

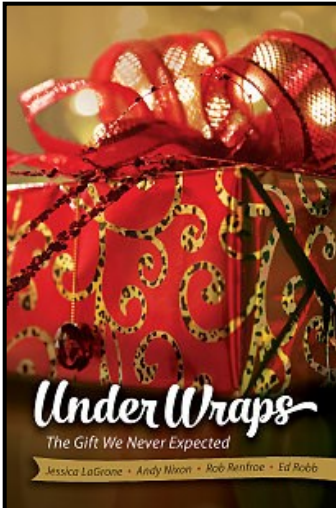
# The Dove Tale

United Methodist Church of Peace Richfield, Minnesota

Volume Eleven

December 2018

Issue 10



## Opening the True Gift of Christmas

In his sermon series for December, Pastor Woojae invites us to study the layers of God's character, as Jesus came to reveal to us when he took on human flesh and lived among us. We will focus on what God is *really* like., as we open the true gift of Christmas!

### Christmas Concert

*Presented by*  
The Church of Peace  
Chancel Choir  
*with Special Guest*  
Flutist Linda Hershey  
**Sunday, December 16**  
**@ 10:30 a.m.**

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

**Monday, December 24**  
**@ 5:00 p.m.**

### Quick Highlights

#### Senior Social

Wednesdays, December 5, 12, 19, & 26  
@ 9:30 a.m.

#### VEAP Hygiene Kit Pack

Sunday, December 2 @ 11:30 a.m.

Lydia Circle Brunch & Meeting  
Saturday, December 8 @ 9:00 a.m.

#### Caroling with the Choir

Saturday, December 8 @ 2:00 p.m.

#### Women's Breakfast

Monday, December 10 @ 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Concert by the Choir  
Sunday, December 16 @ 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Monday, December 24 @ 5:00 p.m.

#### Meals on Wheels Driving

December 26-28

#### Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 29 @ 8:00 a.m.



## *From the Pastor, Rev. Dr. Woojae Im*

Christmas is approaching so fast. All the churches in the town are being crowded once again. Soon enough will joyful sounds of Christmastide music fill the air of the sanctuary and beautiful Christmas lights and decorations will create a cozy atmosphere. Special programs may lift up our weary hearts.

Christmas holidays will fall upon all people whether you are CEO (Christmas/Easter Only), year-round churchgoers, Buddhists, or atheists. I believe, however, that Christmas spirit doesn't come into everyone's heart. Where do we find baby Jesus in the midst of all hectic activities of feeding guests, setting up and decorating Christmas trees, making the sanctuary cozy, planning getaway trip, watching movies, and/or completing house projects? Where are peace, justice, hope, and joy of Jesus alive in your year-ending life? Celebrating the birth of the holy baby isn't just found in choir's Christmas program or Children's nativity play. Is Jesus central in all you do, enjoy, or buy? Or is the holy baby just another excuse for our pleasure? As someone claims, "Christmas is not your birthday!"

We all know that Jesus' incarnation was not to give us a holiday season. Christmas is more than that! One of the earliest sermons Jesus preached in the Gospel of Luke describes the purpose of his being sent to the earth. It says, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people." (Luke 4:16)

The good news for which Jesus was sent is what we mean by, I believe, "Merry" Christmas.

Merry Christmas to the poor, the captives, the blind, and the oppressed. Merry Christmas to ALL who don't find reason to merry. I pray for all of you that Jesus is born in your heart and life in this Christmas. This year, our Advent/Christmas worship theme is "gift." We have already received the best of all gifts, which is sent by God.

*—Pastor Woojae*

# Church Council Updates

November 8, 2018

**Members Present:** Cyndy Spear (Chair) Wayne Hershey, Louise Hershey, Pastor Woojae Im, Connie Miller, Craig Miller, Carol Rose, Steve Rose, and Brad Spear.

**Finance Committee:** Craig Miller reported that the apportionment payments are current and that many pledge cards have been received, with more anticipated to be dedicated.

**Memorials:** Current balance of the Memorials fund is \$2,778.34. The committee agreed to provide \$100 to Nancy Best (Worship Committee) for purchase of Christmas lights. Additional funds have been committed to replace the wooden blinds in the South Room.

