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

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SANDPOINTER

December 13, 2016

**Sand Point Community
United Methodist Church**

4710 NE 70th St., Seattle, WA 98115-6148
206-523-3040; sandpointcommunity.org
spcommunity@qwestoffice.net

Rev. Janelle Kurtz, Pastor



Children's Christmas Program

Join us on Sunday, December 18th, during Worship, for our Children's Christmas Program! This year our children and youth will read the story of Christmas and we will sing songs together as the children set the scene for the birth of Jesus Christ. All are welcome and invited to participate!



Poinsettias for the Christmas Altar



To donate a fresh poinsettia plant for the altar this Christmas, please purchase your potted 6-inch plant (any color) and bring it to church on Sunday, December 18th (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. You may take your poinsettia home after our Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. worship service. Thanks in advance for donating a poinsettia!

From Our Pastor...

What good is it to me that Mary gave birth to the Son of God fourteen hundred years ago, and I do not also give birth to the son of God in my time and in my culture? We are all meant to be mothers of God. God is always needing to be born. --Meister Eckhart, 13th century German mystic

I came across these words earlier this month and I haven't been able to shake them yet. The trouble is, they are often drowned out by the cacophony of other words, of other voices. It is only in the quiet of the late night, Sasha asleep, Kevin at work, me sitting watching the snow fall as I write, that these words have room to speak again. Unbidden they return to me: we are all meant to be mothers of God. God is always needing to be born.

My mind flashes back a day. When I pulled my car into the parking lot to pick up something I had printed. I was annoyed when I had to maneuver around a group loitering there. Uncomfortable, as a car pulled up, the passenger throwing out sleeping bags to those already there. Uneasy, as I hurried inside and back out again, baby in tow. It's hard to avert your eyes as the sleeping bags are unfurled a few feet away and more people are gathering. It's hard to look past the bottles and scattered trash that speak of lasting encampment. It's hard to see beyond the glazed, lost, empty look in someone's eyes. It's hard to be that close to what I usually try so hard to distance myself from.

I remember and the words come back to me again: God is always needing to be born. What good is it to me that Mary gave birth to the son of God two thousand years ago and I do not also give birth to the son of God in my time and in my culture. In the places where it is hard to be. Places that are hard to see. What good is it that I drive away hoping to forget? What good is it that I am content to admire the softly falling snow without a thought to those sleeping in it?

I stop and pray a prayer of confession before God. I ask God's forgiveness and mercy. I ask God to give me the eyes to see the places where God is needing to be born. And better yet, the courage to birth God in those places--the modern-day manglers that surround us. I pray that Meister Eckhart's words continue to echo in our lives. I pray that we never shake them and that we give ourselves to be mothers of God. I pray that we will join Mary in the hard, painful, life-giving labor of birthing God in our world today. I pray that this is what Christmas is all about and that it doesn't end with December 25th.

Pastor Janelle

Calendar

Wednesday (December 14)

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

Thursday (December 15)

Women's Bible Study—10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
Missions Team —7:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Friday (December 16)

Parents' Night Out— 5:00– 8:00 p.m., Perry Hall
RSVP to Sarah Ritchey at spclittleones@gmail.com

Sunday (December 18)

Worship—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Children's Christmas Program (during Worship)
*** All children welcome to participate!***
Fellowship Hour—after Worship, Perry Hall

Tuesday (December 20)

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

Looking Ahead

Wednesday (December 21)

Blue Christmas—7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Saturday (December 24) *Christmas Eve*

Family Worship—5:00—6:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Candlelight Meditation—6:15-7:15 p.m., Sanctuary
(The Church Offices are closed December 23 & 26)

Sunday (December 25) *Christmas Day*

Worship—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Fellowship Hour—after Worship, Perry Hall

Wednesday (December 28)

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

Friday (December 30)

Church Offices closed

Saturday (December 31)

New Year's Eve

Sunday (January 1, 2017) *Happy New Year*

Worship—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Fellowship Hour—after Worship, Perry Hall



Join us for our 2016 Christmas worship!

Wednesday, December 21st, 7:00 p.m.: Blue Christmas

A quiet time to reflect on the season.

For all who are “blue”, anxious, grieving, or needing a moment to pause in the busyness

Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve Services:

5:00—6:00 p.m. Family Worship

The Christmas Story, singing, and candlelight

6:15—7:15 p.m. Candlelight Drop-in Meditation

Candlelight, Christmas readings, and music

We celebrate the season with worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m., including Christmas Day.

Peace and love to all this joyous season!

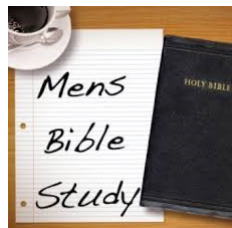


Women’s Bible Study 1st & 3rd Thursdays

10:00 a.m.—Fireside Room
All women of the church are invited.

