



# The Messenger

## Eureka First United Methodist Church

### December 2023



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### A Poem by Madeleine L'Engle

Fifty years ago, the author of *A Wrinkle in Time* wrote a poem for Christmas. It was 1973. There was war abroad and trouble back home. We sometimes forget how angry and divided and exhausted the country was back then. But we held on then and we will again. And herein lies our hope:

#### The Risk of Birth, Christmas 1973

This is no time for a child to be born,  
With the earth betrayed by war and hate  
And a nova lighting the sky to war.  
That time runs out and sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,  
in a land in the crushing grip of Rome:  
Honour and truth were trampled by scorn-  
Yet here did the Saviour make his home.

When is the time for love to be born?  
The inn is full on the planet earth  
And by greed and pride the sky is torn-  
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

--Madeleine L'Engle



#### ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

We invite everyone to write a personal story for our Advent Devotional:

Week Three: Where do you find joy?

Week Four: Where do you find love?

Send your story to Pastor Rebecca at [rjirelan@gmail.com](mailto:rjirelan@gmail.com)



**"The Unfriendly Beasts"** Christmas Pageant premiers at EFUMC on December 17<sup>th</sup>. This original play by Pastor Rebecca is based on the carol "The Friendly Beasts."

She has added more beasts and more verses and promises that it will be fun. All children, youth, and young at heart are invited to participate. There is a part for everyone! There will be one rehearsal on December 10<sup>th</sup>, immediately following worship and a makeup on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. If you can help the kids with costumes and getting the actors from one place to another, please stay for the rehearsal on the 10<sup>th</sup>.



### Candlelight Christmas Eve services

On December 24, there will be no service at 10 am.

However, there will be **two** candlelight services, one at 3 pm and the second at 7 pm. Invite your friends!



### Second Sunday Breakfast on December 10<sup>th</sup>

2nd Sunday breakfast is going to be a potluck this month. We have a couple of folks signed up to bring hash brown casserole, an egg dish, Christmas Cranberry cake, yogurt, and some fruit. But more is needed, so please help if you can. Juice will be provided.



Saturday 12/9 from 9-12 (how's that for symmetry?) is the All Church Work Day. There is lots that can be done, such as helping with church play costumes, maybe making ornaments to place on the tree since the others have gone missing? So we need lots of help.

November, we were at Henderson Center with our friends from the Salvation Army.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be ringing for the folks at Mad River and Timber

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm, we will be at the Eureka Inn. We hope many of our friends from Eureka First will come to hear us!

., We are also recording some special pieces for the Christmas Eve services, so the bells will ring in our church!

As you know, our numbers are very reduced this year, and we are now really a two-church choir, with Floyd, Erika, and Heather Peterson from Redwood Christian Fellowship in Fortunas joining Dan and Linda Dionne and Jamie and Angela Cameron. It would be great to have more people to fill out our choir and spread the music—so do you hear bells in your future?



## COOKIE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

Cookie Sunday is December 17<sup>th</sup>. Start baking now so we can bring yummy cookies to our special

friends. Angela Cameron will be coordinating the plate assembly but we will need some volunteers to help and to deliver them.



## Advent Tea December 2<sup>nd</sup>

**A Big Thank-You to Everyone** who helped prepare the sanctuary and fellowship hall for the Advent Tea

- Catherine Moore for getting out the information to the table hosts.
- Lori Green for arranging the service and for the bulletins
- Angela Cameron for the beautiful owl art
- Dan Dionne for staying overnight
- Bill and Barb O'Brien and the crew that moved tables and chairs and decorated the sanctuary
- Brian and Tim Hansen for fixing the tree lights
- Brian Hansen for vacuuming the rug and livestreaming the program
- Brad Mettam for doing sound
- Stacy Young for playing the piano
- Charles Young and the Limited Edition Choir for providing special music
- To all who hosted tables, baked goodies, moved furniture, read scripture, lit candles, and stayed to clean up!

