



Manito United Methodist Church

Spokane, Washington

December at Manito United Methodist Church

This month we celebrate Advent and Christmas in new ways, maintaining our physical distance when needed, but still seeking to draw closer to God, to each other and to our community. In addition to our regular Advent worship services on Sunday morning, we will have a Christmas Eve service online, and the option to [sign up for a walk-through our church on Christmas Eve](#). This will be an opportunity to quietly move through the church, light a candle, and take a moment to reflect on this holy night. We will also again observe our tradition of donating boxes of cereal for the local food banks, so look for the “Christmas Ladders” in the sanctuary where you can leave your boxes. We will also celebrate with a special “Lessons and Carols” service on Sunday, December 27th as we host our friends at Cheney UMC and Community UMC in Coeur d’Alene. For more information, and to sign up for the walk through, visit our Events page at www.manitoumc.org/events.



- 12/13 -3rd Sunday in Advent - Online worship @10:45 am
- 12/20 -4th Sunday in Advent - Online worship @10:45 am
- 12/24- Christmas Eve Walk-Through 3:00-6:30 pm
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve Online worship @7:00 pm

Connecting with Care - Community in Advent

In your Advent Care Package, you will have received a page titled “Advent Resources” that is full of ideas for reaching out in our community during this special, but also extremely challenging season. We encourage you to use this document as a starting point. Let us take this time to challenge ourselves, to stretch beyond what we might normally consider a “holiday” activity, and find ways to act, give, and share with those experiencing homelessness, hunger, incarceration, sickness, or life as a newly resettled refugee in our community. Also, please continue to check our weekly communication for the immediate needs of our partners at [Shalom Ministries](#) and [Family Promise](#) during this time of high need.

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Manito United Methodist Church

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR



Manito Church Family,

We have found ourselves in the midst of Advent. The first candle of Advent has been lit, as well as the large Fir tree outside of our sanctuary – and we lit them both, to proclaim and remind ourselves - that we are a people of hope.

But finding hope may feel a little hard right now. And that is okay, I want to give us all permission to feel and express all that has, and continues to be hard about this year. Because on top of all of the normal difficulties we face in our lives this pandemic has thrown us for a loop.

Last fall we learned about the spiritual practice of Lament. A lament is a prayer for help that arises out of a place of pain. When we are overcome by chaos, brokenness, suffering, and death. When we have a sudden sense of vulnerability, when we are grieving, that is when we can practice lament. When you or I hurt physically, we cry out in pain. Michael D. Guinan aptly explained that a lament “can be described as a loud, religious “Ouch!” The practice of lament cracks the door open to a conversation with God –even if it’s messy.

So, before we get to the “hope” part of this season, perhaps we all need to lament first, to tell God where it hurts, what has been hard and unfair, to tell God what we are grieving. Because it is only after we get honest with God that our healing can begin. Because hope, is all about believing that things can be better than they are today. Hope is all about trusting that the Messiah, the savior is coming. And if everything was perfect, there wouldn’t be anything to hope for! Perhaps it is in the acknowledgement of what “hurts” that you and I can hope all the more deeply and boldly for God to show up among us, in the middle of the mess, in the middle of life in the midst of a pandemic.

Hope is on the way.

The season of Advent is all about hope, the hope of a savior and the longing for the word to be set right. So, let’s lament and hope this Advent season.

With Hope,

Pastor Tiffany DeTienne DeTienne

Our Building Needs YOU! Seeking Volunteers for Snow Duty

After months, our building is still shut down. The office is open and the YMCA still comes in and has their program. With that, we know that there are others from the church community that come in sporadically. The building maintenance team would like to ask all of you to report to the office any things that you see that need attention. It can be as simple as a burned out light bulb, or more major like water leaks, etc. The team is not in the building regularly either, so everyone’s eyes are needed.

Also, the cold weather brings its own challenges. We have been fortunate in the past to have Blackies’ AA Group willing to clear the sidewalks when it snowed. They, like everyone else, are staying home and trying to keep themselves safe and others safe. We are in

need of people coming forward who would be willing to shovel when needed. The team was hoping we could get volunteers to sign up for a week at a time. If it snows during your week, you would be on deck to shovel. There is a snowblower and it will be available for use. If you are willing, let the church office know and the team will put you on the list. This is an important function that needs to be done to keep the neighborhood safe. Feel free to sign up for a week, and maybe you can talk some of your friends into working with you.

