



Advent/Christmas 2021 - A Red Letter Day For Us All

I have a calendar on my wall at home that is filled with “red letter days.” You probably know what I mean, certain days of the year are highlighted by red print identifying some special happening, holiday or event. This practice of indicating red letter days is something that dates back into Roman antiquity. Red letter days were days of cultural and social significance that helped Romans define who they were.

We all have our own personal “red letter” days. Days that define who we are and maybe how others see us. We celebrate birthdays and special anniversaries. There are graduation days and holidays. Maybe this past year it was your vaccination day. Or the day you got to see loved ones you haven’t seen in a while. Or the day you were diagnosed or recovered from an illness. Or the day you started something new. Or the day you lost a loved one. These days are like markers on our journey through life. Think of the days in your life that have been of significance or importance. Days that locate your soul and testify to your character. A day on which maybe you said, “Here I stand!” or “Here I go!” or “What have I done?” or “What’s next?”

As Christians we have other red-letter days meant to define and shape who we are. Days like Christmas Day, Epiphany, Good Friday and Pentecost are red letter days for us. Days we celebrate the activity of a God whose goodness defines the world and us differently than we may define ourselves. We need these red-letter days of our faith. We need them because in spite of how the world defines itself and how we may see our lives, our faith and our God offers us a change of perspective.

Christmas is a red-letter day we can spend a lot of time and energy attempting to define for ourselves. We may define it by selecting the right gifts, choosing the right décor, by carefully planning the menu, or spending it with certain people. The list can get long when we think of everything we “must do” and “ought to do” to make Christmas our red letter day -to make Christmas “Christmas.”

As we prepare for Advent and anticipate the celebration of Christmas, besides the things we think we “must do” and “ought to do,” there is one thing we can do. We can receive Christmas as the gift it is. The day we celebrate a God who comes as a vulnerable child, born in the night, away from the centres of power, in what were very uncertain times. We remember the birth of Jesus -an event that changes our definition of God and the value of every person. A day that remembers the gift of a baby in a manger and the love and peace and future promise he brings. This is God’s red letter day *for* us and for so many in this world.

May Advent and Christmas blessings be yours,

Rev. Dr. Dale Skinner



2021 Advent and Christmas Schedule

Saturday Nov 27	7:00 PM	The Sounds of Christmas - A Carol Sing & Tree Lighting will be an in-person event, but will also be livestreamed for those that cannot join us.
Sunday Nov 28	10:00 AM	1st Sunday of Advent ~ HOPE
Wednesday Dec 1	7:00 PM	Worship of Healing and Hope: A service acknowledging our past struggles, loss, & grief. As we approach the longest night of the year, we are reminded of diminishing light that leads into deepest night. For anyone who has experienced loss, whether loss of a beloved person, pet, marriage, job, or good health, this “joyous” time of year may be especially difficult. Or perhaps Covid-19 has added an extra layer of uncertainty along with loss of freedom. Whatever the reason, we may be longing for just a quiet, reflective time to recognize that life is not always filled with joy. This service will acknowledge our struggles, but will also remind us of light-filled hope that is ever-present. All are welcome to attend.
Saturday Dec 4	11:30 AM 7:00 PM	Woodlawn Chowder Lunch – Final one of the year! Christmas Show with Blaine Henshaw & Friends
Sunday Dec 5	10:00 AM 12:00 PM	2nd Sunday of Advent ~ PEACE White Gift Sunday UCW AGM
Saturday Dec 11	8:00 AM	Men’s Christian Fellowship Breakfast
Sunday Dec 12	10:00 AM	3rd Sunday of Advent ~ JOY
Sunday Dec 19	10:00 AM	4th Sunday of Advent ~ LOVE
Friday Dec 24	4:00 PM 8:00 PM	Office Closes at 12:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Worship Christmas Eve Worship with Communion
Saturday Dec 25		Christmas Day. Merry Christmas!
Sunday Dec 26	10:00 AM	Worship with Jerry Jackson and Jim Farmer
Wednesday Dec 29		Office Reopens after Christmas
Friday Dec 31		New Year’s Eve Office Closes at 12:00 PM
Monday Jan 3		Office Closed

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year