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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 12, 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

Sand Point Church Christmas Services

Quiet Christmas

Thursday, Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

A time to pause to reflect on the season. This is a space for all who are grieving, anxious, or needing rest

Christmas Eve

Family Worship & Fellowship—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
The Christmas Pageant, singing, music, candlelight,
and fellowship afterwards

Candlelight Meditation—6:00—7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Drop-in service by candlelight,
with scripture readings and meditative music



Christmas Poinsettias



All are invited to bring red poinsettias to adorn the sanctuary in celebration of our Christmas Eve services. Please plan to bring poinsettias to worship on Sunday, December 24th, placing them near the altar by 9:50AM before we begin worship.

If you would like your poinsettia to be given in honor or memory of someone, please have those names into Nicole in the church office by Wednesday, December 20th for inclusion in the bulletin.

From the Pastor—

During this Advent season we greet each other in worship with the call and response: Tell the timid to take heart. **The Lord our God will come!**

I have always been shaped by the Scriptures which encourage prayer “without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17) and the related spiritual understanding that ‘all life is a prayer when you are paying attention.’ I believe whole-heartedly that the world is filled with glimpses of the divine, each one beckoning us deeper into the realm of God’s Kingdom.

With this in mind, one of the spiritual disciplines that I try to practice regularly is the art of paying attention. *Really* paying attention. I have learned again and again that paying attention truly is a discipline! It’s no easy task amidst the many people, needs and voices clamoring for our attention. But I commit (and re-commit) to pay attention because I long to see more fully those glimpses of the divine. Those moments and experiences that make me sure, beyond all my questioning, that indeed, **the Lord our God will come!**

In this season when the voices and needs and lists feel longer and louder, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you the glimpses I’ve seen of God’s presence. Glimpses of God that I’ve seen in you, the people of Sand Point Community UMC. These are glimpses of the divine for which I am so grateful:

I glimpse God on Communion Sundays when I fear we will never finish passing the peace (and rightly so!) during our worship! I glimpse God when I look out on your faces when I preach or look clearly into your eyes every time we dare to share our lives together. I glimpse God when we gather in the Fireside Room to explore our faith and then stand, hand in hand, to pray the Lord’s Prayer together.

I glimpse God in your unceasing generosity that exceeded our capital campaign goal. I glimpse God in your tireless initiative in serving God freely with your many and varied gifts and talents. I glimpse God in your unrestrained celebration of that very same generosity. How you celebrate our musical offerings, personal sharing and the contributions of our children in worship.

This week

Thursday (*December 14*)

Missions Meeting—6:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Friday (*December 15*)

Parents’ Night Out—5:00-8:00 p.m., Perry Hall

Sunday (*December 17*)

Sunday School—9:30-10:00 a.m.

Worship—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Youth Choir Practice—immed. after postlude, Sanctuary

Fellowship Hour—after Worship, Perry Hall

Looking Ahead

Tuesday (*December 19*)

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

Wednesday (*December 20*)

Bell Choir—6:30 p.m., Choir Room

Chancel Choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Thursday (*December 21*)

Women’s Bible Study—10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Quiet Christmas—7:00 p.m., Chapel

Sunday (*December 24*)

Sunday School—9:30-10:00 a.m.

Worship—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Youth Choir Practice—immed. after postlude, Sanctuary

Fellowship Hour—after Worship, Perry Hall

Candlelight Service—6:00-7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Monday and Tuesday (*December 25 & 26*)

The Church offices are closed for the Christmas holiday

Wednesday (*December 27*)

SANDPOINTER deadline

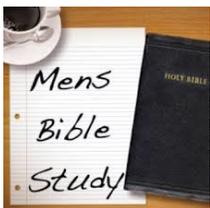
Pastoral Connection

To connect with Pastor Janelle you can reach her by phone (206-523-3040 or email (revjkurtz@gmail.com) Sunday-Thursday. She takes her days off on Fridays and Saturdays. Pastor Janelle is happy to schedule a time to meet with you in person. Appointments can be scheduled directly through Pastor Janelle or the Church Office.



December Birthdays

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



Men's Bible Study

1st & 3rd Tuesdays
10:00 a.m.—Fireside Room

All men of the church are invited.

