

Voices of Faith

Faith Presbyterian Church

Advent and Christmas

The holiday season will soon be upon us. As soon as Thanksgiving ends (or before) the Christmas carols start on the radio and folks start getting into the holiday spirit of good tidings of great joy — or at least we hope.

In order to share these good tidings of great joy, we encourage you to worship with this body of Christ called Faith during December (and always, of course). December 3 marks the beginning of Advent and we will begin our worship with the lighting of our Ad-

vent wreath. Then throughout the Advent season we will continue to add to the beauty of our sanctuary.

On Sunday, December 17, our children and youth will present their annual Christmas play written and directed by Brian and Ellie Genduso, titled, "O Holy Nights, Take Two." It is not to be missed.

The 4th Sunday of Advent also falls on Christmas eve and so we will have two worship services that day — our normal 10:30 am service which will focus on the 4th Sun-

day of Advent and then our traditional Christmas eve worship at 7 pm which will include communion, a baptism, and candlelight.

We continue our celebration of Christmas on Sunday, December 31, the first Sunday after Christmas day. Remember Christmas continues for 12 days, ending with Epiphany on January 6th.

Advent is a time of preparation. We hope you will be spiritually prepared to welcome the Christ Child once again in your hearts.



Celebration Luncheon

A celebration luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 10, at noon, following worship, honoring the retirement of Rev. Dr. Deb Bergeson-Graham. Please RSVP to Nan Luedtke, 414-

731-4303 or 414-423-1653 by Sunday, December 3.

We hope you will join in this celebration!



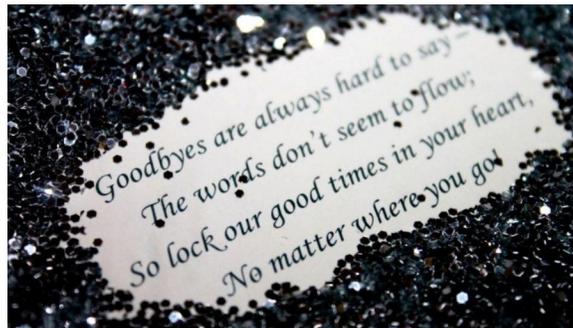
From Deb's Desk

When I began my first call to a church, it was a small "little house on the prairie" type church in Terry, Montana (get on I 94 and get off on the Terry exit). I was the first full-time female pastor in Terry and in the Presbytery of Yellowstone. Situated along the Yellowstone River, the church was the largest in town and sat a block from the main cross streets in town. No, there wasn't a stop light — 900 people in town, 1800 in the county and a claim to fame of great agates.

From there I became the Associate Pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church in Boise, Idaho. A larger church but one which struggled with finances, as all churches seem to do, but that led to my resignation and doing some secular work for a year before becoming the interim chaplain at the College of Idaho, where I fell in love with college students. Their energy, intelligence and creativity was inspiring and in June of that year was called to be the chaplain there. I was able to travel with the college choir (and help plan tours to churches) to places like Kamloops, British Columbia, Reno, NV, and the big tour to Germany, Austria, Hungary and Czech. After several years there, I felt called to Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana, where I served as chaplain for ten (10) years. It was then and there that Tom and I were married and he began sharing ministry with me. It was there that my love for Mexico began and we made many mission trips to the Yucatan. I was able to teach on line as well as face-to-face. I

was able to visit the cadaver lab (I know — eewww) and not only was amazed at the human body but more so with students who could name nerves that I could barely see!

Tom and I left Montana for Wisconsin and his new job and two years later that move found me called to Faith Presbyterian Church as your designated pastor. Eighteen (18) months later, I was called to be your installed pastor. And now here we are — this is the place where I will end my installed ministry and retire. These past thirty four (34) plus years of ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament have not been without their



agonies and frustrations (I think any job has them), but these years have also been filled with great joy and satisfaction. It has always been a joy to see someone grow in their faith regardless of age, or to see a couple share their love for one another in marriage, or stand with a family who has lost a loved one. Baptisms, communion — holding these sacraments as sacred but joyous events in the life of the church is a memory that will never leave.

