

November 22, 2020

**Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

10:00 am

**Third Grade Bible Dedication**

*Monroe Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming congregation.  
Our deacons and pastors hope you will feel at home here. No matter who you are or  
where you are on life's journey, we welcome you in Christ's name*

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**Prelude** Way Over Yonder, Carole King MCC Worship Band

*Focus Lyric: Way over yonder, is a place that I know, where I can find shelter from a hunger and cold, and the sweet tastin' good life, is so easily found, a way over yonder, that's where I'm bound.*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Opening Prayer** Vinay Sampson, Deacon of the Day

**Our Church's Covenant**

*We declare our faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
In Holy covenant, we bind ourselves to God and each other, becoming  
devoted disciples and active apostles.  
We promise each other to be faithful in worship and in support of this  
church, whose Savior and Lord is Jesus Christ.  
In Christian love, we will care for and support each other.  
With the Bible as our guide, we willingly promise all that we are and all that  
we have, to the fulfillment of God's Kingdom.  
Freely we say these things, glorying in the joy of our salvation.*

**Call to Confession– Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer**

*Holy One, you challenge us to be ready, to wait for the day when all will be well.  
If we are honest, we get tired of waiting. We can only stay ready for so long before  
other things happen and our attentiveness fades. As the stresses of life go by,  
our stores of patience and energy burn off. When our flame sputters, forgive our  
inattention and impatience. As we try to live out your call to be light to the world,  
help us be ready. Renew and refresh us. In Jesus name we pray. Amen. ~silence~*

**Words of Assurance**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Third Grade Bible Dedication Unison Prayer**

*Thank you, God, for allowing our congregation to dedicate these Bibles for the use  
of our young people. We rejoice they have taken this step towards knowledge of  
Your Word. We pray that You will guide them, their families, and all of us in the  
days ahead. May they find the words of scripture to be a light and path as they  
draw ever closer to You. Amen.*

**Morning Prayers**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will  
be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us  
our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us  
from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

**Offertory**

You've Got A Friend, Carole King

*Focus lyric: You just call out my name, and you know wherever I am, I'll come running, to see you again. Winter, spring, summer or fall, all you have to do is call, and I'll be there, you've got a friend.*

*Our offering plate may be found on the hospitality table as you leave worship today.  
You may also choose to give online at [www.mcc-ucc/donate](http://www.mcc-ucc/donate).*

**Scripture**

*Jeremiah 31:31-34*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**Sermon**

Written on Our Hearts

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Beautiful, Carole King

*Focus lyric: I have often asked myself the reason for sadness, in a world where tears are just a lullaby. If there's any answer, maybe love can end the madness, maybe not, but we can only try.*

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**We are so grateful to our MCC Worship Band** for their gift of music today! Thanks Julie and Rob McClenathan, Katherine Logan, Will Duchon, Don Parker-Burgard and John O'Rourke.

**God is still speaking, welcome** to all who are worshipping with us today, in-person and online!

**Our Pandemic Commandments**

In order to keep our community members safe, please follow safe gathering guidelines:

- Thou shalt stay home if you feel unwell or have a fever (and catch us on YouTube or Facebook)
- Thou shalt wear a mask (if you need one, just ask!)
- Thou shalt maintain a social distance of 6 feet (even when passing peace)
- Some pews are taped off, to allow space between the seating of households. Please respect the tape, and enter/exit from the side of the pew that is open.
- We have provided hand sanitizer and tissues in the pews, please use carefully as the chemicals are corrosive on wood and other surfaces

Worship is live streamed on church's You Tube Channel under CCLI Streaming License #2169137 on: <https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc>, as well as on our Facebook page "Monroe Congregational Church, UCC"

Please join us for a time of fellowship following the service in Wilton Hall. We also offer a virtual zoom coffee hour at 11:30:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81347810863?pwd=SERMb1ILNUZLdHVnc3VMcm5wcEhUT09>

