



**Hopkins &  
South Monterey**  
United Methodist Churches

DEC 2022 /  
JAN 2023

# THE VOICE



**Welcome to Advent, Church Family!**



This time of year brings to mind so many memories. Good memories! Memories of time with family, memories of traditions, memories of love and of laughter. I was blessed with a childhood living close to many in my extended family, and so the holidays always meant getting together with them. I have fond memories of baking Christmas treats to the sound of Christmas carols on the old radio with my Grammy. I smile whenever I see a Christmas bow and think of the fun my cousins and I had hiding the bows around the house for my grandparents to find for weeks to come. I miss the days of going to a Dickens themed Christmas festival in a nearby historic town and hearing the familiar story of a Christmas Carol, time and again. I give thanks for the opportunity I had each year to be the one who put up the family nativity set. Little did I know then, that my job when I grew up would be all about telling the story of those who I placed in that lowly stable. Growing up, we didn't go to the Christmas Eve services so much as we prioritized our family gatherings, but I have long been very familiar with the Christmas story. I learned the story well through the many weeks of Advent Sundays and many hours listening to the Christmas hymns. Now, the story means all the more. A lot of Christians lament that the Christmas season has lost a lot of its intended meaning, become too commercial and gimmicky. And yeah, in a lot of ways Christmas has probably become a bit too much about the material things and overly stressful with the decorations and gifts. But perhaps some of those critiques are too hard on the ways different families celebrate the holiday. The ways we all celebrate Christmas come from the ways that our stories have led us to this moment, speak to the ways our families and friends have influenced our lives, show how we make time and effort for those we care about. Even the way traditions have changed and shifted throughout the generations show how our interconnected lives have an effect on each other.

Christmas time, whether it is full of faith or as far from religious practices as it can be, lives out what Christ being born among us is about. Christ is God dwelling among us, choosing to become human and live with humans, and have full relationships with family and friends. Jesus interweaved God's story into the human story in a way that it wasn't before and couldn't be undone. Just as we become interwoven with each others' lives as we celebrate the holidays together. This season prompts us to remember gratitude for each other, to share generously with those around us and with those who don't have enough, to create and live out traditions, to hold onto memories of those we love. As we live into the season, as we interweave our lives with each other, we are living out how God wants us to live bringing hope, love, joy, and peace. And as we live those out as a community, we are being the embodiment of Christ for each other. A Christ who we celebrate is in the world, became one of us, and continues to be among us in unexpected ways.

Blessings on this Advent and Christmas season, Church family. I hope you can spend the holidays wrapped in warm memories and making new ones. I look forward to hearing your stories of Christ among you.

Peace, *Pastor Kelsey*

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**Have you been having a hard time? Are you struggling with doubts or questions about God, our faith or the church?**

Pastor Kelsey would love to meet with you.  
Open Office Hours: Tues & Wed 12pm-5pm  
OR Call to schedule a time to meet  
(in her office, at your home, or out for coffee)  
Phone (Calls or Texts): 248-613-0366

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# Advent 2022



FROM  
GENERATION  
TO GENERATION...

As we read through and studied the scriptures we selected, a line from Mary's song of protest and praise gave us pause:

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

(Luke 1: 48b-50)

Despite the challenges and vulnerability she faced, Mary could glimpse the scale and scope of the good news she was part of bringing forth. This good news transcends time and space—it was and is bigger than just her. Christ is coming for collective liberation: God's redemption is at work for years to come. Therefore, the promise is meant to be lived out and passed on from generation to generation.

We are invited to look at the characters in our scriptures and wonder: What did each character pass on or contribute? How did each character participate in God's liberation and love? Which characters try to thwart God's justice and what can we learn from them? What is our role now? What is our generation's task? What will we carry forth, and what should we leave behind?

The root word of "generation" is "gen" meaning "origin" or "birth." Our theme is also a call to action: what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Who are the spiritual elders in your community who planted the seeds for the things

that are now blooming? What seeds are you planting for the future?

From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. In the midst of narratives, policies, and rhetoric designed to divide us, what does it look like to practice belonging to one another? The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent season, how will we carry it forth?

## Advent Activities!

Here are some ways to engage with the Advent season and our From Generation to Generation series...

