

Bethany

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3501 W 1st Ave ◆ Denver, CO ◆ 80219

The past nine months have seemed like an entire year of waiting.

Waiting for news on a deadly virus that has affected each of our lives.

Waiting for news on an election result that could turn the country onto a more equitable journey.

Waiting for each of us to reach out a hand in peace to others we don't know and whose lifestyles we don't understand.

We have waited for news from loved ones, and the waiting ended in grief.

We have waited for news on schools and how to keep our children safe.

We have waited.

And waited.

In the midst of this world's waiting on things to happen, we know that God's presence is in each and every moment that we anticipate. Learning to wait, learning patience, learning to keep one another safe has been tough. But - the child in the manger is waiting for us.

Jesus is waiting.

It is time to bring our faith forward as we celebrate this season of joy and hope, love and peace. It is time to put what happened yesterday away, learn from those lessons and move ahead as the body of Christ called Bethany United Methodist Church. We are the hope and love, joy and peace of this world. Reach out to one another with a spark of hope that will carry us into the new year. Don't anticipate, just live into each moment that God has given us. Amen.



*Bring an ornament
to worship*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29




Wear a
party hat
and glasses to
Charge Conference
at 2pm

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11AM Worship 2pm CHARGE CONFERENCE						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
11AM Worship						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
11AM Worship						
27	28	29	30	31		
11AM Worship						

Birthdays

November 3
Taylen Rohrer

December 24
Cameron Shaw

November 12
Tracy Kaiser

December 5
Terry Goddard

Sermon Scriptures

Isaiah 64:1-9
Isaiah 40:1-11
Mark 1:1-8
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Luke 1:26-38
Isaiah 9:2-7
Luke 2:1-14
Luke 1:46-55

Lectionary Readings

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

DECEMBER 6, 2020

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

DECEMBER 13, 2020

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
Luke 1:46b-55
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

DECEMBER 20, 2020

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

DECEMBER 27, 2020

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

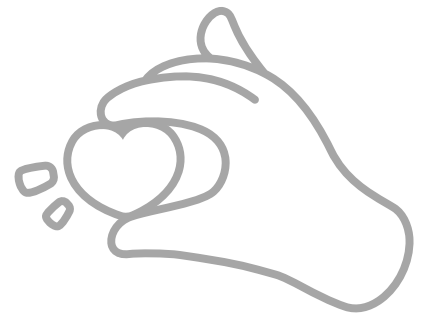


So how do you measure the worth of a man -
In wealth or strength or size?
In how much he gained
or how much he gave?
The answer will come to him who tries
To look at his life through heaven's eyes

And that's why we share all we have with you
Though there's little to be found
When all you've got is nothing
There's a lot to go around
No life can escape being blown about
By the winds of change and chance
And though you never know all the steps
You must learn to join the dance...

"HEAVEN'S EYES" - THE PRINCE OF EGYPT, 1998

..our Gifts



2020 has been an interesting year
for Bethany UMC.

And now, at the end of that year, as we anticipate the remembrance of the birth of the Christ child, we also remember how we have been able to learn new dance steps as a family in the Body of Christ.

This congregation has held fast as we have grieved, worried - and, yes, celebrated - together.

While we feel blessed to have been able to Zoom our worship service, and begin a new ministry, ***we need your help to move our projects into the New Year.***

With your support, we can move Sacred Doors Denver into reality. By taking the time to ponder and pray over the great gift that God gave to us on the first Christmas and that we are given each and every day, we will be moved to be better stewards, giving back generously in gratitude for all that God has given to us.

