

SANDPOINTER

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

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SANDPOINTER

December 4, 2018

**Sand Point Community
United Methodist Church**

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



**Sand Point Community
Advent Calendar**



Sunday, December 9, 10:00 a.m.
Bach Cantata during Worship Service

Women’s Christmas Tea

Tuesday, December 11, 1:00 p.m.
Bring a friend, enjoy some tasty teats, and give to “Beds for Kids”

Neighborhood Caroling

Thursday, December 13, 5:00 p.m.
We will meet at the front of the church and go caroling around our neighborhood, bringing cheer to our neighbors.

Sunday, December 16, 10:00 a.m.
An Advent Experience, Perry Hall

Blue Christmas

Friday, December 21, 7:00 p.m., Chapel
A quiet time to reflect on the season. For all who are “blue”, grieving, anxious, or needing a moment of pause

Sunday, December 23, 10:00 a.m.
Children’s Christmas Program during Worship Service

Christmas Eve, December 24
Family Worship & Fellowship—4:00 p.m., Sanctuary
The Christmas Story, singing, and candlelight

Candlelight Meditation—6:00-7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
A drop-in service—candlelight, Christmas readings and music

From the Pastor—

Advent is a time of tension. And I don't mean the clichés about family get-togethers, or the crowds in the stores and on the roads (not to mention at airport security!). I mean the *waiting*. In Advent we sing hymns about the long expected coming and read prophets foretelling the birth of a savior...

...but all of that already happened. Right? We know the story of the birth by a young unwed teenager. We know the story of poor shepherds and wealthy magi visiting. We know the stories of the precocious pre-teen lecturing on theology in the temple; the young man restoring sight to the blind. And we know the stories of his death at the hands of evil, of the despair and doubt of his followers, and of his befuddling, miraculous resurrection.

We live in the already!

And yet... as I write this migrants seeking asylum, some of them children, are being turned away by tear gas. The count of the confirmed dead from fires in California keeps rising and some wonder if Paradise will ever regain its name. More than 100,000 Yemeni children have died in the past two years as part of a war that barely creeps into our consciousness. Each federal economic report seems to tell us that the economy is improving, jobs are being created, and yet homelessness, poverty, and economic insecurity keep growing.

We live in the not yet too.

We as Christians are invited into this tension each Advent: to sing our songs of waiting, to retell the ancient prophecies, and to be reminded of who Jesus is and why He matters. The Gospel of John begins by telling us that “what has coming into being through him is life, and the life is the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and darkness *does not overcome it*.”

My friends, experiencing the tension of Advent is a good and holy thing. I invite you to step into places of “not yet” this season – and invite someone to join you there! And as you enter those places of “not yet,” ask how you can be the “already.” How can you be the light?

You will see in this newsletter several invitations to events and opportunities for us together to be the light. Will you join us there as well? Will you bring a friend or neighbor?

May God's grace and peace, light and love, fill you this Advent.
Pastor Nico

This week

Saturday (*December 8*)

Pathway of Lights—5:00-8:00 p.m., Green Lake

Sunday (*December 9*) ***Bach Cantata***

Sunday School—9:30-10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Worship—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Youth Choir Practice—immed. after postlude, Sanctuary

Fellowship Hour—after Worship, Perry Hall

Charge Conference—11:30 a.m., Perry Hall

Looking Ahead

Tuesday (*December 11*)

Women's Christmas Tea—1:00 p.m., Perry Hall

Wednesday (*December 12*)

Crossover Year Book Study—6:00 p.m., Perry Hall

Chancel Choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Thursday (*December 13*)

Caroling—5:00 p.m., front of the church

Saturday (*December 15*)

Memorial Service for Bonnie Vontver—11:00 a.m.,
Sanctuary

Sunday (*December 16*) ***An Advent Experience***

Sunday School—9:30-10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Worship—10:00 a.m., Perry Hall

Tuesday (*December 18*)

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

Wednesday (*December 19*)

Crossover Year Book Study—6:00 p.m., Perry Hall

Bell Choir—6:30 p.m., Choir Room

Chancel Choir—7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Thursday (*December 20*)

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

Friday (*December 21*)

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

Blue Christmas—7:00 p.m., Chapel

Sunday (*December 23*) ***The Children's Program***

Sunday School—9:30-10:00 a.m., Fireside Room

Worship—10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Fellowship Hour—after Worship, Perry Hall



