, 4:30 or 6:00 pm** for a festive celebration of Jesus' birth. This year the **Children's Program**, put on by our own 5th & 6th graders, will be incorporated into this family friendly service. Come celebrate with us and invite your family and friends to join you! Please note that because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, we'll combine our morning worship with our evening celebrations. There will be no separate morning services on Christmas Eve.

Church Board Nominations: Nominations are being accepted for an open position on the Church Board for service this coming year. There are no open spots on the Deacon Team at this time. Nomination forms are due today and are located at the Information Center. They may be dropped in the nomination box there. Thank you for your participation.

Christmas Offering: During our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Celebration**, we will be taking our **Annual Christmas Offering** to benefit those in need. This year our offering will go towards the church's **Compassion Fund** to assist those in need in our congregation & community. Thank you for caring and for sharing the grace of Jesus Christ this Christmas.

Communion Celebration: Please note that we will be using grape juice during our celebration of communion this morning. Also, a gluten-free cracker option is available in each basket for those who are allergic.

Happy "Early" New Year! Come join us for an early New Year's Eve celebration on **Sunday, December 31** from **5:00-9:00 pm**. Dinner will be pot-luck style (bring a dish or two to share; beverages will be provided) and there will be games and fun for both kids and adults. And...we'll be counting down the New Year at 8:00 pm so you can get your kids to bed at a decent hour! Want to join the fun? **RSVP** to Children's Ministry Co-Director, Stephanie Schell at stephanie@encounterchurchofpalmyra.org.

Operation Christmas Child: Please continue to pray for this year's OCC shoeboxes and the children who will be receiving them. The official count is in....**407 shoeboxes** were collected here at Encounter Church! Thanks to all!

Baby Break Room: We understand as a parent of a new baby that you may not be quite ready to leave them in the nursery. We welcome you to keep your baby with you in the service. If you are in need of a quiet place to take them, there is a Baby Break Room to the right of the stage in the lobby.

Make Room for Others: Please move to the middle of your row to make room for others on the ends of each row. Thank you!

Washington DC Bus Trip: Join the **Encounter Church** family and friends on **Wednesday, May 30, 2018** as we travel to **Washington DC** to tour the **White House, Capital Building** and other attractions at the **Capital Mall**. Tour price: \$50.00/person. Contact Jim Beard (jbeard1@comcast.net or 717-838-9636) with questions. More details available at the Information Center.

Help Us Recycle! If there is a portion of your weekly bulletin that you will not use, please place it in the basket at the front door so that it can be recycled.

Can We Pray for You? If you would like prayer, please come to the front of the lobby (by the prayer banner) at the end of the worship celebration. Members of the **Prayer Ministry** will be there to pray with you.

On-Site Prayer Walker this Week: Carolyn Pertusio



Pastor Terry Friesen

Series: Advent
Title: Come, Lord Jesus
Text: *Philippians 1:6*
Date: December 3, 2017

"Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well." **James 5:13-15**

Memory Verse: *"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."* **Philippians 1:6**

My Next Step Today Is To:

- Participate** in the reading of the **Advent** devotionals each day
- Be **blessed** in believing in the **Christ** child
- Memorize** *Philippians 1:6*
- Invite** a friend to join me next week, for the second Sunday of **Advent**, as Ryan Cagno talks on the theme, **Hope is on the way!**



Advent Devotionals

The celebration of **Advent** could make this your most memorable **Christmas** season and be the beginning of a treasured family tradition. **Advent** refers to the "coming" or "arrival" of Jesus Christ. Within the Church, the term has several meanings: the **Advent** of the Lord in the flesh at Christmas; His **Advent** in Word and Spirit; and the final **Advent** when our

Lord will return bodily in glory. Each meaning stirs the joyful anticipation of what God has accomplished, is doing, and will yet bring to completion. The purpose of these devotionals is to help you as busy families and individuals find special moments during the **Christmas** holiday season to celebrate **Christ's Advent**. Enjoy and celebrate **Advent** this year! By observing this tradition, the true significance of Christmas will not be missed in your home. May the Light of the world shine brightly in your family this **Advent** season. Below you will find Scripture readings for each day of **Advent**. Be creative in how you use them – different translations – have different members of the family read them. You may also wish to have an **Advent Wreath** that you light each Sunday.

Monday – Nov 27 - **A Child Will Be Born To Us**
Isaiah 9:2-6

Tuesday – November 28 - **The Creator of Man**
Genesis 1:26-31

Wednesday – November 29 – **The Fall of Man**
Genesis 3:1-24

Thursday – November 30 – **Promise of Redemption**
Genesis 3:15

Friday – December 01 – **A Prophet Will Come**
Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Saturday – December 02 – **A Virgin With Child**
Isaiah 7:10-14

1st Sunday of Advent – December 03 – **A Righteous Judge**
Isaiah 11:1-5

Monday – December 04 – **The Birth Of Christ**
Matthew 1:18-25

Tuesday – December 05 – **A Savior And Deliverer**
Isaiah 19:19-25

Wednesday – December 06 – **The Sovereign Lord Comes**
Isaiah 40:9-11

Thursday – December 07 – **Behold My Chosen One**
Isaiah 42:1-4

Friday – December 08 – **A Servant Brings Salvation**
Isaiah 49:1-7

Saturday – December 09 – **A Man Of Sorrows**
Isaiah 53:1-12

2nd Sunday of Advent – Dec 10 - **God's Spirit Is Upon Him**
Isaiah 61:1-3

Monday – Dec 11 - **The Shepherds And The Angels**
Luke 2:8-20

Tuesday – December 12 - **A Righteous Branch**
Jeremiah 23:5-6

Wednesday – December 13 - **A Ruler Over Israel**
Micah 5:2

Thursday – December 14 - **Your King Is Coming**
Zechariah 9:9-10

Friday – December 15 - **The Messenger is Sent**
Malachi 3:1

Saturday – December 16 - **The Birth Of John Is Foretold**
Luke 1:1-25

3rd Sunday of Advent – Dec 17 - **The Announcement To Mary**
Luke 1:26-38

Monday – December 18 - **The Visit Of The Magi**
Matthew 2:1-12

Tuesday – December 19 - **Elizabeth And Mary**
Luke 1:39-56

Wednesday – December 20 - **The Birth Of Jesus**
Luke 1:57-80

Thursday – December 21 - **Presentation In The Temple**
Luke 2:21-38

Friday – December 22 - **The Pre-Eminent Christ**
Colossians 1:15-23

Saturday – December 23 - **Worthy Is The Lamb**
Revelation 5:1-14

4th Sunday of Advent – December 24 - **Christmas Eve**
The New Heaven And New Earth
Revelation 21:1-7

Monday – - December 25 - **Christmas Day**
Celebrating The Visit Of Christ
Luke 1:67-69