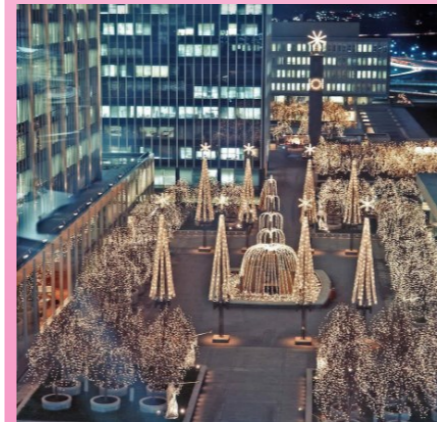


*Oh Come
Let Us
Adore Him,
Christ
the
Lord!*

Thanksgiving morning: I decided to write about December over the accompanying sounds of the clanging clamor of preparation in the kitchen; an ironic serenade that created a symphony of clashing cymbals—sounds alchemizing into the rising wafts of new aromas. Revelry sat on the wings of those smells as our kitchen crackled with the sounds of laughter as friends and family stirred both pots and memories.

From the adjacent room, my thoughts drifted to my experiences of the holiday season in years past, and how the Friday after Thanksgiving signaled the beginning of Christmas. For many, the “Friday after” meant flooding into the malls, stores and outlets while chasing sales and wandering wide-eyed children enraptured in the glow of a commercially-coaxed Christmas cheer. For me, I often think about this



celebration called the Festival of Lights. It is held annually on Constitution Plaza in downtown Hartford. The winter wonderland of events was punctuated by the magical moment when a Santa-suited host would lead the congregation in a liturgical countdown in an open-air sanctuary surrounded by a myriad of unlit lights hiding in plain sight. The silent pause after the crowd completed their “3... 2...1” would be instantly filled with the gasping sounds of awe from gaping mouths as all at once the whole plaza would be bathed in a luminescent brilliance; the sudden blare of Christmas music filling the night sky.



This magic has remained with me. In Connecticut, my Decembers, though much less dramatic in my adult years, often led me to reflect on the things that bring me awe. This usually took on the form of slow-paced walks in night parks, and, if I was lucky, sometimes those paths had freshly felled snow. In California, my Decembers have been quite different. Of course, there is no longer the prospect of snow being in the forecast (I’m thankful), but I have maintained a tradition that connects me to the days of my youth.



In Old Sacramento, there is an annual event that our family attends called the Theater of Lights. It is a stirring show that



spans an entire block and features music, animatronics, and performances by live actors. Lights, laser displays, and decorations embellish the Old West style buildings, and the “theater” happens around and sometimes above the crowd gathered in the street. All of this is done under the watchful eye of a giant presiding tree fully adorned in all manner of Christmas lights. Though I have never seen a Santa-suited host offering countdowns in Old Sac, that sense of magic is present all the same.

Though I am a long way, both in time and space, from being part of that awe-filled night-clad congregation on Constitution Plaza in Hartford, my mind was transported back to that sense of awe as I hung out with my teenaged daughter. On the “Friday after” we went to Old Sac to get some late-night Hot Cocoa. As we drove around the cobbled streets, we turned a corner and suddenly, the giant Christmas tree came into full view. In a momentary lapse of the prescribed “cool” that teenagers everywhere have vowed to maintain especially when spending time in the public with their parents, she, with a gaping mouth and an audible gasp, pointed out that the tree was lit! In acknowledgment, I smiled slightly, but on the inside, the smile was much bigger.

Continued on page 2

*T
H
E*

*C
H
I
M
E
S*



Charles Dickens once wrote,
"Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home!"

Somehow, Dicken's quote rings truer and truer each December. My hope is that this month will offer us many opportunities to experience the magic in life, and even when things appear to be the darkest or the coldest, I pray that a sense of child-like wonder and awe will illumine and guide us to our own places of warmth, comfort, and home.
Blessings, Pastor Mahsea

Advent

Advent has arrived with all of its purple splendor. It is the beginning of the Christian liturgical year and its four weeks point us to the celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas. This is the time for the weekly lightings of Advent wreaths, the daily revelations behind tiny doors on Advent calendars, and the gospel retelling of Christ's birth within diverse Christian communities from all around the world. I am also aware of the deluge of iconography and images of these sacred events that flood the public's imagination including those depicting the "The Holy Family."



Of all the paintings that capture Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus, none has moved me more than the one created by the great Janet McKenzie. This Vermont based artist has produced stunning representations of sacred characters and themes that primarily feature women of color as models. McKenzie's famous "Jesus of the People," a painting that won a worldwide competition in 1999 sponsored by the National Catholic Reporter, has not only been reproduced in countless prints around the world, but I see it on my desk every time I walk into my office at church. This Advent, it is my hope that you not only rediscover the joy of Christmas, but the power in being able to see yourself truly reflected in this timeless story.



