

Bethany

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3501 W 1st Ave ♦ Denver, CO ♦ 80219



Our Advent theme this year is "Going Home for Christmas." There are several layers as to what that means, but for me, going home is gathering with those whom I love and hold dear, whether it is at my actual home or someplace else. One of these places would be Bethany UMC. The scriptures tell us the body of Christ is the church-- a place where we meet, but not just in a physical way, we meet together heart to heart, soul to soul.

Christmas is a time to gather as a community and as friends, to celebrate Christ and each other. It is a wonderful time to reflect on the past year and to welcome the upcoming one. When we gather together as a community, I believe that's what "home" is all about. And so, when we come together, we bring about the Christmas Spirit with the light that shines in each of us. We leave our light to shine, so we can invite others home-- home to the body of Christ, home to church.

Love, Pastor Denise



Lectionary Readings



December 5, 2021

Baruch 5:1-9
Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 19, 2021

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55
Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

December 12, 2021

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 26, 2021

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52



Liturgists

December 5, 2021

Mary

December 12, 2021

Lataine and Gwen

December 19, 2021

Eva

December 26, 2021

Mary



With Gratitude and Love

We recognize Eva Staley for her years of leadership as chairperson of the Administrative Council. We've been immeasurably blessed by her guidance, vision, determination, and dedication.

Thank you Eva!



Origin of the Christmas Tree

The origin of the Christmas tree can be traced back to the ancient Egyptians, Chinese, and Hebrews, who all shared a similar custom in using evergreen wreaths and garlands to symbolize eternal life. The Romans would decorate their homes with wreaths of evergreen during their mid-winter festival. The tradition of decorating a tree as we do around Christmas was believed to have started with pagan Europeans. The tradition survived through their conversion to Christianity and is one practiced world-wide among many different religions. The Christmas tree is something that symbolizes the celebration of Christ as well as the spirit of the holidays and has been a tradition carried on for generations over hundreds of years.



History of the Nativity Scene

Nativity scenes are depictions of the birth of Jesus, which can be a display of model figures or a live reenactment. The first nativity scene was created by Saint Francis of Assisi in 1223 in Italy. He was attempting to emphasize the importance of the worship of Christ during Christmas, rather than focusing on "material things". His nativity scene was a live reenactment with human and animal actors. The scene became quite popular and inspired many others to create their own nativity scenes, and they are still just as popular today.



December 2021

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1

2
Charlie Seiffert
BIRTHDAY

3

4

5

11AM Worship
2:00 p.m All Church Conference
Potluck right after worship

6

Jill Thompson
BIRTHDAY

7

8

Pastry Day

9

10

11

12

11AM Worship
Harriet and Elise Seiffert
BIRTHDAY

13

Cocoa day

14

15

16

17

18

19

11AM Worship

20

21

Winter Solstice

22

23

24

Cameron Steele
BIRTHDAY

25

Christmas

26

11AM Worship

27

28

29

30

31



Themes for Sundays

The Fear of Home- 5th Luke 1:68-79, Luke 3:16

The Joy of Home- 12th Luke 3:7-18

The Blessing of Home- 19 Luke 1:39-45, 46b-55

Welcome Home- 26 Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-4, 15-20