

# THE TIDINGS

Wherever you are on life's journey life's journey, you are welcome here.



*"In Essentials Unity, in non Essentials Diversity,  
in All Things Loving-Kindness"*

These words from St Augustine have been a guide post for me over the years I have spent in parish ministry. Churches are full of people who are there for very different reasons, though all experiencing and somehow aligning with the same message, the same ethos, the same sense of *communitas*. Here at Admiral, we seem to have three overarching sets of needs/longings that have brought people into the community. Most of our members are primarily motivated by one of these longings, but many of us hold another right at hand. As we design programming and prepare for the future ahead, I think it's important to consider how our ministries and worship meet each of these longings.

**1) Community and Relationship** This is one of the core gifts of a Christian Fellowship; the opportunity to connect, learn about, and love others, building a web of relationship that celebrates and mourns with us in this time of our life is an essential feature of a church since time immemorial. Often churches are described as a chosen family, and one of the gifts of church-as-family is that it can be redeeming for folks who have had less than loving family experiences. It also provides people who are new to the region an opportunity to enter immediately into relationship with others and find support, solidarity, and foundation for further growth.

**2) Intellectual Stimulation** Admiral Church offers a wide variety of opportunities for deep thinking and interrogation of faith and society. Many have been drawn to the church because they want to deepen their understanding and analysis of the Christian faith and its relevance for 21st century living. Integrating our social, political, and intellectual lives with our faith is what keeps Progressive Christianity progressive, constantly reimagining the role of Christ and His church in public and private life.

**3) Redeeming Religiosity** This category is deeply significant for many of our members, people who have experienced exclusive, condemnatory, unloving faith communities or irrelevant religion in a time of deep need. Coming together as people of faith to engage in ritual practice, liturgy, and prayer becomes an act of reclamation for many who felt that church had very little to do with life, love, or their daily experience of the divine.



Right away, when looking at these three groups, it's easy to see both a great deal of intersection and a great deal of divergence in terms of practices to meet these needs and longings. Various components of our worship, service, and educational life together address these longings, and where all three overlap can be a guidepost for us in terms of defining mission and purpose.

This Advent, we've been thinking about the people in Mary's village, the community that would be called together to support her through this difficult journey of prayer and preparation. Like our village, her village was filled with different people who were motivated by different things to herald the birth of our newborn King. Yet all of them, in their own way, brought a unique perspective on these events and revealed something important about what it means to care for Christ. *In essentials, unity, in non-essentials, diversity, and in all things loving-kindness.*

In Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love  
Pastor Andrew

### **Church Events**

Dec. 17 - Polar Express  
3:00  
Dec. 19 - Give Thanks  
6:30  
Dec. 20 -Labyrinth  
Wednesdays 3:00  
Dec. 21 -  
Contemplative  
Christmas 7:00.  
Dec. 24 - Christmas  
Eve Service 5:00  
Jan. 2, 9, 16 -  
Contemporary  
Worship 6:30

### **Sermons, Scriptures and Music**

#### **“Who is the Village? Mary in our midst.”**

Dec. 17	<b>Joy, Joy, Joy</b> Scripture: Luke 1:39-56 Anthem: Canticle of Turning
Dec. 24	<b>Love, Love, Love</b> Scripture: Luke 2: 1-21 Anthem: Magnificat for Peace
Dec. 31	<b>Sermon: “Who Is The Village?”</b> Scripture: Matthew 2:2-12

## EPIPHANY THEME



- Jan. 7      Guest Preacher Rev. Emily Tanis-Likkel  
Scripture: Mark 1:4-11
- Jan. 14     You Will See Greater Things  
Scripture: John 1:43-51
- Jan. 21     Turn and Trust In the Good News  
Scripture: Mark 1:14-20
- Jan. 28     A New Teaching - With Authority  
Scripture: Mark 1:21-28
- Feb. 4      Proclaim the Message There Also  
Scripture: Mark 1:29-39
- Feb. 11     Guest Preacher Rev. Emily Tanis-Likkel  
Scripture: Mark 9:2-9

**We provide nursery care Sunday mornings  
during the church service!**

**TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY** - If you would like a ride to any church event listed please contact Peggy Rich [joyinthemorning1130@gmail.com](mailto:joyinthemorning1130@gmail.com) or call (206)460-3021 and she will arrange your transportation to and from these planned events.

## **MASKS NOW OPTIONAL AT ADMIRAL CHURCH**



**Uta will be on vacation in Germany Dec. 14 - Jan. 7.**

**Kathy Heinemann will be manning the office on Tuesdays - Thursdays from 1:00 - 4:00.**





## **ALTERNATIVE ADVENT SERVICE**

**Give Thanks** is the name of the new alternative weeknight service that is taking place during Advent this year. Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30.

## **CONTINUATION OF THE TUESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

This contemporary Tuesday evening worship service will continue in 2024 after the holidays on January 2nd. If you enjoy acoustic guitar music and conversation about things that matter in your life, this may be a gathering you would enjoy! Come and find out! Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30.



**JANUARY 7 DURING FIRST SUNDAY POTLUCK**

**We are all leaders, we are all followers.  
We are all in this together!**

**Discover your role in church leadership.  
We need team and committee members to help us  
do the work of Admiral Church!  
for the coming year!**

**Come check out the possibilities for you to use  
your gifts and talents to further the work of the  
church and connect with the community.**

## MEAL AND MISSION



# Meal and Mission December and January

## Medical Equity: You Can Help!

Donate medicines and medical supplies during December and January to help those who can't afford them.