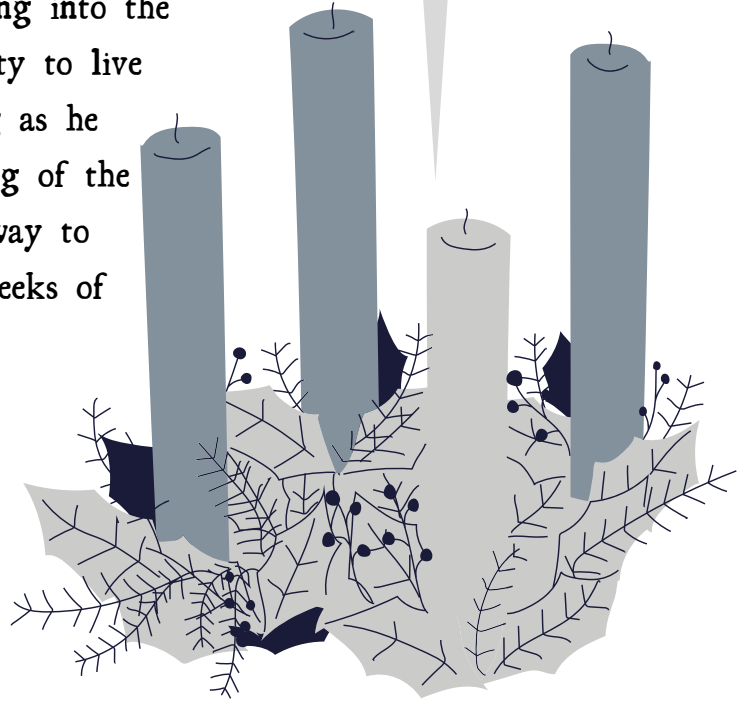
Thank you all.

Peace and Love, Pastor Denise

ADVENT READINGS

for families with all ages

Advent means "coming" - the coming of Christ to earth as a baby full of God's love for us; his coming into the heart of the believer today, bringing the ability to live and share his love; and his triumphant coming as he returns in power and great glory. The lighting of the candles in the Advent Wreath is a beautiful way to celebrate the Advent season during the four weeks of preparation prior to Christmas, reminding us that our hearts and minds must be open and willing to receive the precious gift of the life of Christ.



THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE (THE PROPHECY CANDLE)

The Prophecy Candle is usually lighted four Sundays before Christmas, but you may start anytime - even one week before Christmas, lighting a candle each night. This first candle reminds us of the ancient prophets, who trusted God to fulfill the promise to send Messiah, the Savior.

Read: Isaiah 9:2-7

Sing: Joy to the World

Activity: Help your child create a manger in which to put a baby doll. Use a cradle or a box for the manger and tear strips of yellow construction paper or newspaper to represent hay, in preparation for the birth of the Christ child. Place the empty manger near the Christmas tree, to remind your child that it is Christ's birth that we are celebrating. Encourage your older children to think of the Biblical names and titles given to Jesus and how they explain who he is.

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE (THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE)

On the second Sunday of Advent, we light the Prophecy Candle first and then the Bethlehem Candle. This candle reminds us that Jesus agreed to come to earth as a baby, born in the humble surroundings of a stable, to live God's love among people.

Read: Luke 2: 1-7

Sing: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Activity: Let family members dress up as Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds and act out the Christmas story while Dad, Mom, or older brother/sister reads from Luke 2. You can use simple costumes, such as bathrobes, scarves for headpieces, etc. Children enjoy finding a doll to portray the Baby Jesus. Wrap the doll in old sheeting or handkerchief and lay it in the manger

ADVENT READINGS (continued)

THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE (THE SHEPHERDS' CANDLE)

On the third Sunday, the third candle, traditionally called the Shepherds' Candle, is to be lit after the first two. This is a period of great joy, as we remember the excitement the shepherds felt when the angels descended and informed them of the birth of the Savior. Their joy increased as they shared this good news with others.

Read: Luke 2:8-20

Sing: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Activity: Place shelving paper or butcher paper across the dining room table or tape it to a wall and encourage the children to illustrate Luke 2:8. They may use crayons, markers, or even Christmas cards. This mural may be added to daily, as the study of the Christmas story progresses. Older children may want to think of ways to surprise other family members by doing something for them that is totally unexpected – pick up brother's/sister's room, make a bed, help with dishes, help bring in groceries, sweep the porch, feed the dog, etc.

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE (THE ANGELS' CANDLE)

Now it is just a few days before Christmas Day. All four candles will be lit to symbolize the ever increasing light we experience in our lives as we move closer to Christ. Sometimes this candle is called the Angels' Candle, and we are reminded of the love God has for each one of us and the ways in which we can show others God's love and our love.

Read: I John 4:7-11

Sing: God So Loved the World

Activity: Is there a family you could help this Christmas? There are many needy people who would appreciate a meal, small presents, a Christmas tree, or homemade cookies. Let each member of your family suggest what they can contribute or help make. Deliver your gifts as a family and extend not only material goods, but also warm Christian love.