Men’s Bible Study 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. Fireside Room

All men of the church are welcome to attend.



Parents’ Night Out

Parents' Night Out is happening on December 16th from 5-8pm at Sand Point Community UMC in Perry Hall.

Parents/guardians can enjoy a few hours on their own or do any last minute preparations before children are on break from school/daycare for the holidays. Plus we want the kids to have a Christmas party!

Our staff and volunteers will be present while the kids play games, create Christmas crafts, eat dinner, sing carols, and watch a short holiday movie. This event is open for children ages 0-12.

A suggested donation of \$5 per child/\$10 per family.

Space is limited, so please email spclittleones@gmail.com or call 206-523-3040 to reserve your child's spot.

A Message from our Finance Chair...

Dear Church Family,

I am writing to ask your help with two important issues regarding the financial health of our church.

The first issue is the church’s current cash position, which is very weak. At present, we are over \$10,000 short of the funds we need to cover our current bills. If you have not fully paid your pledge for 2016, please do so as soon as possible. And, if you have the capacity to make an additional contribution, it would be greatly appreciated!

The second issue is related. We are in the midst of developing the 2017 budget, and it will likely be the most difficult budget to develop in my tenure as finance chair. Because we have no cash reserve, we will need a very firm sense of pledges in order to ensure that we do not have a cash crisis (i.e. bounce checks) next year. I would greatly appreciate it if you would fill out and return your 2017 pledge card as soon as you can. You can put it in the offering plate or mail it or drop it off at the church office. If you need another one, please let Nicole know.

Thank you!!!

Steve Mullin
Finance Chair

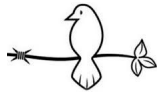
New Writing Group!

Tom Trzyna is starting a writing group! He has run classes on autobiography writing and knows the promises and complexities of the task. He is interested, above all, in working with people's stories so that they can resolve issues, find spiritual meaning, and lead richer lives.

The people who join need to commit to:

- 1) Writing five pages a week
- 2) Developing a writing plan
- 3) Reading at least Writing as a Way of Healing or The Art of Slow Writing, by Louise De Salvo
- 4) Being willing on an occasional basis to share some of their writing
- 5) Meet weekly

If you are interested, or have questions, you can contact Tom.



Melodies of Compassion

December Giving

CPT

Christian Peacemaker Teams

Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) is an international organization set up to support teams of peace workers in conflict areas around the world. These teams believe that they can lower the levels of violence through nonviolent direct action, human rights documentation, and nonviolence training. CPT sums their work up as "...committed to reducing violence by *getting in the way*". CPT currently works in Colombia, Iraq, the West Bank, Chiapas, Mexico, and Kenora, Ontario, Canada. CPT has around 30 full- and part-time stipended peacemakers and nearly 200 part-time volunteers who support violence-reduction projects around the world. This work is supported by a Board of Directors whose members represent organizations and denominations officially sponsoring CPT. The CPT places teams at the invitation of local peacemaking communities that are confronting situations of lethal conflict. These teams **seek to follow God's Spirit as it works through local peacemakers** who risk injury and death by waging nonviolent direct action to confront systems of violence and oppression. Please hold these teams in your prayers and support them with your Melodies gifts this Christmastime!

Free Life Coaching Opportunity

An exciting opportunity is available to us as we help a Ravenna community member fulfill her Life Coaching training requirements. Coach Daphne has made available to us the opportunity for 8-10 individuals from our congregation to participate in an introductory life coaching experience. Willing and interested participants would have three one-hour, private, 1-on-1 sessions working with Coach Daphne.

This time together would:

- 1) identify a particular goal/dream of interest (with the help of the coach);
- 2) create together some ideas of how to move towards reaching one's goal through understanding the power of thought and the importance of feeling good, as well as doing processes to identify and lower any resistance in achieving one's goals;
- 3) establish a commitment of identifiable steps to keep working towards your goals, as well as determine what success will look like.

The Life Coaching is free at this time while Coach Daphne works toward her certification. Coaching sessions may be a combination of in-person and telephone meetings and would occur through December and January. There is more information and a sign-up sheet in the Church Office!

Advent in Sunday School



Join us weekly for a special Advent-themed Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season.

- K-5 in the downstairs classrooms
- 6th grade & up in the Youth Rec Room



Seeking Household Help?



Someone connected to our congregation has reached out seeking employment opportunities. She has experience in providing housecleaning, cooking and bathroom aide services. If you might be able to benefit from these services, please contact the Church's Office Manager, Nicole Denny (206-523-3040 or spcommunity@qwestoffice.net) who will make the connection.