

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021

Dear Church Family and Friends,

December is always an exciting month as we observe the season of Advent and prepare for the coming of Christ anew in our lives. This December will be no different as we look forward to gathering in the sanctuary Christmas Eve, Friday December 24 at 4 p.m. for a service of music and readings. Everything leads up to that night as a high point of our December worship. Last year we managed to have a lovely service done virtually, but it never is the same as being there in person with one another. This year, we will be LIVE and in person!

At the same time as we are preparing for Christmas, the church is busy with many things. We're finishing up our Bible Study on Revelation. We're finishing up our Congregations Caring for the Earth Book Group. We're keeping on keeping on meeting on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. for Food for Thought. Most exciting of all, we are confirming Milo and Mason Kroll and receiving them into church membership Sunday December 19.

It all feels so right to me that we are getting these things completed before I move from Virginia. I want this last month to be a great month of ministry. We can grieve for each other when we're apart.. For right now, let's just enjoy the remaining time we have together.

You've all heard the concerns that merchants are expressing about not having enough products available to sell for Christmas. "Hallelujah!" I say. It's about time we make Christmas about the gift of God's love through Jesus' instead of about the right gift from someone's Christmas wish list. It is a good time for family and friends to re-negotiate their long entrenched patterns of gift giving and begin a new tradition. After all, that is what it means to have Christ born anew in our lives. I get excited just thinking about what new ways the birth of Christ may speak to me this year. I hope you look forward to the same.

Advent Blessings from your pastor,

Rev. Kate Stangl

Happy December Birthdays

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|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1- Bruce Bergman | 16- Greig Bergman |
| 3- Janet Koski | 19- Holly Hadrava |
| 6- Spencer Hjelle | 28- Claude Erickson |
| 12- Ophelia Bergman | 29- Diane Hakala |
| 14- Carol Umhauer | 29- Armand Rafferty |
| 15- Tom Hewett | 30- Barb Christenson |

Session Highlights

Session voted to sign the PC(USA) Earth Care pledge and to submit an application to become recognized as an Earth Care Congregation. We needed a score of 100 on the Earth Care audit in order to apply. Our score was a total of 260 in the categories of Worship, Education, Facilities, & Outreach.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, Dec. 12** following worship. The agenda will include electing Class of 2024 Elders, Deacons, and Nominating Committee members, voting on bylaw changes, and assembling a Pastoral Search Committee.

If you are interested in one of the elected positions, you can contact the office. The proposed bylaw changes are as follows:

2. There shall be annual meetings of the congregation in the church edifice in the month of December for the transaction of any business properly coming before such meeting, including the election of officers for the coming year. All material pertinent for the congregational meetings, i.e. bylaw changes etc., shall be in the hands of the congregation one week prior to the scheduled meeting.
14. Vacancies on the Session, the Board of Deacons, and/or the Nominating Committee may be filled at a special meeting of the congregation or at the annual meeting, as the session may determine.
16. There shall be a representative Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall

be a sub-committee of the Session and shall consist of five members; one elected from the Session (to serve as chairperson), one elected from the Board of Deacons, and three members elected from the congregation-at-large. The Nominating Committee shall bring to the annual meeting for the election of officers the nominations of one eligible person only for each office to be filled. The Nominating Committee shall bring to the annual meeting of the congregation the nominations for the three members from the congregation who will serve a 3-year term on the new nominating committee. In both instances, additional nominations of qualified persons may be made from the floor by any eligible voter. No one shall serve on the Nominating Committee for more than three years consecutively.

17. The Personnel Committee will consist of 4 Session members – Chairpersons of the Membership Committee, Christian Education Committee, Support Committee, and Worship Committee, and the Moderator of the Board of Deacons.

Annual Report

Our Annual Report does not need to be approved, so we will not schedule another congregational meeting for that purpose. The Annual Report will be ready around the end of January. Deadline for committee reports will be January 18.

Offering Envelopes

Envelopes will be available for pickup by Dec. 7. It saves the church on postage if they are picked up. Envelopes not picked up will be mailed out mid-January.

Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, the cost will be \$8. Please let the office know the names of people who the poinsettia will be in memory/honor of.