December Birthdays

Tristan Lockert	12/1
Laurie Westphal	12/4
Kendall Owens-Nuygen	12/6
Ngairé Taylor	12/8
Joan Griffith	12/9
Chloe Pietsch	12/10
Lauren Smith	12/11
Matthew Ritchey	12/12
Matt Pray	12/14
Barry Roundhill	12/16
Bob Abbott	12/19
Megan Dean	12/20
Martha Price	12/24
Stan Isenhath	12/27
Ian Hinck	12/28
Ina Jenkins	
Kathy Coglon	12/30
Carol Houk	

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

Pastoral Connection

To connect with Pastor Nico you can reach him by phone (206-523-3040) or email (nromeijnstout@gmail.com) Sunday-Thursday. His days off are Fridays and Saturdays. Pastor Nico is happy to schedule a time to meet with you in person. Appointments can be scheduled through Pastor Nico or the Church Office.

Melodies of Compassion



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*".

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 December!

Parents' Night Out

Friday, December 21st
5:00-8:00 pm.



We are hosting a Parents' Night Out this holiday season. Parents 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 will play games, create Christmas crafts, eat dinner, sing carols, and watch an short movie. This event will be open for children ages 0-12. Please register with Sarah Ritchey by December 17th if you plan to have your child/children attend. A suggested donation of \$5 per child/ \$10 per family.

BACH CANTATA in December **A Choral Collaboration with Orchestra, Combined Choirs & Soloists**



Sand Point's Choir is collaborating with the choir of First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach to present Johann Sebastian Bach's sacred cantata, "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme", BWV 140. This Advent cantata is centered on the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) and uses the text and tune of Philipp Nicolai's hymn "Wake, Awake,

for Night is Flying" (No. 720). These three hymn verses, sung by the chorus, are interspersed with supporting scriptural narratives from the old and new testaments in the form of arias and recitatives for soloists.

The cantata will be sung in German (with a printed translation) by the combined choirs. Soloists are Linda Tsatsanis, soprano; Joel Bevington, tenor; Martin Rothwell, baritone. The cantata is scored for chorus, soloists, oboes, and strings, and will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra of early music specialists, conducted by Leslie Martin & Joel Bevington. The congregation, too, will have the opportunity to sing this well-known hymn, accompanied by the full orchestra!

It's not too late to sing in the choir for the cantata – please contact me if you, a friend, or neighbor are interested!

Two Performances—

Sunday, December 9th, 10:00 a.m., Sand Point Community United Methodist Church, Seattle

Sunday, December 16th, 11:00 a.m., First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach, 18354 8th Ave NW, Shoreline, 98177

We hope you will invite a friend to Sand Point to share in hearing this wonderful cantata!

Les Martin
Director of Music
Sand Point Community UMC

Green Lake Pathway of Lights

Come join your Sand Point Community to celebrate the Green Lake Pathway of Lights walk next Saturday, December 8th from 5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. This will be the 36th year of the event hosted by Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Green Lake Advisory Council.

The 2.8 mile pathway around the lake will be illuminated by candles and local musicians perform at four sites around the lake some of whom we know from our congregation!

Complimentary hot beverages as well as treats are also available. Many wear their own festive illumination and even decorate their kayaks for the season!

Come out and join in the annual festivities, it's sure to be a great time rain, snow or sunshine.

Hope to see you there!



Have You Tried our Assistive Hearing Devices?



If you have difficulty hearing during the service, try one of our assistive hearing devices. You'll find them in a wooden box on the main table in the Narthex. They work like a transistor radio to amplify the pastor, the liturgist — even the pipe organ! Seeing is believing. But hearing is important, too! Ask an usher if you need help.

Did you accidentally take a hearing device home with you? We started with about a dozen, but we are down to just four. If you accidentally took a hearing device home, please bring it back. If you have trouble getting to church, please phone Bruce Taylor, and he'll come pick it up from you.

Charge Conference
Sunday, December 9th at 11:30 a.m.

Where have we been, and where are we going? YOU are invited to come and participate in our annual charge conference Sunday December 9th (after worship featuring our joint cantata performance!).

Charge conference is our annual meeting and an opportunity. It is a meeting in the sense that there are a few official pieces of business to attend to. But the opportunity portion is far more important.

It is an opportunity to reflect back with gratitude on the year that has gone by, and gaze forward with hopes and dreams. This year I am particularly hoping that YOU will come help us to gaze forward and co-create the vision that will carry this faith community into and through 2019.

