



The Messenger

Eureka First United Methodist Church

December 2020



Office Phone (707) 442-3015

Office Email: grace520@pacbell.net

Web site: <https://firstumceureka.org/>

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Irelan, Pastor

Pastor's Cell (415) 505-6237

From Pastor Rebecca,

names means the most to you and why. Write it down and send it to me in an email or snail mail for inclusion in our daily devotional this season.

I want to thank the people who have already sent me their reflections on a name for Jesus. We trust that they will inspire more of you to share some of your faith and by doing so, strengthen others'. Each day's reflections will be sent out to the congregation by email, posted to Facebook, and collected into a document that will be mailed weekly to those who don't have access to either. This is the perfect Covid Christmas gift to give to your brothers and sisters in Christ. It doesn't cost a dime and you don't have to wear a mask. Have a safe and very blessed Advent.

Pastor Rebecca

Alternative Advent



Everything is different this year except the Christ Child whose birth we celebrate.



Advent Tea
Livestream on
December 4th,
7 pm

To begin with, we have the 61st Annual Advent Tea. But this year, the table hosts will mail you a donation slip, and invite you to join us for an Advent program online on Facebook. Not the same, we know, but feel free to use the chat function to spend virtual time with your friends.



It's traditional in churches to begin the Advent season with the ancient carol, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." And in that carol are many different names for Jesus: Emmanuel, Wisdom, Lord, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Morning Star (Dayspring), Desire of Nations. And the Bible and Church Tradition give us many more. Some people even have their own personal names for Jesus. Why so many?

Think about it. All of us have many names. We have first and last names, middle and nicknames. We have names that define our relationships to others: Mother, Father, Son, Daughter, Wife, Husband, etc. We have titles that indicate our jobs or skills: Doctor, Teacher, Engineer, Contractor, Administrator or Farmworker. We need all of those names, plus Child of God, to capture the full essence of who we are. So it is with Jesus. Each of his names tell us something important about who he is and what he does for us. This Advent, I invite you to consider which of Jesus'

Advent Prayer Stations in the Sanctuary



Humboldt County is now in the purple zone and we won't be opening for worship anytime soon. However, you can come to the sanctuary by appointment with

the people in your household and take in the Advent activities that we are setting up around the room. The prayer stations will be based on the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life." There will be reflections and activities at each station, appropriate for the whole family. The stations will be sanitized after each visit. Contact the pastor (415-505-6237) to schedule prayer time in the sanctuary. It will soon be available as a virtual walk on the church's Facebook page or YouTube Channel.

Online Candlelight Service On



Demand on Facebook and YouTube

This year's Christmas Eve service will be pre-recorded, rather than live-streamed, so that we can involve more of our talented musicians in this most special service of worship. You will be able to schedule your participation in the service when it is most convenient for you and your family. We will post it on our Facebook page in the morning and you can watch it all day.

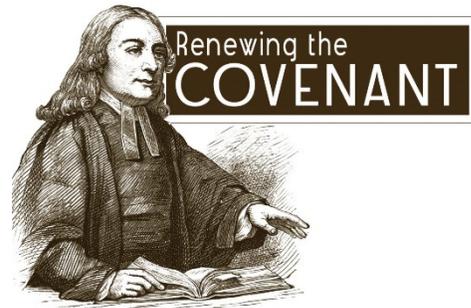
Missing out on your Christmas block party? Join us for a Zoom Christmas Party at 4 pm on Christmas Eve Day. Wear your favorite Christmas sweater and we'll have a contest to see whose is the ugliest! We will share favorite memories, poems, stories of the season. The Zoom link will be emailed out, if you do not currently receive emails from us, contact the church office to be added to the list.

Christmas Eve Carols and Candles on the Front Porch:

For those who want to light up the night with the love of Christ, come join us on the front steps of the church at 7 pm on Christmas Eve for some socially-distanced carol singing by candlelight (real or battery-powered, depending on the weather). Bring a mask and an umbrella and we'll see a few friends and sing a few favorites. Bring your own mug for some hot cider.



December 27 Covenant Service



Many of us are eager to put 2020 in our hindsight and are hoping and praying that 2021 is a big improvement. One thing we're sure of

is that we need God to improve us. The Sunday service on December 27th will be a Wesley-style covenant service with a liturgy designed around the theme of rededicating our lives to Christ in the new year. We hope you'll take part in this ritual of renewal wherever you are.



You are invited to donate to our Poinsettia "Project" in memory or honor of loved ones. A limited number of poinsettias are purchased to adorn our sanctuary during Advent. Remaining contributions will be used to replenish the "Pastor's Relief Fund"

which is a way of helping persons in need in our local community. A form for this purpose is located on pg. 4 of this newsletter. Just clip out the form and return it with your donation of \$9.00 to the church office by December 19th.



No In-Person Worship for the Rest of 2020

While we will continue to go through the paperwork and training needed to get approval for in-person worship, the current rate of the virus' community spread will not allow us to open up the sanctuary for the foreseeable future. This is disappointing to most of us, but there are ways that you can help us get through this. And so many of you have found additional ways to step up to these challenges, for which all the church is deeply grateful.



