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Sand Point Community United Methodist Church
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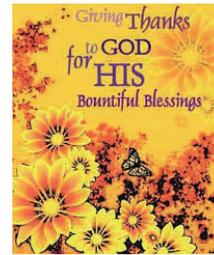
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SANDPOINTER

November 24, 2015

**Sand Point Community
United Methodist Church**
4710 NE 70th St., Seattle, WA 98115-6148
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spcommunity@qwestoffice.net
Rev. Janelle Kurtz, Pastor



Happy Thanksgiving
to you and yours
From Sand Point Community
United Methodist Church

Charge Conference

Wednesday, December 2nd

7:00 p.m.

*(Staff Parish Relations Committee meets with the
District Superintendent at 6:30 p.m. that evening.)*

The Charge Conference is the church's annual business meeting.
Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

Sand Point Songbirds

*Right: Sand Point Songbirds
rehearsing*

*Led by
Laura and Tasha Faber*

Photo by Sue Haas



From Our Pastor ...

Dear faith friends,

In my last Sandpointer note, I talked about how we are constantly surprised by this season. Most often becomes the time seems to sneak up on us! In the interest of trying to minimize those surprises, I wanted to take a moment now to talk about this year's Christmas Eve worship experience. I invite you to please take note now, so that our only surprises are the ones that reveal God to us in a new way.

The Details: Christmas Eve Worship: Thurs., December 24, 2015
6-7PM: Candlelight Meditation Service—A reflective time to light a candle, share in prayer, enjoy music and hear the Christmas story. Drop-in and out (or stay!) any time during this hour.

7-8PM: Christmas Eve Worship Service (Formerly “Family Worship Service”)—A time of worship for people and families of all ages. Including Scripture, Holy Communion, a message, children's time and music from our choirs.

The Vision: The hope is that these two services will seamlessly create one worship experience. My goal is for the tradition of the candlelight service to form a strong foundation for our shared family worship. By having the candlelight meditation first and directly leading into the Family Worship time, the candlelight meditation becomes an extended prelude.

This becomes a time for the beloved tradition to serve as a way to gather and center us to experience the Christmas Story together in community. From that meditative center, we will be prepared to meet Jesus again in the reading of Scripture, the sharing of Communion and the singing of hymns. With this format, the Good News of Christmas will crescendo: moving from darkness and quiet, into joyful choruses and the brightness of light!

Can I still just come to one or the other service?—Yes. We believe that together these services will offer greater opportunity to experience the fullness of “God With Us” that we celebrate at Christmas. But each service is designed to have meaning on its own.

Pastor's Recommendation—Come to both. Plan to arrive by 6:45PM to have time to light a candle and share in quiet meditation as we prepare for shared worship together. Let one tradition give new meaning to another!

Awaiting the celebration,

Peace, *Pastor Janelle*

Church Calendar

Wednesday (Nov. 25)

No Bell Choir or Chancel Choir rehearsals

Thursday (Nov. 26)

Thanksgiving Day

Saturday (Nov. 28)

Hanging of the Greens—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Sunday (Nov. 29) *First Sunday in Advent*

Worship Service—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Community Hour —after worship service, Perry Hall

Youth Choir—after worship, Choir Room

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal—after worship, sanctuary

Advent Enrichment Hour—11:30 a.m., Perry Hall

Monday (Nov. 30)

SANDPOINTER (newsletter) deadline

Tuesday (Dec. 1)

Men's Bible Study—10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Wednesday (Dec. 2)

SPRC meets with Dist. Supt.—6:30 p.m.

Charge Conference—7:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Sunday (Dec. 6) *Second Sunday in Advent*

Worship Service—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Community Hour following worship—Perry Hall

Youth Choir—after worship—Choir Room

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal—11:30, sanctuary

Advent Enrichment Hour—11:30 a.m., Perry Hall

Tuesday (Dec. 8)

UMW Christmas Tea—1:00 p.m., Perry Hall

Church Council Meeting—7:00 p.m., Fireside Room??

Wednesday (Dec. 9)

Missions Ministry Team—7:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Bell Choir—6:30 p.m., Choir Room

Chancel Choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Looking Ahead

Sunday (Dec. 27)

Tent City 3—dinner prep. @ 2 p.m., delivery & serving approximately 5 p.m.



December Birthdays

We apologize if we missed your birthday. Please call the church office with your information so we may include you next time.