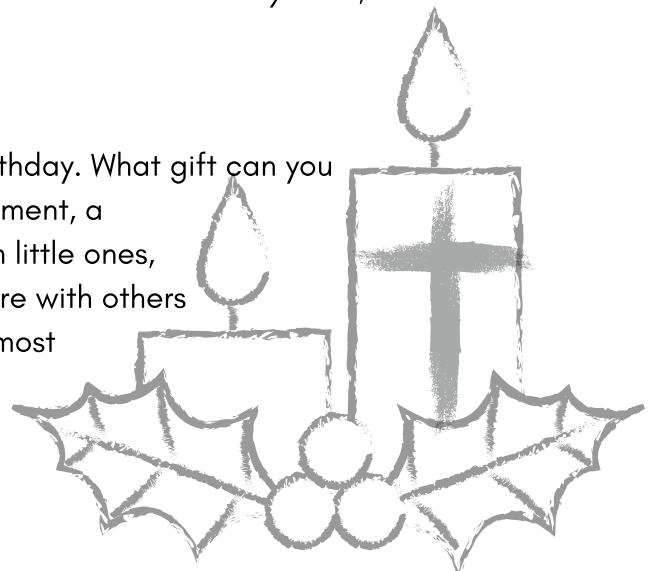
THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (LIGHT ALL CANDLES IN ORDER)

After each of the four candles has been lit, the center candle, representing Christ, is lit. The entire family is warmed and enlightened by light from one source, Jesus. His life, living in us, continues to bring hope, love, understanding, warmth, and comfort – not only to us, but to those who see his life shining in our hearts and actions today.

Read: Matthew 2:1-2; John 3:16

Sing: We Three Kings of Orient Are

Activity: Make a birthday cake for Jesus – sing Happy Birthday. What gift can you give to Jesus? A special song to sing or play on an instrument, a memorized passage of scripture, a colored picture from little ones, a word of praise or thanks, etc.? What gift can you share with others as an expression of your love and appreciation for the most precious gift of all – the life and love of Jesus?



CHARGE CONFERENCE 2020 - November 29, 2pm

NOTE: ZOOM LINK WILL BE POSTED ON BETHANYUMCDENVER.ORG

Accurate goal setting requires an awareness of who the community is, why it exists, and its role in the wider community. Again, this is an optional template for planning ministry in 2021. You may choose to use your own process to develop and present goals for the congregation. You are strongly encouraged to extend this process beyond the Church/Charge Conference, as well as to incorporate the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee evaluation of pastor and congregation that was completed this spring.

Goal setting begins with vision, mission, and purpose.

If you have a mission statement, values that drive your community, and/or a vision for the community then review that description with the questions below.

If you don't have a statement, we invite you to answer the following questions as part of discerning your purpose.

Who are we as Bethany United Methodist Church?

What makes us unique from other churches in the area?

Why do we exist?

What is our purpose?

Who do we serve?

What are the needs in our wider context?

What are the strengths and resources of our church?

What are our challenges and areas for growth?

In light of the responses to these questions, what goals and directions do you want to set for 2021? What culture do you want to keep and strengthen? What plagues is it time to solve? A resource for further evaluation of ministries and missional engagement is Bishop Robert Schnase's

[Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations.](#)

Use these questions to set 3-5 goals for the next year that build on your strengths while attempting to solve 1-2 of the challenges.

Are the goals realistic?

If not, break them into smaller sections.

Are the goals challenging? Do they require God to step in and make them happen?

If not, think bigger.

How will you measure progress on these goals?

Can this be accomplished in the next year?

Who is responsible for these goals?

