


Bethany

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3501 W 1st Ave ◆ Denver, CO ◆ 80219

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December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 11AM Worship First Sunday of Advent	2	3	4	5 Jerry Goddard BIRTHDAY	6	7 1:00 pm Circuit Conference Brentwood UMC	
8 11AM Worship Second Sunday of Advent	9	10	11 Laverne Bell BIRTHDAY	12	13 Home Communion	14	
15 11AM Worship Third Sunday of Advent	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22 11AM Worship Fourth Sunday of Advent	23	24 Belen Aranda BIRTHDAY Cameron Steelman BIRTHDAY	25		26	27	28
29 11AM Worship	30	31 Judi Williams & Russ Temple ANNIVERSARY					

Blue Christmas Reminder

Not everyone feels joyful at this time of year

Some people may be grieving for a loved one with whom they shared Christmases past. For others, who may have experienced divorce, abuse or other family trauma, the last thing they want to hear about is coming home for the holidays. Still others simply may be stressed because of holiday expectations.

If you are someone who is struggling, please let Rev. Denise know so that we can hold you tight in our prayers.

WHAT IS
YOUR FAVORITE
**CHRISTMAS
CAROL?**

"We Three Kings" because it explains the whole story in three verses. -Mike Bender

OK BOOMER AND THE CHURCH

a response by Rev. Denise

Recently, an article about the "OK Boomer" trend was shared on a ministry website. Its introduction, by Rev. Allen T. Stanton, reads:

The phrase "OK, boomer," entered the world, like all good memes, through the newest social media platforms. Inspired by a silly song, the phrase has become a shorthand quip Generation Z and Millennials use to express frustration with the perceived out-of-touch views of baby-boomers.

The quip took on new heights recently when a talk radio host, himself a "boomer," called the phrase ageist and bigoted, equating it to using the N-word. The ridiculousness of that comparison aside, his comment attracted a decent amount of attention. The phrase, "OK, boomer," once relegated to memes, now found itself being discussed in national publications, on major news networks, and even being used in New Zealand's parliament.

A debate sprang up. Is it rude of Gen Z and Millennials – described as selfish, lazy, overly sensitive, and accused of killing all things from Applebee's to department stores – to likewise denigrate their elders? Or, is it a harmless parody of a typical generational divides, a modern day version of the 1960's "Don't trust anyone over 30"?



Rev. Denise says:

"My children range in age from 32 to 43; my grandchildren, from 18 mos to 15 1/2 years. My father is 93, and my mother was 88 when she passed.

I am....somewhere in between all of those ages! Of course, when I ask my highly opinionated granddaughter if she considers me an out-of-touch baby boomer, she replies, "Of course not, Grams. You're one of the cool ones." She's such a smart cookie, that girl.

The aging process hits all of us differently. My oldest daughter hated turning 40, but is finding a lot of self-acceptance as she moves through this decade. I try to ignore the wrinkles in the mirror and focus on the fact I want purple streaks in my hair because they are whimsical (and also match the current liturgical color for Advent.)

The battle among generations has been waged as long as there were mothers and fathers and children and grandparents. Still, I can't help but remember the words in Acts:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

I have to believe that God's perfect vision for us is that we cross what we perceive to be barriers in order to work *together* toward God's vision of peace on earth. The church exists as family. And – just as I still want to see Disney movies with my young grandchildren and ride roller coasters with my teen grandchildren and sit and have coffee with my adult children – so I hope we can continue to hold hands across generations within our own church family.

JOHN WESLEY: NOT A DOCTOR

TO CURE A "COLD IN THE HEAD"

Getting rid of this common ailment is easy, according to Wesley: Just "pare very thin the yellow rind of an orange," he writes. "Roll it up inside out, and thrust a roll inside each nostril."

WHEN WE KNOW THE ENDING

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What if we lived into the darkness of the year as a comforting time to nestle into our own spiritual nests, to listen to a quiet tinkling of bells which blow in the winds of early winter, to be aware of the softness of our blankets of protection?

What if the gifts we so frantically shop for, spending too much money and testing our sense of obligation were gifts of time with those we love?

What if we watched for the star that leads us to the cradle of God instead of watching busy traffic, or sparkling lights that can come across as garish and over abundant?

What if . . . ?

What if?



And then, we celebrate Emmanuel with bells, joyful decorations, hugs, and expressions of grace. This gift of God in our midst is enough, and we are part of this society, of this time, of these traditions. We may have seen them before but they can touch our hearts anew. I invite you to continue to celebrate, in many ways, including spending time in that quiet, cozy place in your heart - the place where Christ is anticipated, and where *this* story is still waiting to be told.

Liturgists

December 1, 2019

John Staley

December 8, 2019

Eva Staley

December 15, 2019

Lataine Shaw

December 22, 2019

Kathy Caughran

December 29, 2019

Don Brewer

Lectionary Readings

December 1, 2019

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

December 8, 2019

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

December 15, 2019

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:5-10

Luke 1:46b-55

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

December 22, 2019

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

December 29, 2019

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23



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HOUSE FOR SALE

121 King Street is on the market.

The realtor handling this transaction is Colin Whitenack with Colin & Co. While this property is still in our possession, I am investigating the possibility of rezoning, which would make the property more valuable. It could take several months to sell, but Colin assures us that there is someone out there ready to scrape it and move ahead on building a new home.

