# And 7

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| **Midweek Update for the week of**  **November 28 – December 4, 2021**  **Published December 1, 2021** |

**Liberia Project Launch**

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Description automatically generatedWe start our Liberia School project this week. It is our Advent mission emphasis. Working with Books for Africa, a reputable charity located in St. Paul, we will collect funds to send age-appropriate books to Liberia. It costs Books for Africa $7.49 to purchase and ship a brand-new book.

For each $7.49 you donate, you will be given a full color bookmark which you can then give to your friends and family members as a Christmas Diagram, text

Description automatically generatedpresent! We will start taking donations and giving out book marks THIS SUNDAY. Checks can be written to Peace Church with a note “for Liberia Project.”

**From the Pastor**

Advent is a favorite time of year as we prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace. It was great to see the Christmas tree and wreaths to come out this year to decorate our church. This Sunday we will sing a new Song of Rejoicing, a familiar Christmas carol only slightly altered:  *Joy to the world, the Lord* ***WILL*** *come!*

Tonight at 6:30pm on Zoom we will begin our Advent Wednesday night program when I will read the first two chapters of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.*  Please join me and other friends as we enjoy this book – supposedly for children – but actually for us all. If you have already read the book, you can join us just for the discussion at 7:15.

Please know that those of us in leadership are doing all we can to figure out ways for us to be together this winter, even as the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus presents yet another threat. As I said in my sermon last Sunday, our experience in Covid 19 can be compared to Israel being taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar. The Israelites mourned their being in captivity — and so we do, too. Yet let us be heartened by Jeremiah’s advice. Even if we’re stuck where we don’t want to be, even if we are limited in ways we don’t want to be, even if we’re sick of masks and not singing in church — not even singing carols at this special time of the year! — we are to do the best we can to live fully and faithfully. If you have any ideas about how we can sing the Lord’s song in this strange situation we find ourselves in, please let me or a member of session know. We need to figure out how to prosper even under these conditions. And we will!

Faithfully yours, Pastor Heidi

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*Joy to the World* will ring in our ears in December as we celebrate the birth of Christ. As we sing, let us remember the Christmas Joy Offering. Collected on Christmas Day, this A picture containing text, nature, sunset

Description automatically generatedoffering gives us the chance to say Thank You to the many people who have led us on our faith journey. The Joy offering helps those presently in the ministry and retired with medical and financial support. What greater way to say Thank You to our pastor by donating!

Pat Wilson

**Some tips for Communion this Sunday**

This Sunday we’ll be using the Fellowship Cups for communion. You peel back the air-tight seal to get to the wafer, and then peel back the second seal to drink the juice.

Diagram, timeline

Description automatically generatedSince some of us are just not good at opening little things and peeling off paper tops, there will be small cups of juice and pieces of bread available. Go ahead and try to open the cup, but if it proves to be too much of a bother (and communion should NEVER be a bother), just raise your hand and an usher will bring you juice and bread in the form that we had it when we did communion outside: a small piece of bread and a little Dixie cup of juice. Nobody will be excluded because opening little things can be tricky.

**Volunteers Needed**

We need volunteers to do some driving. Are you willing to drive to pick up **Elizabeth Greene** on a Sunday morning when her mother (who sometimes works overnight shifts) is unable to bring her? Or to take her home after church? We are looking for volunteers for some Sundays in December.

We also need volunteers to provide some transportation for **Rovean Evans**. She is coming home from her hospital/rehab stay after having suffered a stroke. She is doing very well but is not able to drive. She lives near the Tex-Tonka shopping center. Please call Pastor Heidi at 612.296.7878 to volunteer.

**Advent Book Discussion Starts Tonight**

A picture containing text

Description automatically generatedOur Advent Book Discussion starts tonight – December 1st at 6:30 pm on Zoom. We will be reading and then discussing Barbara Robinson’s *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.*

This is a different kind of church Advent book discussion in that you don’t even have to *read* the book! If you tune in early, it will be read *to* you. It's only 81 pages in seven chapters, so get ready to listen (and then discuss).

If you want to hear the reading of the book, log into Zoom at 6:30. if you just want to join the discussion, log in at 7:15. We will have fun!

December 1:  A reading of chapters 1 and 2

December 8:  Chapters 3 and 4

December 15:  Chapters 5, 6 and 7

December 22:  Discussion of the whole book

A picture containing text, clipart

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**Upcoming Zoom and   
In-Person Meetings**

**This Week**

**Wednesday, December 1**

**Advent Book Discussion**

**6:30 pm - Reading of Chapters 1-2 of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever***

**7:15 pm – Discussion**

**Thursday, December 2**  
10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom. Pastor Heidi will be leading discussion on Luke 3: 1-6 and Ezekiel 37: 1-14.

**Sunday, December 5 – Communion Service**

9:00 am – Worship service via Zoom

10:30 am – In-Person Worship.

