

Bethany United Church of Christ

Embracing the Community

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Winter News 2018 - 2019

Don't Talk About Me Like I'm Not In The Room

Rev. Colleen Samson

This is a wonderful time of the year to think about things we might consider doing differently next year. With the knowledge that the Christian year begins with Advent, let us consider that Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany come at the beginning of the church year for a reason. It starts with a new, fresh wave of the birth of Jesus in our lives. God with us, God coming among us, God reigning down on us to do something new.

Something new! We say God does new things, but do we really believe it? Do we witness to it? Do we even try to recognize God's new initiative in our lives? Or better yet, do we recognize new initiatives in our church?

Consider this! Don't talk about me like I'm not in the room. Have you ever experienced people talking around you; people who think they know you, what you think, how you feel, and why you act the way you do? They have an entire conversation about you and never invite you into the conversation. For example, I am standing in a group of people and a conversation begins like this: Pastor Colleen said, "She thinks there is no physical place where hell is located." Well, that gets everyone's attention! Before you know it, someone says, "No, that is not what she said. She said hell is not a place where anyone goes." Then, another person says, "I heard her say that hell is not a place, but it is right here on earth." In this case, everyone is having a conversation in front of me, but not including me in the conversation. How often do we have conversations about God, but never invite God into the conversation? The theological issue of hell requires us to invite God into the conversation.

Many people think their pastor has the answers. The truth is the pastor does not have the answer to all your questions. The pastor can only tell you what he/she believes at that time in their life, because our views change over time. If you want an answer to your question, then you need to invite God to be in conversation with you. Then, you need to listen for what is revealed to you. The answer probably will not come instantly but will be revealed to you over time. Be patient.

At this time of the year, many of us have questions about what the Christmas story says to us today. What is God trying to do in your life? How is God working in our church? Invite God into your conversations, and listen!



Bethany is a community of justice and peace serving the needs of people on their spiritual journey.

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

Every Sunday Morning

Adult Faith Formation 9:30
Sunday School 9:30
Worship Service 10:30



Scriptures

December

- 2** Psalm 25:4-10
- 9** Philippians 1:3-11
- 16** Philippians 4:4-7
- 23** Micah 5:2-5a
- 30** Psalm 148

January

- 6** Isaiah 60:1-6
- 13** Psalm 29
- 20** Psalm 36: 5-10
- 27** Psalm 19

February

- 3** Malachi 3: 1-4
- 10** Isaiah 6: 1-13
- 17** Jeremiah 17: 5-10
- 24** Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40

Sermon Titles For Advent & Christmas

December 9	Make The Path Ready
December 16	Mary And The Fullness of Creation
December 23	Fruit Worthy of Repentance
December 30	After The Feast Is Ended



HAPPY
NEW YEAR 2019

SERMON SERIES FOR EPIPHANY

January 13-February 17

For Sake of Life:

We'll Plant the Seeds of Hope

We Will Never Forsake

We Will Walk Together

We Will Speak Out

We'll Share It

We'll Let Our Light Shine



INQUIRER'S CLASS



When: Sunday, December 9, After Worship

Where: Fellowship Hall

What: This class is an introduction to the United Church of Christ and is required for membership. But, even if you are not ready to become a member, you can come to the class to learn more about the United Church of Christ and Bethany. All who seek to have more information are invited to attend. We will have a small lunch, and be finished by 1:15 p.m.

Let Pastor Colleen know if you plan to attend.

New members will join before the end of the year.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve is the conclusion of Advent and is the beginning of our celebration of the Christmas season. We will celebrate with Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at 6:00 p.m. We hear the good news that came to the shepherds. We sing the angels' songs. The beauty and devotion of the gospel story, the joy of the carols, and the glow of candlelight all combine to transform the ordinary into the holy. Join us as Advent's waiting becomes Joy to the World!

Your Help is Needed!

Do you have a favorite restaurant that you would like to go to for our MEET AND EAT get together?

The Fellowship Committee with Chairperson, Vicki Smith-Canipe will be meeting in January to decide, so please let her know.

The committee is always open to suggestions for Meet & Eat and for other fellowship ideas as well.

Did You Know?

Our congregation has been collecting new winter coats for foster children again this Christmas. We have already collected 17 coats and 10 matching knitted hats and scarves and will continue collecting until Sunday, December 16. Please add your donation to the ones hanging on the hooks in the hallway outside the Fellowship Hall to help these kids have a warm

Merry Christmas!



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

<u>December</u>		<u>January</u>	
15	Hunter Ervin	4	Tommy Little
23	Katie Krump	24	Colleen Samson
20	Malcolm Campbell	3	
27	Becky Cline	14	Larry Sink
30	Louise Harris	17	Sarah Bostian
			Vivian Cline

February