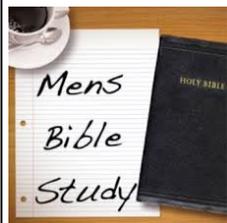
From the Missions Team ~
Socks Delivered to Operation Nightwatch

Our October/November Sock-It-To-Homelessness Drive was a big success! On November 18th, many, many socks were delivered to Operation Nightwatch, ready to be distributed to our homeless citizens as needed. And the need is great—thank you for your contributions of both socks and Melodies.

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 invited.



Christmas Tea



All the women of the church are invited to a Christmas Tea on Tuesday, December 11 at 1:00 p.m. in Perry Hall. This is a great time to bring a friend or neighbor for tasty treats provided by the United Methodist Women, and a program by Berta Cohen featuring photos of Madonnas from Portugal and Spain.

This year's giving will benefit the Seattle Police Foundation's "Beds for Kids" project. We will be collecting new sheets and bedding, teddy bears, and monetary donations. The goal: giving every child a better night's rest and preparing them for a better day at school.

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 Monday, December 24th, placing them near the altar by 3:45 p.m., before we begin worship.

If you would like your poinsettia to be given in honor or memory of someone, please have those names to Nicole in the church office by Wednesday, December 19, for inclusion in the bulletin.

Help Needed for Parents' Night Out
December 21, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

We are in need of volunteers to help with set up, reading/playing with the kids, serving dinner, and clean up for our Parents Night Out on Friday, December 21st from 5:00-8:00 p.m. This outreach opportunity is open for all children ages 0-12 years old. Staff and volunteers are present while the kids play games, create art projects, sing songs, eat dinner, and watch a short age-appropriate movie.

Please let Sarah Ritchey know if you are interested in volunteering or would like more information.

Crossover Year Book Study

"Faith was never intended to be a destination, a status, a holding tank, or a warehouse. Instead, it is to be a road, a path, a way out of old and destructive patterns into new and creative ones."
~Brian McLaren in *We Make the Road by Walking*.

You are invited to join the start of a year long journey we are embarking on together with United Methodists all over the Greater Northwest following Brian McLaren's book (available from Amazon and other booksellers, as well as through the library). We will meet during Advent on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. (December 5, 12, and 19) over a simple meal to discuss and share our insights. Our Men's Bible Study has also adopted this book as their study for the next year (1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.). Or you can read and follow along on your own using resources found at www.greaternw.org/crossover. A reading guide will be available in the office as well. Each week we will read a chapter (about 4 pages) plus some related scripture passages to reflect on.

Caroling Opportunity



Celebrate the final 12 days before Christmas with an evening of neighborhood Christmas caroling on **Thursday, December 13th at 5:00 p.m.** This is open for anyone who wants to share in a holiday activity with almost no planning or effort required! Families and anyone who likes to sing (no skill required) are invited to join us as we visit our neighbors door to door and serenade them with a choice of one or two carols. We will also be collecting shelf-safe food and monetary donations that will go toward the University Food Bank and our own Little Free Library & Pantry.

We will gather at the front of the church at 5:00 p.m. around the tree and set off on foot toward 49th Ave NE toward View Ridge Elementary School. Please bring your own flashlight or illumination of some kind. Hot cocoa and cider will be provided! If you have any questions, please email Sarah Ritchey at spclittleones@gmail.com.

New Art Exhibit

The new art exhibit in the north hallway leading to Perry Hall is: **Madonnas of Spain and Portugal**, a selection of photos by Tom Cohen taken in June of 2018. They were chosen by Berta Cohen to be used for the Christmas Tea program.

NEST Decision Announcement

Last week we were contacted by NEST announcing their relocation decision. Following extensive deliberation NEST's board has selected Wedgwood Presbyterian Church to be their new home.

Their decision was based on several key factors:

- 1) Wedgwood has office space available that is move-in ready, saving NEST up-front costs, simplifying the move, and minimizing impact on their operations.
- 2) Wedgwood offered NEST an advantageous lease rate without escalation over a 3 year lease term.
- 3) Wedgwood church facilities are largely vacant during the week, allowing unlimited opportunities to schedule meetings, programs, and events.

NEST reiterated how much they enjoyed the interaction with us, and we will look for opportunities to collaborate in the future. We discovered that we have numerous NEST members in our congregation, and everyone is invited to join NEST, or assist by providing volunteer services.

NEST will be moving to their new facilities on March 1, followed by an open house event. NEST has added Sand Point to their newsletter mailing list, and we will add NEST to the Sandpointer mailing list as well.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this outreach to NEST, we gained valuable insights about our community, programs, tenants, and facilities by engaging in this process together.

Holiday Office Closures

The church offices will be closed on December 24-26, and December 31-January 1, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays