

Faith Church 2020 Advent Devotional Guidelines for Writers

- **Review** these guidelines and the invitation to write a devotion.
- **Pray** before you write anything or select your scripture/focus.
 - Ask God to reveal the focus of the devotional for you to share with the readers.
 - Continue to pray as you allow the Holy Spirit to guide your writing.
- **Write in a clear, readable style.** Think *snapshot* rather than *movie*. Stay focused on one central point or theme.
 - Present the big picture and then offer a practical application that challenges the reader to strengthen their relationship/commitment with God.
- **Write personally and from your heart**, sharing a "take-away" for the reader that might stick with them throughout the day.
 - It should have a positive theme of encouragement, hope, better relationships with God, the Church and/or the world, trusting God, a better life, etc.
 - Use inclusive pronouns like "we", "us", and "our" rather than "preachy" pronouns "you" or "your".
 - Feel free to use humor that is in good taste while avoiding theological dissertations.
- **Use Scripture correctly.** It's vital that you don't take Bible verses out of context and that each scripture has a clear and supportive connection to the devotional.
 - Be sure to include proper references and that the Bible verse is relevant to that particular devotion.
 - Make sure to indicate which translation of the Bible you are using for your Bible verses. You can use more than one translation if you choose.
- You may also want to include
 - a short title,
 - selected Bible verse(s)
 - the line or verse of the song you are referencing and/or
 - a prayer.

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- **Previously published material** should not be submitted. Quotes must be referenced to the original source of the quote.
- Each devotional **must fit on one side of a ½ sheet of 8.5” x 11” page using 1” margins and 12-point font**. This equals approximately 35 lines or 350-400 words of text. Devotionals that are longer may be edited to accommodate this limit.
- **Deadline to submit devotionals is Tuesday, September 15, 2020.**
- **Please submit your devotional via email to Linda Hoffman at pianogirl1905@yahoo.com**. To submit:
 - Use a word processor (MS Word, Google Docs, etc.), and send as an email attachment, or
 - Type your devotional into the body of an email.
 - If you do not have access to email, you can call the church office at 814.355.3358 and make other arrangements. Please do NOT “drop by” to the church building during the week to drop off devotionals; call ahead and make arrangements.
- Contact Linda Hoffman at pianogirl1905@yahoo.com or 814-355-3929 if you have any questions or suggestions.