

Peralta Memorial United Methodist Church

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Going Beyond Our Walls to Build God's Kingdom

WAITING FOR THE ARRIVAL

While the culture around us has wasted no time in its attempt to hurry us on to the celebration of Christmas as a fine way of getting us to part company with our hard-earned money, the Church begs attention for its own contrarian journey toward a thoroughly unexpected and perhaps uninvited Advent, or arrival, of the Christ. To be sure, our cultural journey to Christmas typically promises us the immediate gratification courtesy of our credit cards, Advent seems instead to deepen in mystery day by day as it keeps asking us whether or not we are truly ready to meet the kind of Messiah for whom all of us are waiting. About this we should make no mistake: Waiting is precisely what the Advent season is focused on from start to finish. But why do you suppose that is the case?

When the novelist Ernest Hemingway was wounded during the First World War, at least 237 pieces of shrapnel were surgically removed from his legs. But being placed in the recovery ward of a military hospital turned out to be deeply formative for the young writer, providing him a long and frustrating period of enforced convalescence during which Hemingway carefully observed the other patients all around him. Over time, he began to notice that some of his fellow sufferers were seemingly strengthened by their difficult and demanding period of recuperation, while others struggled emotionally and spiritually due to their own lack of depth and maturity. Eventually Hemingway became convinced of a critical insight: It was in the time of waiting that the true nature of a person was revealed. And from that discovery he developed his own method of storytelling utilizing a master plot or storyline which runs through many of his most famous works. Placing the protagonists of his novels, who were apparently good people, in difficult circumstances, Hemingway again and again forced his characters to wait for a final resolution to their stories. Some waited for moments of military combat, some characters waited through long days while adrift at sea, and others waited in anticipation of the deadly contests taking place in the bullring. In the end, Hemingway seemed to be suggesting that waiting itself neither makes or breaks the people that we are. Instead, his point seemed to be that waiting simply reveals us as we are.

"Waiting is our destiny. As creatures who cannot by themselves bring about what they hope for, we wait in the darkness for a flame we cannot light. We wait in fear for a happy ending we cannot write. We wait for a 'not yet' that feels like a 'not ever'. Waiting is the hardest work of hope." Lewis Smedes

Now as we journey into Advent, what will happen to us over the next few Sundays has not yet been revealed. Some good things will probably happen, as well as some painful things that none of us would likely choose. As for the promised Advent, the arrival of Jesus himself, I cannot really tell you much: When will he come, or where and how he will make himself known to us? All of that usually remains a complete mystery to us until we look back in shock and wonder and know it in retrospect just as clearly as we missed it when it actually happened. But of one thing we can be sure: It is Jesus for whom we are waiting, and there is plenty of truth and wisdom already available for us if we wish to know what kind of Messiah Jesus will be. So here are a couple Advent questions for all of us to reflect upon during the coming weeks. What will the waiting reveal about you when you meet up with this Jesus who is coming your way? Or maybe better yet, where will you be when the Messiah Jesus finally shows up?

Pastor Manish

SPECIAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER



Sacred Nocturne

A service of Rest, Peace and Healing

Wednesday, December 21st

7:00 pm



Worship Services

Christmas Eve

December 24th at

5:00 and 7:00 pm

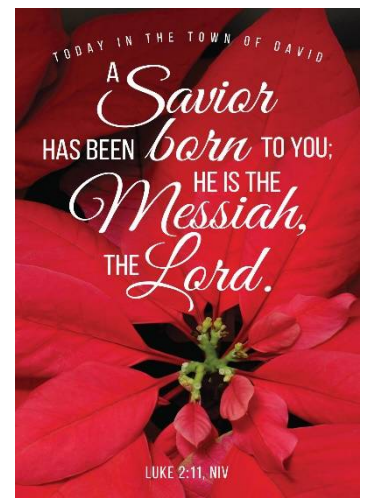


Christmas Day

Sunday,

December 25th

10:00 am





December 2 – Bill Killough
December 3 – Waylon Inman
December 4 – Sherry Kallenbach
December 4 – Tinka Platt
December 4 – Samantha Inman
December 6 – John Drayer (90th)
December 7 – Brinley Wilkinson
December 8 – Kelley Green
December 8 – Luke Rindels
December 9 – CJ Huff
December 11 – Caity Blaine
December 12 – John Gobert
December 18 – Nick Gipson
December 18 – Troy Meyer
December 19 – Chris Broekstra
December 21 – Jeanette Smith
December 25 – Jose Garcia
December 26 – Cheryl Huber
December 26 – Carol Smith
December 27 – Mike Buvinghausen
December 29 – Patti Harris
December 30 – Lilly Genson
December 31 – Angie Davis
December 31- Johnathon O'Brien

December 3 – Trevor & Carissa Green
December 5 – Jack & Gayle Stayton



The History of the Candy Cane

The candy cane, seen mostly during the holiday season, stands as an important Christmas symbol.