Liturgist, Susan Tolchiner

**Next Week**

**Tuesday, December 7**  
**10:30 am – Morning conversation and prayer, on Zoom. Everyone welcome!!**

**Wednesday, December 8**

**Advent Book Discussion**

**6:30 pm - Reading of Chapters 3-4**

**7:15 – Discussion**

**Thursday, December 9**  
10:30 am – Bible Study, on Zoom.

**Sunday, December 12 – Third Sunday of Advent**

9:00 am – Worship service via Zoom

10:30 am – In-Person Worship.

Liturgist, Susan Tolchiner

***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 Patrice by Wednesday morning. Please email or call* [*peaceprezSLP@gmail.com*](mailto:peaceprezSLP@gmail.com) *or 952-545-2586.*

**KN95 Masks**

The *New York Times* ordered masks from a bunch of websites and then tested what percentage of them were as advertised - as they were supposedly certified to be (meaning in an N95 or KN95 it keeps out 95% of particles as small as viruses).

[**https://bonafidemasks.com/**](https://bonafidemasks.com/) - This website came out on top (and way better than Amazon where I believe about 50% were not up to the standards). You can choose ones with bands that go all the way around the heads or the ones with ear loops. They also have kids KN95s which are very hard to find. (I have no financial interest in this website.)

Robin Councilman

**Plymouth Rockers Concert!**

The Plymouth Rockers 30th Annual Holiday Concert is **Sunday, December 5** at the Wayzata High School, 4955 Peony Lane North, Plymouth, MN starting at **3:00** pm.

**A red and white sign

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceToys for Tots**

The St. Louis Park Police Department is hosting Toys for Tots drop-off locations to help families in need this holiday season. Donated toys will be given to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve for distribution to deserving families. New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the following St. Louis Park locations by Dec. 15:

* St. Louis Park Police Department, 3015 Raleigh Ave. S.
* Nelson’s Meats, 6318 Minnetonka Blvd.
* AAA Minneapolis, 5400 Auto Club Way

**A Virtual Tour of Vietnam**

This week, Tom and Eunice experience “weasel coffee.”

Shape

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In Ho Chi Minh we had an opportunity to have another home meal, the next one was a simple humble home of a fisherman and family. No one spoke English except a niece they had invited who was studying English in school. Although it proved a bit of work to communicate you could feel the warmth of the family, all eyes on us, making sure our plates were never empty, smiling, showing us pictures of their family at their spirit houses, and truthfully although language was a difficult issue, we felt more welcome here than in the house where the main issue was to point out that life in Vietnam can compete with the West!

A picture containing grass, outdoor, nature, mountain

Description automatically generatedDalat, the central highlands is home to the Montagnard - farmers, of over 30 different clans - and they still are living there today. One day we took a tour up roads so difficult to pass we had to leave our bus and ride a home-made contraption that was a wagon with wooden seats and some form of engine put on a driving lawn mower. We were hanging on for dear life, but we arrived at a small village filled with children running up to us and jumping on to finish the ride up.

We had a meeting with the village leader and his wife. It seemed strange to see the picture of the Pope on their wall and realize this was a Catholic community. We toured the school that OAT had provided funds for, however the school was not in session at the time. It was very basic, primitive, raw benches facing a black board, and the “library” was a small table with a few books on the wall in racks.

The French introduced Coffee production to Vietnam in 1857. The climate of the Central Highlands provided the perfect climate for growth and today it is Vietnam’s cash crop; the largest customer today is the US.

A picture containing outdoor, meal

Description automatically generatedWe had the interesting and rather amusing trip to a coffee plantation where a very special coffee Ca phe Chon - “weasel coffee” - is produced. The red berries of the coffee plant are eaten by weasels, where their enzymes digest the berries. When they are “expelled” in a few days the product has been refined, harshness removed and a very delicate and delicious coffee is produced. It is world famous and in Paris sells for over 40 Euros a cup.

A picture containing mammal, sitting, ground, outdoor

Description automatically generatedWe were offered a sample and it was delicious, if one could overcome the thought of it moving through the bowels of a weasel. This was forgotten it in as all things strange and “beyond our comfort zone” our guide Tom proved again to be correct. There was a shop there and I purchased as much as I could carry home and for several years had a great joy of shocking dinner guests with weasel coffee.

Next week: *The food of Vietnam.*

**Logo, company name

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**Gail Devery,** daughter of Miriam, and **Miriam** herself, as Gail recovers from a stroke. She is now living at Miriam’s house.

**Roven Evans,** who is returning to her apartment after having had a stroke. She has been away from her home for more than a month.

Prayers of thanksgivingthat both **Pat Wilson** and **Jake Hamilton**, who have had Covid 19, now test negative for the virus.

**Upcoming Birthdays**



Jerry Larson December 16

Donna Howard December 22

Kim North December 22

Dave Councilman December 31

**Worship Resources**

You can click on this link to join the Zoom meeting, for Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday meetings:

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

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

The meeting ID is 504-676-8135.

For Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/PeacePresbyterian>

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 posting Sunday bulletins ahead of the service on our website at <https://www.peaceprez.com/news/publications/>