From the Pastor, continued—

I glimpse God every time I see you helping each other—serving each other in fellowship time, assisting our acolytes to reach the candles, bending low so our children can dip their bread into the Communion cup without having to go on tiptoes. I glimpse God every time I see you match your pace to better accompany the person beside you. I glimpse God in your abiding love for this church and your pride in ensuring that every service and gathering displays our best welcome to all who come.

I glimpse God in your graciousness towards me and my family. The lovely cards you send, the time you take to ‘ooh and ahh’ over how Sasha is growing. The way you have paid attention to our lives and thoughtfully asked how we are together as a family. (And rejoiced in Kevin’s change to dayshift!)

It is these glimpses of God that I see all around us which makes me confident in lifting my voice to proclaim with you: Tell the timid to take heart. **The Lord our God will come!** I know, because I already see it in you. Thank you for this beautiful gift. I have always been grateful for this calling as a pastor, but my dear friends, what an honor to get to be *your* pastor.

Wishing you and yours a very happy Advent and Christmas season. May it be filled with glimpses of God!

Peace, Pastor Janelle

REMEMBER

- The greatest sin—fear
- The greatest day—today
- The greatest deceiver—one who deceives himself
- The greatest mistake—giving up
- The most expensive indulgence—hate
- The cheapest, stupidest, and easiest thing to do—finding fault
- The greatest trouble-maker—talking to much
- The worst bankrupt—the soul that has lost its enthusiasm
- The meanest feeling—jealousy
- The greatest need—common sense
- The best gift—forgiveness

*Found in the wallet of Kelly Foss; cut from a Church service program. Founders Baptist Church by Dr. Theodore Henry Palmquest 1955

Melodies of Compassion— Water 1st International

Melodies of Compassion for the months of December and January will be donated to Water 1st International. The organization was started in 2005 by a group of professionals with experience in the water and sanitation and fundraising sectors. **\$16 MILLION RAISED. 2,297 PROJECTS COMPLETED. 185,000 LIVES TRANSFORMED!**

The focus was simple: build an organization from the ground up with the ability to consistently implement high-quality water and sanitation projects that provide permanent solutions for the world's poorest communities.

They have helped 185,000 people obtain access to clean, convenient water supplies and sanitary toilets, which the communities independently own and manage. One community at a time, with more than 7,000 supporters all giving what they can to the cause --- and not one project has failed. They know this because they follow up with consistent project monitoring. Since most international nonprofit organizations do not follow up on their projects, they are different.

Water 1st was created to support water projects that would last. Their vision was to support local, on-the-ground organizations (partners in this work) with a proven track record of implementing effective, long-lasting water and sanitation projects - comprehensive, cost-effective projects - piped water systems, sanitary toilets, and hygiene education projects.

They make sure each project is providing the intended benefits and generating the best possible outcomes. You can be confident that your donation is spent wisely and is making a real difference in the lives of the people served. Supporting and implementing water and sanitation projects properly is the best investment and best hope for the world's poorest people.

Countries being served at this time are Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Honduras, Mozambique and India. More information can be found at their website: Water1st.org.

Please give generously to Melodies in December and January so that we can really contribute to this most basic human need – clean water.

Advent Worship Preview



This Advent season, we will be reading through Luke chapter 1.



Reading through this passage, you'll notice that at several key points in the story, the characters ask a question. Their questions are not unlike our own faith questions: "How can I be sure?" "How can it be?" "Why?" "What will this be?"

We will use these questions to dig deeper into our own faith and the questions we ask. Each week will lead up to the Christmas Eve celebration—the moment when the Good News breaks through all our questions. I invite you join us and read along!

Children's Christmas Program

This year's Children's Christmas Program will be inclusive to all children wanting to participate on Christmas Eve's Sunday morning service at 10:00 a.m. December 24th.

We are looking for readers willing to take turns reading a paragraph or two of scripture text from the pulpit. If you would like to participate in this year's Children's Program as a reader, please contact Sarah Ritchey.

SPCUMC Missions Giving Tree



The Missions Giving Tree is up and decorated in Perry Hall. Please stop by and choose a tag or two: warm hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for the men, women and children helped by Seattle Union Gospel Mission. Thank You!

Women's Bible Study

1st & 3rd Thursdays
10:00 a.m.—Fireside Room

All women of the church are invited.