The final tally is not yet in, but we made over \$4,000 this year for the Foster Family Resource Center and the AHHA Shower Program.

## Handbells Ringing in the Season

The Bella Norte Bells are continuing their tradition of ringing handbells through the Christmas season. In



## Church Family News

### December Birthdays

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

### 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.**



### We lift up our prayers for

- Angel and Isaac Miroth. Angel is having her baby this week.

- Forrest Vance, in the death of Patricia, who died in November.
- Sue Peacock, recovering from knee surgery
- Galeladi Runningbrook, who will have to have some more surgery
- Sadiki Koo's, for strength
- Melanie Gosselin, for healing from chemo and radiation
- Dorothy Johnson, who has been having medical issues
- Ongoing prayers for our friends: Sadiki Koo's; Lyn Howell; Hollie Klingel; Diane Mettam; Lisa Lewis; Mark McKinney; Sally & Herb Pierce; Louis and Paula Amato; Don & Nancy Quintrell; Bev & Rich Strubinger; and Jonathan & Marty O'Keefe
- All our family members and friends who are ill
- Our unhoused brothers and sisters in Eureka
- Peace and reconciliation in Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine

## History Tidbit from Ann Hunt

*Ann Hunt has prepared a record of EFUMC's past ministers, going all the way back to the first pastor appointed here. She has dug through archives and newspapers to collect what information she can find and organized it all into a binder for us. Thank you, Ann, for your labor of love! If you want to take a peek, stop by the church office. Here's one of the stories:*

In the fall of 1920, the Rev. D.C. Lockwood was appointed to the Eureka congregation. He and his wife were Kansans, coming from an appointment in Oklahoma. At the age of 91, Edna wrote a 26-page memoir for her granddaughter. In it she writes of their arrival in Eureka, in late October. A copy of this manuscript is now in the possession of Lynn Intersimone and was passed down to her from her grandmother, Gladys Smith. Art and Glad Smith were members of the church and lived across the street from the parsonage. They remained life-long friends with the Lockwoods.

"... we arrived in Eureka after dark ... We had expected to be met, but no one approached us, so we got a room in the hotel. The next morning, we got a cab and went to the parsonage. A committee was in session wondering what they would do about the services the next day since the minister hadn't arrived. They had come to meet us but didn't recognize us as the 'preacher's family' ... They had not only gone to meet us, but had a hot meal ready for us and stocked the pantry with a few days' supply.

She continues: "The next day it rained hard, but the church was full. The church was beautifully decorated with dahlias. I had never seen such large ones. Some looked as large as a salad plate. The parsonage and church were in the old part of town, on 3rd St. ... It had ten rooms. One had been a small bedroom but was made into a bathroom. A larger room next to it was a storeroom. There were lines in it so

the clothes could be hung there to dry. The back stairs led from that to the kitchen. In the kitchen there was a cook stove made of brick and also a gas stove. There was a pantry between that and the dining room, but no heat in that part of the house. There was a down stairs bedroom and a front and back parlor. This was our sitting room, as it had a stove in it. ... Upstairs there was a study. There was a fireplace in it. Also one in the front parlor below. ... Since there had not been children in the parsonage, Daniel [2 & 1/2] was made over by the church people. One woman asked him what he wanted for Christmas and he said a horn and a drum. She got both of them for him. I asked her what she had against me! "

*AH: There had been children in the parsonage over the years, but perhaps not a young child and not for a while. I'd have to research that more. In the future, I'll share more of their experiences in their 3rd & H neighborhood.*

## Ann Hunt



## Winter clothing needed!

We are again collecting gently used jackets, coats, gloves, hats and scarves for upcoming winter weather for our unhoused neighbors. New socks are also always welcome. Bring your donations on Sunday and leave them in the basket in the Wesley Chapel.



