



Christmas Ponderings

One of my Christmas traditions for the last 30+ years has been to write a new Christmas song every year. Some years ago I wrote this song - Christmas in the Mountains.

It's Christmas in the mountains and the trees are standing bare
But our hearts are warm and tender, there's a crispness in the air
And when the winter night goes dark and we find a stranger there
Then Christ is born again in every heart.

The snow can lie so soft and deep upon the winter ground
And the night can turn so quiet that there's not an earthly sound
And then winter stars shine bright like diamonds in a crown
And Christ is born again in every heart.

It happened oh so long ago and oh so far from here
Some peasants came, some shepherds ran and some wisemen journeyed near.
And yet it comes to touch us as it passes year to year
And Christ is born again in every heart.

It's Christmas in the mountains, oh, it's Christmas everywhere.
To some it brings a welcomed glow to some it brings despair
Let those of us who found it now lift up a little prayer
That Christ is born again in every heart.

Advent and Christmas is about discovery or rediscovery. Each year we make the journey again in our minds and in our hearts to Bethlehem, the stable, the manger, the birth. All of us are searching, some with joyous anticipation, but there are also those who travel with pain or dread. The song invites those of us who have found it, that is the joy and promise of it all, to lift up a prayer for the wanderers, the wonderers, those so heavy of heart, to come at last to discover, to know, to see, to feel the birth of Christ in their heart this Season and to be themselves born anew.

Blessings,

Ray

Ray W. Mendenhall



The Advent wreath will guide us on our journey through the four Sundays before Christmas. Watch for gradually changing decorations in the sanctuary windows as the story unfolds from week to week November 28, December 5, December 12, and December 19.

- December 24 at 6 p. m.: Christmas Eve service including Scripture, song, and story-telling. We welcome some of our returning college students as readers. (If you are a college student or are related to one, please communicate your interest and availability to Mackie Lockhart.)
- December 26 is the first Sunday of Christmas.



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.

*Save
the
Date*

Sunday 12th December

On Sunday 12th December, two special events will be taking place.

- 1) At the conclusion of the 11am worship service, we will move downstairs to the Fellowship Hall for a dedication of the kitchen renovations and to thank all who helped with the work.
- 2) Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will be unable to hold our annual Christmas lunch. Instead (after the dedication) we will be distributing goody bags to the congregation. If you are unable to attend worship on that Sunday, your goody bag will be delivered.

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.



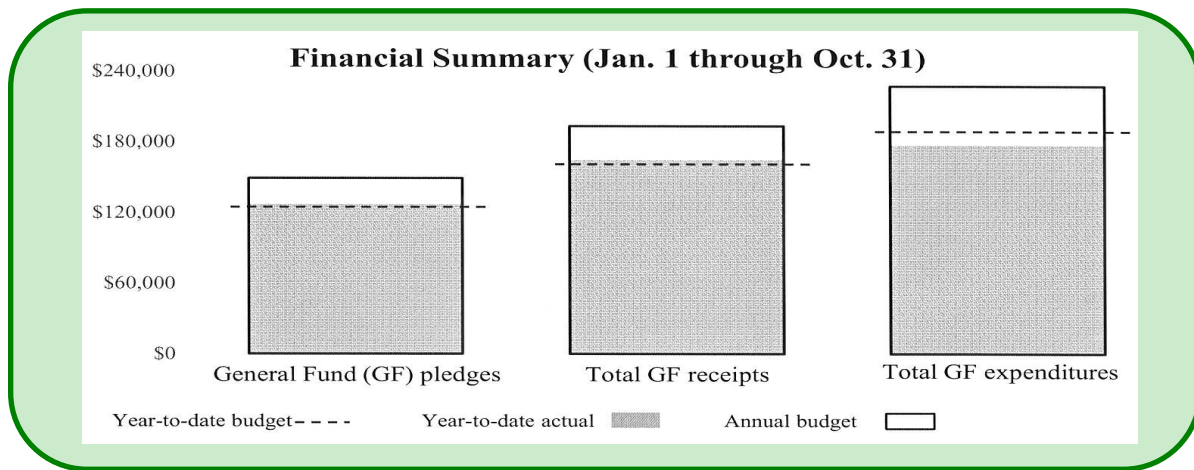
Thank you to the many Football parking volunteers this year:

Kent Brouwer
Craig Bush
Frankie Daniel
Kevin Eddy
Allen Fletcher
Ann Freytag
Carolyn Holmes
Carol Hulse
Harry Lockhart
Margaret Maxwell
Heather Thompson

Hunter raised over \$10,000 this year from the seven games!



The Pastoral Nominating Committee has met to update our Ministry Information Form (MIF). With Session's encouragement, we are submitting it to Presbytery's Pastoral Transitions Commission, aiming for approval at its November meeting. Updates will follow as our work progresses.



Dear Hunter Friends,

I read with delight about the remodel and dedication of the kitchen at Hunter. As my mind drifted back to many happy hours there, a crowd of faces and people came to mind, including Rachel Finney and her admonition to turn on the fan when using the stove, Ruth and Loretta preparing Wednesday evening suppers, time with the youth prepping for spaghetti lunches, saving icing for Carol, the camaraderie of the many hands that came together over dinners and pot-lucks in that space... It was even in the doorway of the kitchen that I was asked to serve on Session!

I wish you all peace and joy as this year draws to a close.

Love,

Cynthia Pendergrast

B.U.I.L.D.

The folks who came to the BUILD Community Problems Assembly by Zoom voted to choose the broad topic of Mental Health as their new area to research and narrow down to a specific winnable topic to bring to the spring Action Assembly.

Unity Garden

The garden has plenty of things braving the elements this year so any excursion to the labyrinth or garden over the winter one can still see plenty of things still growing. Workers however have gone into hibernation mode. Happy Winter Gardening!



Your Committee Chairs for 2022

Christian Education - Carol Hulse

Congregational Life - Debby Eddy and Ruth Beattie, Co-chairs

Communications - Doris Palmer

Outreach - Margaret Maxwell

Personnel/Stewardship - Harry Lockhart

Property - Val Zeps

Spiritual Care - Kent Brouwer



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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

Change for Charlie

Charlie Allen especially enjoyed asking various people for pocket change while attending church. Therefore if anyone wants to add spare pocket change to allow Charlie something extra to collect there will be a plastic milk jug out during worship until Sunday, December 19th. Ann Freytag will take the jug to Charlie after the 19th.

December



Birthdays

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