

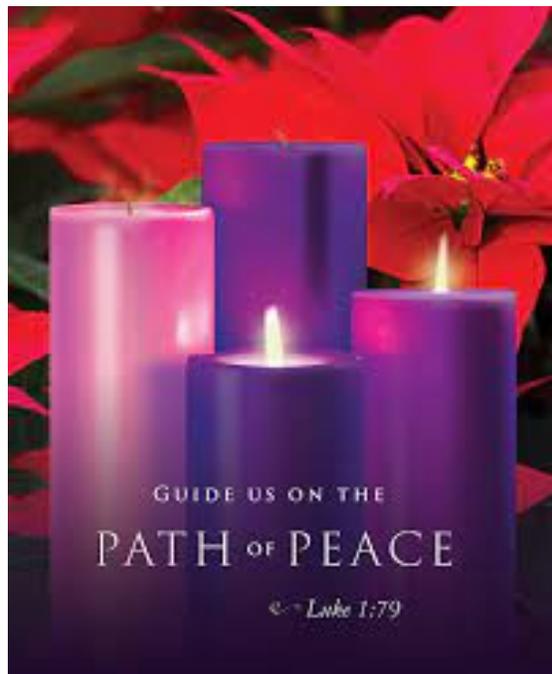
Weekly news & updates for St. Paul's

Week of December 6, 2021 | Volume 48

Upcoming Events for the week

- December 7- Noon Eucharist
The Chapel on Union Street.
- December 12 - 8 a.m. Sunday
Eucharist Service at St. Paul's
- December 12- 9:00 a.m.
[Sunday Forum](#) in-person and
Zoom offered
- December 12 - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Eucharist, in-person
and Zoom offered. It's been
fun having coffee hour again.
- December 12 - Cascade Singers
perform at 2:00 p.m., St. Paul's
Episcopal Church. See other
performance dates below.

**Hark the Glad Sound by
Oasis Chorale - Tap on
Purple Box to listen**



Advent

Look how long
the tired world waited,
locked in its lonely cell,
guilty as a prisoner.

As you can imagine,
it sang and whistled in the dark.
It hoped. It paced and pattered about,
tidying its little piles of inconsequence.

It wept from the weight of ennui
draped like shackles on its wrists.
It raged and wailed against the walls
of its own plight.

But there was nothing
the world could do
to find its freedom.
The door was shut tight.

It could only be opened
from the outside.

Who could believe the latch
would be turned by the flower
of a newborn hand?

*Poems by Pamela Cranston
(On a theme by Dietrich Bonhoeffer)*

Back Pack Program Resumed on December 1st



Volunteers load bags



Bag Preparation area



Lori Adams helps out packing bags

Greetings,

We are ready to pack bags again. I know the delay in starting the Back Pack Program has been long in returning, but there are lots of reasons behind that decision to delay this outreach. We are now packing at 9:45 AM on Thursdays, and distributing on Fridays. Certain changes have been implemented to help keep people safe. We only want volunteers who are vaccinated to serve, and we will wear masks in the small pantry area. The big change is deciding how to pack the food for the kids, since we cannot have bags returned from the kids. At this point we don't think paper bags will be sturdy enough, and we don't want to use plastic bags, so I have ordered compostable bags, even though they seem a little flimsy to carry the weight of the food. Right now the bags will be doubled until better options or ideas come from other people.

Right now there are only 67 kids signed up for the Back Pack Program. There are several reasons for the small number, but I think the program will grow as time goes on. The supply chain is a part, the harried teachers are a part, and of course the pandemic is a huge part.

We still need supplies we can't get, such as individual packages of oatmeal, crackers in sleeves, individual snacks, ramen, and canned 'heat and eat' meals. We have to purchase all but donated food, so your monetary donations are always welcome too.

Please mail your checks or drop checks or cash, in an envelope marked Backpack, into the secure mailbox on the east side of the church. Address – 305 E. 11th St., The Dalles.

We count on you to spread the word, and continue to support us as you have in the past.

Thank you and Blessings on all of you,

Glenis Schreffler, Silvia, Lynette and Lori

Advent Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Services

Wednesday, December 8: Zion Lutheran

- 101 W. 10th St.

Wednesday, December 15: Zion Lutheran

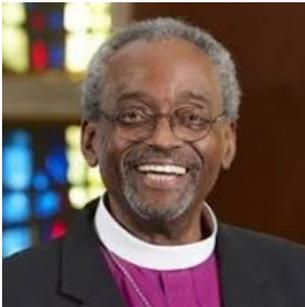
- 101 W. 10th St.

TUESDAY, December 21: United Church of Christ (Longest Night service)

- 111 E. 5th St.



The Promise of Advent



Advent is, of course, a season of hopeful expectation, pressing on toward the promise. It could very well be said that all of life is about hopeful expectation, pressing on toward the promise despite the long, hard journey we face. Indeed, throughout the biblical narrative and the church's history, we encounter faithful people hanging on to hope, sometimes by a slender thread, clinging to a promise far removed from their harsh reality.