A candy maker wanted to create a way to express the meaning of Christmas through the imagination of candy. That is when he came up with the idea of the candy cane. There are several different symbols incorporated into the candy cane. First, he used a plain white peppermint stick. The color white symbolizes the purity and sinless nature of Jesus. He then decided to add three red stripes to symbolize the pain inflicted upon Jesus before His death on the cross and a bold stripe to represent the blood He shed for mankind. He made it in the shape of a cane, so when looked at, it looks like a shepherd's staff, which represents that Jesus is the Shepherd of man. If you turn the cane upside down, you will notice the shape of the letter "J" symbolizing the first letter in Jesus' name.

The candy cane serves as a lasting reminder of what Christmas is all about.

AFTERSHOCK YOUTH NEWS

'Turning the hearts of youth and families to God and each other'

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas get together later this month. Jim Kubisak has graciously invited us again to his home to enjoy the beauty of all his decorations. Thank you, Jim! We look forward to this time of fellowship and FUN!

It's a wonderful time to thank this congregation for all the support and prayers you bestow on this group of young people. May the Advent and Christmas season be filled with blessings for you all.



Thank you to those who have already signed up to "ring the bell" – we hope that more people will feel the call to help us make a difference in the lives of those in need. Each shift – at either Smith's or WalMart, is only 2 hours. Can you please help? Sign up on Sunday morning or call the church office for more information! THANK YOU!

Remember proceeds go to support the Food Pantry ministry of this church and community.



Peralta Methodist Women Mary Circle

Mary Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 13, 2022
at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

We will have devotion, prayers, and a

Very Christmas Program,

highlighting the history of some of our
favorite Christmas carols!

There will be light refreshments. Please join us!



All Women of the Church are Cordially Invited and Welcome!!!

Prayer For December

Dear Lord, we pray that this last month of the year will be filled with your peace, presence and hope. Help us to remember what is important during this season. May we find joy in simple pleasures and treasure each opportunity to gather with family and friends.

We pray for comfort for all who are going through difficult times. We ask for your healing hand to be upon all who are ill. We pray for provision for all who are in need. We pray for protection for all who are in harms way. Please bless us and use us, so we can be a blessing to others. We thank you for our Savior Jesus in whose name we ask these things. Amen

Debbie Kay, Hope For The Broken Hearted.com



PRAYER WARRIORS

Please be in prayer for each of these in our continuing prayer list. If you know of anyone else who needs to be added, please call Ruth or the church office, 865-9334. If you would like to be a part of Prayer Warriors, please let us know.

Our Freedom	Abundant Grace Free Store	Rev. Manish Shiralay	Nadia M	Ruth Romero	Lynn Schultz
Erma Ward	Mike Heppler	Cheryl Huber	Dan McCarty	Bill Lynch	
Don Gleichman	Lois Meadors	Dorothy Marta	Daniel Gurule	Conrad Joseph Hughes	
Cure for Cancer	Donna Duke	J'Amy Creel	Jim Kubisak	Diego	Joleen Baughman
Karen Fastnacht	Nate Meyer	USA Leaders	Larry & Melodie Huff	Michael Garrison	
Richard & Linda Darnell	Lori Buvinghausen	All Caregivers	Anne Cassidy-Vigil		
All military & their families	Beth Miller	Jay & Marilyn Smith	Don & Pauline Taylor		
Ted & Madeleine George	Cindy Walters	John Dutil & daughter Lora (caregiver)	Veronica Garcia		

GRIEFSHARE

Our GriefShare group is designed to help you recover from the deep hurt of loss. The GriefShare experience includes three key elements that work together to guide your healing process. We will meet on December 1st and also the 15th in the Conference Room at 1:00 pm. Co-leaders are Mary Valigura and Phyllis Graham.

"Grief is just love with no place to go"

Did you know????

"12 Days of Christmas"

This song had its origins as a teaching tool to instruct young people in the meaning and content of the Christian faith.

From 1558 to 1829 Roman Catholics in England were not able to practice their faith openly so they had to find other ways to pass on their beliefs.

The "12 Day of Christmas" is an allegory.
Each of the items in the song represent something of religious significance.

"On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me...."

