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

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January 10, 2017

**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



Melodies of Compassion

January Giving

North Helpline

To align with our MLK Service Day on January 14 (see page 3), our January Melodies supports North Helpline.

The organization opened in 1989 with Emergency Services in response to the overwhelming amount of people in need that local churches regularly saw at their pantries. These churches were among North Helpline's first supporters, referring clients and helping the organization get off the ground financially. The Emergency Services group at that time was able to provide financial assistance with utility shut off and eviction prevention.

The Food Bank was added in 2001. In 2010, they moved locations to a brand new facility in Lake City. Amongst Seattle's many social services, North Helpline is distinguished by this uncommon trait: the convergence of distinct resources under one roof. The North Helpline of today remains volunteer-driven. Please give generously this month! (*Paper money also is gratefully accepted.*)



2017 Altar Flower Sign-up Chart



There is a new altar flower sign-up chart posted on the bulletin board outside Perry Hall. Please consider donating a flower arrangement in honor of a loved one, or for a birthday or anniversary in 2017. Thank you!

From Our Pastor...

On Sunday in worship we celebrated Epiphany--God revealed to all people. This is the story of the star and the wise men's journey to see the Christ child. I shared how when I think of this story, my mind immediately goes to the three gifts given to the child: gold, frankincense and myrrh. What I have often overlooked is the gifts that the wise men first received. Like the gift of good news to declare the message of Jesus' birth. The gift of courage to set out on their way. Or the gift of the star to guide them on their journey. The gift of sight to see the newborn child. The gift of joy that overwhelmed them when they arrived at Jesus' side. The gift of God born in the flesh, revealed to creation in the birth of a child.

All of these are the gifts first offered to the magi. In their wisdom, they received these gifts from God. I believe that they ultimately fell to their knees and opened their treasure chests *only* in response to God's gifts to them. They gave out of the abundance of having been filled by God's good gifts in their own lives. In celebration of this, we each received our own 'star gift': a word written on a star-shaped post-it to guide us to God revealed in our lives. This is a chance to be filled with God's abundance.

We were invited to ponder this word in our hearts in the same way that Mary pondered all that she heard in her heart. I invited everyone to put their star somewhere where they will see it everyday so they can reflect on how God is revealed through this star gift. We will come back to this and share our stories throughout the year. So consider this your reminder: how is it going with your star gift in this first week? How have you started to reflect upon the meaning of this gift in your life? Where have you seen it played out? Where are you still looking for it arrive? How is it leading you?

I pray that we have the wisdom of the magi to open ourselves to the journey as we follow the star!

Please contact the church office to receive your star gift if you have not already — spcommunity@qwestoffice.net or 206-523-3040. Thank you!

Pastor Janelle

Calendar

Wednesday (January 11)

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

Thursday (January 12)

Rose Writing Group, 7:00—8:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Saturday (January 14)

MLK Service Day, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at North Helpline;
5:30 p.m. Dinner & Fellowship at Maple Leaf Lutheran

Sunday (January 15)

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

Monday (January 16)

Church Offices are closed in observance of MLK Day

Tuesday (January 17)

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

Thursday (January 19)

Women's Bible Study—10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
Rose Writing Group, 7:00—8:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Sunday (January 22)

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

Wednesday (January 25)

Choir Potluck for Anna Long—6-7:30 p.m., Perry Hall
Bell Choir— 6:30 p.m. , Choir Room
Choir Practice—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary



Women's Bible Study

1st & 3rd Thursdays

10:00 a.m.—Fireside Room

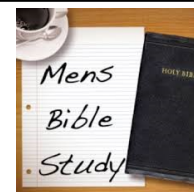
All women of the church are invited.

Men's Bible Study

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

10:00 a.m. —Fireside Room

All men of the church are
welcome to attend.





January Birthdays

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



Martin Luther King Jr Day Shared Service Project!