- Daily devotional
  - You can take home a printed copy or find a digital version in the Flocknote email.
- Daily posts on the church Facebook page
  - Comment and converse with each other about what the content for that day made you think about!
- Advent Calendar
  - Little activities or things to think about for each day of Advent.
  - Take home a nativity jar for your family to put together throughout the season
- Spend time with the Christmas story scriptures.
  - Matthew 1-2
  - Luke 1-2
  - John 1
- Listen to your favorite Christmas songs
- Spend time learning about your family history or family tree & write it down!
- Spend some time finding and reading all the stories of those listed in Jesus's genealogy
- Find non-profits or organizations that live out sharing love, joy, peace, and hope for generations and give with time or money.
- Re-introduce some of the family Christmas traditions you miss or have always wanted to try yourself. Or learn about someone else's tradition.

Like last year, during Advent there will be some fun crafts/activities to do during fellowship time in the hall after Hopkins worship. The church is supplying the main supplies, but there are a few things that we could get your help with that we think you might have just laying around.

- Ribbons in darker blues or purples, gold, white
- Images of the nativity (from old X-mas cards, magazines, printed, stickers, old Sunday school materials, etc.)
- Printed or copied photos of people you have seen God through (these will be cut up and glued)
- Any fun scrap paper in blues, purples, cardstock, wrapping paper, magazines, etc.
- White or gold gel pens
- Scrap fabric in blues, purples, and golds (to be made into short strips (¼ to ¾ wide))
- Scrap yarn or string
- Wire cutters (will go back home with you)
- Hot glue guns (will go back home with you)

## *Advent Schedule*

First Sunday of Advent: Hope

- Nov 27th
- Theme: There is Room for Every Story
- Scripture: Matthew 1:1-17
- Craft: Story-Telling Wreaths

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

- Dec 4th
- Theme: God Meets us in our Fear
- Scripture: Luke 1:26-38
- Craft: Fear-Holding Ornaments

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

- Dec 11th
- Theme: We Can Choose a Better Way
- Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25
- Craft: Blooming Wire Sculptures

Family Christmas Party

- Dec 14th, Wed. 5:30pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love

- Dec 18th
- Theme: We See God in Each Other
- Scripture: Luke 1:39-58
- Craft: Imago Dei Luminaries

Longest Night

- Dec 21st
- Theme: Blue Christmas

Christmas Eve

- Dec 24th
- Theme: We Tell this Story
- Scripture: Luke 2:1-20
- Craft: Nativity Collage Storyboards

Christmas Morning

- Dec 25th
- Theme: We Tell this Story
- Craft: Make-up missed craft/no craft

Christmastide Sunday

- Jan 1st
- Theme: God Dwells With Us
- Christmas No-Rehearsal Pageant
- Christmas Carol Day!
- Craft: God With Us Weavings

Epiphany Sunday

- Jan 8th
- Theme: We Keep Seeking
- Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23
- Craft: Watercolor Stars of Bethlehem



## Winter Worship Schedule

9:30 am at South Monterey UMC

11am at Hopkins UMC

Combined worship services are at 10am

Keep an eye out for special holiday services happening other days of the week.

We will report any delays or closings to Channel 4 & 8.

## Celebrating All Offerings

It has been a blessing to recognize all the ways God is working among us and through us as a community and to celebrate all the ways God's Kingdom can be seen around us. Below is a collection of ways that our church family has given to the Kingdom in the last couple months:

- 18+ shoeboxes sent to Samaritan's Purse for Shoebox Christmas
- Over \$200 sent to the Wesley Foundation campus ministries
- Paid 100% of our ministry shares to the conference
- Generous giving to the Hopkins Food Pantry
- Opened HUM Hall for senior meals, Halloween guests and a Thanksgiving feast.

## Hopkins UMC Online Giving

Tithe.ly is a secure way to give online from your computer or phone that gives you the ability to give to the offering via credit/debit card from anywhere. You can give once or set up a giving schedule. It is easy to navigate and gives you one less thing to have to remember when trying to get out the door Sunday morning.

Go to: <http://hopkinsumchurch.org/give/> to learn about and give through tithe.ly!

