



Third Sunday of Advent: JOY

This Sunday, December 15, we will mark the second Sunday of the Holy Season of Advent, lighting the candle for JOY. Faye Yu and her children Esther and Eli will light the Advent candles. The scriptures will be Luke 1:36-45 and Matthew 1:18-25. The title of the sermon will be "Hope Is Worth the Risk." Michael Hinton and his musical friends will be leading music this Sunday in worship, and Milo Haines-Walker will join him in his percussion debut!

The Sunday School classes for children and youth will be working hard on the Christmas pageant. Any kid who wants to play music for Dec. 22 should let me know!

Please know that the Session is hard at work already, in fullness of discipleship trying to prepare the church for the transitions the next months will bring. Last Tuesday, they elected 4 Elders to serve on the Interim Pastor Search Committee: Cory Lehnbeuter, Ellen Lazzaro, Joe VanDeWeert, and Tom Topousis. In addition, they will be recruiting 3 more church members

from outside Session, to help represent the diversity, gifts, and needs of the church.

With blessing and care,

Leah

Rev. Dr. Leah Fowler, Pastor



Coming Up at PCL

JAZZ JAM Friday, Dec. 13

Join Michael Hinton leading the Foreign Exchange Band, 8-10 p.m. Bring friends and neighbors! The suggested donation will be \$5 at the door. There will be treats at intermission.

Christmas Pageant Dec. 22

Our children and youth lead worship by telling the Christmas story in drama! The kids will also be our musicians and liturgists for the morning. Hear the holy story from the voices of the kids and be blessed by their wonder and joy.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Dec. 21 All children and youth who have roles in the Christmas Pageant should come to a rehearsal Saturday, Dec. 21, from 9:00 a.m. till noon (we may dismiss earlier if actors come well prepared). There will be a snack served.

Christmas Eve Candlelight

December 24 at 8 pm. Invite neighbors, family and friends to this service of lessons and carols. There will be spectacular music, and the night will end with a circle around the sanctuary, in candlelight.

Christmas Day Service

This child-friendly service of warmth and joy Christmas morning at 10:30 a.m. will include a carol hymn sing, and the sacrament of Communion. And, you are encouraged to come in your Christmas pajamas!

Pastoral Transition

You have heard that I will be leaving PCL to start ministry at The Riverside Church in NYC. My last Sunday with you will be Feb. 2, Lunar New Year Sunday. Elder David Voreacos, the church's Clerk of Session, will give regular updates as they emerge.



In Our Prayers...

- Eulalia who is in Miami keeping vigil with her dying aunt.
- For all those who are facing the holiday season with grief, loss, or complicated families. May the love of Christ (who was born into a complicated family) sit with them, even when joy is not easily accessible.
- I pray for a 26-year old woman, Shura, who was in the youth group in my former Oak Park church, who recently died of a Fentanyl overdose, and for her family and all who tried to help her, and for their lasting grief for Larisa, the older sister, who also died of an overdose.
- We pray for Syria, as they experience bombing and political chaos, and for Lebanon. We pray for the people of Gaza, for a ceasefire, and for the West Bank including Bethlehem as they face another Christmas under increasing violation of rights. We pray for a future where there can be restoration and peace for all in the Holy Land.
- We pray for the Presbyterian Church in Leonia, as the people and their pastor spend the next 2 months in both celebration and grief and prepare for a pastoral transition.