



# Grace Notes

Community of Grace UMC

**December 2019**

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## **December – Wait for it!!**

The season of Advent is upon us again. It may seem as though it has been here for months, with the reds and greens decorating the stores and shopping malls since October. However, the season in which we anticipate the birth of Christ in Bethlehem officially begins December 1<sup>st</sup>. For four weeks we live in anticipation...waiting for what comes next.

This is a familiar and favorite time for many of us. As we bring our own decorations down from the attic, we make lists of gifts to buy, people to visit, and goodies to bake. There are pageants to attend, parties in which we must make appearances, and family gatherings we have to plan. It almost seems routine. We do the same things every year. We get exhausted every year. Each year we swear we are going to do things differently the next year.

Is this really what we have done to Advent? Has the lighting of the Advent wreath become a chore on a checklist to make it through the holiday season? Are we focusing on just getting through Advent rather than hoping for the babe in a manger?

To find joy in this holiday season, we need to embrace the waiting.  
It is in the waiting that we find the peace in knowing what will come.  
It is in the waiting that we find the rest to help us through to the end.  
And it is in the waiting that we find we are in community with those who wait with us.  
What better gift can we give this Advent season, than to give ourselves the time and space to wait?

So we wait...for a savior. We wait in hope, peace, love and joy.  
This year, don't be in a hurry for Christmas to come...and go. Enjoy the anticipation of the season.  
Wait for it.

In Faith,  
Pastor Donna

If this year you are not feeling the joy of the season, I invite you to celebrate the coming of the Light at the parish Blue Christmas Service at Crossroads UMC on Saturday Dec.21 at 7pm. On the longest night of the year, we will quietly celebrate the coming of Light, the Son of God, into a dark and broken world. Step away from the hustle & bustle and find comfort & joy.