## 💰 LOOSE CHANGE 💰

The December collection is going to the Methodist Children's Home Society. Learn more about their good work at <https://mchsmi.org/>

The January collection will be applied to our church ministry shares.

## Subscribe to Flocknote

To receive church updates: text **HopkinsUMC to 84576** or [flocknote.com/HopkinsUMC](http://flocknote.com/HopkinsUMC). The Flocknote is our weekly e-news that gives a review of the last week's service, gives some details for the coming Sunday service, and shares announcements for upcoming events. Sometimes we share new music that we will be using in worship, or extra materials for a worship series.

## Worship Wednesday!

Our children's/family worship "Worship Wednesdays" continues! 4th Wednesday of each month, 5:30-7pm at HUM Hall. We will return, after the winter holidays, on **January 25th**. We have a snack, lesson, game/activity, and simple dinner. Parents are invited to stick around and take part with your children. We are continuing our Superhero theme!



## 2023 Calendar:

January 25  
February 22  
March 22

April 26  
May 24

## Crafts & Fellowship

We continue to host a gathering, the *first and third Thursdays of the month, from 3-5pm in HUM Hall*. Crafts or activities of any kind are welcome. People have been known to knit, crochet, do paper crafts, sewing, etc! (Or no craft at all!) The group loves to share crafting skills, ideas, and tips with each other, too! Feel free to bring snacks, beverages, or just yourself. Come hang out with us!

## UPCOMING THURSDAYS

December 1 & 15

January 5 & 19

# COME JOIN THE FUN!



The prayer group meets on Mondays from 9-10am in HUM Hall. Everyone is welcome! You don't have to pray out loud. Just lift your heart to God. If you have questions or would like to share a prayer request, please contact Linda Burton-Collier at 793-7340.

## Thanks for your help!!

We don't have a full time custodian right now. You can help keep our Hall and Sanctuary clean by **picking up** any left behind bulletins, paper, leaves, etc.

In HUM Hall we're asking that you **replace any garbage bags** that you remove. The bags are kept in the kitchen by the big garbage cans. Is the **toilet paper** gone? Please get some from the shelves in the classroom. No **paper towel** in a bathroom or the kitchen? The extra is also in the classroom.

If you notice that we are running low on any supplies, please talk to Merle Edgell, Jim Ringler or Mike Ballard. They will make sure we have the needed supplies.

Any help you can give will be much appreciated. Thanks in advance.



P.S. HUM Hall carpet will be cleaned on Thursday, January 5th. Watch for details about how you can help with tear down and/or set up when it's clean and dry.

# Thank You!

*Thank you to Dick and Judy Weick & volunteers for decorating the sanctuary for Advent/Christmas!*

So much appreciation for Kristine Brinkhuis & Kirstin Heft for organizing and running the Halloween event. It was so fun serving so many in the community! And it went so well.

Congratulations and thanks to the new UWF leadership! You all stepping up is important and gives us hope for the important ministry that the group does and the missions it supports.

Thank you, Vern, for always being ready to light the candles on Sunday morning. Also, thank you for making sure the Advent candles will be easier to light.

Juanita and Holly - Thank you for opening your hearts and HUM Hall for a community Thanksgiving meal. It sounds like it was a great success.

Thanks, in advance, to everyone who is willing to participate in lighting the Advent candles. It's wonderful to have our church family participate in this important part of our Advent worship services.



# Hopkins Worship Volunteers

## DECEMBER

**December Greeters: Bob & Judy Beck**

### **Dec 4**

Children's Message - Linda Burton-Collier

Liturgist - Linda Burton-Collier

Communion Server - Judy Beck

Fellowship snacks - Alys Edgell, Mary Howard, Judy Kraft, and Judy Weick

### **Dec 11**

Children's Message - Pastor Kelsey

Liturgist - Carole Prather

Fellowship snacks - Linda Burton-Collier, Juanita Curtis, Kirstin Heft, and Sandy Ringler

### **Dec 18**

Children's Message - Mary Howard

Liturgist - Julie Austin

Fellowship snacks - Judy Beck, Mitzi Crowe, Jane Kaule and Holly Steiner

### **Dec 25 - Christmas Morning**

Join us for worship and breakfast at 10am in HUM Hall.

