

Dear Lillian Methodist Church family,

I always thought Advent was about Christmas Day. It is not. It is about the longing and anticipation leading up to not only Christ's first Advent we call Christmas, but also the anticipation of His second Advent.

Although the Jewish people had looked for their messiah for centuries, they rejected Him when He appeared. They read the prophecies, but years of tradition obstructed their understanding of what God's true messiah would look like. "He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him." (John 1:11)

At this time of year, we always look back to Jesus' first Advent. That is a good thing. But how many also look forward with longing and anticipation for His second Advent. Are we in danger of missing a blessed longing for our "Blessed Hope?" (Titus 2:13) Are we allowing ourselves to be influenced by the scoffers who say "Where is the promise of His coming? (II Peter 3)

The Jews longed for the wrong kind of messiah and missed the real One. Let's not commit equal folly by being consumed with matters of this Earth only and miss the real hope that comes from the certainty of Jesus' second coming. He is not coming again as a helpless infant. He is coming as conquering King.

"...our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:3)

Have a Merry Christmas,  
See ya'll Sunday!

Perry Cunningham  
Lay Leader