



PILGRIM JOURNAL

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DECEMBER SCRIPTURE READINGS

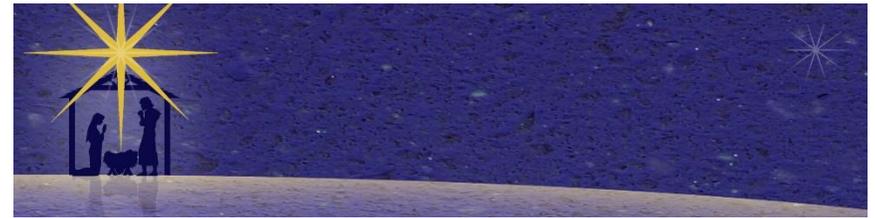
- DEC 02 Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10;
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; **Luke 2:8-10**
- DEC 09 Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79;
Philippians 1:3-11; **Luke 3:1-6**
- DEC 16 Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6;
Philippians 4:4-7; **Matthew 1:22-23**
- DEC 23 Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7;
Hebrews 10:5-10; **Luke 2:1-7**
- DEC 24 Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97;
Titus 3:4-7; **Luke 2:8-20**
- DEC 25 Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96;
Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
- DEC 30 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148;
Colossians 3:12-17; **Luke 2:21-35**
- DEC 31 Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8;
Revelation 21:1-6a; Matthew 25:31-46

The scripture in bold is what Pastor Kim will use in her sermons.

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FROM THE PASTOR

Another Advent season begins in just a few short days. It is the time when we are to wait in anticipation for the coming of the Christ-child. But sometimes I begin to wonder how much we really want Jesus around. I mean, are we really joyfully, fervently waiting for the Savior? Every so often, I receive something from a member of the church... comic strips, a meaningful poem, and surprisingly often, newspaper clippings. Not long ago I received an old, yellowed newspaper clipping from Theo Raymond. It is dated December 24th, 1982! She told me she came across it while going through some things and thought I might like to read it. She was right. And now, I am going to share it with all of you! As we anticipate the birth of Christ, maybe we should ask ourselves some of these more difficult questions. The article is from the Detroit Free Press,

written by Sydney Harris. It is titled "Would Today's Christians Urge a Second Crucifixion"

"If there should be on Christmas Day, a second coming, would there not soon be a second crucifixion? And this time, not by the Romans or the Jews, but by those who call themselves Christians? I wonder how we today would regard and treat this man with his strange and frightening and "impractical" doctrines of human behavior and social relationships. Would we believe and follow, any more than the masses of people in his day believed and followed? Would not the militarists among us assail him as a cowardly pacifist because he urges us not to resist evil, but to return good for evil? Would not the nationalists among us attack him as a dangerous subversive because he tells us we are all of one flesh? Would not the wealthy among us castigate him as a trouble making radical because he bars the rich from entering the kingdom of heaven? Would not the liberals among us dismiss him as a dreamy vagabond because he urges us to take no thought for tomorrow, to lay no treasures upon the earth? Would not the ecclesiastics among us denounce him as a ranting heretic because he cuts through the cards of ritual and commands us only to love God and our

neighbors? Would not the sentimentalists among us reject him as a cynic because he warns the way to salvation is narrow and difficult? Would not the Puritans among us despise him because he eats and drinks with publicans and sinners, preferring the company of winebibbers and harlots to that of "respectable" church officials? Would not the sensual among us scorn him because he fasts 40 days in the desert, neglecting the needs of the body? Would not the proud and important among us laugh at him when he instructs his disciples that he who would be "first" should take the role of the least and serve all? Would not each of us in our own way find some part of this man's sayings and doing to be so threatening to our ways of life, so much at odds with our rooted beliefs, that we could not tolerate him for long? I wonder. I wonder if the Christian Era has yet begun."

Now that I have given all of you something to ponder, I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas. May God bless each of you in this new season!

With much love,

Rev. Kim

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/01	Sue Allum
12/02	Janet Buzzell
12/03	Eddie Barnhart
12/13	Adam Musilli
12/16	Harriet Booth
12/21	Rob Butz
12/23	Jason Couch
12/26	David Linnington
12/27	Mike Price
12/28	Sam Couch
12/29	Marnie Adams
12/30	Mike Buzzell
12/31	David Musilli Lynelle Novak



Many Birthday blessings to all!



Holiday Craft Bazaar Update

Our First Holiday Craft Bazaar was a wonderful success! Many thanks to all

who helped – in any way – to get things ready; from making items to sell, baking sumptuous items to sell, to helping set up, take down, set up and take down again! We made \$1,717!!

