

Edgcumbe

Presbyterian

Church

Midweek Update

November 29, 2023



In this issue: the season of the heart; Christmas Decorating thank you's; Dec. Mission; Dec Birthdays/Anniversaries

advent: the season of the heart

happy advent!! advent is a season in the liturgical calendar (liturgical means pertaining to worship—the church year). in latin, ad- means “to” + venire means, “come”. it is a season preparing us for that which **is coming**...which is the birth of god-with-us, immanuel. christmas is the time when we mark the extension of god’s love among us in human form. and the thing is, **love** is being born amongst us—it is not a *mental* event. it is love-among-us, which means it is **our hearts** that **will receive** (or not receive) the gift that is coming. which is why this year, more than ever, i sense an invitation for us to tend to **our hearts** during these days of advent, so that we can truly **accept, allow** and **receive** the christ child. we don’t just want to know about god’s love, we want to **experience** it, be **transformed** by it, and **rest** in it. which means that advent allows us to look with the holy spirit to see what, if any, kind of barriers or walls we have erected around our hearts. it is such a human impulse to guard and hide our hearts, but *our hearts are where the real interchange and exchange happens with god/absolute love*. so, we join holy spirit and ask to see what are our defenses and blocks to love...we need to see what they are so that we can bring these parts of ourselves to the holy spirit’s light for her repurposing and healing!!

dear ones, it is advent and it is our opportunity to intentionally check in with our hearts. so—right now, i invite you to pause, to come into presence with your breath, and bring your attention to your heart space. what do you notice?? are you willing to invite holy spirit into your heart space?? are you willing to encounter each moment fully with your heart open?? this is our advent practice, so that when christmas comes, the portals of our hearts are flung open wide!!

*holy spirit, in this holy moment, **you** be in charge, and we will follow **you**, trusting that your direction will lead us to peace!!*

Christmas Decorating Thank you!!

A deep thank you to all who were able to decorate the sanctuary this past weekend!! The worship space is gorgeous and has become such an integral part of our Advent and Christmas journey!! Thank you to Meredith and Kathy for providing leadership to us!!



INTERFAITH ACTION OF GREATER SAINT PAUL

December Mission: Project Home

December's mission is Project Home, a program of Interfaith Action of St. Paul.

Project Home provides emergency shelter and rapid exit case management services for area families facing homelessness.

In March 2021, Interfaith Action formed a partnership with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Ramsey County to move Project Home to the Provincial House on Randolph Avenue in Saint Paul. In this supportive environment, families have a safe place to live and assistance with finding employment and permanent, affordable housing.

Sara Leigl, of Project Home, will be visiting EPC during **this Sunday's service, December 3rd**, to talk to us about her program. We will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Submitted by Lisa Holden, mission team member

December Birthdays & Anniversaries



Happy Birthday to:

Mel Houle	12/5
Heather Marschinke	12/6
Micah GebbenGreen	12/12
Warner Gunsell	12/16
Ollie (Tierra) Hunt	12/27

Happy Anniversary to:

Jenya & Vladimir Trubnikava	12/3
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