Janet McKenzie

Blessings, Pastor Mahsea



December is a month marked by holy celebrations, personal reflection, and the onset of a new year's beginning. I don't know about you but it seems this year's end approached quickly and quietly amidst the excitement of physical gatherings and the return of our pre-pandemic activities. The last 6 months, I found myself savoring the "normal" things I took for granted. These include things like conversations filled with laughter, retelling beautiful stories with friends and family, sharing a meal where all aspect of my senses (the look, smell, taste, sounds, and feel) are delightfully activated, and being greeted with a prolonged hug with closed eyes and a genuine smile to feel the fullness of it in the moment. These reflections make the year 2021 one of the most heartfelt I've experienced yet. As I wrap up this year, I am doing so with a profound sense of gratitude and love for life and all living things. Kawami Evans

Trunk or Treat Thank You!

I want to thank all the volunteers, all those who donated candy, all those who decorated their trunks, those who served food and those who stayed to clean up. A special thank you to Prosper Placer for their support. It was a very successful event due to your efforts. I think we had close to one hundred people take part in the event
Thank you, Thank you, Connie Witherow



Agape Men's Group

At our November meeting we gathered together and shared our family Thanksgiving traditions and memorable Thanksgiving experiences. The common theme was that Thanksgiving is a time to gather with family, including grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins. Members expressed gratitude for the cherished memories of Thanksgivings past. Yours truly shared a family experience while dining at his great-aunt (lived to be 110-years-old) and great-uncle's. There was a cobweb hanging from the 1920-1930's-era chandelier. My brother, who was probably 4 or 5-years-old, prayed: "Dear God, we hope the cobweb does not fall in our food." (I am sure our parents wanted to crawl under the table!)

Our next gathering will be on Saturday, December 11, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in Heritage Chapel. Our burning question of the day will be: Share a family Christmas tradition; and your favorite Christmas song. Any questions please contact any of the Agape Team members (Don Harris, Cliff Williams, Dave Sechrist, Thom King, and Jim Wecker) or Dennis Bull at 630-781-6110. Please join us as we celebrate the yuletide season.
Dennis Bull

3C's Say Thank You!

We want to thank all the people that baked pies, cookies, cakes etc. for our Fall Craft and Bake Sale on November 14th. In the words of Don Lesnick "that was the best bake sale ever!" It was such a joy to be together after such a long absence. Many thanks to all who purchased craft items and baked goodies.
We Wish You a Merry Christmas!
Nancy Bray on behalf of 3C's

Prayer of Adoration

**Divine Creator, Holy Father,
In Whom Everything Consists.
We See You In:**

**A Majestic snow-capped peak,
the serenity of an alpine creek,
the power of a storming sea,
the wonder of a redwood tree**

**Woodland creatures, Savannah beasts,
the scent of Lilac and coral reefs,
breaching whales, and starlit skies
a colony of Monarch butterflies.**

**The heartbeat of an unborn babe,
a headstone on a loved-one's grave,
a child at a mother's breast
a tender wedding-night caress.**

**Choir hymns and worship bands,
the kindness of strangers and helping hands.
friendships old and friendships new,
children raised to Trust in You.**

**Generous, Gentle, Kind and True,
Everything Good comes from You
Gracious God, Worthy of All Praise,
We sing Your Glory with voices raised.**

K. Mirtoni
Feb. 2017



Opportunity to Serve

If you'd like to serve the church, but don't want to make a longterm commitment, we have several events coming up this month that may be just what you are looking for. We don't have all our dates set in stone yet but here are some opportunities to consider.

The sleeping bag exchange will be held on Monday, December 6th between noon and one. Donate a bag, or come and help with the exchange. Call Kathleen.(916)782-2450

We will be hosting our third vaccine clinic, for children and boosters, on Friday, December 10. In collaboration with Placer Prosper, Placer People of Faith Together and the Health Education Council, we will create a family-friendly winter fiesta with an emphasis on healthy holidays. There will be food trucks, with free food coupons for those who receive their shots. There will also be games and activities. There will be \$50 Visa cards for those who get their shots.

We plan for 2 banners for the church, and 1500 fliers to be door-knobbed. All of this will be paid for through grants and available community funds (including \$150 from our 3C's). I will be recruiting volunteers to deliver fliers and others to host the event. To volunteer please contact Cathie Wierbick, *(916) 257-0650

Christmas Gift Give-Away. For several years now, we have received gifts from the CHP. We have parents come in and "shop" for their children. "Shopping" dates are Dec. 15,16 &17, from 9:00 to 1:00. If you can give an hour or two to this worthy cause, call Kathleen *(916)782-2450. Spanish speakers welcome!!

There will also be a gift wrapping station. If you can help with this by giving your time or donating gift wrap, bags, tape and ribbon, please call Cathie Wierbick.*(916)315-8047

We will be returning to passing the plate at Sunday Service soon. If you would like to help with the passing of the plate, let Kathleen know and/or If you'd like to be a Greeter or an Usher.