On Saturday, January 14th from 3-5 p.m., we will be joining with other local congregations to serve at North Helpline. Like last year, we will be working in the warehouse to prepare food and supplies for clients. Our specific focus will be breaking mass quantities of rice and flour into family portions. There is work for people of all ages and abilities so we hope you'll join us in our service! Following our service, we will be gathering for fellowship, games and a pizza dinner at Maple Leaf Lutheran Church. Below you'll find a summary of ways that you can be involved in this great mission:

1. **Give**--Our January Melodies of Compassion will support North Helpline. Our children will be collecting this special offering each week. Please give generously as an example to them.
2. **Engage**--Join us at North Helpline (12736 33rd Ave NE) on January 14th, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Sign up in the church office or Perry Hall so we can prepare the space for our volunteers.
3. **Fellowship**--Join us at Maple Leaf Lutheran (10005 32nd Ave NE) at 5:30 p.m. Sign up in the church office or Perry Hall for a dinner count.

Children's Christmas Program



On Sunday, December 18, we included all children present in worship in our annual Children's Christmas Program. We are so blessed with talented children and youth! This year's Program was led with readings by Ian Hinck, Anna Hinck, Teagan Dickson, and Ewan Ritchey as all the children set the scene for the story of Jesus' birth. The Children's Program was such a special part of worship service for children and adults alike.

Christmas Eve Services

“Love Came Down at Christmas”. In early December, 1500 postcards were sent out to our community, bringing in a warm and beautiful experience to both Christmas Eve services with a combined, estimated 450 participants.

The Family Service proclaimed the good news for all to hear with our choir, guest musicians and vocalists gifting us with the glorious music of the season. Children played an integral part of the evening by ringing bells when this good news was mentioned in the Pastor’s sermon. There was a story and music interlude, and the service ended with “Silent Night” and a processional out to the lawn singing “Go Tell it on the Mountain”.

The sanctuary was darkened at 6:15 for the Candlelight Meditative Service, a time for Church members and neighbors alike to light a taper and votive candle while being treated to readings and music.

Thank you to all who made this evening so special: Director of Music Les Martin, Organist Yvonne Hoar, soprano Laura Bohn, tenor Gary Cannon, and instrumentalists Sheldon Rosen, Laura Martin, Susan Koelle, Laura Kramer, Scott Magill, and Jerry Warden. Also Contributing: Chris Balk, Sylvia Abbott, Marilynn & Roland Pray, Bruce & Ngair Taylor, Berta Cohen, the entire McCausland-Johnston Family, Sue & Alysa Haas, Sue & Ron Vigil, and Bill Eagen.

Peace and Love, Roland and Marilynn Pray & the Worship Team

From Mary’s Place: Thank You!

Thank you to all who gave so generously to Mary’s Place this Christmas season. The church sent money, hats, scarves, clothing, and a beautiful new blanket, plus cosmetics and other items to the families in need. This season was a very giving season, indeed!

New Writing Group

The Rose Writing Group is up and running! Tom Trzyna has led classes on autobiography writing in the past and he is interested, above all, in working with people’s stories so that they can resolve issues, find spiritual meaning, and lead richer lives. Meetings are Thursdays, from 7:00—8:30 p.m., usually in the Fireside Room. If you are interested, or have questions, you can contact Tom.



Thank you to all the women who made the 2016 United Methodist Women’s Christmas Tea festive, fun and memorable! Many hats, scarves, gloves and other family necessities were collected for Mary’s Place.

LIFE COACHING OPPORTUNITY

Life Coach trainee Daphne Cuizon is still available to those who might be interested! (But only until January 23rd) Three individual sessions are conducted by phone and last about 30 minutes per session. These sessions are constructed to help you design the directions you want to bring into/follow for your life. Coach Daphne uses processes (even games) to help you become clear about aspect(s) of your life that you want to make better, smarter, smoother, easier, doable, etc. Coach Daphne can help you figure out your own special gift and purpose in this life - A Life Purpose Statement. We are all unique and bring special gifts to the world - what are yours?

If you are interested in participating, give Coach Daphne a call.

POTLUCK FOR ANNA LONG

On Wednesday, Jan 25, 6-7:30 p.m. in Perry Hall, the choir will host a potluck for former choir member, Anna Long, who is visiting Seattle from England. Anna sang with our choir for several years while she was doing research at Virginia Mason. She also played the flute. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Sue Haas your contribution for the potluck.