

News from Hunter

December 2020



Dear Hunter Friends -

It's tough to believe, but Advent is here. November 29 is the first Sunday of Advent, the season of anticipation that leads to the birth of Jesus. The waiting begins now, although it feels like 2020 has been a waiting game altogether. Waiting for a return to normalcy. Waiting for news of a vaccine. Waiting for normal to be redefined. Covid continues to spread, even through many people's best efforts to stay home and stay safe.

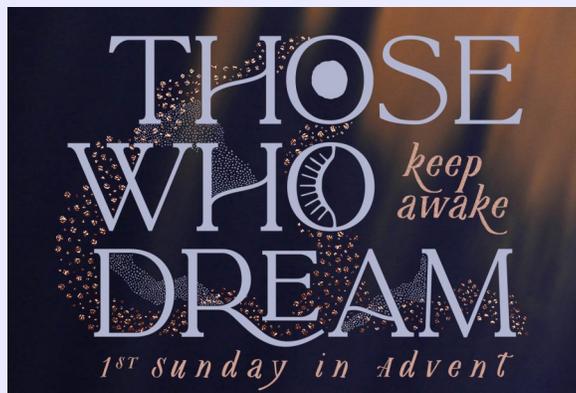
This week's theme for Advent is hope. I realize that hope may feel particularly difficult this year. In my search for hope in 2020, I found those who have purchased toys to take to the Jackson Christmas Store. I found hope in the worship committee, and Roger Guffey, who are determined to help your Advent look at least a little bit as it has in years past, by offering Advent devotionals and Advent at Home kits.

I find hope in our God who is leading us each and every day. I find hope in those continuing to do "home" pastoral care visits, even if it's over the phone, zoom, or by card. I find hope in caregivers who are taking care of those who feel a bit isolated during the holidays when it isn't a pandemic, let alone now. I find hope in each of you.

I'm thrilled to be here at Hunter with you, and know that God called us together in this time and place. As I write this, I'm beginning my third week in the office guided by a God who loves us, and who has put so many of you in my path already. I've been given introductions to many of you by way of Kevin, Lynn, Ruth Beattie, the session, or those on the Pastor Nominating Committee. Thank you to each of you who have welcomed me and my family even in this short time together. May we sink into the Advent soil this year, receiving the hope that God provides.

Grace & peace,

Emily



"God who holds us in our anxiety"

God of grace and mercy,
be present with us as we face an unknown future
and as we walk paths untrod.

In the ever-changing and uncertain world where we find ourselves,
help us to know and be assured that you are sovereign,
that you are all-knowing,
all-powerful and ever-present.

We know you are a good God who holds us in our anxiety and distress
and who has a plan for our future.

Calm our hearts and minds and give us hope in you,
our only certain hope.

We pray in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



– *The Rev. David Loleng, Director of Church Financial Literacy and Leadership, Presbyterian Foundation*

Called Congregational Meeting

There will be a Called Congregational Meeting on Dec 13, 2020, 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) via Zoom.

The purpose of the meeting is to elect elders and the congregational members of the 2021 Nominating Committee

Slate of Nominees for Elder:

Kent Brouwer
Harry Lockhart (reupping for three more years)
Doris Palmer

Slate of Nominees for the Nominating Committee:

Trisha Bernard
Loretta Moffett
Cathy Reilender

Congregational Meeting



Sunday, December 20th at 12 noon

save
the
date

In lieu of the annual Christmas potluck lunch we will be holding a Christmas Goody bag drive by at the church on the 20th.

We hope to assemble 60 goody bags to distribute to members and friends of the church. If you would like to provide some cookies, snacks or small Christmas ornaments for these bags, please contact Ruth Beattie at rebeat1@uky.edu or 859-421-2650.



The Advent wreaths online and in our homes will guide us on our journey through the four Sundays before Christmas. Watch in online services for gradually changing decorations as the story unfolds from week to week November 29, December 6, December 13, and December 20.

On December 24, our 6p.m. Christmas Eve service will be pre-recorded and posted on Facebook.

On December 27, we will once again participate in the online Presbytery service. The link will be available on the Hunter Facebook page and on the Presbytery of Transylvania Facebook page, as well as through the Coffee Hour that morning.

On Sunday, January 3, we'll be back at Hunter (virtually) to celebrate Epiphany.