### ***In Our Prayers***

**Jackie Ajello** (Michele Mount's mother); **Michael Barresi** (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Cheryl Ciambriello** (Wendy Colegrove's friend); **Dot Dralus**; **Matt Duchon**; **Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **Meredith Gibson** (Paul & Judy Coward's niece); **Lily Grace** (Maria Barresi's baby cousin); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Rachel Fracassini** (Jack & Linda Fracassini's niece); **Donnajean & Ken Fredeen**; **Gary & Julie Hedine** (Nancy Hedine's son & daughter-in-law); **Mary Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom); **Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's sister); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Heather Joyce** (Paul & Judy Coward's daughter); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother); **Mary-Margaret Logan** (Andrew's mother); **Beverly Lowrey** (Jackie Bleakney); **Jacque MacLean** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Nicole Malia**; **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Rev. Jonathan Miller** (Paul & Judy Coward's friend); **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Kathy Nivison** (Andy's mother); **Pat Nugent**; **Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Olson Family**; **Ray Osborne** (Colegrove's Family friend); **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Geno Piacentini** (Karen MacDonald's husband); **P.T. Philip** (Liz Sampson's father); **Norman & Jan Ricker** (Linda & Jack Fracassini's friend); **Barbara Rivel** (Judy Coward's friend); **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Kelly Rodman** (Angela Cross' friend); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Roshong** (Judy Coward's nephew); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Al Shaeffer**; **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin**; **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler**; **William Stadler** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's nephew); **Tom & Jane Steen** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's father & step-mother); **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Ellie Swindlehurst** (Joanne Malia's mother); **Olga Terwilliger** (Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Ian Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **Dick Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **Meg Trogolo** (Paul & Judy Coward's niece); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Susan Walker**; **John Whitbeck**; **Rita Wissink** (Larry's mother), **Margaret Woodruff** (Mike Pfalzgraf's mother); **Charles L. Wynn, Sr.**, (and his mother) **Alleane Wynn** (friends of Will Duchon); **Bill Zaleha**; **Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son)

**The concerns of our world:** *Those who serve or live in war or conflict zones; first responders and those who serve in law enforcement; those who suffer discrimination; those who struggle with mental illness, addiction, divorce or separation; Caregivers; the homeless, homebound and refugees; Our friends living on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation and in Oaxaca, Mexico*

**Those serving in the military, veterans & their families:** South Korea: **Zachary Gingras**, Washington: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Virginia: **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Poland: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Steven Roshong** (the Coward's nephew), Germany: **Bob Peters** (Don Parker-Burgard's brother-in-law), Afghanistan: **Samuel Siciliano**, North Carolina: **Jake Terifay**

✦ We are an **Open & Affirming** congregation of the United Church of Christ, and we invite everyone to join in the full life and ministry of this church. We strive in word and deed to be faithful to Jesus' model of loving acceptance and welcome to all persons, inclusive of every age, race, ability, economic and social status, nationality, faith background, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital standing and family structure.

**Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!**

- **Trustee:** Dave Allen
- **Counter:** Tom Briggs
- **Deacon:** Vinay Sampson
- **Usher:** Christine Wittenauer



to the following people and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers. (Number is birth date)

Madison Caballero <sup>(20)</sup>  
 Betty Heiney <sup>(20)</sup>  
 Tess Bauer <sup>(21)</sup>  
 Robert Hammond <sup>(21)</sup>

Trees Whitbeck <sup>(22)</sup>  
 Ruth Wakeley <sup>(24)</sup>  
 Amaiah Santiago <sup>(25)</sup>  
 Abby Clausen <sup>(26)</sup>

Gail Thompson <sup>(26)</sup>  
 Marc Cardentey <sup>(27)</sup>  
 James Brown <sup>(28)</sup>  
 Katherine Hyde <sup>(28)</sup>

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**Just for Fun – Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange**



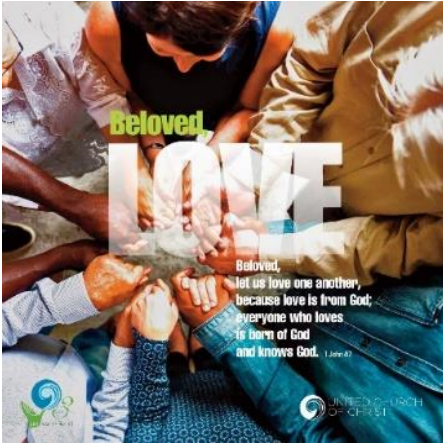
Jigsaw puzzle consumption has increased wildly during the pandemic. People have turned to tiny, brightly colored, irregularly shaped slices of cardboard to provide them with a sense of control over a chaotic world. Retailers can't keep puzzles in stock, manufacturers can't keep up with increased orders. Ravensburger isn't even *taking* orders.

So, let's help each other out by having a jigsaw puzzle exchange.

