

**First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2011 10:00 AM**

**Blackstone Valley
United Methodist Church**

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*Our Mission is to change people's lives
through a relationship with Jesus Christ.*

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~WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE~

Greeting of Peace

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Opening Song *"Open the Eyes of My Heart"*

#3008

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

Leader: Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for the hope, peace, joy, and love of God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of Jesus, and through acts of hope, peace, joy, and love. Advent is a season of lighting candles; lighting candles for the hope, peace, joy, and love for which we wait.

Reader 1: As we light the Advent candles we are reminded to look for where God's way of love is present in our world today. Today we light the first candle, the candle of hope.

Reader 2: We wait – We wait not because we do not know the story of Jesus, and not because you are not already and always here. We wait because to wait is to expect something more. To wait is to expect that the story might enter our hearts and our world in new ways, to bring the change for which we long.

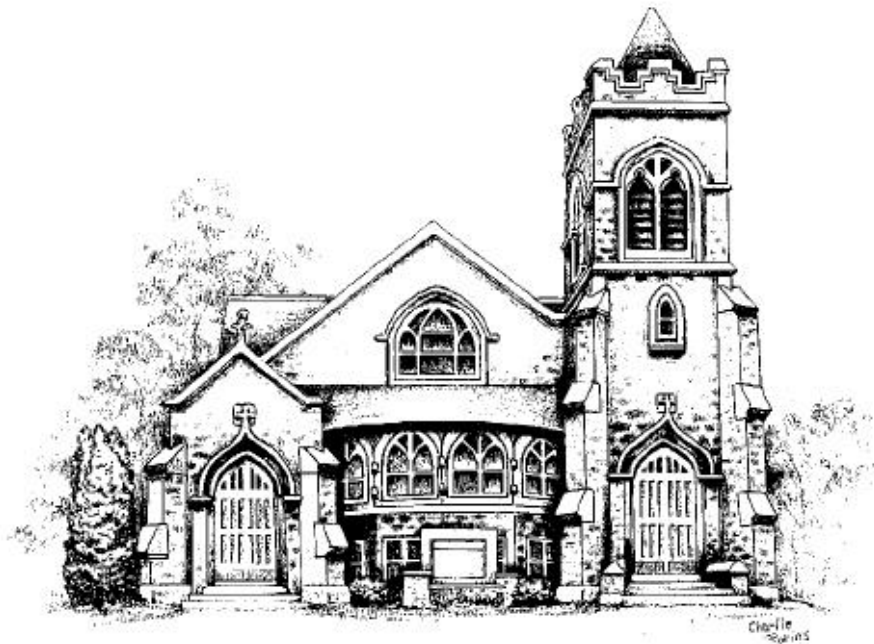
(Reader 2 lights the Advent candle)

Reader 1: As we light the candle of hope, we remember the stories of God with us, when life has been hard, and not what we expected. We can trust that God is with us, as we wait for hope to be born, anew, in us.

Hymn *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

#140

This Week at Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church



61 Linwood Avenue
Whitinsville, MA 01588
508-234-2275

A Time for the Child in All of Us *Ingrid Murphy*
(Children may be dismissed for Sunday School)

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Offertory “Jesus Lover of My Soul” *by Ezzy, Grul & McPherson*

Doxology #95

Offertory Prayer

In this season of waiting and lighting candles, loving God, we offer these gifts of money, of creation, of wondering, and we offer ourselves as bearers of the light of your hope in the world. Amen.

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~WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD~

Anthem “The Call” *by Vaughn Williams*
Soloist, Mark Gentry

Reading of the Word

Epistle *1 Corinthians 1: 3-9*
Gospel *Mark 13: 24-37*

Hymn “Until Jesus Comes” #3050

Message *Rev. Michele Ewers*

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~WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE~

A Time For Prayer *Mark Gentry*

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

~WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD~

Hymn “Change My Heart, O God” #2152

Sending Forth

L: As we go, may we be always thankful for each other, for this faith community, and for the whole global community of followers of Jesus the Christ.

P: *May we be aware of the Spirit always with us – our strength, the giver of the gifts we need for the journey.*

All: *May we know God to be ever faithful, calling us into community, calling us to be attentive in our waiting for the hope of God to be revealed anew in this Advent season.*

Closing Song “Shine, Jesus, Shine” #2173

Bringing the Light Into the World

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Call to Worship, Opening Prayer Offertory Prayer,
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Sending Forth:
from Seasons of the Spirit Fusion.

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 64: 1-9
Psalms 80: 1-7, 17-19