Please Pray for:

Doug & Kathy Warnaca and family—
recent death of Doug's mother.

Many thanks to:

Kevin Kurtz who repainted our "Sand Point Church" sign at the entrance off of NE 70th St. on Sunday 11/15, after church service. It is fresh and highly visible. Thank you, Kevin for doing that job!

Everyone who brought socks (*nearly 100 pr.*) for Sock It to Homelessness. Your generosity is appreciated!

"Hanging of the Greens"

Saturday, Nov. 28, 10 am to noon.

Please join our work party on Saturday, Nov. 28 from 10 am to noon in the sanctuary! Families are welcome. Refreshments will be provided. We'll hang garlands and the Advent Wreath, etc. Pastor Janelle will ask the congregation and children to help decorate the church this year as part of the First Sunday in Advent service the next day on Nov 29. We'll prepare those decorations for the congregation. Please RSVP to Sue Haas if you are planning on joining the fun! Questions? Contact Sue Haas.

Children's Christmas Pageant

Rehearsals will be on the following Sundays:

Nov. 29th, Dec. 6th & 13th: immediately following worship

Dress Rehearsal: Dec. 20th, 9:00-9:30 a.m.

Performance: Sunday, December 20th during Worship

This year's pageant, titled *Instant Nativity*, is based on scripture in Matthew and Luke. We will have a cast of shepherds, angels, wise men, a narrator, youth minister, sheep and other animals, a prophet, and Mary and Joseph.

We are looking for cast members, volunteers to help with production design, and additional help assisting with directing. Please let Meredith McVicar or Bruce Taylor know if you plan to participate!



Advent Activities

Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, November 28

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

(individuals and families welcome)

First Sunday in Advent

Sunday, November 29

Congregation and children to hang ornaments on
Narthex tree and two small trees in Chancel—during worship

Advent Enrichment Hours

“Spiritual Practices for the Whole Family”

Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and 13

11:30 to 12:30—Perry Hall

Christmas Ships Fellowship Event

Sunday, Nov. 29th—6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Gas Works Park

Children’s Christmas Pageant Rehearsals and Performance

Rehearsals: Sundays, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, & 13

immediately following worship

Dress Rehearsal: Dec. 20th, 9:00-9:30 a.m.

Performance: Sunday, December 20th—during Worship

UMW Christmas Tea

Tuesday, December 8—1:00 p.m.

Perry Hall

Parents’ Night Out

Friday, December 18—5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Perry Hall

Blue Christmas Service

Monday, December 21st—7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services

Candlelight Meditation Service—6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

Christmas Eve / Family Service—7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

(Communion offered at this service)

UMW Christmas Tea

Tuesday, December 8th—1:00 p.m., Perry Hall

"Let Christmas Happen" will be the theme of the annual Women's Christmas Tea on Tuesday, December 8, 1 p.m. in Perry Hall. It will feature a narrated story, and devotion, plus all the usual items for "high tea", and decorations to make it feel festive, and special. This is the perfect time to invite your friends and neighbors.

Christmas Ships Fellowship Event!

Sunday, Nov. 29th—6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Gas Works Park

Join us at Gas Works Park to kick off the start of Advent by enjoying the start of the Christmas Ships Festival. Bring a thermos of cocoa and come enjoy time with your church family.

Parents Night Out

Friday, December 18th from 5:00-8:00 pm.

We are hosting a Parents’ Night Out this holiday season so parents can enjoy a few hours on their own or do any last minute preparations for the holidays. Plus we want the kids to have a Christmas party! Staff & volunteers will be present while the kids will play games, create Christmas crafts, eat dinner, sing carols, and watch a short movie. This event is open for children ages 0-12. Register with Meredith McVicar by December 17th if you plan to have your child/ children attend. Suggested donation: \$5 per child/ \$10 per family.

December Melodies of Compassion

The Angel Band Project will receive funds from our December Melodies of Compassion (loose change offering). The Angel Band Project was created in 2009 to use music to promote healing, raise awareness and create positive social change for survivors of sexual violence — by sharing stories of finding hope and healing through music after experiencing the grief of losing a cherished friend or family member to an unthinkable act of violence. Music therapy programs also are used to directly impact the lives of victims of sexual violence. For more information on the Angel Band Project, go to:

<http://angelbandproject.org/our-story/> .