

DECEMBER 2018

CURRENTS

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A publication of EAGLE RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PROGRAM REHEARSALS CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This Year our children are putting on a modified version of "Charlie Brown Christmas" and will be performing with the chimes as well. Practice is every Sunday during Sunday School from now until December 23rd, with an additional Saturday rehearsal if needed. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating, please talk to Paige Saylor.

Earthquake Update

Thank you SO MUCH to everyone who came and worshipped with us on Sunday as we worked together to clean up from the earthquake damage and to all of you who have been here this week continuing the work. We have had a structural engineer inspect the building and he assured us that it is safe for occupancy. The fire inspector was here on Sunday and our fire suppression system was not damaged. We filed a claim with our property insurance and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance reached out to us through the Presbytery, offering help and hope.

We have much work to do and the building will be visibly 'under construction' for some time to come, but we are grateful to God for his protection and care for each of us during last week's quake. I find comfort in these words from Psalm 46: *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.*

Please join us on Sunday for Advent worship and let us celebrate God's goodness and blessings as we praise Him together and look for the coming of His Son!

Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Some of us may need help dealing with parties and celebrations that don't mesh with how we feel and that are painful for ourselves and for our community.

If you or someone you know is having trouble this Christmas season, please join us for a Blue Christmas service on Wednesday, December 6 at 7 pm for a time of reflection, learning to accept where we are, and hearing of God's gift of healing and hope.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
DECEMBER 12 at 7:00pm

SALUTING OUR TROOPS



FOR 50 YEARS

Friends of Our Troops!

Thank you to everyone who took the time to sign a card to send to our deployed troops that will be spending Christmas away from their friends and family this year. We sent in 300 cards.



E-Currents! The monthly Currents are available by email. Please let the office know if you would like to start receiving by email instead of/in addition to the hard copy that is mailed.

Please be sure to like and follow us on Facebook. Stay informed of upcoming events and current activities. The more likes and shares that we get, the more people that we are able to reach. Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/ERPresbyterianChurch/>

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that we are almost into December and Advent starts on the 2nd. This year has flown by so fast, hasn't it? Every year when we come to Advent I am always surprised at how quickly this time of preparation for Christ's birth arrives. In worship for these four Advent Sundays we will be focusing on this in-between time: what does it mean to live between promise and fulfillment? It's almost as if we have a foot in two worlds, because so many of us are in between hope and despair, joy and sorrow, good health and physical and mental struggles.

In Advent we can learn how to live fully in the present while at the same time looking forward to the life God has prepared for us when we will be fully present with Him and with each other. We can learn how to work for God's kingdom that has already come and yet is still coming. In Advent we can focus on the presence of Christ in our lives and the coming presence of Christ as both the child in the manger and the reigning Lord of the universe.

Henri Nouwen has these words to say about living in these in-between days: *Advent does not lead to nervous tension stemming from expectation of something spectacular about to happen. On the contrary, it leads to a growing inner stillness and joy allowing me to realize that he for whom I am waiting has already arrived and speaks to me in the silence of my heart.*

Just as a mother feels the child grow in her and is not surprised on the day of the birth, but joyfully receives the one she learned to know during her waiting, so Jesus can be born in my life slowly and steadily and be received as the one I learned to know while waiting. —Henri J.M. Nouwen, The Genesee Diary

I am glad to be journeying through Advent with all of you, living in these in-between days together! See you on Sunday –

In joyful anticipation,

Piper



POINSETTIA ORDERS

Each year we decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias purchased by the congregation in memory or in honor of loved ones. You can purchase one for \$12.

On December 17th, poinsettias will adorn the sanctuary and names of honorees will be published in the bulletin. Poinsettias can be taken home after Worship on December 31st.



Holiday Bunko

Joanne Banks will be hosting this year's holiday Bunko game. The game is super easy to learn so come and join in on the fun. Games will be Dec 22nd at 2pm. You can contact Joanne by phone to get her address 907-229-3858.

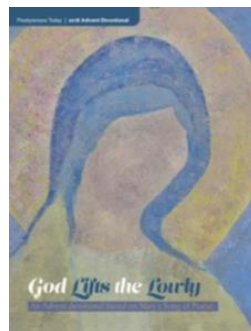


Presbyterians Today 2018 Advent Devotional God Lifts the Lowly

During this holy season of Advent, we are invited to pray and contemplate with Mary in her Song of Praise — the Magnificat — found in Luke 1:46-53.

This year's devotional is very special. The paintings and poems are the work of Andrew Weatherly, a young Presbyterian man born with Down syndrome, who uses his gifts to raise awareness of the capabilities of those with special needs. The rest of the text — reflections and prayers for each day of Advent — is the joint work of Donna Frischknecht Jackson, pastor and editor of *Presbyterians Today* and sister to a man with special needs,

and Krin Van Tatenhove, also a pastor who is father to a special-needs son. With great love and joy, Andrew, Donna and Krin bring God's might and Mary's "yes!" to life in powerful new ways. **Copies are available for you to pick up. Please take ONE per family.**



Cy Kiehl	1-Dec
Andy Kmak	6-Dec
David Arlington	15-Dec
Brooke Freimuth	22-Dec
Kelsey Davidson	25-Dec
Ross McCarthy	25-Dec
Carol Pool	28-Dec
Kaitlin Kelly	28-Dec
Tony Petroccia	31-Dec



John and Patti Malecha	December 16
Wayne and Linda Armstrong	December 23
Gary and Jean McCarthy	December 27
Jim and Kim Arlington	December 30



Birthday Party for Jesus and Christmas Carols with Chelsea Berry

Join us December 30th for cupcakes and snacks to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. We will also be celebrating our friends and family born in December and those with an Anniversary. Chelsea Berry will be performing Christmas Carols for all to sing along.

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**CELEBRATE WITH US THIS
CHRISTMAS SEASON**

EAGLE RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE every Sunday in December at 10am
BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE on December 12TH at 7pm
FAMILY CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE at 7:30pm
CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE at 10pm



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