

Forward in Faith
2018 Stewardship Appeal
Sunday, December 3rd

New Beginnings

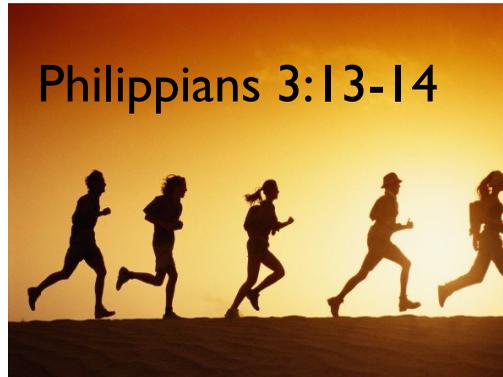
Today is the First Sunday of Advent, and the beginning on a New Year for the Church Calendar. It is a time of hope and expectation as we prepare to celebrate the Incarnation – God coming to us as human - in the sparsest of worldly conditions.

Advent is also a time when we declare hope for the future. Despite the often unstable and unpredictable conditions in the world today, we look forward to the future when God's Reign will come in its fullness. We do not know the timetable, or how this will happen, but Jesus' followers are encouraged to be alert to signs of God's work in the world. In the Gospel for today, he concludes: *And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.*

Mindfulness is a big emphasis these days – being present in the moment. Perhaps this is because we often find ourselves sleep-walking through life. With the constant effects of stimuli from our screens, and the bombardment of information and talking heads, we often find ourselves numb or complacent. Developing good habits for our lives is important.

Since this is a time of new beginnings, we don't have to wait until January 1 for new resolutions to go into effect. How can you grow in faith? One way is to step forward in faith by sharing your financial resources for our ministry together in 2018. You are invited to make your commitment on Sunday, December 17.

Be mindful of what you are currently giving, and be alert to how God is calling you to a life of deeper generosity. It is never too late to change. Advent is a time of new beginnings. As the prophet Isaiah has proclaimed, our Creator is the potter and we are the clay, the work of God's hands. Pay attention, be mindful, to how God continues to shape your life.



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