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### WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

*Submitted by Pastor David*

Advent and Christmas are among my favorite seasons of the year. As the plants die back and the days grow darker, we can contemplate the seasons of our lives. (cont. page 2)



**Sunday, December 1, 2024, the First Sunday of Advent—Communion**

Luke 21:25–36

“The Kingdom of God Is Near”

**Sunday, December 8, 2024, the Second Sunday of Advent—Pulpit exchange with Hillsboro UMC**

Guest preacher: Rev. Jorge Rodriguez

**Sunday, December 15, 2024, the Third Sunday of Advent**

Luke 3:7–18

“Filled with Expectation”

**Wednesday, December 18**

**Blue Christmas Service @ Hillsboro UMC, 7pm**

**Sunday, December 22, 2024, the Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5:2–5a, Luke 1:46b–55

“His Origin Is from Ancient Days”

**Las Posadas @ Hillsboro UMC, 7:00 pm**

**December 24, Christmas Eve**

Candlelight Service , 7:00 pm

**December 29, the Fifth Day of Christmas**

Christmas Carols—Joint Service @ Cornelius UMC, 10:00 am

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## WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

(CONTINUED)

Though we will all experience dark and trying times, we know that they will not last forever. The light returns. The new life of spring is on the horizon. During these dark days, we keep vigil and watch for the coming of the light.



It's no accident that we celebrate Christmas near the winter equinox. In previous times, the equinox landed on the 25th, but the calendar has shifted bit since then. We celebrate the birth of Christ, the coming of Christ into the world, on the same day we celebrate the returning of the sun. The longest night marks the turn into brighter days. The coming of Christ is made apparent in our darkest hour.

At the beginning of Advent, we look forward to Christ's coming. We know that the coming of Christ as a newborn baby on the first Christmas is a sign and symbol of the coming again of Christ in glory, and also of the coming of Christ into our hearts in the here and now. Wherever Christ is coming, the Kingdom of God is near.

On the Second Sunday of Advent, we'll have a pulpit exchange with our sister church in Hillsboro. While I'm leading worship in Hillsboro, Pastor Jorge will be leading worship with you in Forest Grove.

Then we consider the ministry of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus. Like the crowds who flocked to him, we are filled with expectations for the arrival of Christ that is to come.

On the Wednesday before Christmas, Hillsboro UMC is hosting a Blue Christmas Service. "Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in 'I am feeling blue.' Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other dis-ease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people" (*UMDM*). This service brings Christmas into dialog with our experiences of grief and pain.

On the final Sunday of Advent, we consider two scriptural songs. The first is a Messianic prophecy from the prophet Micah, words that foretell the coming of the Christ. The second is the Song of Mary, the prophetic proclamation of Jesus's mother about God's plans for the world and Mary's own part in those plans.

Blessings,  
Pastor David+



## CHRISTMAS BASKETS

CHRISTMAS BASKET donations can be submitted any time / with a note indicating “Christmas Baskets”. We will be sponsoring a family during this Christmas season.

## DECEMBER EVENTS

### DECEMBER 1

- REGULAR SERVICE / COMMUNION (10 AM)
- POMANDER CREATION (PRE/POST SERVICE)

### DECEMBER 8

- CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS (PRE SERVICE)
  - REGULAR SERVICE (10 AM)
- SHARON ADAME 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (11 AM FELLOWSHIP)



### DECEMBER 15

- REGULAR SERVICE (10AM)
- CHRISTMAS COLORING PAGES DUE

### DECEMBER 18 (WEDNESDAY)

- BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE @ HILLSBORO UMC (7PM)

### DECEMBER 22

- REGULAR SERVICE (10 AM)
- CRANBERRY DELIGHTS (11 AM FELLOWSHIP)  
BRING A CRANBERRY SAVORY OR SWEET TO SHARE
- LOSPOSADOS @ HILLSBORO UMC (7PM )

### DECEMBER 24

- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (7 PM)

### DECEMBER 29

- CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT CORNELIUS UMC (10 AM)  
NO SERVICE AT FGUMC

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

*Submitted by Cricket O'Neill*



Update: Rhoda, for health reasons, has been relocated to an adult foster care home. Her new address is: [18550 S.W. Gassner Road, Beaverton, OR 97007](https://www.google.com/maps/place/18550+S.W.+Gassner+Road,+Beaverton,+OR+97007). She continues to enjoy receiving cards and letters from friends, and may be visited at this location.

### **Joys:**

#### **November 17**

- Betty said she had the joy of seeing the King girls Friday night in the SpongeBob play
- MaryJane said her family surprised her with a visit from her son from Omaha to visit her new apartment, which now feels like home since her whole family has approved of it
- Rob was given a nice new shirt when he came to church. It celebrates music and he loves it

#### **November 10**

- Janet thanked Val and Brian Hawkins for all of the decorating they do, especially for the beautiful Thanksgiving decorations
- Amy gave a prayer of thanks for the Veterans
- Robbie thanked God that he was able to catch a student who passed out in his class

#### **November 3**

- Joy expressed deep gratitude for Doug as he has taken care of her during her recovery from rotator cuff surgery
- Sarah and Joy are so grateful for this congregation and for the choir's beautiful song that is a reminder of hope
- Rob praised the choir for doing such a wonderful job on such a beautiful song
- Lucinda said that since she did not get any trick-or-treaters she is joyful she has lots of candy to eat
- Janet said she is joyful for the November birthdays, both her son's and Amy's

### **Concerns:**

#### **November 17**

- Lucinda asked for continued prayers for her son, Alwin, in Anchorage AK, who is still trying to find work
- Pastor David asked for prayers for Virgil as he continues to have physical therapy on his knee

#### **November 10**

- Cricket asked for prayers for Frank Colcord and his wife, Ella, as he is now on hospice.
- Lucinda asked for prayers for her son, Alwin, that he find a job in Anchorage AK
- Robbie asked for prayers for his health his student who was having medical challenges
- MaryJane asked for prayers for Ed Davie and his daughter as she is having to move him to memory care
- Pastor David asked for prayers for Virgil as physical therapy for his knee starts this week:

#### **November 3**

- Val asked for prayers for Don Tveit's family as he has passed away
- Doug asked for prayers for Fred Raycraft who had a fall and hopefully will be going into assisted living rather than back home when he is done with rehab.



