November 29, 2026 **10:00 AM**

First Sunday In Advent

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST *AND* MAKING HIM KNOWN

COME WORSHIP THE LORD!

PREPARATION OF OUR HEARTS

"Do not flatter yourselves: if you go to places of worship merely to look about you or to hear music, you are not worshipping God."
Charles Spurgeon

WELCOME & LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CHORAL INTROIT + LIGHTING OF CANDLES: "Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

CALL TO WORSHIP, INVOCATION & LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: HOPE **Kristin and Jack Stephens**

* **HYMN:** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". Sing! **Hymnal #715 v.1**

OFFERTORY PRAYER & ANTHEM: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" arr. J.Carter"
The Sherman Choir

DOXOLOGY **Hymnal #808**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

(Children dismissed for "Jesus is F.U.N." time)

* **GOSPEL:** Mark 13:24-37 **Bible p.1006**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
(Sharing our joys and burdens in prayer.)

* **HYMN:** "Sing We the Song of Emmanuel" Sing! **Hymnal #727**

SERMON: "Hope For the Future" **Pastor Greg Flower**

* **HYMN:** "Taste and See, Taste and See the goodness of the Lord,
Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.
Choir and Congregation

THE LORD'S TABLE

* **HYMN:** "Come Ye Thankful People, Come" Sing! **Hymnal #665**

* **BENEDICTION and THREEFOLD AMEN**
*(*Congregation, please stand if able.)*

We gather to worship God, grow in faith, and share in fellowship through Jesus Christ. Our mission is "Becoming Like Christ," and we welcome you to join us in worship, prayer, study, and activities throughout the year.

LET US KNOW…

If you have a prayer request or would like to share a comment with church leaders.
If you are new and would like to learn more about The Sherman Church.

COMPLETE A CONNECTION CARD

Cards are available in each pew rack.
Place yours in the offering plate or give it to an usher.
Above all, please

Come gather for fellowship following our Worship Service

NEXT WEEK: Pastor Greg Flower will be preaching as we celebrate PEACE on the Second Sunday in Advent, based on Mark 1:1-8. Also, our Annual Christmas Pageant will take place.

Church Responsibilities for November 29, 2026

Flowers: Christmas Committee
Coffee Hour Host: Penny LeMasurier
Nursery: Anna Galasso

Calendar for Nov. 29th - Dec. 5th

(Links for online meetings may be found at shermanchurch.org)

Sun., Nov. 29	10:00 am	**Sunday Worship Service** **Sunday School**	First Sunday of Advent
Mon. Nov. 30	6:30 pm	**Non-Turkey Potluck**	Fellowship Hall
Tues., Dec. 1	7:15 pm	**Missions**	Online
Wed., Dec. 2	10:00 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	**Woman's Bible Study** **Youth Group** **Alcoholics Anonymous**	Fellowship Hall Church Office Fellowship Hall
Thurs., Dec. 3	6:30 pm 6:45 pm 7:00 pm	**Pageant Dress Rehearsal** **Prayer In The Parlor** **Alcoholics Anonymous**	Church Dialing 667-770-1484; use access code 357664#. Fellowship Hall
Fri., Dec. 4	6:00 pm	**The Sherman Church Tree Lighting and Caroling**	Come for an evening, hosted by BOR and Trustees.

A D V E N T

OUR CHURCH:

Pastor:
Greg Flower
Church Secretary
Jessica Jacques
Ministers:
The Congregation
Minister of Music:
Penny Rose
Moderator:
Charles Mastroni

You may make a prayer request anytime by contacting the church office at info@shermanchurch.org or (860)-354-6114. Outside of office hours (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM) or for an emergency prayer or pastoral request contact the Chair of Deacons (deacon@shermanchurch.org or 860-733-9972) or the Pastor (pastor@shermanchurch.org or 860-350-5151). Let us join together in prayer!

OUR MISSIONARIES:

- **Mesa Global**: Robert & Nina Bruneau;
- **CCCC Church Re-Planting:** Green Mountain Church, Chester, VT,
- **Lion of Judah Academy,**
- **Hope Academy of the Bronx.**

