



Hope Church

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ADVENT 2024

Dear Pilgrim Community of Hope,

It is with joy that I write to you at the beginning of this Advent season. I am beyond grateful for the ways that you have welcomed Kate and I into this church over the past few months. We've been blessed by your kind hospitality and caring intentions. Through the guidance of the Leadership Transition Team and Pastor Bill's continued work as Pastor Emeritus, we are grateful for the transition we've made to Hope Church.

I share in Paul's words to the Philippian Church when he wrote,

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now (Philippians 1:3-5).

Advent marks the beginning of a new year in the life of Christ's Church. I pray you can join us during Advent and Christmas Eve as we move through our theme this year: **"What's in a Name? Exploring the Names of Jesus."** As we approach this season of advent and await the coming of God's son, we will explore a few of the ways Jesus is named in the Bible. He is *The Son of David, Prince of Peace, Son of God, Emmanuel*, and the long-awaited *Messiah*. Through this series, we will seek to explore the person of Jesus and what these names reveal about who he is.

The act of *naming* is almost a sacred act. While each of Jesus' names point to something specific about who he is, we are also encouraged to *name* the ways we need Jesus to enter our lives in new and fresh ways this season.

I invite you to join us each Sunday for this Advent series. On **December 22**, we will celebrate with the **Children's Christmas Program and Christmas Meal**. *Please sign up for the meal by Sunday, December 15.*

Our **Christmas Eve service** will take place at **6pm on December 24**. If you know of anyone who is looking for a church to celebrate this season with, please welcome them to join us for this time of worship!

The Annual **Congregational Meeting** will be on **December 8** at 11:15 a.m. *We strongly encourage you to attend this important and informative meeting.*

I want to bring you the current church financial picture. December has extra year-end obligations. *We need offerings totaling about \$30,000 to pay 100% of the budgeted expenses and mission support.* This is about 50% more than our average monthly offerings, *so if you can bless us with an extra tithe or offering in December, we will be most appreciative. Every extra dollar helps!*

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We also want to use this opportunity to thank you for your support of **Hope's Next Stage Capital Campaign**. With the final stage completed this fall, we praise God for your on-going commitment to the future of Hope Church. If you made a pledge for 2024, please do your best to complete the pledge by the end of the year. Your timely gifts help to keep our borrowing costs at a minimum. If you have not made a pledge but find yourself in a position to now make a gift, we would be very grateful.

In the midst of a pastoral transition, I see God's hand in your faithful giving over the past year. I know that Pastor Bill was always grateful for the fact that Hope was able to finish each year well, paying in full our obligations without borrowing money, and I am prayerfully confident that we can accomplish that goal again this year. Thank you for your continued generosity to the mission of Christ's Church.

Advent and Christmas Blessings to you and your family,

Pastor David