Do you have a jigsaw puzzle that you no longer need, and does it have all its pieces? Do you want to exchange it for one you haven't tried yet? Bring it to MCC. We've set aside a corner of Wilton Hall as a place to find your next diversion. When you've completed your puzzle, take a picture and post it on our facebook page, MCC-UCC Conversation. Contact Pastor Jenn with any questions, or to coordinate a time to browse. Happy Puzzling!

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### **Beloved, Love MCC's 2021 Stewardship Campaign**



At the Monroe Congregational Church, we give ourselves to answering God's call to love. Our annual stewardship campaign provides the resources our congregation needs to answer God's call. Generosity towards the annual pledge campaign assures that our congregation can faithfully answer God's call to love, because it enables us to plan for the next year's needs. You should have received our 2021 Stewardship Drive mailer, which includes a pledge card. Our hope is that you can complete and return it by the end of November to the church office, either by mailing it to MCC at 34 Church Street, Monroe CT 06468 or dropping it in the plate on Sunday. For contact-free submission, go to our church's

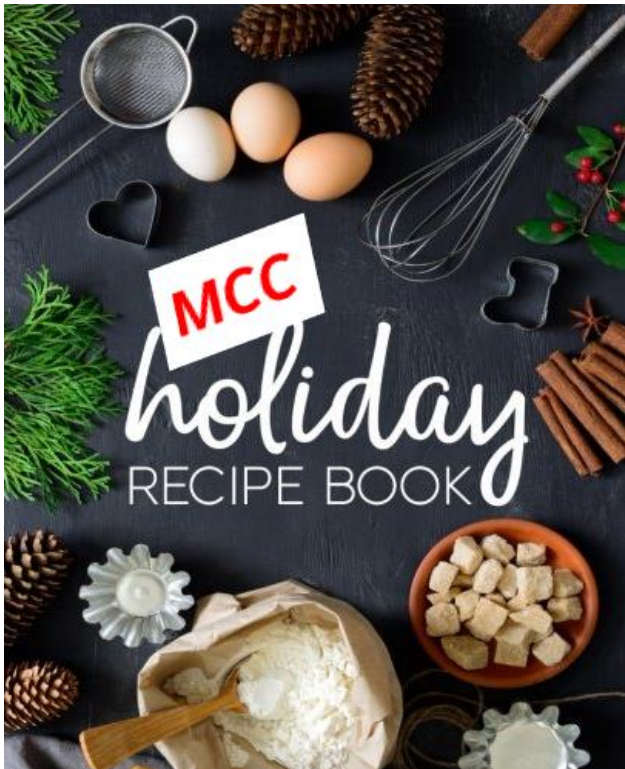
donate page ([www.mcc-ucc.org/donate](http://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate)) and download an editable PDF to e-mail to our Receiver, John O'Rourke e-mail him at [jorourke224@gmail.com](mailto:jorourke224@gmail.com).

**Campaign update:** as of 11/18/20, 28 pledges have been received for a total of \$91,780

Please visit our church's YouTube page to see testimonials from Don Parker-Burgard, Arlene Redmond, and Katherine & Kristina Logan.

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### **Seeking Holiday Recipe Book Entries**



It seems like many of our traditions, like the Christmas Coffee Hour, will be postponed until next year in order to comply with health and safety guidelines. Many of our church families are adapting their Thanksgiving and Christmas festivities this year too.

With that being said, at MCC we won't be entirely skipping our celebration, just modifying this year's approach. The slogan of 2020 has been "we are all in this together" and what better way to keep that feeling of togetherness then to create an MCC Holiday Cookbook where we can share some of what we love about the holidays with each other? This year's book will be a packet we will print ourselves and share over e-mail. Maybe by next year, we'll have enough to make a more formal book.

A Holiday Recipe template can be found on our church's homepage: [www.mcc-ucc.org](http://www.mcc-ucc.org). You can use it to type up your recipe, or you can send a handwritten copy to me and I will take care of typing it up for you. Please include a little note sharing why this recipe is special to you, and a picture if you like. I would love to get books printed before Christmas if possible, so I ask that you kindly submit all recipes to me by December 15th.

Thank you and stay safe!

On Behalf of Your Fellowship Board, Michelle Cardentey ([michelle.cardentey@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.cardentey@gmail.com))

## St. Georges Supper / Sock Drive

Hi folks, December 21 is our last St. George's Supper for 2020, and the Covid19 protocol is still the safest way to provide this meal, so we will be providing bag lunches that Outreach will be making and delivering.

As has been our tradition in December, we'd like to provide gifts of **Socks & Scarves** to the folks we'll be serving. We are asking for new men's crew socks and kids socks (ages 5 and up) as well as scarves for men, women and children, so different sizes and patterns.

