



Spirit of Faith

Pastor Jim Deal
Faith Presbyterian Church
Of East Wenatchee
November 2019
News Letter

....to inspire and challenge believers to seek deeper ways of serving Our Lord, to motivate all people to follow Jesus Christ, and to nurture one another.

Reading the Christmas Story

During my sophomore year at Whitworth College, I and other religion majors were invited to a religion department party. It was held off campus, at the home of one of the professors. We drank hot chocolate, ate some Christmas goodies, sang some Christmas carols, and read the Christmas story. As students of God's word, it was great to hear once again the familiar words of how our Lord and Savior was born to Mary and Joseph, even when there was no room for them in the inn...

The reading of the Christmas story, from the Gospel of Luke, made such an impression on me that when Jeana and I were blessed with our boys, I started a tradition of reading the Christmas story for our family. I even purchased a big family bible for this very purpose. I wish I could say that we faithfully observed this tradition every year, but in truth, we probably missed more years than we kept the tradition.

Still, I believe there is something very powerful about reading the Christmas story in your home. While the nativity story is part of every Advent and Christmas season at our church, it may create a renewed sense of the incarnation to read the story where you reside every day. God came to us, in all of the messiness of life, including where we hang our hats at night.

And you don't need a big family bible to read the Christmas story. You can use any kind of printed bible, or even the story on your laptop, phone, or tablet. The medium doesn't matter. The message is what is important.

The message of the Christmas story is timeless, and timely. God loved us enough to send His very own son into this world, our world, in order to save us. The baby Jesus arrived as a vulnerable infant, born to a poor couple in an out-of-the-way town while they were away from their hometown. But he did arrive, and angels and shepherds proclaimed what His birth meant for all of us: salvation. The light of God's love piercing the darkness of sin. The hopes of generations of God's people were finally fulfilled!

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The story is an amazing one, and I would encourage you to read it once again this year. The heart of the story is found in Luke 1: 5- 2:20, although you are welcome to read all of chapters 1 and 2, if you so choose. Don't forget the parts of the story found in the Gospel of Matthew, especially Matthew 1: 18- 2:12, for this account relays the story from Joseph's perspective, and includes the visit of the Magi, or Wise Men.

My hope and prayer this Christmas season is that we would all read once again, the glorious and inspiring Christmas story.

'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' Matthew 1: 20-21

The good news this Christmas, and every Christmas, is that God's son saves us from our sins. Hallelujah! and Amen.

Faithfully yours,

Pastor Jim

Here are the scripture readings, and sermon titles, for the remainder of the Advent Season, including Christmas Eve, based on the verses of the beloved hymn, "Joy to the World," written 300 years ago this year.

December 8th Psalm 24: 1-5 Luke 2: 1-7
"Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room:
Making room for Jesus in a world without room for Him"

December 15th Psalm 98: 4-8 Luke 2: 8-20
"Repeat the Sounding Joy:
What the shepherds teach us about joy, & spreading the word about Jesus"

December 22nd Psalm 103: 1-5, 20-22 Matthew 1: 18-25
"No more let sins and sorrows grow:
How God turns burdens into the blessings"

December 24th Luke 2: 4-14
"The Wonders of His Love:
God's greatest gift to all of us"

Pledge Report

As of December 1st, we had received 29 Pledges, totaling \$100,600. Thank you to all who have pledged! If you have not pledged, it is not too late. We hope to receive all pledges for 2020 by December 15th.

Thank you!



December Birthdays



Sally Killaby	12/3
Mike Reed	12/ 7
Jeana Deal	12/9
Betsy Arlt	12/15
Ruth Donogh	12/15
Sue Kane	12/15
Tara Abbott	12/16
Nicole O'Brien	12/17
Conrad Stone	12/17
Mary Perkins	12/18
Gayla Napiontek	12/20
Lori Reed	12/22
Randy Callihan	12/23

December Special Offering

We will receive a special offering on Sunday, December 22nd, for the Wenatchee Lighthouse Ministry. We support this ministry by serving lunch there every other month, coordinated by Sue Anez. The ministry serves those most in need in our community, in the name of Christ. Please give generously.



LIGHTHOUSE
Ministries

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Joe and Sally Killaby	12/ 11
Wayne and Grace Smith	12/ 28



Christmas Eve Service at 5pm



We will hold our annual Christmas Eve Service, "Peace on Earth" on Tuesday, December 24th, at 5pm. The service features choir anthems, Christmas carols, candlelight, and communion. Please join us, and invite a friend!

**"Seeing God's Faithfulness 2020!"
Stewardship Form for the Year 2020**

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Regular Financial Stewardship Commitment for 2020

Grateful for God's love, I (we) make the following commitment to support the regular mission and ministry of Faith Presbyterian Church

\$ _____ per _____ week _____ month _____ year

Special Gifts are also welcomed and encouraged for capital projects, as we have not yet closed out our "Raise the Roof" fund, nor have we completed all associated projects, including repair of damaged ceilings.

Please return this form during worship on Stewardship Sunday
(November 24th).

Or, return it by mail, to our mailing address: 200 South Kentucky Ave.,
East Wenatchee, WA 98802.

Or, drop it by the church office during office hours (W-F 9:30am -
12:30pm). If possible, please pledge by Sunday, December 15th.


Questions you may have:

Who will know about my pledge? Only Deb Winter, our receiving treasurer, will know the amount of your individual pledge.

What if I need to change my pledge during the coming year? Pledges may be adjusted, either upward or downward, by contacting Deb Winter, 509-886-0825, or email her at dkwinter19@gmail.com.

It's the most
DECEMBER
wonderful time of the year

2019

1 1st Advent 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship/ birth-days and anniversaries	2 1:30p SAIL Exercise	3 12:00p Pinochle	4 9:30a Ladies Bible Study 1:30p SAIL Exercise 6pm Choir	5 4pm Men's Bible Study 6:00p Hispanic Church	6 1:30p SAIL Exercise 6:00p Hispanic Church	7
8 2nd Advent 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship Time	9 1:30p SAIL Exercise	10 11:45 Senior Center Lunch 12p Pinochle	11 9:30a Ladies Bible Study 1:30p SAIL Exercise 6pm Choir	12 4pm Men's Bible Study 6:00p Hispanic Church	13 1:30p SAIL Exercise 6:00p Hispanic Church	14
15 3rd Advent 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship Time	16 1:30p SAIL Exercise	17 12:00p Pinochle 6-9 Ginko Mineral Society	18 9:30a Ladies Bible Study 1:30p SAIL Exercise 6pm Choir	19 4pm Men's Bible Study 6:00p Hispanic Church	20 1:30p SAIL Exercise 6:00p Hispanic Church 7:30 Columbia Chorale @ Numerica PAC	21
22 4th Advent 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship Time	23 9:30 Office is open 1:30p SAIL Exercise	24 9:30 Office is open 5:00p Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/Communion 12:00p Pinochle	25 	26 Office is closed	27 Office is closed 1:30p SAIL Exercise 6:00p Hispanic Church	28
29 1st Sunday after Christmas 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship	30 1:30p SAIL Exercise	