

Letter from the Pastor

December Sermon Series

Lighthouse Toy Shoppe

December Events

Connection Luncheon

Christmas Eve



## ADVENT OF Patience

### Waiting

by: Pastor Brandon Lenhart

Waiting. Why is it so hard to wait?

We get frustrated waiting too long for our food to cook. We get frustrated if we wait too long in a drive-thru. We get impatient waiting for the day we can graduate from school, or for the kick-off to the season of a sporting event, or for a birthday or a wedding, or an anniversary.

What about holidays too? Easter, 4th of July, Memorial Day Weekend, and Christmas. As a kid, I used to struggle to wait for Christmas, especially after Halloween. I knew that Christmas was just around the corner, and it was all I could do to keep my mind occupied on daily tasks without the distractions of what Christmas was going to be like that year. I couldn't wait for the gifts that would be placed under the tree, the family I would see over dinners and caroling, and the special pageants and programs and Christmas movies that would come. There's something so mesmerizing and magical about that time of year that makes it so hard to wait.

In the Bible, we read so many stories of people who had to wait. Abraham and Sarah, waited until they were elderly to have their first child. David, waited for nearly 11 years to become king after he was anointed by Samuel for the kingship of Israel. And the whole Jewish nation, who, over millennia waited for a Messiah to come and break the chains of their bondage and pain. And much like the Jewish people (before Christ), we too get impatient for the coming Messiah. What do I mean? Well...

The Jewish people, even through the prophecies of Moses, knew that someday there would be a Messiah (or, "Anointed One") who would come and establish a kingdom that would last forever. This kingdom would have no equal and would be the most powerful and benevolent kingdom the world had ever known. The One who would establish this kingdom on earth, would reign forever according to the plans and purposes of GOD, and this kingdom would be a kingdom of peace and joy.

who would establish this kingdom on earth, would reign forever according to the plans and purposes of GOD, and this kingdom would be a kingdom of peace and joy. This kingdom would not be recognized until the birth of one seemingly insignificant child, to some seemingly insignificant mother, in some seemingly insignificant community in the region of Judea during first century Roman rule. Most of the Jews who had been raised with the stories of the coming King of kings, and Lord of lords, would miss His coming. The one they had been told about for so long, and for whom they had waited for so patiently, would not be recognized ("He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him" John 1:10-11, NLT.). However, it's through His life that the world would come to know what real life really is, and it would be through His death that the world would see what GOD's wrath looked like against a sinful world, and it would be through His resurrection that all would see that death cannot hold in the grave one who not only is love, but also the ones who are surrendered to that love in submission to Him ("But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God" John 1:12, NLT.).

Today, much like the Jewish people of the Old Testament, we too are awaiting another Advent. The first Advent resulted in the coming of the Messiah through the birth of a virgin, the next Advent will result in the skies being rent into and a trumpet sound so loud that the whole world will hear. This time there will be no mistaking the Messiah's arrival. So, this Christmas season, are you waiting patiently, and are you ready if He comes? Let's not be like those when He arrived as a baby in a manger and not recognize Him. Let's be faithful people who have surrendered all to Him and look forward to His arrival.



## DECEMBER SERMON SERIES

### December 4 - The Gift of Waiting (Part 1)

Isaiah 9:1-7

Key Point: "Since the beginning, GOD's true people faithfully waited on a Messiah and were blessed."

### December 11 - The Fulfillment of Waiting

Matthew 1:18-25

Key Point: "At just the right time in human history, GOD fulfilled His promise by sending the Messiah."

### December 18 - The Disappointment of Not Waiting

John 1:10-14

Key Point: "The consequences of not waiting on GOD are spiritual blindness and unbelief."

### December 24 - The Gift of Waiting (Part 2)

James 5:7-12; 2 Peter 3:1-16;

Key Point: "We must be ready at any moment for the return of the Messiah."

**December 25 (Christmas Day) - PRE-RECORDED VIDEO SERVICE TO BE BROADCAST AROUND 10am**



## SANCTUARY REOPENING

We're excited to announce our Sunday Services will begin being held in our newly renovated Sanctuary on Sunday, December 4th.

To all of those at North Main that volunteered, THANK YOU!  
We would not have been able to do this without you.



## THE LIGHTHOUSE TOY SHOPPE

### WHAT TO DONATE:

- New unwrapped toys, ages 0-12
- Gift cards of \$25
- Stocking stuffers

Give the gift of LOVE this Christmas to children of impoverished families.  
Please bring your donations to church by December 14, 2022. THANK YOU!





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## ON THE MENU:

Ham, Potatoes Gratin,  
Green Beans,  
Rolls, Christmas Cookies

**Invite a friend to join  
you, anyone new to  
North Main  
eats for free!**

**Cost: \$6/adult \$4/child  
and a max of  
\$20/household**



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## TINSEL & TEARS: A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, December 4th from 6:00pm - 7:00pm  
at North Main

Thompson Miller Funeral Home and North Main Street Church of God invite you to attend this Memorial Christmas service. This hour-long service will provide support and suggestions for coping with the journey of grief during the holidays as well as an opportunity to remember and honor loved ones in a meaningful way.

If you have not RSVP'd already, you are welcome to come, however your loved one's name will not be able to be read during the service or presented in the booklet to be handed out.



**Merry Christmas!**  
from North Main

There will be no in-person Sunday Service on

## Christmas Day

We pray that you enjoy a beautiful Christmas morning celebrating the birth of our Savior with your family.

If you would like to still join us online there will be a Recorded Service available for you at 10am that you can find on our website, Youtube channel, or Facebook page.

If you haven't accessed these before and need assistance, please don't hesitate to email or call the church office, we'd be happy to show you how to connect with us online.

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The Church Office will be closed from December 26th - January 2nd

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North Main Street Church of God  
1201 North Main Street Ext  
Butler, PA 16001-1537



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BUTLER, PA  
PERMIT NO. 83

North Main exists to:  
Develop completely committed  
followers of Christ who..

KNOW Christ intimately  
GROW in Christ continually  
GO for Christ daily



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724-285-4214



[@northmaincog](https://twitter.com/northmaincog)



[info@northmaincog.org](mailto:info@northmaincog.org)



Mon-Thu 9am-4pm



## Christmas Eve Services 4pm & 7pm

childcare is available for children ages 3 and under  
1201 North Main Street Ext. Butler, PA 16001