As always, the Angel Tree cards were all picked up, so many children of imprisoned parents will have a nicer Christmas this year. Remember that your wrapped gifts must be returned this Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, so they can be delivered in time.

## Volunteers are needed to help the Eureka Emergency Overnight Warming Center

When our Northcoast weather gets severe, the community will open up an emergency warming center to help those with no place else to go. We monitor severe weather conditions throughout the winter season. When the weather is forecast to drop below 30 degrees, the Emergency Overnight Warming Center will be activated. Anyone from the community who is in need is welcome to spend the night. The Warming Center location will be on a rotating basis offered by faith-based community partners who are all located in the greater Eureka area.

### How can I help?

Sign up to be placed on a text list. By signing up, you will receive a text when the Emergency Warming Center is activated requesting your assistance. You can reply directly and sign up to help in real-time.

Three to four (3-4) volunteers are needed from 6pm-7am when the Emergency Warming Center is activated. Limited shifts may be available. Your role will be to help monitor the space so guests can have a safe space to sleep. Training will be offered prior to your first shift. More details will be made available on training.

Sign Up Here:

<https://us11.list-manage.com/survey?u=ec8e886b7cc3cc023d2beee76&id=c54604c013&e=d1c12108a5>.



The next Food Donations to be weighed Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to those who have left food donations at the church office. We will weigh them during our in-person worship on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have donations of non-perishable food items for our food closet, please arrange to deliver them to the church office before the scheduled Sunday by calling the office at (707-442-3015).

### Pictures from the Advent Tea!





## Submissions to the Messenger

If you have anything you would like included in the Messenger, please send submissions directly to your friendly editor,

Dan Dionne, at [dldionne@suddenlink.net](mailto:dldionne@suddenlink.net). And your editor would like to thank those who contributed to this edition of the newsletter: Pastor Rebecca, Ann Hunt, and Pam Coen.



*[From your friendly editor]*

### A brief All-Advent meditation

On the 17<sup>th</sup>, I will be preaching in Klamath for the second time. There are plenty of challenges, but one of the more interesting is that this will be the only Christmas service held in that church this year. So I somehow have to cover all of Advent and get a solid push into Christmas, in one brief (okay, you all know me well enough to know that it won't be **that** brief) sermon and service.

I've been at a loss for how to handle this, but then yesterday everything came together in a sort of logic puzzle. So here is my All-Advent meditation that will form the core of my sermon.

We begin with the first candle of Advent. It's the candle of Hope. Why do we need hope? Because for many, the world as it is is intolerable. Imagine being in Israel or Gaza, trying to protect your family from terrors all around you. Imagine the mother, or brother, or sister, lamenting the death of a loved one shot to death by a crazed gunman. Closer to home, imagine the person huddle alone in a cold house—or a colder tent—with nothing to look forward to. And for all of us, imagine the climate perils facing our children and their children—what kind of world will they have? Oh, yes, we need hope.

But what do we hope for? That's the second candle, the candle of Peace. We need peace—not the peace of oppression, or the silence of tyranny, but the peace that lets each of us live to be our best, and promises the same for generations to come. We hope for a lasting and real peace.

But how do we achieve peace? That's the third candle, the candle of Love. Neither hate nor apathy can build a peaceful world. Each of us must learn to love, to truly love and care for each other, so that prosperity of some cannot come from the suffering of others. And so much of that means that we have to forgive. That's hard.

But when we love, what do we get for it? That's the fourth candle, the candle of Joy. We shouldn't confuse joy with "fun" or "entertainment." Joy isn't about having a good time. Instead, it is being complete and whole, and having that wonderful feeling of "rightness" because we know we are walking the way we are intended to walk.

And through all of this is the coming of Jesus, because Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life. He's not the god who throws lightning bolts and punishes the wicked, although sometimes we want him to be that. Instead, he's the Son of God and Son of Man who teaches us how to live in a world where we bring hope to make peace through love, and are filled with the joy of the Spirit.

Amen.