## JANUARY

**January Greeters: Juanita Curtis & Merle Edgell**

### **Jan 1**

Children's Message - Alys Edgell

Liturgist - Vern Kraft

Fellowship snacks - Tadd & Kirstin Heft

### **Jan 8**

Children's Message - Pastor Kelsey

Liturgist - Mary Howard

Communion Server - Merle Edgell

Fellowship snacks - Vern & Judy Kraft

### **Jan 15**

Children's Message - Mitzi Crowe

Liturgist - Alys Edgell

Fellowship snacks - Debbie Lemmer

### **Jan 22**

Children's Message - Mary Howard

Liturgist - Kirstin Heft

Fellowship snacks - Becks & Juanita Curtis

### **Jan 29**

Children's Message - Linda Burton-Collier

Liturgist - Judy Beck

Fellowship snacks - **UWF Soup & Salad Lunch**

## FEBRUARY

**February Greeters: Jim & Sandy Ringler**

### **Feb 5**

Children's Message - Alys Edgell

Liturgist - Mitzi Crowe

Communion Server - Mary Howard

Fellowship snacks - Mitzi Crowe & Jane Kaule

**\*\*If you are not part of our worship team but would like to be, please talk to Mitzi so she can put you on future schedules.**



### December Birthdays

13 - Jennifer Tew-Salisbury

26 - Holly DeVries

19 - Kinian Mack

27 - Sandy Ringler

20 - Mary Herrema

29 - Melanie Velderman

### January Birthdays

4 - Phyllis Thomas

12 - Julie Saganski

6 - Deanna Haas

23 - Alys Edgell

Holly Steiner

29 - Darcie Mack



### December Anniversaries

2 - Dick & Judy Weick

14 - Don & Judy Collier

12 - Todd & Karen Collier

### January Anniversaries

10 - Kenny & Nancy Vogt



# DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30am SM Worship 11am H Worship 12am Coffee Fellowship & crafting	28 9am Prayer Meeting in HUM	29	30	1 3pm Rejoice Choir Practice 4pm Community Choir Practice 3-5pm Craft & Fellowship	2	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30am SM Worship 11am H Worship 12am Coffee Fellowship & crafting	5 9am Prayer Meeting in HUM 6:30pm Community Christmas Concert	6	7	8 3pm Rejoice Choir Practice	9	10
11 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30am SM Worship 11am H Worship 12am Coffee Fellowship & crafting	12 9am Prayer Meeting in HUM	13	14 5:30pm Family Christmas Party in HUM Hall	15 3pm Rejoice Choir Practice 3-5pm Craft & Fellowship	16	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30am SM Worship 11am H Worship 12am Coffee Fellowship & crafting	19 9am Prayer Meeting in HUM	20	21 6pm Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service	22 3pm Rejoice Choir Practice	23	24 6:30pm Worship at SM 11pm Candlelight Service
25 Christmas Sunday 10am PJ Brunch Worship 11am Crafting Time	26	27	28	29	30	31

# JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Christmastide Sunday 10am Joint Worship Service 11am Crafting Time	2 9am Prayer Meeting in HUM	3	4	5 3pm Rejoice Choir Practice 3-5pm Craft & Fellowship	6	7
8 Epiphany Sunday 9:30am SM Worship 11am H Worship 12am Coffee Fellowship & crafting	9 9am Prayer Meeting in HUM	10	11	12 3pm Rejoice Choir Practice	13	14
15 9:30am SM Worship 11am H Worship	16 9am Prayer Meeting in HUM	17	18	19 3pm Rejoice Choir Practice 3-5pm Craft & Fellowship	20	21
22 9:30am SM Worship 11am H Worship	23 9am Prayer Meeting in HUM	24	25 5:30pm Worship Wednesday	26 3pm Rejoice Choir Practice	27	28
29 9:30am SM Worship 11am H Worship 12pm Soup & Salad Lunch	30 9am Prayer Meeting in HUM	31	1	2 3pm Rejoice Choir Practice 3-5pm Craft & Fellowship	3	4
5 9:30am SM Worship 11am H Worship	6 9am Prayer Meeting in HUM	7	8	9 3pm Rejoice Choir Practice	10	11