**Missions:** Wayne Hershey reported that Len Pierce will chair the Missions Committee for 2019 Church Council discussed and moved to direct the Thanksgiving offering as fifty percent to VEAP as a direct payment and fifty percent to the general fund. Wayne reported that the VEAP and SHOP food bags will be assembled as needed for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and spring break for the school. Funding for these programs is going well. Wayne will check with VEAP regarding status of their food bag inventory and determine when another packing session will be scheduled.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Woojae has held individual staff meetings. He noted that he is implementing changes in office hours, with 9:00 a.m. –10:00 a.m., thus allotting the hour each day to uninterrupted work time for Betsy Shank. Additionally, signage will be placed, directing Meals on Wheels drivers with questions/returned meals to enter through the south office door to access Joanne's office.

**Staff Parish Relations Committee:** Pastoral Compensation Form 5 for 2019 was shared with the committee. The overall amount is not changing; however, the categories for continuing education and travel have been slightly adjusted. The 2018 and 2019 total compensation for Pastor Woojae Im will remain constant for budgeting purposes. There is a Church Conference scheduled for November 18, with this information due at the conference office by December 1.

**Trustees:** The Fire Marshall met with Steve, Wayne, and a Zoe Childcare representative to

address concerns in that area. A restraining order, "no trespass," has been served on a young man who lives across the street from the church. He is not to be on any of the church grounds and has been instructed to walk around the parking lot and building. If problems are witnessed, everyone is instructed to call 911 and alert the police. The church has sustained much damage over the past several months. Although Church of Peace leadership is sensitive to the young man's challenging family situation, the financial damages are significant and cannot continue. Everyone is encouraged to pray for this family, this particular young man, and the entire situation. A reminder is noted, that the church entry is locked from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and open 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**United Methodist Women:** Louise Hershey noted that the Christmas sale is November 9-10 and the December planning meeting and brunch date is being determined.

**Worship Committee:** Pastor Woojae reported that he and the committee had received one sermon topic request, that of Peace on Earth, with a theme song, *Let There Be Peace on Earth*. Pastor Woojae would like to receive more topic ideas, as this also expands his study opportunities. All topics, themes, passages, songs, are done through April 2019. In January or February, the same opportunity exists for the next several months after that.

The meeting ended with a prayer.

**Next Church Council meeting: Thursday, December 13 @ 7:00 p.m.**

## Upcoming Meetings

**SPRC Committee**

**Thursday, December 6 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**Finance Committee**

**Wednesday, December 12**

**@ 6:00 p.m.**

**Church Council**

**Thursday, December 13 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Worship Committee TBA**

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PEACE

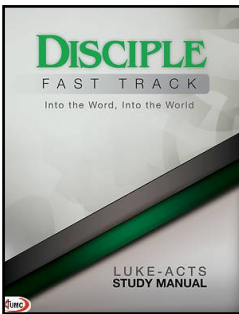


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Office Hours: M-F 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

## \*December Birthdays

5 Brianna Dykoski    15 Ernie Parker  
12 Cliff Best        19 Peter Shank

\*Please contact the church office for corrections, additions, or deletions.



## Pastor Woojae's Bible Study

Monday Evenings January 7, 14, 28 & February 4, 11, 18  
**Time to Be Determined by Pastor Woojae & Study Group**

### *Disciple Fast Track: Luke-Acts*

*The study is based on the Common English Bible (CEB) It is directed toward the practicing of disciplines for bringing order to life and keeping Bible study related to witness and service in the world. One of these disciplines is Sabbath-keeping as a way of sorting out priorities and trusting God. Other practices will be brought forth and will change during each of the Bible study sessions.*

**Study Manuals will be pre-ordered—Cost is \$17.00 each, payable to UM Church of Peace when you sign up. Please memo your payment for “Bible Study” and leave it in the office or offering plate. Sign up deadline is December 9, so that books can be ordered. Everyone is invited to join the group. Please sign up in the Commons area.**

## Group Theater Outing

### **To a Church Basement Ladies Performance of *You Smell Barn*, Planned for January 20**

The ladies have a new show titled "You Smell Barn". They have also moved from the Plymouth Playhouse to the Ames Theater in Burnsville. **18 tickets** have been reserved for the performance on **Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 2pm**. The story takes place in the barn and celebrates rural life in the 1950's. There are new songs and plenty of crazy antics and laughs with a few new characters spending time with the ladies. **Tickets cost \$33. The deadline to sign up and pay for your tickets is Sunday, December 23rd.** Please make checks payable to Louise Hershey. The sign up sheets are in the Commons Area.



### **Remembering Ellie Eissinger**

A memorial service was held at Church of Peace on November 29, 2018 for Ellie, who passed away on November 23 following a lengthy illness. Interment was at Ft. Snelling. Ellie and her late husband, Leroy, joined the church in May of 1967.