

Hi friends,

Believe it or not Advent is here! (I don't know why I am always surprised? It begins the same time every year!) Thank you to all who helped decorate our sanctuary and narthex for this wonderful season last Sunday!

On Thursday many of us will set aside a special time to give thanks and share a meal with family and loved ones. I wanted to reprint a blessing that I love adapted from a blessing written by *Daphne Rose Kingma*:

*“We thank you now for love, love that stirs and soothes us, love that inspires compassion and boldness, love that gathers us into all joy and delivers us from all brokenness. Love that hears the soundless language, love that imagines and dreams, that can conquer all and willingly surrenders everything. Love that brought us into our lives and love that will carry us home.”*

I pray that this week was marked by Joy and thanks for you and your families!

Pastor Mark

Here are some of the things happening this week and the weeks ahead:

### **Holly Daze Encore**

The Holly Daze Encore event will be held on our Facebook site, as it was in October. Items available will be Christmas decorations, gifts, and limited food items. You will be able to access the sale at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/mlarterwa> from November 29 to December 8. The following food items available are rugelach, fruit-filled coffee cake, rum balls and truffles, cranberry-nut bread, brown\_bread, bean soup, bean soup with cornbread mix, fruity rice mix, oatmeal raisin cookie mix, and chewy brownie mix. Items will need to be picked up at the church on December 11 from 10 am to 1 pm. Please support United Methodist Women as they raise funds for church, local, national, and international missions.

### **Advent/Christmas Hymn Sing-along**

On Thursday, December 16th at 6 pm we will be having our Advent/Christmas Sing-along! Feel free to join us in person in the sanctuary or tune in to the livestream and request songs and sing along as we celebrate that God is with us! Lyric sheets will be provided, and you can request songs that you would like to sing whether you are in person or by participating in the comment section on the live stream!

## **Adult gatherings during the Sunday School hour**

There are several opportunities for adults to gather while the kids are participating in their Sunday School classes at the 9 am hour. Feel free to join in the book study that Jim Deatherage and Bob Kelly are leading in the Suzanna Wesley Room. If you are “Craftier” there is a group that meets in the Ida Payne Fellowship Hall making easy to create “Tie Blankets” to hand out to people who need them to keep warm during the winter months, or if you like you can gather with a group of parents in the couch area of Wesleyan Hall downstairs and share a cup of coffee and conversation. These are great opportunities to grow in our faith and make friends. We hope you can find a spot to participate on Sundays before worship at 10am!

## **Wednesday Morning Bible Study**

The Wednesday morning bible study group has completed our study of the Book of Acts. We are going to take a break and beginning on December 1st, at 11 am, we will do a short four-week study on the scripture passages that lead us up to the events of Christmas. Feel free to join us on the Zoom format December 1st for this study with friends!

## **Sunday Morning Worship this Sunday at 10 am**

The season of Advent is here! This Sunday we will begin the season with all the traditions and meanings that a community has as we spend time in this season of expectation. This Sunday we will hear the words of the prophet Isaiah and be reminded of what he was expecting so many years ago and what we are expecting today. I hope you can join us on Sunday morning. If gathering in-person is not the best option for you remember that you can tune into our live stream as well... Here is the link: (<https://www.youtube.com/PiratesoftheColumbia>).