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

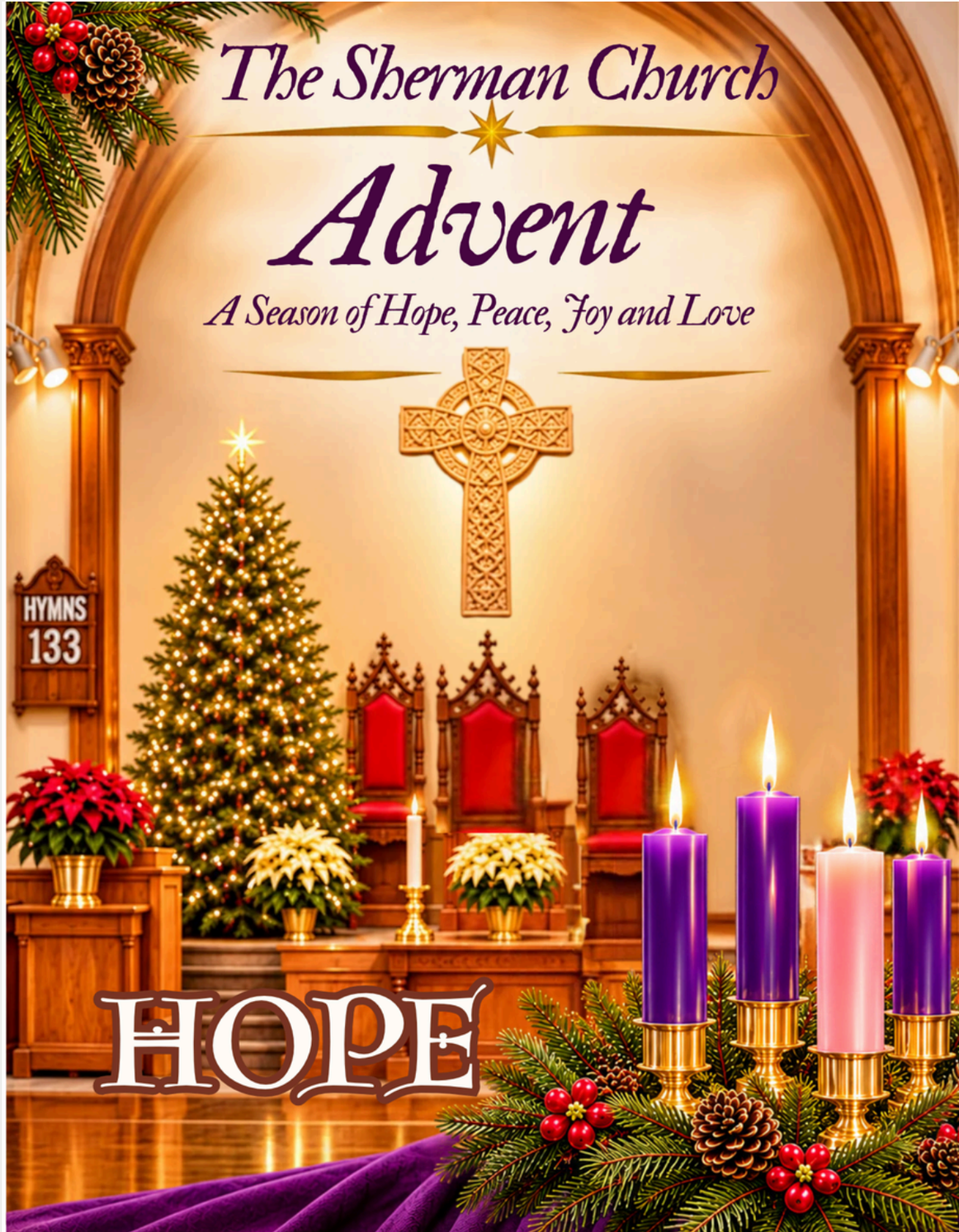
- Eliza Capehart, serving in the United States Air Force.
- John Langworthy, back injury.
- Jim Beddows, health.
- Jim and Christine Munch, health.
- Roberta Judd, health.
- Christopher Siebert, healing of foot.
- Rev. Daniel Morton, health
- Betty Freeman, health
- Chris Freeman, health, strength in the care of her mother
- Debbie Whittaker, Dawn Langworthy's sister. Healing and growing faith.
- Jill Finch, Strength and healing
- Mike Annuzzi, friend of Tim Alemany, healing
- Claire Seibert, health and healing
- Sean McGarry, friend of Caitlin Hicks, health and healing

PRAYER IS ALWAYS OUR MISSION
Prayer is a vital part of our ministry at The Sherman Church.
You are invited to join in prayer each Thursday to pray for our church. Dial-in information is in the calendar.

FIRE EXITS are located at the rear of the sanctuary through the double doors and at the front through the doors on both sides of the altar.

THE SHERMAN CHURCH
Gathered In 1744
Continuing to invite all to know the love of Jesus

6 Church Road | Sherman, CT 06784
860-354-6114
info@shermanchurch.org | Shermanchurch.org
A MEMBER CHURCH OF THE CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE



BAKERS NEEDED

CHRISTMAS COOKIE PLATES

Christmas is a time for sharing love and kindness! Once again, the Missions Committee will be preparing Christmas cookie plates for those who are homebound, have experienced a loss this past year, or may be facing illness.

If you know someone who would appreciate a little Christmas cheer, please let the Missions Committee know!

We also need bakers! Cookies should be dropped off by **December 19th**. Please label them clearly and place them in the cooler outside Fellowship Hall or in the kitchen refrigerator.

We will assemble the plates at 9:00 a.m. on **December 20th,** before worship.

