



ST. LUKE'S UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
DENTON, MD

THE VOICE

NOVEMBER 2021

MUSINGS FROM PASTOR DAN

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The Advent Season

The Christian year begins with Advent. The Latin word *adventus* from which we derive the name, is a translation of the Greek term *Parousia* that can mean “presence” or “coming.” Research indicates that during the 4th and 5th centuries, primarily in Spain and Italy, Advent was a time of preparing for the baptism of new Christians at the time of Epiphany. During this season of preparation, Christians would spend these 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting. Thus, originally, there was no real connection between Advent and Christmas. That is until around the 6th century. During that time, the church began to tie Advent to the coming of Christ, but the coming they had in mind was not Jesus as a babe in the manger. Rather it was Jesus coming in the clouds as judge of the world.

The link of Advent to Jesus in the manger would not occur until the 12th to 13th centuries.



The *United Methodist Book of Worship* so states that these four Sundays before Christmas became a season “that proclaims the comings of Christ—whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate.” Thus, we as Methodists understand Advent to be time to describe both the first coming of Jesus in the flesh as well as his Second Coming. It is unfortunate that we sometimes focus intently on the birth of a babe in the manger while neglecting his

return. This is perhaps caused by our love for babies and the wonder of Jesus' birth that is much easier to contemplate than his return with a double-edged sword coming out of his mouth. Nevertheless, we must firmly understand that Advent is a time that symbolizes our present situation in these "last days" as we await Christ's return in the fullness of His glory to consummate His eternal kingdom, a kingdom in which we are and always will be a part.



There is a pattern that should be considered. At the end of the Old Testament, we find Israel looking back at God's wonderful actions that brought about the Exodus freeing them from slavery to Egypt; they are in exile (in the Roman Empire), waiting, hoping, and praying for the expected coming of the Messiah. In the same way, the Church, during the season of Advent, looks back at Jesus' coming in a manger as a celebration of all God's wonderful actions that led us out of slavery to sin and death, though in exile (to the governments of the world), awaiting our future exodus from this world into Christ's glorious presence in the Heavenly Kingdom.

The pattern may be simply viewed this way:

- a. Exodus from slavery to Egypt and into the promised land – Israel.
- b. Looking forward to a coming Messiah – 1st time.
- c. Advent: Messiah Arrives and accomplishes Salvation.
- b' Looking forward to a coming Messiah – 2nd time
- a' Exodus from slavery to sin and death and into the promised land – New heaven and new Earth.

While it may be hard to balance the holiday celebrations with the lights, shopping, decorations, cards, and gifts, Advent is intended to be a season of fasting and prayer (similar to Lent). Reflection on the totality of evil in the world should cause us to cry out in anguish for God to make things right, to put an end, once and for all to evil's darkness. Our exile in the present should always force us to look toward our future exodus as we continue to call upon God for His continued grace and for the Holy Spirit to keep us refreshed as He sanctifies us into the image of Christ. Thus, Advent allows for the worshipping community to recount the ministry and work of Jesus in its inauguration at his birth through the anticipations of the present and toward future fulfillment.

Pastor Dan

Our Shared Life



Brainstorming and Sharing Sunday—Nov. 21st

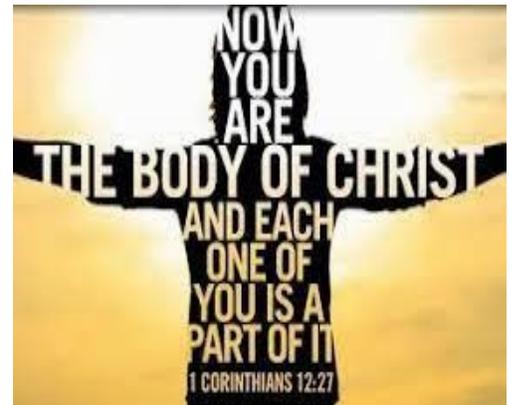
10am Worship in Sanctuary

11am Brainstorming & Sharing

Immediately following the 10am service on Nov. 21st, we will have a congregational strategic planning/brainstorming session to discuss prior and future goals for the church. Drinks and light snacks will be provided. We would encourage everyone to participate to share ideas for improving our church and community in the coming months and years.

Serving Together Creates Community!

Christians who serve together create a healthy community! They form deep bonds as they labor to build-up the life of Christ's Body, the church, and to minister to others on behalf of the Gospel. There are many opportunities at St. Luke's to serve, and if you have ideas for other ministries, we hope you will share them on Nov 21st.



