

# Ponte Vedra Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2021

## The King is coming!

*“Rejoice greatly! Behold, your King is coming to you: He is just and endowed with salvation” (Zechariah 9:9)*

The season of Advent is a time of preparation for the Savior's coming. We do major house cleaning. We polish the furniture, decorate the tree and make our home ready to receive our guests.

The Lord Jesus is our very special guest. Not only are we to invite him into our homes but into our hearts as well. Therefore, we must clean our hearts, dust off our minds and wash the windows of our souls through which we perceive God. Then we can roll out the royal carpet and say, “Come Lord Jesus, be our guest.”

In Rev. 3:20 Jesus said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with me.”

Don't let the clanging noises keep you from hearing the still, small voice of Jesus. Instead, prepare your heart and invite Him in as you embark in the Journey of Advent!

## Church Events

12.2

Next Chapter Luncheon

12.4 & 12.5

H2O Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

12.8 & 12.15

Parents Day Out

12.10

H2O Feed The Homeless

12.11 & 12.12

H2O Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

12.19

Angel Tree Gifts Due

12.24

Christmas Eve Services

@ 4pm and 7pm

# Pastoral Reflection

The most wonderful time of the year has come! This month we celebrate the coming of the One and Only Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ! He came to set us free from the power and penalty of sin and to bring us into a relationship with God. We celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world and His coming into each of our lives.

The Christmas Season is part of the Advent Season, which is a very special time for us as Christians. During Advent, not only do we celebrate the first coming of Jesus as a baby, but we also reflect on His future second coming. I am looking forward to all the activities we have during this special time, but I also look forward to reflecting afresh on the real meaning of Christmas and the hope of Jesus' second coming.

May the grace, peace, and hope of the Lord Jesus Christ fill our hearts during this most special season!

**"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14 NIV)**

***"I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people." – Luke 2:10***

Advent is here! The SPRC reminds you that we are collecting a staff Love Gift offering. It is our opportunity to say "thanks" for all of their hard work this year.

Mark your offering "Staff" and place it in the plate or give online using PushPay.

## Parsonage Update

You will recall the Called Church Charge Conference of last summer where the Church decided to sell the old parsonage and purchase a new one. We have good news! We are halfway there because the old parsonage has been sold. We now have in hand \$552,000 with which to purchase a new parsonage. Some may want to donate to this fund to expand our buying power. Such would be welcomed.

The new parsonage we are looking for is expected to have not less than three bedrooms plus a study, 2 ½ baths, and a two-car garage. We expect our hunt for this new parsonage to be successfully concluded early in the new year. If you see a likely prospect during your wanderings, please notify Barry Durden in care of the Church office.

***"Your Savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord."***  
***– Luke 2:11***

# We're Updating!

We are still updating our information and have heard from some of you that you are not receiving communication from us. We still have several people who we do not have birthdays, anniversaries, e-mail or phone numbers for. You can go to [info@pontevedra.church](mailto:info@pontevedra.church) to update your information and sign up for the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter, or you can fill out a connect card on Sunday morning and drop it in the offering plate. You can also follow us on several social media sites for updates. Attached are the links for [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#).



*Check out our website!*

## THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

A Journey to the Newborn King



LLOYD LARSON



The Christmas Cantata will be held on Sunday December 12th, 2021. There will be two performances: first during the 11am worship service and the second at 3pm with a dessert tasting to follow. Please invite your friends and family.

Do you like to sing? Both the Praise and Traditional Choirs are looking for new members for the upcoming 2022 year. From beginners to seasoned vocalists, if you love to worship in song, this is the place for you. Contact Scott Tinsley at 904-280-5141 or [media@pontevedra.church](mailto:media@pontevedra.church).

## The United Methodist Women Begin The Holiday Season

### For Unto Us A Child Is Born

The Women of our church began the holiday season by preparing and serving a plentiful Thanksgiving Feast for the homeless of St. Johns county in St. Augustine. More than sixty guests joined us to celebrate, and our ladies had a wonderful time serving. Many prepared food who couldn't be there, but those who could attend were certainly blessed. Thank you Steven Dorsey and Bob Spooner for driving, and our servers: Vera Combs, Carolyn Wheat, Judi Matzke, Marty Spooner, Deborah Rodgers, Jennie Dorsey, Ann Cook, Susan Merrill, Kay Priest, Jo Miller, Marilyn Elston and Carolee Smith. Many of our guests also received sleeping bags and blankets brought by our UMW. God bless all who share from their abundance.

The ladies also prepared and served side dishes to compliment the hotdogs grilled by the men for the church cookout in November. Later, many ladies prepared ham, turkey and side dishes for the Victory Dinner at our church on November 21st. God blessed us with a beautiful day for fellowship with our church family. Thank you Mary Moyes for coordinating.

Our UMW Christmas celebration will take place on

Saturday, Dec 18th. The site is yet to be determined, but don't forget to remember your prayer sister. We will reveal identities in January. May your Christmas Season be filled with joy. God Bless.



The United Methodist Men will be hosting a luncheon for the ladies of the church who have lost their spouses. The event will be held on Dec. 2nd at 11:30 am at the church. Please contact George Garcia or Jim Brucker for more details.





## Grieving at Christmas

### 4 CRUCIAL SELF-CARE TIPS

#### 1. BE AWARE OF YOUR FEELINGS

Understand that grief might resurface during the holidays & that's normal.

#### 2. BE OKAY WITH SAYING 'NO'

Don't overwhelm yourself with social obligations - be okay with saying 'no' to things.

#### 3. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

The holidays throw us off our routines - try to stay on top of sleep, eating and exercise as these things can affect us when we are already feeling down.

#### 4. ASK FOR SUPPORT

If you're struggling, don't be afraid to reach out to family and friends for support.

The Angel Tree went up in the lobby Sunday Nov. 28th. This year we are shopping for Pablo Towers and Pablo Hamlet Senior Living Facilities. Please bring your wrapped gifts along with your Angel card attached to the outside of the gift by Dec. 19th for them to be Delivered on Dec. 20th. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Rice Hill.



## Mission News

### Operation Christmas Child



Thank you to all the faithful servants who packed shoeboxes, prayed over the shoeboxes,

and donated to our Operation Christmas Child collection. We packed a total of 142 shoeboxes this year.



Your thoughtful gifts have made many children happy and you have shown the love of Jesus to those in need. God bless you!



# Children and Youth Happenings

We have completed our lesson series on “Fruit of the Spirit” and will spend December focusing on Advent and Christmas.



Many thanks to everyone who participated in the Shoebox Packing Party!



## December Memory Verse

“The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)



During the month of November, youth decorated a wreath for Port in the Storm. This



wreath will be on display the week of November 29<sup>th</sup>- December 2<sup>nd</sup>. They will then be auctioned off to earn money for Port in the Storm and St Francis House. For details, click [here](#). Our youth selected the 24" Champagne Fir wreath, which will be decorated with red poinsettias and berries.

If you would like to make a donation to offset the cost of this wreath, please mark it "Youth Events".

We also had a great night of gaming (both electronic and otherwise)!!



Rock the Universe is the weekend of January 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>! This Christian Concert Festival at Universal Studios is always a lot of fun. Contact Rachel Clements for details.

#### Coming Up:

H2O Youth & YCAM have lots of exciting events in December! Please contact Rachel Clements ([cym@pontevedra.church](mailto:cym@pontevedra.church)), follow us on Facebook or Instagram or join our Remind Group



# December Birthdays

- 4th - Cindi Fox
- 5th - Zachary Philips
- 7th - Carol Kilpatrick
- 8th - Eleanor Williams
- 14th - Loree Reed
- 16th - Jillian Awad
- 19th - Joyce Agent
- 21st - Richard Hankins, Mary Stanley, and Judy Phillips
- 22nd - Debora Steenson and Chris Chaney
- 24th - Deborah Rodgers
- 26th - Allison Evans
- 28th - Nancy Rice Hill



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## Church Staff

Lead Pastor	Rev. Jacqueline Leveron
	<a href="mailto:leadpastor@pontevedra.church">leadpastor@pontevedra.church</a>
Director of Family Ministry	Rev. Edwin Richiez
	<a href="mailto:familyministry@pontevedra.church">familyministry@pontevedra.church</a>
Director of Children and Youth	Rachel Clements <a href="mailto:cym@pontevedra.church">cym@pontevedra.church</a>
Admin. Assistant	Kristen DeArmas <a href="mailto:info@pontevedra.church">info@pontevedra.church</a>
Accountant	Lynn England <a href="mailto:accounting@pontevedra.church">accounting@pontevedra.church</a>
Director of Music	Scott Tinsley <a href="mailto:media@pontevedra.church">media@pontevedra.church</a>
Custodian	Jim McDonald <a href="mailto:campus03@outlook.com">campus03@outlook.com</a>



Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church  
"Love God, Love People, Grow Christ Followers."

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[www.pontevedra.church](http://www.pontevedra.church)