Again – a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to everyone!

MINISTRY of OUTREACH and MISSION *Sharing Tree*



Just a reminder.... All Sharing Tree gifts are due back at church no later than Sunday, December 9th. The gifts will be delivered to the collection location the next day. Please be sure to attach the "Sharing Tree Tag" to the outside of the gift.

After the 9th, we will begin decorating our Sharing Tree with men's, women's and children's gloves,

to be donated to Samaritan House.

Thank you, your generosity is helping someone in need have a brighter Christmas.

Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering

The light of God surrounds us,
The love of God enfolds us,
The power of God protects us,
The presence of God watches over us.

James Dillet Freeman

For over a century, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world. Year after year, United Church of Christ (UCC) members and congregations have reached out in kindness, compassion, and gratitude to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church in the past and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial

needs. The theme of this year's Christmas Fund Offering is "The Light Is Surely Coming". Our goal is to raise \$1.7 million to help support these ministries of light and love. The recipients of your gifts are persons who have faithfully served the church for many years. And now, in their time of need, you can be the church to them. We invite and encourage you to join thousands of UCC members and congregations who will support this year's appeal and trust the light is surely coming.

Our offering envelopes will be available Sunday, December 16 and 23 and at both services on Christmas Eve. If you are unable to be present, you can send in your donation to the church office. Please put "Christmas Fund" in the memo portion of your check.

*The Longest Night
A Service of Reflection and Release*

*"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*



December 21, 2018 ~ 7:00 pm

WHERE/HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There are many ways to help during the season of Advent, and as the saying goes 'many hands make light work'! What can you do to help ~ please call the church office today to let us know.

- Longest Night Service refreshments
- assembling luminaries
- placing and lighting luminaries—Christmas Eve
- assembling individual candles and holders, for Christmas Eve
- ushers and greeters, 7 PM and 11 PM Christmas Eve
- readers, 7 PM and 11 PM Christmas Eve



UNHANGING OF THE GREENS

*WE WILL BE TAKING DOWN OUR DECORATIONS
AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 6.*

2019 Offering envelopes

Your offering envelopes will be available for pick up any time after December 16. Be sure to take the box with your name on them - not necessarily the box with the number that you used this year. If you have any questions, please give the church office a call.



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

Sarah Swinney – Kati (Adams) Swinney's mother-in-law
Nancy Parsons – Lois McGinley's friend
Lou Jaros – friend of Kay and Mike Maniscalco
Brian Ibbotson – son of Sally Hess
Geoffrey Lopus – Dale and Judy's son
Tom Raymond – Theo's son
Jim Wade
Karyl Lyn Dietz – Lois McGinley's sister
Stacey – Sally Hess's sister-in-law's sister
Kay Maniscalco
Bill Moffet – Terry Butz's step-father
Dan Russ – Linda Russ's son
Lisa Shibley – Joyce Couch's cousin
Don Russ – Linda Russ's husband
Max Finnen – Marnie Adams' cousin
Miles McGinley – grandson of Lois McGinley
Timothea – daughter-in-law of Lois McGinley
Matt McGinley – son of Lois McGinley
Janet Laloup – sister of Mary Lou Coker
Christa Salyer – Mike Price's sister
Bob Warner – Joyce Couch's brother
Patricia Jackson – Lynelle Novak's mother
Jody – friend of Penny Lowes
Fred Henzie – friend of Rob and Terry Butz
Mary Lou Coker
Joe Grippe – friend of Marnie and Bill Adams
Tim Johnson – brother-in-law of Tammy, our custodian
Harrison Gourlay – Dale and Judy Lopus's grandson
Todd - friend of Chery and Matt Smith
Ray Guzall II – son of Sally Hess's best friend
Shirley – mother-in-law of Sally's Hess's nephew
Jenny – daughter of Suzanne, friend of Maniscalco's
Janice Brown – Janessa (Butz) Brown's mother-in-law
Dale Lopus
John O'Neil – friend of Penny Lowes
Kelly Kuznia – Jaclyn Butz's mother

Elyse Peters – friend of Lois McGinley
Jason Stupera – son of a long-time friend of Vita Green
Marianne Abate – relative of Vita Green
Etsuko Ryutani – friend of Glen and Lynelle Novak
Marty Pellerito

Those serving in the military:

Sergeant Mark Buzzell – Gerry Buzzell's grandson
Caleb Comock – brother of Lois McGinley's daughter-in-law
Jason Dean – relative of Vita and Dennis Green