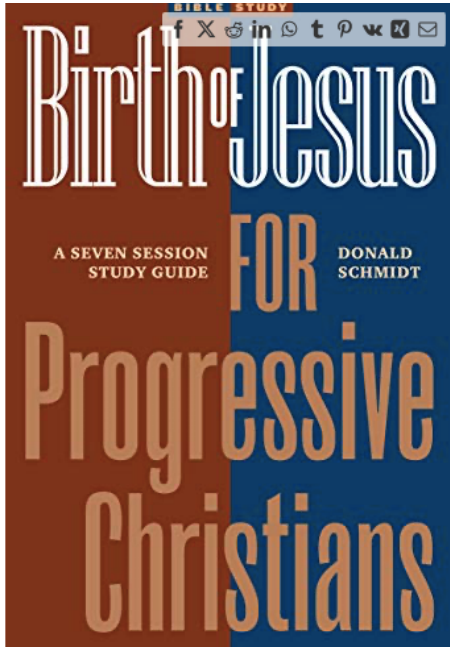
December 1-January 21, Sun. 9-10am, 12-1pm  
December 1-13, Tues. - Thurs. 1 - 4pm,  
January 8-21, Tues. - Thurs. 1 - 4pm,

See the donation list on the church website: [admiralchurch.org](http://admiralchurch.org).

## The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross Will Be Collected on Christmas Eve.

***The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks are sent each December to our lower-income retirees. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by***

*those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.  
Thank you!*



## **FAITH JOURNEY**

We're restarting regular Bible Study on Tuesday early evenings throughout January using our friend and previous pastor Donald Schmidt's book [Birth of Jesus for Progressive Christians](#), meeting at the church and likely on Zoom. Reach out to Pastor Andrew or James South as soon as possible with your interest.

## **COME CONNECT WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR A FUN AFTERNOON!**

**Sunday, December 17th at 2:00**

**POPCORN AND  
COOKIES  
PROVIDED!!!**





## **OUTREACH**

Keep up the good work of bringing egg cartons and bags to be used at the West Seattle Food Bank



### **GAMES, GAMES, GAMES**

**Are you a gamer? Expert or beginners are welcome. Hands on boardgames, traditional games, new games, card games, whatever type of game you like to play - this is your chance to show us what you've got! Come share a fun time with church friends and their friends on the first Saturday of each month!**



**Jan. 6, from 2:00 - 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall**





**Dorothy Johnson** 



...will be laid to rest at Forest Lawn Cemetery on December 15, 2023 at 1 p.m. Pastor Andrew will officiate the graveside service. Afterwards, a Celebration of Life will be held at Admiral Church from 2-5 pm.



## CONNECT WITH THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

The Intentional Interim Conference Minister Search Committee began the search in July. They have been hard at work looking at a second round of applicants after the first set felt led by the Holy Spirit to go a different direction.

It is reassuring that Jonna Jensen is willing to continue as acting conference minister, working remotely from Iowa.

We look forward to what God is doing in this process. We are grateful to Lee Albertson, on the national level, who is guiding us. We are grateful to the entire Conference for prayers, support, and patience in this time.

## CONNECTING WITH THE THE NATIONAL UCC

### General Minister and President Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson on “ Living Under a Big Tent ”



“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you’re welcome here.” Many UCC congregations use words like these at the beginning of worship. As your General Minister and President, I wonder, “what do we mean when we utter these words?”

These expansive words imply radical inclusion and have welcomed many into the church - some back to church - in a way they had never known. While we experience differences in our ideologies and ideas, we feel called to a lived expression of inclusion based on love. We want to be a safe space for all to live lives that draw us closer to God through Jesus Christ.

This too is commitment. We may be in different locations on this spiritual journey, yet we are similarly trying to find our way well beyond the daily living of our physical lives. Yet we commit to being a “big tent” of expansive welcome. The term “big tent” refers to a group that includes many different groups or ideas, and as a result can attract a wide range of supporters. This type of diversity is not easy to sustain when there is such a wide range of views, and yet, in the United Church of Christ (UCC) we find God calling us to live under a big tent.

The wide range of diversities among us run along theological, political, racial/ethnic, church size, leadership, worship style, and even geographic lines. We are small and large, urban and rural, on-line and in-person, store-front and traditional church structures, Open and Affirming (ONA) and Evangelical, Conservative, Orthodox, or Traditional (ECOT), and much more. All of these and in between are a part of the UCC.

When I think of life in the UCC, I am often reminded of Jesus' words when he was asked which commandment was the first. He responded that the first was loving God and added: "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:31). Much can be said about who is the neighbor. The neighbor includes strangers and certainly includes those we journey with in this denomination we call the UCC. Jesus did not say love the people who are like-minded, nor did he say love the people who are like you. Jesus taught a big lesson: love your neighbor as yourself.

In this big tent, we find ourselves at odds sometimes. We do not always agree. Our differences seem to outweigh the similarities we share. Jesus' prayer for his disciples is one we hold as a motto for the UCC: "that they may all be one" (John 17:21). Unity does not mean uniformity. We are called to hold the differences we bring with us and honor the differences in each other. God's love can be the glue that holds us together.

Loving each other amid our differences can be challenging. Civil discourse takes practice. We will need patience for hard conversations. Instead of defending our positions, we will need to listen in love. We will need courage to honor the diversities already present and emerging among us. Challenging, certainly; but together, we can live under this big tent of God's love learning and growing with each other.

We cannot do this alone. We need each other. More so, we need to experience God's love alive and present working in us, through us, and among us as we continue to answer the call to love and to be welcoming of all who come through the doors of the church. Whether left, right or center in our theological or political leanings - all are welcome to be a part of the UCC.





**Worship Service**  
**every Sunday @ 10:30**  
**[www.admiralchurch.org](http://www.admiralchurch.org)**



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