



NONPROFIT
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STAFF
Ron Fisher, Pastor
Dani Castillo, Associate Pastor of Hispanic Ministries
Alan Eleazer, Director of Music
Jennifer McIntyre, Communications Coordinator
Jim Gass, Director of Next Generations Ministry,
Worship Broadcast Coordinator
Laura Kolarik, Director, Parents Day Out
Tami Wiggins, Administrative Assistant
Karen Harville, Organist, Financial Secretary
Cheryl Dow, Bass
Dennis Dow, Percussion
Candace Armstrong, Piano
Phone: (865) 982-6192
email: office@broadwayumc.net
website: www.broadwayumc.net



MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of Broadway United Methodist Church
is to share the good news of Jesus Christ through worship,
fellowship, service, witness, and study.

December 15, 2020
Vol. 1, No. 6

“Emmanuel- God Is With Us”

We are approaching the 4th Sunday in Advent. It will soon be Christmas Day. I do not need to remind you that this holy season is unlike any we have ever experienced. This year we are unable to observe certain church & family traditions that are dear to us. My wife has a large family & we always gather at Becca's sisters' home for a feast on Christmas Day. This Christmas gathering has been cancelled due to the pandemic. Sadly, this is true for many families.

I shared in Sunday's sermon that the events leading up to the first Christmas Day were filled with fear, anxiety, pain, isolation, social distancing & even betrayal. When Mary received a visit from Gabriel and learned she would bring the Christ Child into the world she was filled with fear and wonder. Joseph felt betrayed when he learned Mary was carrying a child. Mary's story made no sense, and he did not believe it.

Mary quickly disappeared from her home in Nazareth after the angel's announcement and visited her cousin Elizabeth in Judea. Mary stayed with Elizabeth & Zechariah for three months. When she returned to Nazareth it must have been evident, she was carrying a child. The rumor mill in this tiny village must have been quite busy spreading vicious gossip about Mary.

Joseph decided that he could not go through with the marriage. He called the wedding off because the story was too big to “swallow.” *“Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.”* (Matthew 1:18-23)

Each year we make children and youth the focus of a special Advent/Christmas offering. 65% of this offering will go to the youth program and 35% to the children in support of their mission projects throughout the year.

Advent Offering

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____

Amount _____

Designation _____

You can write a check to the church or donate online at broadwayumc.net.
Be sure to designate “Advent Offering” in the memo line.

Mary and Joseph, after first hearing the story about the Christ Child had no idea how the story would “play out.” They took one day at a time and relied on their faith in God to direct their steps on this extraordinary journey. Regardless of the anxieties, fear, obstacles and struggles we are facing in Advent 2020; remember one thing, “Emmanuel”- God is with us.”

Merry Christmas, Ron

**Deadline for next newsletter is
5:00 pm Thursday, January 14.**



Merry Christmas

From Your Broadway Staff

Ron Fisher

Jim Gass

Cheryl Dow

Dani Castillo

Tami Wiggins

Dennis Dow

Alan Eleazer

Karen Harville

Crystal Kellogg

Jennifer McIntyre

Candace Armstrong



Jay Wilson

Lance & Mary Morehead
Special Music

Arlene Mendelsohn

Judy Kirkham
Knit Wits

Jerry and Sharon Mitchell

Nancy Cate

Roy and Carolyn Gallaher

Jack & Deborah Lambert

Clifford "Bo" Henry

Prayer Request Emails



Altar Guild

The poinsettias on the Altar are given by the Altar Guild in honor of Nan Taylor. A contribution of \$360 will be given to the Helping Hand Fund in her honor as well.



Stewardship 2021

"Some give freely, yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due, and only suffer want. A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water." Proverbs 11: 24-25

Tis the season to give! God is so generous with his love and gifts to all of us, and there's no better time for recognizing that generosity by giving to others than during Christmas. Broadway still needs the gifts

of your time, talent and money to continue serving and helping others during the coming year. So please take the time to reflect on what you and your family can do by giving in one of the following ways.

You can make a 2021 pledge to Broadway, either a financial pledge or for your time and talent. Pledge forms can be obtained by contacting Tami at the church office. Or you can go online at <https://broadwayumc.net/stewardship2021/> You can make a one-time gift to one of the many ministries that Broadway supports such as Brown Food Pantry, Helping Hand, and many other Outreach and Nurture projects. For a complete list contact the church office.

