

December News

- Sunday, December 1:** First Sunday of Advent
Celebration of Holy Communion
Christmas Fund Offering Begins
Reverse Advent Boxes begin
- Sunday, December 8:** Second Sunday of Advent
Faith Formation resumes at 9:30 a.m.
Annual Business Meeting immediately following worship
- Tuesday, December 10:** Morning volunteering at Ashure Ministry in Newton,
10:00 a.m. until noon
- Sunday, December 22:** Fourth Sunday of Advent
Dedication of Reverse Advent Boxes during worship
- Tuesday, December 24:** Christmas Eve Worship by Candlelight, 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 29:** First Sunday of Christmas

December Items for Ashure

This year, we are again participating in Ashure Ministry's Reverse Advent Boxes. This annual Christmas Food Drive includes 19 of the most needed foods in the food pantry. Gather them one by one or as you are able and bring your box to the church for dedication before we deliver them to Ashure in January.

Dec. 1 box of cereal
Dec. 2 peanut butter
Dec. 3 mac and cheese
Dec. 4 canned fruit in juices
Dec. 5 canned tomatoes
Dec. 6 canned tuna
Dec. 7 apple sauce in plastic jars
Dec. 8 canned beans
Dec. 9 mayonnaise in plastic jars
Dec. 10 oatmeal

December Birthdays

Dec. 8—Rev. Feather
Dec. 15—Hunter E.

Dec. 11 pasta
Dec. 12 spaghetti sauce (no glass jars)
Dec. 13 tomato soup
Dec. 14 chicken noodle soup
Dec. 15 canola or olive oil
Dec. 16 canned chicken
Dec. 17 pancake mix
Dec. 18 canned vegetable
Dec. 19 hearty canned soup

Annual Business Meeting

On Sunday, December 8, immediately following worship, our congregation will go directly into our annual business meeting. We will vote on the budget for 2025, elect members to serve the congregation in various roles, and vote on the Rules and Regulations for the Columbarium. (Copies of all these items are available for your review.) We will also receive some committee updates. Please plan to be a part of this important congregational meeting.

Christmas Eve at Bethany

Our annual candlelight worship is one of the highlights of the year at Bethany. From the luminaries we light in the parking lot, to the carols we sing in the sanctuary, to the ringing of the bell in the steeple, everything we do and say is our gift of worship to the Lord and our gift of joy and celebration to the community and to one another. Find out how you can help, then bring friends and family at 5:00 p.m. as we welcome God's great gift to us!

The Season of Change Expands

During our "Season of Change" at Bethany, all the loose change you've placed in the offering plates will go to the purchase of diapers for infants and toddlers in foster care. During Advent, as we await the remembered birth of the Holy Child in Bethlehem, we will expand our offering to include any amount you may choose to designate, including checks and bills, not just loose change. You are also invited to bring baby wipes and diapers of every size. These items are going to Fostering Hope to bless the lives of our youngest neighbors in foster care. Please note, diapers and wipes are the only items we are collecting; this offering doesn't include other baby items. On January 5, when we celebrate the day that the Wise Men brought gifts to the Christ child, we will put the money, the diapers, and the wipes on the altar and dedicate them all to God in thanksgiving, asking for God's blessing on the lives of these little ones. Then, on January 12, right after worship, we'll count the change and celebrate together. Chili and cornbread are on the menu and we'll need plenty of people to count and roll all those coins. Put it on your new year calendar!

The Search is On!

The Pastor Search Committee is hard at work finding our next pastor. During December and January, we welcome Bethany's retired pastors to our pulpit. We are grateful and blessed by your leadership and service.