Some caught a glimpse of something glorious as they struggled on. As Martin Luther King Jr. proclaimed before he was slain, "I have seen the promised land." Like Moses before him and far too many others through the ages, Dr. King did not witness the full realization of that promise. But he caught a glimpse, and in his life, he shared a dream of justice and equality and opportunity for God's children...for ALL God's children. He held fast to hope, refusing to waver, and he urged others to do the same.

At times, it is difficult to still see the promise through the fog that envelops us, the storm that bears down on us. Life can be so very hard and the forces of darkness so overpowering that we might understandably be tempted to give up, to let go of the hope, to let go of the dream. Yet, as the psalmist notes, even in "the valley of the shadow of death," we are not alone; the Shepherd is with us. We make our song, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," precisely because we dare to believe in Emmanuel, God with us. And if God is indeed with us, God is with ALL of us. The promise endures. The hope—the dream—remains sure...despite the fog and storm, despite the darkness.

As a prophet and bridge-builder in South Africa both during the wicked time of apartheid and in the years since, Archbishop Desmond Tutu has said, "Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value." Through our small and seemingly insignificant acts of kindness and care each day, we commit ourselves once more to the promise. By speaking up and standing up for those who are being silenced and pressed down, we proclaim that we refuse to waver in our hope of the promise.

The promise of a world that is Beloved Community is real and true, and we are its ambassadors, heralds of the Way of Love, for God's sake and for the sake of ALL God's children.



Advent 1 ... a time for reflective hope

I shared in Sunday's homily that Advent is a time for reflection, where we bend our knees in prayer. We listen for the Spirit of Jesus to penetrate the manmade walls of our heart. What is your heart telling you this Advent? Listen. Just listen, and you will find the Holy Spirit whispering hope to you.

As St. Paul's ponders their next steps for a new priest, how will you lean into your God-given gifts for service in 2022. Have you given thought on how you will serve? A church is only as strong as their weakest member, so how will you support those members who served faithfully for years at St. Paul's, but now need help themselves? Give it thought. Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church, stewardship is a heart issue on how we will use our God-given talents, both money and talent. Ponder your gifts.

Hope and peace to you,

Marilyn+



Cascade Singers Christmas Concert

The Cascade Singers' 2021 Christmas Concert will be presented
at four different venues in The Dalles.

The program features choral holiday favorites (“with a twist of
course” says director Garry Estep), as well as solo, trio, quartet
performances, and ending with a sing-along.

The schedule is as follows:

Sunday November 28th at Zion Lutheran Church
2:00 P.M. (10th and Union)

Saturday December 4th at United Church of Christ Congregational
2:00 P.M. (5th and Court)

Sunday December 12th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
2:00 P.M. (1805 Minnesota Street)

Saturday December 18th at St. Peter's Landmark
7:00 P.M. (3rd and Lincoln)

Each concert is free and open to the public, and families are encouraged to attend.
All donations will remain with the location of that day's performance
to support their music program.

Looking for drivers to take people to church on Sunday.

There is a sign-up list in the coffee hour bulletin board area, just under the coffee hour sign-up sheet, where you can schedule a time to pick-up 2 people. If you can drive, and can transfer a walker into your trunk, then St. Paul's needs your help. Please call Fiona, the church secretary to be placed on the list to drive.

December Birthdays

01 Dennis Stocks

10 Rosemary Ross

15 Lydia Pielli



Cartoon submitted by P.K. Swartz

For your prayers ... Peggy Davis, Skip & Carol Fisher, Bobbi Green, Dale Newton, Ruth Welle (Carol Yakish's sister), John Davis, Lee Keifer, Andrew Larive, Melanie from Ascension, Mary who is suffering from ALS (a friend of Amy McIlvenna), Steve and Colleen Schafroth, Alice and Don as Alice struggles from lung cancer (John Langfeldt's sister and brother-in-law), Abby Sue (Carolyn Thomas's niece), Mike Nagle as he heals from shoulder surgery, Michael Hayes (Gretchen Kimsey's nephew suffering from colon cancer), Peter Russell (Jeanie Senior's nephew), Elen Thomas (Carolyn Thomas' grand daughter), Evelyn Nultemeier (Georgia Giacobbe's sister), Ken Schlieff, Ned Kice, and relief from the Covid-19 virus spread throughout the community and country, and our Nation. 11 22 21

For the departed: Jeff Krier, Griff Thomas, Betty Hartmann, The Rev. Larry Ferguson, Oscar Martinez, Helen Kochel, Ross Hucke, and Cary Lowe.

To submit articles or pictures for the weekly newsletter, please submit them by Friday. Some articles may be held over for the following issue due to immediacy and space. Your articles keep us smiling and feeling like a community. Thank you, Marilyn

