

From the Pastor's Desk

Grace and peace to you in this holy season! I want to share with you a bit of what will be happening in worship at Mt Nittany UMC leading up to Christmas. In the four Advent Sundays before Christmas (Dec 3, 10, 17 & 24) we will be examining the calling of Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the shepherds with the help of a new video series "The Call of Christmas." We will think about the hope God offers in the call of Zechariah to prepare for Christ's coming. We will consider God's peace as we recall the story of Mary and God's promise to her. God's call to Joseph to protect Mary and take her as his wife offers a lesson in God's love. Finally, the joy of the shepherds at the message of the angels speaks of God's joy in our lives.

But that's not all this season brings in worship. On Christmas Eve (Sunday evening) the 5pm Christmas Eve service will have a contemporary feel with participation from our folk group and praise band. This will be an active family service as the children will have a chance to help build a nativity scene in the front of the church. We'll sing carols, tell the Christmas story and end with Silent Night and lighting of candles. At seven the feel will be more of a traditional/modern blend as the choir and bell choir bring musical offerings. Here too we will sing the story and end with the lighting of candles. Eleven pm will offer a traditional candlelight service with Holy Communion. A staffed nursery will be available at the 5 & 7pm services.

I want to invite you to worship at Mt Nittany throughout this wonderful season. With a wide variety of music and Biblical messages throughout the season, you will hear "The Call of Christmas" in a way that enriches your Christmas season!