## YOUTH & FAMILY GROUP

Submitted by Emily Tabb, Youth and Family Director

Thank you so much for all the snack donations!!! We really appreciate it.

November and December are so busy we have fewer events and instead are planning a few larger events.

### In November,

- Two youth and I attended the Conference Youth Gathering in Salem, Oregon. During our time, we learned that Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth is prioritizing youth ministry in our Greater Northwest Conference and trying to find ways to support and empower the youth in our churches.
- We served at a local food bank, had meaningful faith discussions especially following the Presidential election, and had an interactive worship experience.
- We had our first of many *Spill the Tea with Emily* in Hillsboro where youth from Hillsboro and Forest Grove joined together. We talked, played games, planned for upcoming events, drank warm drinks, and had a wonderful time getting to know each other.
- The group will be attending
  - the Forest Grove High School production of *Spongebob*, Nov 24, 3-5 pm
  - Rock Climbing as a Destination Known on Monday, Nov. 25, 3-5 pm.



### December event dates are TBD but here is what to look forward to:

- Hosting a paint/movie night at Hillsboro UMC with other youth groups from the Portland area (may be postponed until January).
- Service project benefiting Home Plate Youth, stay tuned for what donations you can help with!!!
- Spill the Tea with Emily in Hillsboro at Insomnia Coffee.

I will post an updated calendar on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall when dates are confirmed. If you'd like to be included on the regular emails I send to youth families, let me know.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Christmas Coloring Pages—December 1-15**  
Color during the Fellowship Time or take some home to color (due Dec. 15). Creations will be posted on sanctuary windows for December 24 services.
- **Christmas Pomanders—December 1,**  
before and after service
- **Food Bank Delivery— December 5—9-10 am—**Christmas canned and boxed food, soup and peanut butter
- **Christmas Ornaments on Sanctuary Tree—December 8,** pre-service
- **Blood Drive—December 13—12-5 pm—**Fellowship Hall - Volunteers Needed!
- **Candlelight Service —December 24— 7pm—**Sanctuary
- **Christmas Carols— December 29—** Joint Service at Cornelius UMC, 10:00 am



## ON-GOING EVENTS

- **Music Bridge** —Mondays, 1-2 pm.—Garden Room
- **Cuidado de Refugio** —Thursday, 7:30 pm—Library, Friday, 7:30 pm—Sanctuary
- **Growing Baby**— Monday—Friday, Room 7A
- **SA Group**—Thursdays, 7:00 pm—Room 8B
- **Choir Practice**—Thursdays, 7:00 pm—Sanctuary
- **Chair Yoga**—Saturday, 10:00 am—Room 8A

## TRUSTEES' CORNER

*Submitted by Brian Hawkins, Trustee Chair*

Here is the list of tasks that the Trustees took on during the month of November.

- An offer was received for the large rider tractor/lawn mower, which the Trustees accepted. Thank you, Mark McConnell, for coordinating this.
- A&J Electrical was contracted to repair one of the spotlights for the large sign on the corner of Cedar and 18th Avenue.
- Emily Tabb and assistants sanded and stained the picnic tables around the church. Thank you Nancy Bond for providing the stain.
- Backflow testing has been scheduled and completed.
- Marble Tree Service has been contracted to do some tree cleanup in the front yard of the parsonage.

## Lay Leader Report

*Submitted by Chuck Pritchard, lay leader*

Wow, with Thanksgiving being so late this year, Christmas is less than three and a half weeks away. So the busy season of pre-Christmas activities is becoming a mad rush—all the concerts, gift buying, wrapping and giving, the visiting, to say nothing of the other thousand things that must get done. I would say, “good luck”, but my family is in the same spot, so thoughts of good luck and season greetings to you and yours as I go buzzing by.

This season, take a moment, and talk to someone and tell them what they mean to you. Let’s not get so bound up with all the little details that we lose the meaning of Christmas. What is the old saying, ‘Can’t see the forest for the trees’? We get so bound up in the details that we do not see or enjoy the season, a season that we get more from by sharing it and spreading it around.

There has been a request to change where our donations go, from St. Anthony’s to Cornelius UMC for distribution. What do you think? We will continue taking this month’s to St. A. to fill our commitment (early). Let us know what you think about the change, please.

From our committee, “Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!” Chuck

### SERVING IN DECEMBER

Lay Leader	Chuck Pritchard
Altar Guild	Valerie Hawkins
Choir Director	Robbie Boles
Organist	Alisa Hampton
Coffee Coordinators and Bulletin Boards	Sharon Adame Amy Scott Cricket O'Neill

### BIRTHDAYS

Shirley Gamble	12/03
Laura Thompson-Aue	12/06
Ron Ray	12/07
Sharon Adame	12/07
Lois Oakberg	12/19
Robbie Boles	12/24
Bryan Gamble	12/26
Shirley Peloquin	12/26

### ANNIVERSARIES

Chuck & Betty Pritchard	12/12
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