- The "true love" represents God and the "me" who receives these gifts is the Christian.
- The "partridge in a pear tree" was Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God.
- The "two turtle doves" were the Old and New Testaments – another gift from God
- The "three French hens" were faith, hope and love – the three gifts of the Spirit that abide (1 Corinthians 13)
- The "four calling birds" were the four Gospels which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- The "five golden rings" were the first five books of the Bible, also called the "Books of Moses"
- The "six geese a-laying" were the six days of creation.
- The "seven swans a-swimming" were "seven gifts of the Holy Spirit". (1 Corinthians 12:8-11, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4:10-11)
- The "eight maids a-milking" were the eight beatitudes. (Matthew 5:3-12)
- The "nine ladies dancing" were nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
- The "ten lords a-leaping" were the Ten Commandments
- The "eleven pipers piping" were the eleven faithful disciples.
- The "twelve drummers drumming" were the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed

Shared by Annette Jackson in 2005





Crafty Ladies would like to thank all our bakers, candy makers, jams, jellies and pickle makers for their hard work and timely delivery of everything for the very successful 43rd Holiday Bazaar. We also want to express a deep appreciation for all non-Crafty Ladies helpers for their help in setting up, during the Bazaar and also the take down and clean up afterwards. Without your support we couldn't do all that we do. Last but not least, 'thanks' to all our cashiers!

If anyone is interested, we still have jams, jellies, pickles and dips available. Maybe after your taste-test, you'd like to buy some for your holiday gatherings! Contact Kaye Groves.

Our deepest appreciation to all our church and community family.

God Bless you all!!

Pastor Manish

Marlow

Lanna

Danielle



Heather

Dayle

Genevieve

DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	28 Soulkeepers, 9:30 Conf Room 5:30 Emmaus 5:45 – Cubs, Educ Bldg 7 pm –Scouts, Educ Bldg & #204	29 Office opens at 1 pm 4:30 Fitness, #203	30 5:30 – Bible Study, Conf Room 6 pm Girl Scouts, Educ Bldg 6 Praise 7 Choir	1 1 pm GriefShare, Conference Room 4:30 – Fitness, #203 7:30 – Girl Scout Service Unit, Fell Hall	2 Fellowship Hall & Kitchen reserved for Girl Scout overnight – 5 pm until Saturday 9 am	3 Girls Scouts depart by 9 am
4 – 2nd Sunday Advent 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11 am – Worship 3:45 – Bell Choir 6 pm- AfterShock Youth	5Sou 10 am Food Pantry 5:30 –Emmaus. #101 5:45 Cub Scouts, 7:00 – BSA Educ Bldg. & #204	6 4:30– Fitness, #203 Trustees' meeting, 6:30 pm #201	7 5:30 -Bible Study, Conf Room 6 pm – Girl Scouts, Education Bldg. 6 pm – Praise Team 6:30 – Cub Leaders' meeting, #104 7 pm - Choir	8 4:30 – Fitness, #203 6 pm – 'Elevate' #204	9 Girl Scout Service Unit, Fellowship Hall 5:30-8:00 pm	10 10:30 am – Threads of Love – Ed Bldg. Cut Scouts' – Auditorium 3-5 pm, "Arrow of Light" Sanctuary reserved, piano recital, 4-6:30 pm
11- 3rd Sunday Advent 7 am – UMM Breakfast 8:30 – Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11:00 – Worship 3:45 – Bell Choir 6 pm – AfterShock Youth	12 9:30 – Souilkeepers, Conf Room 10-Food Pantry 5:30 – Emmaus #101 5:45 pm – Cub Scouts , Fell Hall 7 pm – BSA, Court of Honor, Auditorium & Kitchen	13 Mary Circle. – Fellowship Hall, 9:30 am 4:30 – Fitness #203	14 5:30 -Bible Study, Conf Room 6 pm – Girl Scouts, Education Bldg. 6 pm – Emmaus #101 6 pm – Praise Team 7 pm - Choir	15 1 pm – GriefShare, Conference Room 4:30 – Fitness #203	16	17
18 8:30- Worship 9:45 – Sunday School 11:00 – Worship 2 pm -Youth Group Party 3:45 – Bell Choir	19 Office hours 8:30 am to 11:00 am 10- Food Pantry 5:30- Emmaus, #101 7:00 – Scouts, Educ Bldg, & #204	20 4:30– Fitness #203	21 5:30 pm Bible Study Conf Room 6 pm – Girl Scouts, Education Bldg. 7 pm – Sacred Nocturne – service of Rest, Peace & Healing	22 4:30 – Fitness, #203 6 pm – 'Elevate' #204	23	24 Worship at 5:00 & 7:00 pm 
25  Christmas Day Worship 10:00 am	26 Office closed – Holiday 9:30 – Soulkeepers, Conf Room ??? 10 - Food Pantry	27 4:30 Fitness Order of Arrow, Fell Hall & Kitchen 6:30	28 5:30 -Bible Study, Conf Room	29 4:30 Fitness	30	31  <i>New Year's Eve</i>