Thank you for your support and care for our wonderful old building. It takes a village to keep it going.

- Ann Reinhart

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

2020 Annual Operating Budget: \$246,685

November 2020	Year To Date thru November 30, 2020	
Income	\$12,913	\$217,421
Expenses	<u>\$20,272</u>	<u>\$213,799</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$ 7,359)	\$ 3,622

Financially, Manito continues to be in a good position. Pledged giving is strong at 108% of budget, and unpledged giving is very strong at 138% of budget. Operating cash on hand on at the end of November was \$27,737. As said in last month’s Newsletter, year to date income includes a \$24,003 CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program loan. It is anticipated that this loan will be forgiven 100% during the first quarter of 2021. When it is forgiven, the \$24,003 liability will then no longer be counted against operating cash on hand, as it is now.

Your Finance Committee has approved at 2021 operating budget of \$255,089. This is an increase of 3.4% over our 2020 budget and reflects Manito’s confidence in our mission as we move into 2021. Pledge Sunday (drive-thru style) on Sunday, November 22nd was an outstanding event! Pledges were received, Advent care kits weredistributed, and many really cool face masks with the Cross & Flame logo were given. It was a great afternoon! We have received pledges for 2021 of over \$153,000!

If you have not received a Cross & Flame face mask, give the church office a call and sending one to you can easily be arranged. If you have not pledged yet, please consider doing so now. If you do not have a pledge card and want to pledge, contact the church office and one will be mailed to you.

Please continue to support Manito through your tithes and gifts. Checks can be mailed to the office; or you may also choose to give through the Donate tab on Manito’s website which will allow you to use a bank account or credit/debit card. Also, giving can be done directly from your financial institution to Manito. Greg Plummer will be glad to provide information on how to do that.

The Finance Committee typically meets in the Memorial Lounge at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. However, meetings are currently being held on-line through zoom. Contact Greg Plummer, 509-838-8787, for information on how to attend. All members and friends of Manito are invited to participate.

Greg Plummer



Office Hours and Access:

Manito UMC is currently in **Phase 2** of the Greater Northwest Area of The United Methodist Church's plan for reopening. The church staff has returned to the office, but the exterior doors will remain closed. Our staff will continue to monitor the phone, respond to email and voicemail messages Monday-Friday between 10:00am and 2:00pm.

Please note: Anyone entering the church must wear a mask or face covering while in the building and practice physical/social distancing. Groups are limited to five people or fewer and must receive prior approval from the church office.

Manito UMC Electronic Giving Options



As we become more of a paperless society, many of us have grown accustomed to the convenience of conducting financial transactions by way of the web using a lap top/desk top computers or even a smart phone. Manito offers these electronic giving options as well. We have partnered with Vanco Payment Services to offer you several secure on-line or mobile device giving options. No checks, no postage; you choose the date, frequency and amount of each donation. It's possible to set up your annual pledge, contribute to a variety of activities of your choice such as Capital Improvements, Missions and Social Causes, Youth Ministries, Pastor's Fund and more. Or you may choose to give to one-time events and causes. Your personal financial information is secure and the church never sees your credit/debit card data or bank account details. Detailed step-by-step instructions on how to set up an electronic giving account can be found in the GIVE section of the Church's website (www.manitoumc.org). These giving options are in addition to the traditional methods of mailing your check or establishing a 'bill pay' account with your own bank. For further information about setting up your own Vanco account, please contact Bob Mead (203) 314-4908.



Over 20 Years of Faithful Leadership



If you ask Greg Plummer how long he's been the Finance Committee's chair he would tell you "oh, I don't know, about 15 years?" But the truth is Greg has been faithfully serving in this position for over 20 years.

In 2021 Greg Plummer will be handing over the reins of the Finance Committee Chairship to Chris Bafus. Chris is a long time Finance team member is excited for the new opportunity. Chris and the entire committee are also thankful that Greg will be staying on as one of our Assistant Treasurers to help make this Finance Committee Transition a smooth one.

We are so thankful to Greg for his faithful service and for his desire to raise up new leaders within our community.

**The stockings are hung from the chimney
with care in hopes that socks for the
homeless appear....**

**Please remember to drop off your socks or
donation to the church office**



December Birthdays!

Polly Carlson -
12/5
Ann Reinhart -
12/12
Dan Manly -
12/13