Christmas Joy Offering

Each year we collect the PC(USA) Christmas Joy offering which goes to support church workers in financial need and students in Presbyterian-related schools. If you would like to donate to this offering, you can use one of the Christmas Joy envelopes in the sanctuary or indicate 'Christmas Joy' in your check memo.

Christmas Eve Offering

The offering collected at the Christmas Eve service (and also donations made in the envelope labeled 'Christmas' included in your box of offering envelopes) will again be given to the Deacons to support our Little Free Pantry.

Pastor Kate's Retirement

Sunday, Dec. 26 will be Pastor Kate's last Sunday with us. Please join us following worship on Dec. 19 to celebrate her retirement and show our appreciation for the three years that she spent with us. Pastor Kate will be greatly missed!

Deacons News

As our weather turns colder, we are again looking for donations for our community clothesline. New or gently-used donations can include hats, mittens, scarves, coats, socks and long underwear. Monetary donations for the Little Free Pantry can be made out to **HCPC Deacons Fund**.

Louisiana Mission Trip

The Presbytery of Northern Waters is planning a mission trip to Hammond Louisiana to help with recovery efforts from extensive flooding in 2016 and hurricanes in 2020 and 2021. The dates of the trip are Feb. 19-17. If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office. Registration deadline Jan. 25.

Christmas Concerts

Merry Tuba Christmas

Sat. Dec. 4, 1 p.m. – Goodman Audit., Virginia

Range of Voices – Christmas Joy concert

Fri. Dec. 10, 7 p.m. - Chisholm Baptist Church

Sun. Dec. 12, 2 p.m. - Gethsemane Lutheran

Mesabi Symphony Orchestra

– Holidays at the Symphony

Sat. Dec. 11, 7 p.m. - Goodman Audit., Virginia

Donna's address

If you would like to keep in touch with Donna Burchell, here is her new address:

Donna Burchell

1170 Chisholm Trail Dr.

Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Calendar

Mondays, 1:30 – Revelation Bible study

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. – Food for Thought

Wednesdays, 2:15 – Confirmation class

Sunday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m. – Congregational meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 14, 1 p.m. – Braiding Sweetgrass book discussion

Sunday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m. – Confirmation

Sunday, Pastor Kate's retirement party

Friday, Dec. 24, 4 p.m. – Christmas Eve

Candlelight service

As we work to create a new directory, please contact the church office with any changes in address, phone numbers or email addresses.

*Merry
Christmas!*



December 2021

Advent Season

*December 5 (Communion)
2nd Sunday of Advent
Peace*

*December 12
3rd Sunday of Advent
Joy*

*December 19 (Confirmation)
4th Sunday of Advent
Love*

*December 24
Christmas Eve*

*December 25 (Saturday)
Christmas Day*

*December 26
1st Sunday of Christmas*



O Holy Night

We will continue to send home some type of lessons to you in the mail. We hope you have been trying to work on them and we also hope you have been doing the church services on TV or computer at home. Seeing you in church sometime would be wonderful, too! Enjoy the snow, stay safe and well.

Wishing you all a very happy and blessed Christmas and New Year



Confirmation

We will be welcoming 2 new members to Hope Community Presbyterian church on Sunday December 19th. Welcome and congratulations to Mason Kroll and Milo Kroll.



December Birthday Corner
Hollie Hadrava December 19



You can find and read [The Christmas Story](#) in two books of the Bible. Try Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2.

Christian Education Calendar

Sunday December 5	Sunday December 12	Sunday December 19	Friday December 24	Saturday December 25	Sunday December 26
2nd Sunday of Advent Communion Luke 1:26-38 Angel visits Mary	3rd Sunday of Advent Matthew 1:18-24 Angel visits Joseph	4th Sunday of Advent Confirmation Luke 2:1-7 Birth of Jesus	Christmas Eve 	Christmas Day Christmas Blessings Luke 2:8-20 Shepherds and Angels 	1st Sunday of Christmas Pastor Kate's last day Blessings to her

Little Free Pantry Advent Calendar

Count down the days until Christmas while helping to stock our Little Free Pantry! Each day put a coin on your calendar. Then after Christmas, bring in your donation for the pantry.

(Two slits can be cut across each circle so that a coin or rolled up dollar bill can be slid behind the strip of paper.)

