

Announcements for Sunday, December 6, 2015

New Announcements

This morning's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Bill Duncan by his wife, Liz, in honor of their 30th wedding anniversary.

From Karen Wagner, Director of Christian Education for Faith Formation: Beloved Community, next year's budget shortfall is expected to be significant (> \$5K), as recent deficits have been. We can't have it all. December 27th will be my last Sunday at Faith, and I hope you will be here for worship and a potluck lunch to celebrate our six years of ministry together.

Neighbors in Need Offering: Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Special Mission Offering of Neighbors in Need on November 22nd. The total amount that has been received so far is \$267.00.

Christmas Eve at Faith: Our family service will be in the sanctuary at 5:00 p.m. There will be a potluck supper in the Social Hall at 6:00 p.m. Please sign up across from the kitchen if you are coming. A candlelight service with communion will be in the sanctuary at 8:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Join us for Christmas caroling! On Sunday, December 20th, we will be caroling to our shut-ins from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. following a special lunch for carolers. Please sign up on the bulletin board opposite the kitchen before you leave church next Sunday.

This year's Giving Tree is up and full of ornaments! Take an ornament, or two, off the tree, purchase the item and place it, unwrapped, under the tree. All items must be new. Donations will be accepted through December 20th. Thank you for your support!

2016 pledge envelopes will be available for pick up starting next Sunday, December 13th.

The Faith Reading Group will meet on Wednesday, February 3rd, to discuss J. Brent Morris's *Oberlin, Hotbed of Abolitionism: College, Community, and the Fight for Freedom and Equality in Antebellum America*. Meet in the kitchen at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments. Discussion in the parlor starts at 7:30 p.m. Please come.

Music Teacher Oksana Melnychenko invites everyone at Faith to a Christmas Recital in the Social Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 19th. The recital will feature Oksana's students, a number of whom have played for our services. The recital is free and open to the community. A reception will follow.

Previous Announcements

The Pastoral Review Committee has begun its work and is welcoming input. The committee members are Gail Yusko, Rick Lorentz, Kathy Gambatese, Carol Cover, and Ken Willert.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13th at 11:30 a.m. The annual report of the congregation has been emailed. A limited number of paper copies will be available for pick up after worship today, Sunday, December 6th.

Faith Friends welcome The Northcoast Women's Ensemble this Tuesday, December 8th, at 1:00 p.m. Bring your friends as this Christmas Concert is one everyone will enjoy. Refreshments will follow in the Social Hall. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

Faith Bakers: It's that time of year when we need cookies for shut-ins, hospital and nursing care staff, and for our own Christmas Eve potluck. Please bring home-made treats to the church kitchen by 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, December 20th. The senior highs are assembling the tins (and checking for quality), so they are ready for caroling after worship.

Wake Up! Bach's Cantata *Wachet Auf* ("Wake Up!"), written in 1731, incorporates settings for Baroque orchestra and choir of the three verses of the well-known Advent hymn "Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying." This hymn was written in 1599 by the Lutheran pastor Philipp Nicolai as part of a collection of hymns to console his congregation after plague killed hundreds of his parishioners. Albert Schweitzer said of Bach's arrangement of the first verse, "Not until Berlioz shall we meet with any dramatic pictorial music comparable to this."

At 9:00 a.m. on **December 13th, and 20th**, we'll consider the meanings of these hymn verses in light of the Revised Common Lectionary Bible readings for Advent, listen for how Bach maps these meanings to music, and try to discern what this means for our spiritual lives as we prepare for Christ's coming here and now. (In keeping with the theme, extra strong coffee will be available in the kitchen at 8:50 a.m.)

For a preview and links to study materials, go to the church website and click on the "Wake Up!" link in the navigation area at the left of the page.