

## About the Author/Leader:

Ann Marie Stewart won a Christy Award for her first novel *Stars in the Grass* and has authored three Bible studies that helped establish the Preparing My Heart series (AMG Publishers). In addition, she writes the column "Ann's Lovin' Ewe" for the Country Register and blogs *The UPSide*. When she's not writing, she's waving her arms directing musicals, teaching private voice, or watching UVA Basketball or *Madam Secretary*.

In her free time she hangs out with her husband, and two daughters, and a whole flock of fuzzy sheep on Skye Moor Farm in Virginia --where unscripted drama provides plenty of entertaining material.

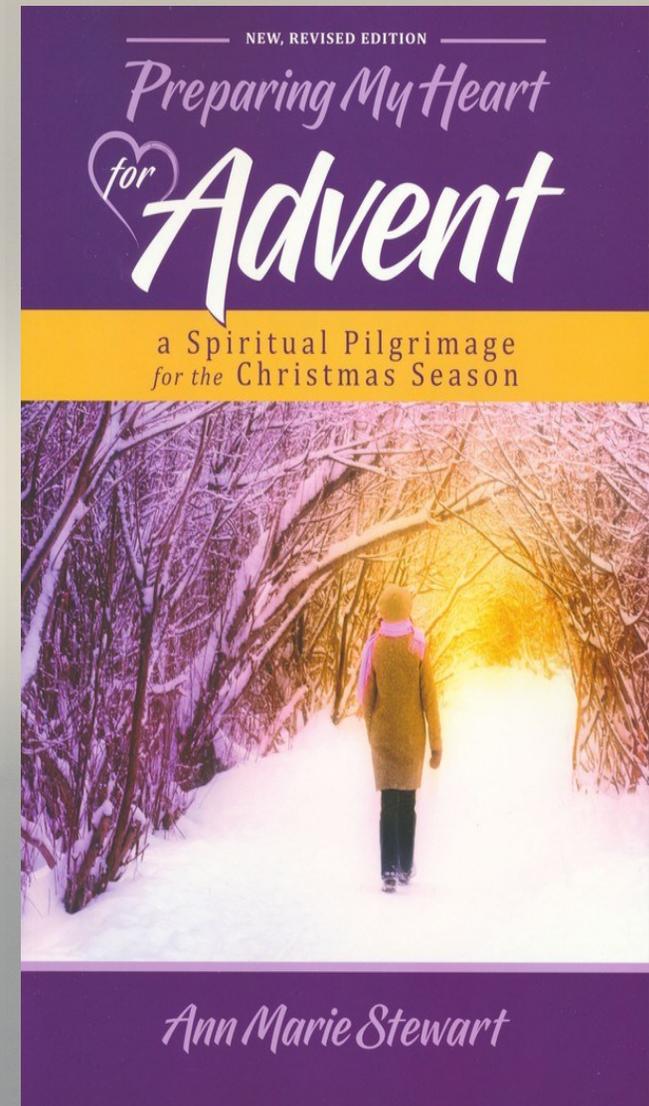
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After Thanksgiving I take a deep breath and fly into Christmas. I play my favorite Christmas carols, haul out boxes of decorations, and schedule our family traditions and events. I may have great intentions of celebrating the Christ in Christmas, but when I wait until December, I am tangled in Christmas lights, holiday baking, and festive engagements, leaving me wondering if I've celebrated that illusive "true meaning" of Christmas.

How can we revisit the familiar Christmas story and see it anew? How can we see Christ in the symbols decorating the shopping malls? What do the words of our favorite carols really mean, and why were they written? How can December be a time for celebration as well as reflection?

Perhaps it can happen if our hearts are prepared in *November* with a five week study. *Preparing My Heart for Advent* encourages readers to stop, look, listen, and experience Immanuel -- God with us!

Class Schedule:  
Thursdays  
7:00pm to 8:30pm

**November 7**

**November 14**

Discuss study questions for days 1-7

**November 21**

Discuss study questions for days 8-14

**November 27 (Wednesday)**

Discuss study questions for days 15-21

**December 5**

Complete the study



Join author Ann Marie Stewart at Harmony United Methodist Church on Thursday evenings 7-8:30 in November as she leads a study to prepare hearts for Christmas.

- \* Five-week Study
- \* Begins Nov 7th
- \* Ends Dec 5th
- \* Study how OT prophecy is fulfilled in the NT
- \* Investigate locations and customs
- \* Ponder the Christmas story with questions and discussion
- \* Learn what inspired certain carols
- \* Read about what gold, frankincense and myrrh really meant
- \* Discuss how to share the gift of Christmas with simplicity and sincerity
- \* Share ideas on how to focus on the *Christ of Christmas*
- \* Meet the characters in the Christmas story
- \* Prepare your heart to see Christmas anew this December!