We celebrate the birth of Jesus through the Christmas Joy offering. Half of the offering is used to supplement pensions for former ministers, missionaries, church workers and their families with inadequate retirement income when assistance is needed or to provide grants when medical emergencies arise. The other half of the offering provides scholarships for outstanding students who attend Presbyterian schools founded as mission outreach to provide an excellent education for African American, American Indian or Hispanic students. Many will become church leaders and need financial assistance while they discover and prepare for their professional lives. Our gifts are thanks for past faithfulness and hope for future possibilities. Envelopes for this offering will be available in the pew racks through the Christmas Eve service. *You can make your check out to **Hunter Presbyterian Church** and mail it to the office. Please put **Christmas Joy Offering** in the memo line.*

Order Poinsettias or Amaryllis



You can order Poinsettias or Amaryllis through Monday, December 7 (order form included in your newsletter). Here's the plan: we'll arrange the poinsettias and amaryllis so that they will be within range of the camera for our online Christmas services. After Christmas, we will either hold them for individual pickup during the week, or

deliver them to your doorstep, as you prefer. Any unclaimed plants will be passed on to someone in a local hospital.

Please indicate on your check or order form if you will pick up your plant, want home delivery or want to donate it to a local hospital.

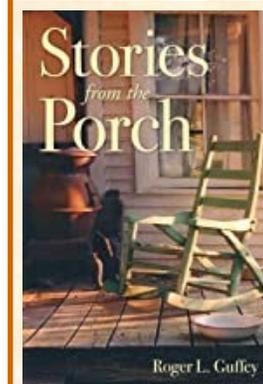
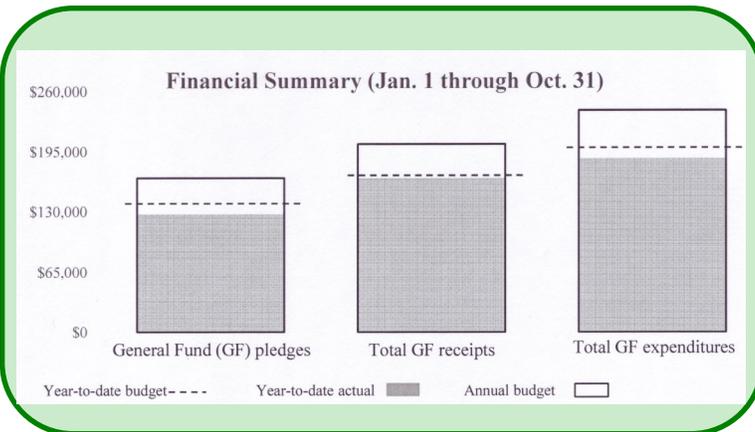


Unity Garden Update

The Unity Garden has peas, herbs, garlic, and other winter crops growing if you decide to visit. To my knowledge all the gardeners want to return in March which is why there are winter crops occurring. We now have a definite waiting list of various people wanting a garden bed.

B.U.I.L.D.

There were over 300 people virtually attending the BUILD Community Problems Assembly on November 9th. BUILD will diligently research the four topics (crime, mental health, education, and affordable housing) over the winter to narrow down each to a winnable issue for the Assembly in the spring.



New Book!

Roger Guffey's new book of short stories, *Stories from the Porch*, is available on Amazon or you can call Roger at 859-537-7914. The price is \$14.99.

A word from your Stewardship Committee

As we near the completion of our Stewardship campaign for 2021, we would like to express our thanks for your generous response through your pledges. The Stewardship Committee is working to finalize a rough draft of the 2021 budget to present to the Session for their discussion and approval at their December meeting. If you have not already completed your 2021 pledge card, the committee would appreciate your giving prayerful consideration to doing so, in order that they can finalize the 2021 proposed budget for presentation to the Session. Should you need a pledge card, they are available in the church narthex or by contacting the church office. Thank you.



REGARDING 2020 PLEDGES – FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND CONVENIENCE

As has been done for the past number of years, a letter will be mailed to all individuals who made pledges to the 2020 Hunter budget. This letter will contain the status of your 2020 pledge.



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Hunter is an Earth Care Congregation – Please Recycle

A digital copy of this newsletter is available on
www.hunterlex.org.
Contact the office if you would like to change your
subscription to online-only.
l.davis@hunterlex.org—thanks! Lynn

6 Matthew Goodrich
6 Rubin Thomas
8 Trisha Bernard
9 Betty Wright
12 Martha Alexander
17 Mike Hudson
26 Melissa Bilitier
28 Nancy Covert
29 Margaret Maxwell

December



Birthdays