

## Second Sunday of Advent

Hempfield UMC / 12-10-17  
by Pastor Heather Hammel

In Joseph's response to Mary, we can see an example of how God loves us. Love is more than the fairy tales tell us. Love is sacrificial and life saving...and sometimes love is messy.



### Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

### Application for abundant living:



The story of Jesus' birth is surrounded by social and personal complexities, death, pain, jealousy, deceit, and struggles.

But the power of love is that it brings hope, joy, and peace into the mess that surrounds it. Love is the light that overcomes the darkness because God is love. And God's love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8).