Or you can make a contribution to one of our Endowment Funds. These monies are invested with the Holston Foundation and the earnings are used each year to help fund building improvements, the music program, outreach and missions, and other programs. Contact Leon Trundle if you want to leave a legacy to Broadway through the Endowment Program.

Your Stewardship Team

A Statement about our Live Stream

As many of you are aware, over the last few weeks we have been having some issues with the livestream of our 9:00 and 10:30 worship services. I want to take a moment and share what some of the causes are for the issues that we have had, and the steps we are taking to fix them.

The process of producing a pre-recorded video for worship and producing a livestream are very different, and the switch to in-person worship has come with a learning curve.

We have had challenges getting quality sound from the sound mixing board in the balcony to the mobile livestreaming camera I have been using at the front of the sanctuary. Alan has acquired some adapters to make that process easier and more reliable. However, YouTube's terms of service changed as of December 1, making the use of that camera impractical, and not a sustainable, long-term solution.

For Sunday, December 6, I set up a camera with a zoom lens in the balcony and connected it to the balcony computer. I ran a few tests during the week to check the camera angles, zoom distance, and sound. Everything

seemed to work. On Sunday Morning, the 9:00 service had no sound, and I could not get the sound to stream.

In the 30 minutes between the services, I moved the whole setup to the front of the sanctuary and used my laptop as the streaming computer. I realized later that my laptop wasn't recognizing the audio input, and was using the built-in microphone, so the sound quality suffered in the 10:30 service. The battery in my camera also died during the 10:30 service so in the middle of the sermon I had to switch batteries. I planned to preemptively change camera batteries between the services, but in moving all the equipment downstairs, I just forgot.

I have heard from many of our members about the quality of this past week's worship broadcast, and I share your frustrations. And so, we've called in the professionals.

We have contacted Merlin's Music in town, and ordered the same camera that many churches use for high-quality livestreaming. It will be mounted in the balcony, and comes with the software and hardware that we need to control the camera and offer a high quality livestream. The camera will be able to show a wide angle of the front of the sanctuary, and it can tilt, pan, and zoom in to show a closeup of someone speaking, singing, etc.

Merlin's will install the camera and other hardware, will set everything up for us, both video and sound, and show us how to use it, and if we have problems with it, they will come and fix it. It is expected to arrive on Tuesday, December 14, and thus should be ready to go by Sunday the 20th.

For this Sunday, we are going to use the workaround for the livestream camera we have used previously. We will also get the best sound quality that we can to that camera and into the livestream. That isn't a sustainable process in the long run, but will get us through until the new setup is installed.

I appreciate the patience everyone has had with me as we've learned some new things. When the COVID-19 pandemic started, we learned how to pre-record and produce worship videos. As we transitioned to in-person worship, we quickly learned some things that work, and that didn't work, for livestreaming. I believe that offering our worship services online will not stop once the COVID-19 pandemic is under control. And so, this new setup that Merlin's is installing should help us offer high quality video and sound going forward.

Grace and peace,

Jim Gass

Broadway Book Club continues to read and Zoom!

Our next meeting will be December 17, 2020 at 6:30. Our next read will be "Becoming Mrs. Lewis" by Patti Callahan. It's about the improbable love story of Joy Davidman and C.S. Lewis. Hope you can join us. As always, any questions can be directed to Debbie Taylor

Dear Broadway UMC Friends,

We want to thank you for this wonderful gift of 100.00 that arrived in October. We thank you all so very much for this and for your wonderful support all along the way.

We wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving. It is a winter wonderland here in Willow, with a lovely 2 foot snow a week or so ago still making everything so pretty.

It's been a busy week here. We just had our Valley Thanksgiving Blessing Day on Saturday and were able to help ~~some 214 families~~ with the fixings of Thanksgiving Dinner - about 40 persons/families more than ever before. The needs in this time are so great.

We've also been working hard to put together services online and Zoom fellowship times and Bible Studies. We hope and pray that all of you are safe and well.

Thank you again for your wonderful partnership with us here in Alaska!

We thank God for each of you!

Pastors Joe-d & Christina Dowling Soka,
Willow Alaska



Check us out online!
www.broadwayumc.net