Continuing with Sunday Coffee Fellowship will depend on the participation of many people. If you can give of your time once in a while, please contact Dave Sechrist. *(925)596-1726. I believe he has a sign up sheet. We can't have fellowship every week and expect the same two or three people to put it together every week!!

We are looking for money-counters after Sunday Service. The same two people having been doing it every week. We need more people to take turns with this important task. Call Dave Sechrist.

If you would like to provide the altar flowers on any Sunday, please contact Nancy Bray. *(530)941-8138

*All contact info is in our directory. If you do not have one, call the office. Connie will see that you get one.

Have a Blessed and Very Merry Christmas Season! Kathleen Mirtoni

Night Drive During Labor

As I clicked my seatbelt I prayed a quick, ' Please Bless the baby, Rose' safety and this road'.. After my eyes adjusted to pitch blackness... Passing a big rig Trucker, I had a strange feeling I should check my rear view mirror. I was surprised to see a glowing Cross between his headlights. Yes, Jesus was on the road with me, Shining His Light, Blessing the birth.

Much Love and Blessings, Gail Provine

*My inspirational story of my 30 minute dark drive to babysit Leo after receiving my daughter's emergency Labor Call.

Please keep the following people in your prayers.

Healing and Comfort:

Connie, Marie, Hazel,
Jim, Kayoko, Frank
Bob, Sara



For Bereavement

Tanya, Laura and Family

Please submit prayer requests to prayers@firstumcroseville.org



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2ND JUDY SOLARI

4TH SAWYER STAUFFER

7TH BETH AITKEN

10TH JACKIE BEYER

BECKY MCGUIRE

16TH GRACE DOWNING

20TH CHRIS HANDLEY

21ST SCOTT EHLMAN

22ND GARY BREWER

23RD RYAN PERDUE

24TH ELLEN BULL

27TH RAY DAVIS

29TH SAMANTHA LUMLEY

CHASE WITHEROW

DIANE MCGUIRE

30TH LARRY KONCEWICZ

October/November Noses, Dollars, and Cents

Basic Monthly Statistics

Income Oct. 2021: \$ 11,504.80

Expenses Oct. 2021: \$16,362.71

Net Income Oct. 2021: \$4,857.91

Transfer from Lending: \$ 0.00

New Total: \$4,857.91

Basic Yearly Statistics 2021

YTD Income: \$113,444.74

YTD Expense: \$136,627.54

Net Income: \$23,182.80

Transfer from Lending: \$2500.00

New Total: \$20,682.80

Thank you for your continued financial support. It is very much appreciated.

November Worship Attendance
Total: 235 Average: 59

The Monday Feeding Program
for the homeless served 311
meals in November



Thank you! Thank You!

A big thank you to my church family for their calls, cards, flowers, food and prayers during my cancer surgery, radiation, & recovery. I will be having a PET scan in December to check for cancer.

Connie Wecker.

FIRST CHURCH ROSEVILLE TEAM LEADERS

Pastor—Mahsea Evans
Certified Lay Minister—Kathleen Mirtoni
Church Council Chair—Kathleen Mirtoni
Treasurer—Chris Handley
Financial Secretary—Elizabeth Harvey
Finance Team Chair—Dave Sechrist
Trustees President—Don Harris
Staff Parish Chair—Dennis Bull
Mission Outreach—Kathleen Mirtoni
Memorial—Barbara Schwartz
Worship Team Leader—Nancy Bray
Congregational Care—Gail Provine
Music Director—John Handley
Communications—Kristi Kinzel
Lay Leadership Training—Kristi Kinzel



Recycle November 13th \$115.00
Please keep saving your
recyclables to bring in on
Saturday December 11th, 2021 in
the parking lot between 9-11 AM
Thanks to all! It helps our
church pay our bills.
Don Harris, Trustee President

Historical Gleanings

The Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Methodist church will hold its annual bazaar and food sale Thursday, December 11th in the Pacific Gas and Electric company office. Home cooked foods, articles suitable for Christmas gifts including pot holders, dish towels,, pillow slips, luncheon sets and aprons will be offered for sale. Mrs. Paul Philips is the general chairman.

The Roseville Press Tribune
Dec 1, 1941
Phoebe Astill, Historian

Not so very different from our Fall
Craft and Bake Sale on Nov. 14th

Church Email: firstumc@firstumcroseville.org
Prayer Requests: prayers@firstumcroseville.org
Chimes Article Submissions: chimes@firstumcroseville.org
Pastor: mevans@firstumcroseville.org
Certified Lay Leader: kmirtoni@firstumcroseville.org
Administrative Assistant: cwitherow@firstumcroseville.org
Office Volunteer: nbray@firstumcroseville.org