Bethany United Methodist Church				11/24/20
Gen Fund 2020 Actual-YTD vs Yearly Budget				
Actual January 1 - November 19, 2020				
		Actual	Budget	
		1/1/20-	For Year	Actual %
		11/19/20	2020	of Budget
Income				
1a	Mission Center Income	450	350	128.57%
1b	Regular Giving (pledges, no pledge, loose)	37,028	29,100	127.24%
2	Special Gifts	10,200	250	4080.00%
3	Lenten & Advent Special Offerings	307	300	102.33%
4	Church Rental	1,395	2,975	46.89%
5	Interest	1,419	2,433	58.32%
6	Total Income	50,349	35,058	143.62%
Expense				
7	Pastor Compensation	26,400	15,400	171.43%
8	Children & Youth Ministry	0	13,250	0.00%
9	Organist Salary	1,732	2,345	73.84%
10	Pastor's Assistant	1,944	2,185	88.98%
11	Social Security & Medicare Tax	57	346	16.47%
12	Total Staff Expense	30,133	33,526	89.88%
13	Cleaning Contractors	4,250	3,750	113.34%
14	Utilities & Phone	5,912	4,063	145.51%
15	Maintenance (trash, plumbing)	1,437	3,450	41.66%
16	Insurance	7,184	5,541	129.66%
17	121 King Street (property tax & storm drainage fee)	812	1,048	77.48%
18	Total Buildings Expense	19,596	17,852	109.77%
19	Worship and Program Supplies and Expense	0	420	0.00%
20	Conference Tithe	4,371	3,775	115.79%
21	Office Supplies and Expense	137	341	40.18%
22	Postage	92	55	167.27%
23	Delegates to Annual Conf	0	300	0.00%
24	Total Administration & Finance	4,600	4,471	102.89%
25	Total Expense	54,329	56,269	96.55%
26	Expenditures (Over) Income	-3,980	-21,211	18.76%
27	Unrealized Gain(Loss) on Investment	1,572	0	N/A
28	Net after Unrealized Gain (Loss)	-2,408	-21,211	11.35%
29	Balance January 1, 2020	59,543	51,340	N/A
30	Balance November 19, 2020	55,563	69,177	N/A

Bethany United Methodist Church				1:57 PM
Gen Fund Actual-YTD vs Yearly Budget Report 3				04/06/2019
January through December 2019				Accrual Basis
		Jan - Dec 19	Budget	\$ Over Budget
403	Gas and Electricity	281	6,400	-6,119
404	Telephone & Internet	445	1,824	-1,379
405	Water and Sewer	124	1,100	-976
	Total 402 - Utilities	850	9,324	-8,474
406	Maintenance			
407	Snow Removal	350	200	150
408	Lawn Care	0	600	-600
409	Trash Removal	237	960	-723
410	Restroom & Cleaning Supplies	0	100	-100
415	Other Mtnc	448	2,565	-2,117
	Total 406 - Maintenance	1,035	4,425	-3,390
420	Insurance	4,102	8,570	-4,468
421	121 King Street	0	1,048	-1,048
	Total 400 - Trustees	7,237	29,867	-22,630
500	Worship and Program	0	350	-350
600	Administration & Finance			
601	Conference Tithe	1,190	5,376	-4,186
602	Office Supplies and Expense	61	1,266	-1,205
610	Postage	55	150	-95
612	Delegates to Annual Conf	0	300	-300
	Total 600 - Administration & Finance	1,306	7,092	-5,786
	Total Expense	18,927	81,304	-62,377
	Net Income	-3,393	-16,444	13,051

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WELCOME.....District Superintendent, Rev. Jessica Rooks

Election of recording secretary.

DEVOTION.....Bishop Karen Oliveto

The Gift of Love

Video (One License A-717025)

LOOKING BACK.....Pastor, Rev. Denise Bender, and Gathered Congregation

The pastor outlines the past year.

Where is the church? Where is it going? Highlights of successes and challenges for the year?

The pastor leads in a review of ministry with the following, or similar, questions.

How have we adapted and responded to COVID, so far?

What have we lost? What are we grieving?

What are we celebrating? What has been life-giving?

What have we learned?

How have we changed?

LOOKING AHEAD.....Pastor, Rev. Denise Bender, and Gathered Congregation

The pastor leads a discussion of the following (or other appropriate questions):

1) What is the vision and mission of the church?

2) What one thing are we doing well?

3) What one area do we want to focus on for 2021?

4) 3-5 goals for 2021.

PRAYER TIME.....District Superintendent

DS offers prayer over the goals, the pastor and the church.

BUSINESS.....District Superintendent

1) Leadership Report for 2021

2) Approval of clergy compensation (the completed form has to be forwarded to the District Office by December 1st if your Conference is held in December)

3) Approval of Candidates for ministry (Consult with DS to arrange for voting method.)

4) Membership and Worship Attendance Report

5) Review of 2020 and 2021 Mission Shares and Apportionment commitments

6) Other business as needed.

CLOSING.....District Superintendent

DS offers prayer over the goals, the pastor, and the church.