

SANDPOINTER

Sand Point Community United Methodist Church
4710 Northeast 70th Street
Seattle, Washington 98115-6148

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SANDPOINTER

December 8, 2015

**Sand Point Community
United Methodist Church**

4710 NE 70th St., Seattle, WA 98115-6148
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Rev. Janelle Kurtz, Pastor



Advent Calendar

Advent Enrichment Hour

“Spiritual Practices for
the Whole Family”

Dec. 13

11:30 to 12:30—Perry Hall

Children’s Christmas Pageant

Rehearsal: Sundays, Dec. 13
immediately following worship

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

Performance: Sunday, December 20th—during Worship

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)

***May the peace and hope of Christ’s birth be with you
now and in the days ahead***

From Our Pastor ...

A friend of mine has been dealing with a severe case of laryngitis. After yet another follow-up, her doctor has prescribed an aggressive treatment, complete with 10 days of total voice rest. Not just no singing or over-doing it, but no talking at all for the next 10 days. It's a difficult prescription, made all the more challenging for a pastor in December.

Although, truth be told, the timing is remarkably fitting. You see, she will be keeping silent on the same week that we hear the story of Zechariah. It's fitting, because if you know Zechariah's story, you know that for his disbelief, God's messengers rendered him mute while he awaited the birth of his son, John the Baptist. It was only after John's birth that Zechariah's voice was freed again. At which time, he burst forth with a glorious song of praise and joy! (See Luke 1:67-79)

As I think about my friend, I wonder what transformation God will bring in her time of silence. Not just healing for her vocal chords, but what greater joy might God burst forth within her when her time comes to speak again? I wonder, too, what God might do in her congregation as the people have a chance to encounter God apart from the words of the season.

I can't help but think what a beautiful Advent experience this could be (unfortunate circumstances for my dear friend aside!) For a time when we are called to wait and to *watch*, here is a chance, for once, for the words and the noises to be muted. Here is the chance to simply encounter Christ's coming without the need to explain it. Simply a chance to receive God within our own hearts. No wonder, Zechariah burst forth with a song of joy when his tongue was loosened!

My friends in faith, this is my hope for us all in Advent and at Christmas: that we would make space beyond the words, beyond the songs, beyond the noise for God just to come into our hearts. In this season of Christ's coming, may we simply receive Him that we, too, would burst forth with joy!

In silent wonder and watching,

Peace, *Pastor Janelle*

Church Calendar

Wednesday (Dec. 9)

Bell Choir rehearsal—6:30 p.m., Choir Room
Missions Ministry Team—7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
Chancel Choir rehearsal—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Sunday (Dec. 13) *Third 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 (Dec. 14)

SANDPOINTER (newsletter) deadline

Tuesday (Dec. 15)

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

Wednesday (Dec. 16)

Chancel Choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Friday (Dec. 18)

Parents' Night Out—5:00 to 8:00 p.m., Perry Hall

Sunday (Dec. 20) *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal—9:00 a.m., sanctuary
Worship Service & Children's Christmas Pageant, 10:00 a.m.,
Sanctuary
Community Hour following worship—Perry Hall
Youth Choir—after worship, Sanctuary

Monday (Dec. 21)

Blue Christmas Service—7:00 p.m.

Wednesday (Dec. 23)

Bell Choir—6:30 p.m., Choir Room
Chancel Choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Sunday (Dec. 27)

Un-Hanging of the Greens: Sat., Jan. 9th

Come join us for the "Un-Hanging of the Greens," as we put away of Christmas decorations for another year. Saturday, Jan 9, 10 am to noon in the sanctuary. Everyone welcome. Refreshments provided! Questions? Contact Sue Haas or the church office. Thank you!

Sarah Ritchey's Baby Shower
(photos by Sylvia Abbott & Kathy Warnaca)



GIVING TREE IN PERRY HALL



Please come to Perry Hall to view the beautiful Missions Giving Tree! There are again requests for warm hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for the homeless, which will be delivered to them by Seattle's Union Gospel Mission. You will also find tags for Mary's Place for donations for shoes.

Big Thank You's to all of our wonderful congregation as you remove the tags and return these items to the Giving Tree!

Christmas Cards!



Sand Point Community UMC has a long standing Christmas card tradition — if you'd like to send a card to the church, we would be delighted to display it on one of the red ribbons in Perry Hall!

**New Director of Children,
 Youth and Family Ministries**



We are happy to announce that we have hired Jeny Carlson as the new Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries. Jeny has experience with children and youth at both University Presbyterian and Mount Baker Park Presbyterian churches. She currently is a student at Seattle University, working toward a Master of Divinity. She is anxious to meet our church family and will begin working at once. Please welcome Jeny and give her our Sand Point hospitality! - Kathy Warnaca

More on Jeny: She has never quite stopped feeling like a teenager herself. A Seattle-native and graduate of Nathan Hale, Univ. of Washington, and soon Seattle University, she loves her hometown and all its quirks, including the rain. She believes that our faith develops and thrives best in beloved community, where all have the chance to learn, question, fail, love, and grow in the caring support of others who are walking the journey of discipleship. She's also a total Marvel geek.

Jeny's home community includes her husband, three kids and two dogs, all of whom bring her great joy and occasional exasperation.

Jenny's office hours will be:

Sundays: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Parents Night Out

Friday, December 18th—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.

Children's Time and Introducing New Director of Children, Youth & Family Min.



Hanging of the Greens



Group Photo—L to R: Sue Haas, Jeff Nemitz, Sylvia Abbott, Kevin Kurtz, Pastor Janelle Kurtz, Marilynn Pray, Roland Pray, Dan McGrew, Bill Eagen, Ana Eagen, Carol Houk, Ken Cribley. Others not shown: Scott Haas, Ngaire and Charlie Taylor, Jane Stevens & Jerry Zimmerman. Photos by Scott Haas & Bill Eagen

Children Decorating Tree with Chrismons



Green Lake Pathways of Light Fellowship Event

Saturday, December 12th at 4:30 p.m.

Join us to share in this local festival of lights and carols. This is a time to experience the Holy that is present in the ordinary. Let's take time to walk together, fellowship together and break bread together with a shared dinner out afterwards!

Poinsettias for the Altar

To donate a fresh poinsettia plant for the altar this Christmas, please purchase your potted 6-inch plant (red, white, pink, etc.) and bring it to church on Sunday, Dec. 20 (not before, as we can't be responsible for watering them, and keeping them warm in the unheated sanctuary). Put your plant on, or in front of the altar, by 9:45 that morning. If you would like to honor or remember a loved one with your poinsettia, please call the church office with their names. You may take your poinsettia home after our Christmas Eve Family Worship Service that ends at 8 pm on Dec. 24. Thanks in advance for donating a poinsettia!

--Sue Haas and Marilynn Pray

Blue Christmas Service

Monday, December 21st—7:00 p.m.

A quiet service of reflection on what it means for Christ to come into our grief and pain.

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/> .