Thank you to all our wonderful bakers and volunteers for helping make this annual ministry a special blessing to others!



A Non-Turkey Potluck Dinner will take place Monday, Nov. 30, at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.
Please RSVP to the church office at 860-354-6114.



For Christmas outreach, Lynne will set up a Giving Tree in Fellowship Hall with names such as "Family of two children, aged 4 and 8" or "Two parents" or "Senior Couple,"etc. Ages and gender will be listed, but not names. Our congregation will be asked to choose a card and then purchase a gift card/cards for the family. The tree will be set up by Nov. 22. Lynne said she hopes to have the gift cards ready for distribution by Dec. 8. She added, "Thank you for helping the people of Sherman."





Please join us as we rejoice in songs
of our Christmas Season,
and decorate our spruce tree outside of the sanctuary.

First Friday Night Together
December 4, 6:00 pm

We need help getting our tree ready for Christmas, and this is how you can help. We ask each family to bring an outdoor ornament for our tree. It can be homemade, new, or an ornament of memories. If you do not have an ornament, that is okay too. We will have ornaments that you can add your name to and hang on our tree. When our season is over, we will pack them safely away and add to them next year.

Our voices will join inside Fellowship Hall with piano music by Kris George and enjoy dessert refreshments of the season.

Sponsored by the Book of Remembrance Committee and the Board of Trustees.





🎄 Annual Church Cookie Exchange
Monday, December 14th at 7:00 PM
Hosted at the home of Don and Edna Coons
9 Meadow Lane
Sherman, CT 06784

Take a break from the holiday hustle and join us for an evening of cookies, fun, and fellowship! Our annual cookie exchange is a wonderful way to share your favorite holiday treats, discover new recipes, and make your holiday baking a little easier.

How It Works:
Bring one dozen cookies to share for everyone to sample, plus as many additional dozens as you would like to exchange.

For example, if you would like to take home three dozen cookies, bring one dozen for tasting and three dozen to exchange. You'll go home with the same number of dozens you brought to exchange (unless there aren't enough to go around).

A Few Reminders:

- Please bring a container to take your cookies home in. It should be separate from the plate you use for sharing.
- Bring copies of your cookie recipe so everyone can take home a new favorite!
- Not a baker or don't have a sweet tooth? No problem! Come anyway and enjoy the evening with us.

This gathering is open to the women of the church (Confirmation age and up) and men who enjoy baking.

We look forward to sharing some Christmas sweetness and fellowship with you!
Questions? Please contact Edna Coons.

Christmas

Flower Fund

In Memory and Honor of..

The Flower Committee is joyfully preparing to decorate our church sanctuary and exterior with festive touches for the Christmas season!

Once again, loved ones may be remembered and honored through free-will donations to the Flower Fund. Donation envelopes will be available in the pews beginning **December 6th**. Simply note the name(s) you wish to remember or honor on the envelope and place it in the offering plate.

All donations will remain confidential, with amounts known only to the church's Financial Secretary.

If you are unable to attend Sunday services, donations may be mailed to the church office. Please clearly mark your gift for the Christmas Flower Fund and include your names.
To be included, donations must be received by **December 22nd**.

Contact the church office or speak with Penny LeMasurier, Edna Coons, Lynne Gomez, or Anna Galasso on Sunday morning, if you have any questions.

Want to join in the Christmas decorating fun? Watch for the announcement of our next Flower Committee gathering. All are warmly welcome to share in this joyful ministry!

Advent 2026
Hope for the future
Mark 13:24-37

I. Hope Looks Beyond Present Hard Times

But in those days, following that distress, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. (Mark 13:24-27)

Jesus describes a troubled _____. (v. 24-25)

The focus is not on the _____.

God's people are not defined by current troubles but by future _____.

Our _____ as followers of Jesus does not rest in governments, economies, or _____ progress.

Our hope is in the personal, visible _____ of Jesus Christ.

When life feels uncertain, we can look past today's troubles to the certainty of Christ's coming _____.

II. Hope Trusts the Promises of God

Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. (Mark 13:28-31)

The lesson of the fig tree is that God's _____ are unfolding according to His timetable. (v. 28-29)

God is always faithful to His _____.

The authority and reliability of Scripture are the _____ of our hope.

We strengthen our hope by _____, studying and trusting

God's Word, not the changing _____ of the world.

Our hope stands on the certainty of God's _____.

III. Hope Lives Ready for Christ's Return

But *about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore, keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!" (Mark 13:32-37)*

No one knows the day or hour of Christ's _____. (v. 32)

Jesus tells His followers to stay awake and remain _____. (v. 33)

Our hope produces active _____, not passive waiting.

Hope is demonstrated through faithful _____.

Christ expects His church to be _____ until He comes.

A hopeful church is a _____ church, a _____ church,

and a _____ church.

Advent reminds us that our hope is rooted in a _____, not a _____.

Look beyond the _____.

Trust God's _____.

Live in the hope of Christ's _____.