Throughout my ministry it is people who have given me

fond memories and that will never change. The privilege of sharing in lives of others whether a time of joyous celebration, great sadness, or unexpected tragedy — these will always be treasured.

As I prepare to say "good-bye" I also must say thank you for these past years (I think I did that in the November newsletter but one can never say "Thanks" too much). It has been my privilege to minister among you and you will continue in my prayers.

A reminder from the Presbytery separation policy, "I (meaning me) will conduct my ministry so that nothing need be hidden from a governing body or colleagues in ministry. Therefore, I will: *Participate in the life of a ministry setting I left or from which I have retired only as directed by presbytery.

*Provide pastoral services for a congregation I previously served only as directed by the presbytery and provide pastoral services to members of other congregations only with the consent of their pastors.

This may seem unfair to you and me, but it really isn't. We can remain friends — feel free to contact us — but I will be unable to discuss Faith Church with you. I want you to have a great transition to a new pastor (and an interim) and I want that person to feel loved, appreciated, and welcomed.

My hope is that I have served you with energy, intelligence, imagination and love (my favorite ordination question).

May God continue to bless you as you move into a new expression of who you are as Faith Presbyterian Church.

Godspeed!

Deb

Big Cedar Blue Grass Band Christmas Concert — Dec. 8

The Big Cedar Blue Grass Band will be here on Friday, December 8, for their annual Christmas concert. This is a time of great fun and live entertainment and is good for the whole family. Admission is \$10 per person or \$8 with 2 non-perishable food items which go to our food cupboard. The band has been together 25 years and puts together a great Christmas concert of

both sacred and secular music along with some of the most



requested tunes in their repertoire. Mark your calendar and plan to share in this great holiday event.

And, if you can help with cookies or cider, please be in touch with Judy Bell.

Christ Presbyterian Church Christmas Toy Store

As we have in the past, the Mission and Outreach Committee is asking for your help with the Christ Presbyterian Church Christmas Toy Store. Gifts for children from newborn through 11 are needed by Sunday, December 10. Toys include: dolls, books, puzzles, trucks, cars, stuffed animals, coloring books, crayons, markers, other art supplies, play dough, etc.

Additionally, hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, boots (kids sizes), warm jackets, sweaters, and so on, are also helpful.

Please bring your items to the church by Sunday, December 10 and place them under the small Christmas tree (or under the table if there is no room on the table). Please DO NOT wrap the gifts.

Thanks for your help!



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Ordination & Installation of Officers



On Sunday, December 31, we will install new elders and ordain and install new deacons. Elders to be installed into the class of 2020 are Carol Carden, Brandon Ward, and Scott Paulson. Glenn Luedtke will be installed into the class of

2019. Deacons to be ordained and installed are Linda Thompson, Josh Zurawski, Ellie Birch to the class of 2020 and to the class of 2019, Chelsea Zurawski. Please plan to attend and congratulate and thank these folks for answering the

call to serve God as church officers. And then be sure to give them your support throughout the year. They have heavy tasks to bear and your support will be critical.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING TO BE RECEIVED

The Christmas Joy Offering, one of four denominational offerings, will be received on Christmas Eve, December 24, at our service of worship.

The Christmas Joy offering serves two distinct purposes. The first is by supporting the Board of Pensions (BOP), the Christmas Joy faithfulness of current and their families in need support from this Offering, receive critical financial assistance through life's challenges. These generous actions faithful response to God's love for one another as Christ com-

Some quick facts: \$1.1 million are being used to provide support and grants for current and retired church workers in their

Income supplements from 291 households, assisting and surviving spouses with for themselves.

Housing supplements from more than 211 households re-afford assisted living, or

Shared and Emergency helped more than 110 households facing times of great financial need or uncertainty due to unforeseen circumstances.