If you'd like to provide socks and scarves, please bring them to the church office by Monday, Dec. 14. Thanks so much for helping our neighbors.

Peace, Kathy

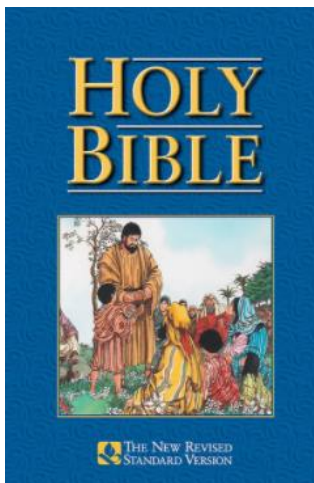
*p.s. Unfortunately, there will be no Covenant to Care gift drive in December due to pandemic restrictions.*



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## Christian Education

**Congratulations** to these Third Graders who received their very own Bibles today!



*Kaelyn Morrill McEvoy  
Drake Oatis  
Joseph Richard Sullivan  
Lucy Anne Sullivan  
Jeffrey George Vargovchik,*

## **The Art of Advent** Greetings MCC Community!

For Advent I have been planning an offering for adults which will hopefully excite you, get those Advent juices flowing, and nourish your spirits for the Christmas season.

During "The Art of Advent" we will look into different works of religious art and how they might speak to us and take on deeper meaning. You do not have to be an artist to participate, all you need is a willingness to look at some images, reflect on what they mean to you, and discuss it.

This will be a Zoom offering so there is no need to leave your homes and I can even offer this at different times – perhaps during the morning and the evening. In looking at the church calendar Tuesdays, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>, seem to be open, so I am thinking of offering this on those mornings from 10:00 – 11:00 am and then in the evening from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

**Please contact Debi ASAP at 203-444-6760 if you would like to participate in "The Art of Advent"**



**Fruit of the Spirit Sunday School:** Faith, Fellowship and Fun will not be gathering in person through the end of January. Out of concerns for safety we are pivoting Sunday school to a Zoom format with gatherings from 11:00 am - 11:30 am on December 6th and 20th, and January 3rd, 17th, and 31st. If you would like to volunteer to read or help with Zoom lessons or have any questions, please contact Debi.

**Nursery Closed** Out of an abundance of caution, nursery services are closed at this time.

## **Worship Bags**

We are offering "Worship Bags" for all children and youth from age 4 through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade! Bags can be colored and personalized and will become their bag, please put their name on it. You will leave the bags in the Narthex and pick it up there each Sunday too. Inside each bag is a Worship Journal with prompts, games, and coloring pages for each week, a "Bendy Jesus" and Stress Balls too. I would even encourage you to bring something that doesn't make noise from home to keep in the bag too! Lastly, if there are any needs for the bags (broken pencil, markers that don't work, etc.) please just let me know by emailing me at [debi@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:debi@mcc-ucc.org). Peace, Debi





**Adult PF is meeting via Zoom the first and third Sundays of the month.** For information about Adult PF please contact Don Parker-Burgard. [dpburgard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dpburgard@sbcglobal.net)

## MORNING CIRCLE

Our last meeting of the year will be on **Wednesday, December 9th at 11:15AM** in Wilton Hall where we will have a catered luncheon to celebrate the holiday season. Contact Jackie Bleakney at 203-268-5275 with any questions or comments.



### Join the MCC ZOOM Book Club

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| December 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Last Christmas in Paris: A Novel of World War I by Hazel Gaynor and Heather Webb. Host: Paula Haggstrom |
| January 13 <sup>th</sup>  | The Accidental Empress by Allison Pitaki. Host: Linda Fracassini  |
| February 10 <sup>th</sup> | The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate. Host: Peggy Villani   |
| March 10 <sup>th</sup>    | The Gown: A Novel of the Royal Wedding by Jennifer Robson. Host: Trees Whitbeck                         |
| April 14 <sup>th</sup>    | The Children Act by Ian McEwan. Host: Arlene Redmond  |





## Beloved, Love your Neighbor.

*"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have."* - Margaret Mead

**W**oven throughout the entire Bible, there are stories that compel us over and over to Love our Neighbor. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that the greatest commandment of all is "Love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." To this, Jesus added a second, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-38)

