

Seasons Greetings,

We are approaching the fourth Sunday of Advent, and then we only get to settle in to that for two days and then it is Christmas Eve. How did that happen? This week, we move from Gaudete Sunday (the third Sunday, the Sunday of Joy) to the Fourth Sunday – the Sunday of Love. I don't know about you, but my heart and my mind are both focused on grief right now – the grief being felt by families in Madison who are supposed to be getting ready to celebrate Christmas, and instead are planning funerals. According to the K-12 National Database, this is the 323rd School Shooting this year. That's averages out to almost one a day. My personal grief is also compounded by frustration. Our culture is simply gun obsessed. They are too prevalent, and much too easy to acquire. And, with more of them around, they can easily fall into the wrong hands. A friend of mine wrote on his Facebook post, "Too few of us are trying to make this world a better place. It should be all of us. But it isn't. And as a result, we're forced to raise our children to survive a broken world rather than thrive in a peaceful one." As we prepare to receive the gift of the Christ, again, in just a few days, may we remember the four gifts of Advent – Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. May we embrace this gifts and live these gifts, making them incarnate, giving them flesh and bone.

Coming Up...

Christmas Eve Worship. We will have three services of worship on Tuesday, December 24. 3:00 p.m. Children's Service will be full of carols, simple readings, and candle lighting. 5:00 p.m. Family Service will be a quieter service with lessons and a special Christmas meditation. 10:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols will have plenty of congregational singing, as well as musical offering from Bel Campana and The Chancel Choir.

New Year's Brunch The Annual New Year's Brunch will take place on Sunday, December 29 at 10:00 a.m. The morning will begin with gathering music at 9:45 a.m., followed by a brief service of worship and then a joyous meal together, as we say goodbye to 2024 (I for one will be glad to put this year in my rear-view mirror) and say "HELLO" to 2025. Please sign up on the sign up sheet to the left of Pastor Dave's office door. ALSO Workers are needed for this event – folks are needed to help prep on Saturday, December 28, to help cook on December 29, and to help clean up on December 29.

Financial Books of the Church will close on Tuesday, December 31. Please make sure that all of your financial transactions with the church are taken care of by that time.

Blessings, Pastor Dave

GREENDALE **COMMUNITY** CHURCH

SUN DAY

DECEMBER 22, 2024

WOR SHIP



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