



## Mid-Week Update for the week of December 6 to 13, 2020

Published December 9, 2020



### Wonderful Wednesdays at Peace

**7-7:15pm** Join us for a brief Zoom Advent service. We will light candles, sing beloved hymns, and pray for peace on earth. Listen to this! After the Advent service is over, you can take a break and come back to Zoom for our discussion of the Christmas story.

**7:30-8:30pm** We will continue our discussion of the Christmas story in Matthew and Luke, with *The First Christmas*. Pastor Heidi recommends watching the following interview with the authors of *The First Christmas*:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fk90WDo90\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fk90WDo90_0)

It is not necessary for you to watch the interview or read the book in order to join the discussion. Join us!

### From the Pastor: Christmas at the Vardemans'



Meet the newest member of the Vardeman household: our Christmas dog! Bought at the Habitat for Humanity store long before the pandemic, it's been stored in the garage for months. It looks so much like Zest that when we got it out and put it together, Zest tried to play with it. Did she think it was another dog?

The dog makes us smile, a valuable commodity in these cold days when it gets dark so early. Advent has special meaning this year as we wait:

...for a Covid 19 vaccine (when will we get it?)  
...for a chance to be with family and friends (it's so lonely not be with loved ones)  
...for a chance to come back to church  
...for a return to a semblance of "normal" life when we are no longer so isolated. The comfort of Advent is the promise that our waiting will not be forever. The weeks will pass. There are lights along the way. God is with us already, and God will be with us in the future as well. The good news of Christmas is that we are given Emmanuel: "Emmanu" means "with us" and "El" means "God."

On the first Christmas, Jesus was born under difficult circumstances to a troubled world. We look forward to his coming again, "born a babe and yet a king" to a world that needs Christ's love more than ever.



### 'Tis The Season. . .To Be Connected!

The holidays usually signal more gatherings, more activities, more chances to see family and friends. But this year is different. Because the Covid-19 pandemic is raging at unprecedented levels in our community, the responsible thing to do is to stay in and stay away to stay well.

But that doesn't mean we'll be postponing Peace Church! Below are some of the ways we plan to continue to connect with each other:

## Advent

### It's a Do-It-Yourself Advent this year!

Because it is not a good idea to go out to stores as often, we suggest that you find any candles you have in your house; they do not need to match. Gather your five candles of any kind, put one in the middle and four around them. Light one during the first week of December, a second one during the second week, a third the third week, a fourth on the fourth week, and finally the middle Christmas Candle on Christmas.

### Wednesday Night Advent Worship and Book Discussion

**Worship.** 7:00-7:15pm on Zoom. We'll light Advent candles, offer prayers, and prepare for the coming of Christ. After worship, you are welcome to sign off, or you can join us after for the book discussion.

**Book Discussion.** 7:30-8:30pm on Zoom. We will be reading and discussing *The First Christmas*, by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Pastor Heidi has already purchased many used copies. You *do not* have to read the book to participate in the discussion.

**Tonight's Discussion:** More about the birth, including Jesus' family tree, the angel visiting Mary, and why it was important that Jesus be born in Bethlehem.

**December 16:** Light and Joy, a discussion of what the birth of Christ means to us today.

## Christmas

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.** Hear the familiar carols, celebrate the birth, and give thanks for the light. Patrice Meschke has already gotten out our traditional hand-held candles and is exploring ways to distribute them to you--so we will be able to hold them while we sing Silent Night.



### Christmas Morning, by Pat Wilson

I love these pictures of my brother Dan and me. We are pretending to sleep while waiting for Santa and Christmas morning. It surprises me to see how many gifts we have. My parents did not have a lot of money but as I look back, we were given a nice Christmas. My mother told me when that they were children, they got a stocking with an apple and orange and maybe a small gift if they were lucky.

These pictures were taken in the 40's, but things have not changed much since then. There are

still kids everywhere waiting for Christmas morning. Thanks to an organization called STEP, many children in our community will receive a Christmas gift who may not have otherwise. In the past, the Christmas toyshop has been at Peace Church. Due to COVID that, will not happen.

Instead, STEP is handing out gift cards to Target so the families can shop. STEP is asking for \$10 gift cards so they can be flexible according to age groups. If you would like to buy a \$10 gift card for STP, please send your donation to Peace Church or drop it in the Peace mail slot. We will make sure gift cards are bought. Because of all of you, Peace Church has been able to be a big supporter of STEP. Thank you!



### A Note of Thanks from MyHealth

We received a thank-you note from MyHealth for our donation: "At MyHealth, as 2020 came barreling at us, we knew we were going to need help. We asked and you really came through for us. Because of you, we can continue to provide expert care to teens and young adults in our community who depend on us to help them navigate this changing world."



### Prayers

If you have any prayer requests that you would like printed in the Mid-Week Update, please e-mail them to [peaceprezslp@gmail.com](mailto:peaceprezslp@gmail.com) or call the church office at 952-545-2586 and leave a message.

## Worship Resources

Click on this link for all Church events:

<https://zoom.us/j/5046768135>

You can also open the Zoom app and entering the **meeting ID 504-676-8135**.

To dial in, call 312-626-6799 (long-distance).

The meeting ID is 504-676-8135.

To watch previous worship recordings on our YouTube channel, go to

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCvOa5jl8xld1VtI105h6ZRA/](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvOa5jl8xld1VtI105h6ZRA/).

They are also on our website at

<https://www.peaceprez.com/worship-recordings/>.

We will continue to post Sunday bulletins ahead of the service on our website at

<https://www.peaceprez.com/news/publications/>

## Calendar

### This Week:

#### Wednesday, December 9

7:00 pm – Advent Service

7:30 pm – Advent Book Discussion: More

About the Birth

#### Thursday, December 10

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom

#### Sunday, December 13

10:30 am – Third Sunday of Advent Worship service, live on Zoom and Facebook.

Remember to have three candles ready to light.

### Next Week:

#### Tuesday, December 15

10:30 am – Morning conversation and prayer, on Zoom

#### Wednesday, December 16

7:00 pm – Advent Service

7:30 pm – Advent Book Discussion: Light and Joy

#### Thursday, December 17

10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom

#### Sunday, December 20

10:30 am – Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship service, live on Zoom and Facebook.

Remember to have four candles ready to light.



### Upcoming Birthdays

Myrtle Nold	Dec. 11
Jerry Larson	Dec. 16
Danielle Reid	Dec. 20
Donna Howard	Dec. 22
Kim North	Dec. 22
Louise Ahmadi	Dec. 23
David Councilman	Dec. 31

**If You Have Information** that needs to be in the weekly update such as meeting dates and times, special events or prayer requests, please get this information to our office manager Beth by Wednesday morning. Please email or call [peaceprezSLP@gmail.com](mailto:peaceprezSLP@gmail.com) or 952-545-2586.