



# Congregational Connections

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## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

I love this time of year. I think I like it now more than ever. The season, of course, has its detractors, and with good reason! The commercialism and its false promise that all can be made right with the proper gift. The busyness of running around trying to make everything “perfect” for others. There is the cold weather, the brief daylight hours, the shoveling of snow, the icy roads, the same 10 songs played every place you go, etc., etc., etc.

The themes of Advent help keep me rooted in what this season is supposed to be about: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. I hope you will join us for the Sundays and Wednesdays of Advent - these worship services will be great reminders of the “why” behind all of the celebrations. I believe that as we focus on the “why” of Christmas we can avoid some of the negative layers that have been built up over the years.

Here are my reasons “why” I love the season, using the Advent themes: God is in **love** with the world we live in and in love with each of us. Because God loves us, we have grounds for **hope** - as the Apostle wrote: “if God is for us, who can be against us?” When we have God’s love and hope for our future, we are inspired to feel **joy** - we rejoice because of the incredible gifts we have been given. When we see the world surrounded by love, as we are hopeful about the future, and filled with joy, our souls begin to feel the **peace** which “passes all understanding”. I hope you join us this month for all the events and activities and stay focused on hope, peace, joy, and love, and that you have a very merry Christmas!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Scott