A big thank-you to those who got together on Wednesday morning to prepare Thanksgiving dinners to deliver to about 30 of our members who are alone or can't make a turkey with all the fixings this year. Sally, Tim and Brian Hansen, Erin Powers-Taylor, Pam Coen,

Carol Goodwyn, Angela Cameron, and Pat Reimonenq.

Another thank-you to all those who helped decorate the sanctuary last Sunday: Angela and Isaac Cameron; Pat Reimonenq; Sally, Brian, Tim, and Brooke Hansen; Chad, Marlaine, CJ, and Anisha Rechuullul, and Pam Coen.

And a thank-you to Tim Lindow for getting bored while waiting for the turkey to get done and replacing the fellowship hall door!



Are you glad that 2020 is almost over? Do you want to see better days ahead in 2021? Would you like to see your community return to health and your church return to in-person worship? Then put some of your money where you want your heart to be so that we can keep our staff and ministry going over the next several months. You have been so supportive this year. We hope and pray that we can count on you next year.



First All Church Conference on Zoom

We talked with our District Superintendent, Rev. Blake Busick; elected our 2021 officers; recommended our lay speakers; approved the member audit and pastor's salary, and made a special presentation to Barb and Bill O'Brien for their superlative service to the church in painting the sanctuary, office building, and shed. We also formed two new working groups for the new year: Children & Families Ministry and Stewardship.



Church Family News

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Katie Quintrell	17	Marjorie Johnson
1	Carol Goodwyn	18	Tim Ryan
2	Kelby Ross	23	Travis Morgan
4	Beverly Strubinger	24	Mary McLean
7	Ginny Hedgecock	25	Larry Johnson
11	Thi Samelson	25	Connor Bowser
13	Hilda White	26	Jim Welsh
14	Margie O'Keefe	27	Lori Green
15	Pat Leahy	29	Heidi Quintrell
16	Glenn Cannon	29	Liam Taylor
17	Ceilidh Powers	30	Bob Green
31	Kellan Churchill		

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

December 17	Catherine & Michael Moore
December 22	Greg & Carol Goodwyn

Congratulations!-- If we missed your special day or have the incorrect date please call the church office so we can get it right next year.

Finance News

November 2020

General Fund Revenue: \$14,356.53

General Fund Expense: \$11,982.08

YTD 2020(October 31, 2020)

2020 General Fund Revenue: *\$179,563.56

2020 General Fund Expense: \$163,727.47

Total +*\$15,836.09

(*)This amount reflects a transfer from the Endowment Fund into the General Fund Cash Reserves of \$10,000 and a PPP loan of \$26,900.

Thank you for your generous giving to God through the church.

Worship Attendance – November

Attendance is live stream plus views

November	1	TOTAL – 99
November	8	TOTAL – 94
November	15	TOTAL – 81
November	22	TOTAL – 89
November	29	TOTAL - 52

MISSIONS

Next Food Donations to Be Weighed Sunday, December 6th. November Total was 156.5lbs

Thank you for those who have left food donations at the church office. We will weigh them during our live stream worship on Sunday, December 6th. If you have donations of non-perishable food items for our food closet and Little Free Pantry, please arrange to deliver them to the church office during this week by calling the office (442-3015).



Once again EFUMC will be participating in the Angel Tree program. It is even more important to serve these children as their world has been turned upside down. We will be sponsoring over 20 children

this year. If you are interested in participating again this year or you wish to try it for the first time, contact the office and have your name put on the reservation list. Please look for more information on how you can make a difference in a child's life this Holiday season.

From your friendly editor



Remember to go the church website at <https://firstumceureka.org/> for news and links to the worship service videos!

Submissions to the

Messenger Send submissions

directly to your friendly editor, Dan Dionne, at editor@firstumceureka.org.

2020 Poinsettia “Project” Form

You are invited to donate to our Poinsettia “Project” in memory or honor of loved ones. Please, fill out the form below and make a contribution of \$9.00 for each person you wish to honor with your gift. Designate your check or envelope containing cash “Poinsettia Project”. Forms and donations for this purpose can be mailed or dropped off at the office: 520 Del Norte Street, Eureka CA 95501.

In memory of:

In honor of:

Donated by:

December 2020 *Online Meetings

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 *7:00pm Bible Study w/Rebecca & Hank	2	3 *4:00 pm Come to Wellness	4 *7:00pm Advent Tea Program	5
6 Weigh Food	7	8 *7:00pm Bible Study w/Rebecca & Hank	9	10 *4:00 pm Come to Wellness	11	12
13	14	15 *7:00pm Bible Study w/Rebecca & Hank	16	17 *4:00 pm Come to Wellness 6:15 p.m. Board of Trustees Mtg	18	19
20	21	22 *7:00pm Bible Study w/Rebecca & Hank	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 *4:00pm Zoom Christmas Party! 7:00pm Christmas Eve Carols and Candles	25 Christmas	26
27 Birthdays & Anniversaries	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve		

Advent Walk in the Sanctuary!

Contact Pastor Rebecca (415-505-6237) to schedule prayer time in the sanctuary. It will soon be available as a virtual walk on the church's Facebook page or YouTube Channel.