Founded in 1976, San Lucas United Church of Christ, located in the Humboldt Park community of Chicago, is a small church with a big heart. Representing a multi-lingual, multi-cultural and intergenerational community, the congregation embodies "Loving their Neighbor." Under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Marilyn Pagan-Banks, members and volunteers have created a committed team. Amid hunger, homelessness, violence, and economic challenges, exacerbated by gentrification, this team offers a presence of hope. San Lucas UCC's community meal is an excellent example of one of the offerings presented to the community. Every Tuesday, volunteers from Chicago neighborhoods and suburbs, serve over 100 hot

meals to those in need. No one is turned away. Carmen Flores-Rance, lay leader and longtime member, stated, "We do Church here every day, we serve the people of the community here every day – not just on Sunday. That's what makes San Lucas such a special place." This humble, Humboldt Park church, boldly and fearlessly, lives into God's commandment to Love thy neighbor. Philanthropist Charlotte Lunsford Berry reminds us, "We won't always know whose lives we touched and made better for our having cared, because actions can sometimes have unforeseen ramifications. What's important is that you do care and you act." So, let us act so that "They'll know we are Christians by our love" as the hymn goes, and may we be known by our acts in love of neighbor.

As you reflect on the stewardship of resources and sharing provisions to create a just world for all, I invite you to consider how you Love your neighbor through your church community. Who is your neighbor? A single parent, refugee, or elder? Someone across the street or town, or in the pew next to you? Beloved, Love your neighbor.

### WEEKLY GIVING IF THE PERCENTAGE IS

(Rounded to the nearest dollar)

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
16,000	1,333	308	6.00	12.00	18.00	25.00	31.00	46.00
20,000	1,667	386	8.00	15.00	23.00	31.00	39.00	58.00
25,000	2,083	481	10.00	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	12.00	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	87.00
35,000	2,917	673	13.00	27.00	40.00	54.00	67.00	101
40,000	3,333	769	15.00	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	115
45,000	3,750	865	17.00	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	130
50,000	4,167	962	19.00	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	23.00	46.00	69.00	92.00	115	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	29.00	58.00	87.00	115	144	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	38.00	77.00	115	154	192	288
125,000	10,417	2,404	48.00	96.00	144	192	240	361

## MCC Community Calendar

### Week of Nov. 22<sup>th</sup>

**Bible Dedication Sunday**  
10:00 am Worship  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour  
11:30 am Deacons Zoom  
4:00 pm Adult PF  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Nov. 26 - 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Thanksgiving Break – office closed*

### Week of Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

**Stewardship Sunday**  
**First Sunday of Advent (Hope)**

10:00 am Worship  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour  
4:00 pm Adult PF  
4:00 pm Advent Campfire Vespers  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Tue. Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>**

10am The Art of Advent -Zoom  
7pm The Art of Advent -Zoom

### **Wed. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

6:30 pm Confirmation Class  
7:45pm Choir Catch Up - Zoom Meeting

### **Thurs. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

### Week of Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>

**Second Sunday of Advent (Peace)**

10:00 am Worship - Communion  
11:00 am Faith, Fellowship & Fun via Zoom  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour  
4:00 pm Adult PF  
4:00 pm Advent Campfire Vespers  
5:00 pm Community Tree Lighting  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Tue. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>**

10am The Art of Advent -Zoom  
7pm The Art of Advent -Zoom

### **Wed. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 am Morning Circle  
6:30 pm Confirmation Class

### **Thurs. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

### Week of Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>

**Third Sunday of Advent (Joy)**

10:00 am Worship - Communion  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour  
4:00 pm Adult PF  
4:00 pm Advent Campfire Vespers  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Tue. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>**

10am The Art of Advent -Zoom  
7pm The Art of Advent -Zoom

### **Wed. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>**

No Confirmation Class

### **Thurs. Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm CE

### Week of Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>

**Fourth Sunday of Advent (Love)**

10:00 am Worship - Communion  
11:00 am Faith, Fellowship & Fun via Zoom  
11:15 Outreach  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour  
12:30 pm Trustees  
4:00 pm Adult PF  
4:00 pm Advent Campfire Vespers  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>**

3 pm St George's Supper

### **Wed. Dec. 23<sup>th</sup>**

No Confirmation Class

### **Thurs. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve**

4:00 pm Advent Campfire Vespers  
5:00 pm Quiet Service  
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service  
11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

### **Fri. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**

### Week of Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>

**Faith, Fellowship & Fun**

**First Sunday of Advent (Hope)**

10:00 am Worship  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Wed. Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>**

No Confirmation Class