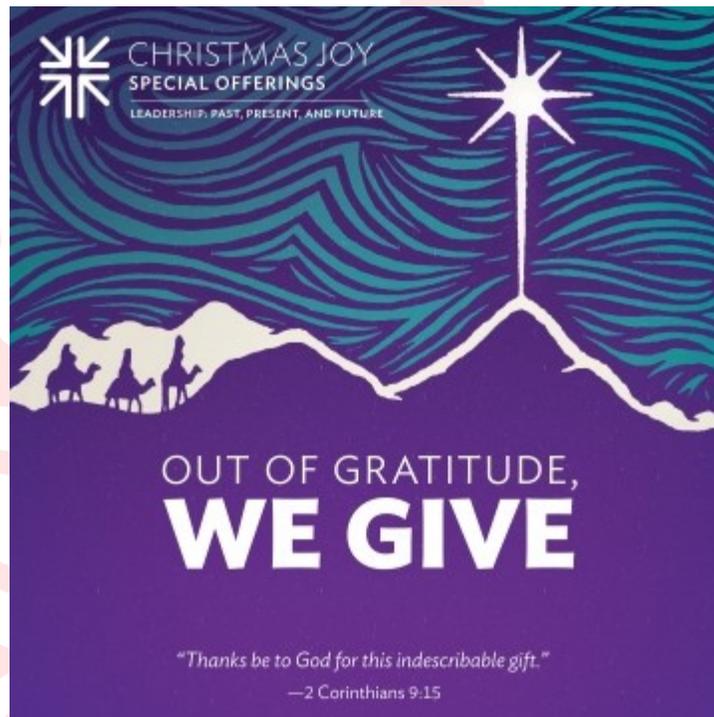
The second, PC(USA), with its historic commitment to higher learning, has long promoted education and leadership development through the establishment and support of racial ethnic schools and colleges. Our future racial ethnic church leaders can receive much-needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Your gifts allow these ministries to continue — sustaining a tradition Presbyterians have carried out for nearly 140 years.

Some quick facts: \$1 million of gifts from 2016 are being used to provide education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Many of the students attending Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges are the first in their families to enroll in higher education.

These institutions are supported by the Christmas Joy Offering: Menaul School in Albuquerque, NM, where 98% of graduates go on to college; Presbyterian Pan American School, Kingsville, TX, 100% of graduates are accepted into colleges and universities in their home countries or in the US and it welcomes a diverse international student body, with 26 countries represented in the last 25 years.

Please give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering on Christmas Eve (or sometime in December or early January). THANK YOU!



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Faith Presbyterian Church

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www.franklinfpc.org
414-421-3860



Here is a Cross A meditation for Advent by Jan Sutch Pickard

Here is a cross —
A sign of the love
in the life of a man
who shows us the way that God loves.

Here is a woman
who said 'Yes' to God
and carried the baby
who grew to a man
and showed us the way that God loves.

Here's an old man,
who worked with his hands
and hammered the wood,
who cared for the woman
who carried the baby
who grew to a man
who showed us the way that God loves.

This is the landlord in Bethlehem town
who saw they had travelled a very long way
and lent them a shed with hay for a bed
where the old man who worked with this
hands

cared for the woman
who carried the baby
who grew to a man
who showed us the way that God loves.

These are the shepherd,
out in all weathers,
who hear the good news
and came running down
to Bethlehem town
to find in the shed that the landlord had lent
—just an old man who worked with his hands
and cared for the woman
who carried the baby
who grew to a man
who showed us the way that God loves.

These are poor people
all sad and afraid
and ill and alone
who saw the Good News
in the life of the man

who showed us the way that God loves.

These are the children
who wanted to play —
more joyful than grown-ups
who chased them away —
and found they belonged
very close to the man
who showed us the way that God loves.

You are the people
to share the Good News
of the small children who came to belong,
and the poor people who found that they
were free,
and the rough shepherds who glorified God,
and all busy people who find a small space —
for the old man who worked with his hands,
and the young woman who said 'Yes' to God,
and that baby boy
who grew to a man
and carried a cross
and shows us the way that God loves.



May you have a joyous and beautiful Christmas! With love, Deb, Joan & Bonnie