- United Methodist Women
- United Methodist Men
- Greeters and Ushers in worship services
- Helping with the Altar Set-up and Décor
- Sunday Breakfast set-up or clean-up
- Children's Chapel and Wee Singers
- Youth Group Mentor
- Share Shop and Breaking Bread
- Weekly Prayer Ministry
- Music Ministries: Choir, Praise Band, Bells
- Lay Readers in worship services
- Church Council Leadership
- Children's Christmas Shop
- Volunteer to help with maintenance jobs

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

Prayer Concerns for November

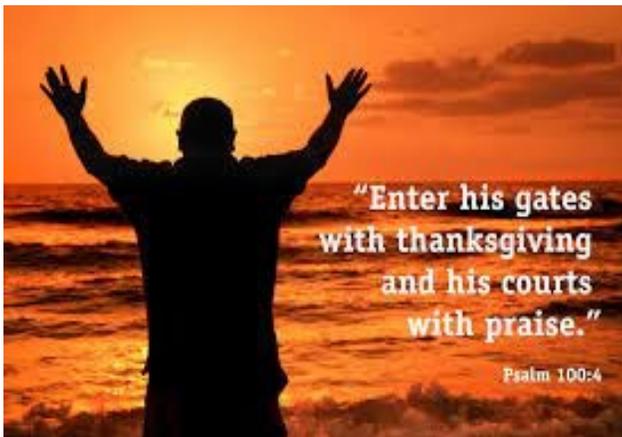
Parish Concerns



Hayden Pluchak, Maily Carnichan, Tom Trice, Sonny Callahan, Elaine Orme, Bruce Hastings, Pete Miller, Janet Boeker, Cindy Nicklin, Patsy Kemp, Debbie Riggin, Kitty Patrick, Susan Fink, Owen Wevodau, Charlene Robbins, David Nagel, Rob Cohee, Cricket and Glenn Williams, Michael and Ryan Alexander, Ed Parry, Vicky Winter, Helen Vogt, Hollis Cantwell, Brooke Schroder, Colleen MacFarland, Archie Carroll, Susan Bunker, Josh Breeding, Sylvia Holland, Alan and Gloria Vandam, Pat Browne, Lisa Barge, Carol Stockley, Hayden Semans, Conrad Rosemere, Elaine Friel, and Sarah Price, Kay Koenig, and our country.

Sympathy to the family and friends of those who have passed away since the last issue of the Voice: Gary Simpson

Prayers for those serving in the U.S. Military: John Biddle, Jake Brown, Chelsea Bunker, Seth Gill, Brockman Harris, Ethan Lister, JR Mann, Mitchell Mann, Justin Moore, Matthew Parker, Andrew Robbins, Dale Tuel, and James Wright,



To add names to these lists, you can complete one of the “Connect” or prayer cards during a service, contact the office (410-479-2171 stlukes@goeaston.com), or drop-off/mail your requests to 100 South 5th Avenue, Denton.

Please be sure to include your name and telephone number so that we can contact you regarding the status of the person needing prayer; otherwise, the name will be removed after a couple of months.

Faith Formation at St. Luke's

Growing in faith from birth through adulthood



Faith Formation

As Methodists we believe the family is the primary community through which persons enter into life, experience God's love, and grow in their faith and relationship with God and neighbor. We affirm that families are by God's design the first "community" of faith and we hope that these resources will equip every family in the diverse body of Christ for the holy work of loving God and neighbor. Linked below are resources that might be helpful to parents, grandparents, and other care givers.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/family-faith-formation-resources>

Another good place for resources and ideas for strengthening your family's faith is Focus on the Family website:

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/leading-your-child-to-christ/>

**Operation Christmas Child
Pizza & Shoebox Packing Party
November 20th, 12 Noon - 3 PM**



How can you help?

- **Fill a shoe box** and return it Nov 19-21
(Shoe boxes are available in the church lobby and outside the sanctuary)
- **Volunteer Nov 21st** for 1-3 hours filling 'Gospel Opportunity' shoeboxes
- **Donate funds** for bulk supplies and shipping/handling donation of \$9/box; our goal is 100 boxes. With a check written to St. Luke's, include OCC on the memo.

Musical Notes



This month during our Anniversary Sunday combined service, our team shared the song *It Is Well* by Bethel Music. It was rewritten from a beloved hymn penned by Horatio Spafford in the late 1800s after losing his four daughters in a shipwreck. Kristene DiMarco drew inspiration for her rewrite of the song from Spafford's story and her own personal experience, which, while not at the same level of hardship as the original author, taught her that through it all, it is well. This month, I would like to

share my own experience with this song.

When going through the process of choosing new songs for the Ignite service, I engage in a lot of prayer and what I call conversation with God. I listen to a couple of Christian stations in my car, and crazy as it may sound, God has a tendency of sending me what He wants. Once, this particular song, no matter what station I turned on in the car, would play as soon as I started out. At first I would listen to the first minute or so, think it was pretty, but it was not really what I wanted to hear, so would skip to something else. For three or four days, this would be the first song I would hear. God was making it apparent that I was NOT paying attention to what He was telling me. I had been through this before, and at that point heard His message loud and clear— This song was meant for our Ignite service. There was someone who needed to hear this in our congregation! So we learned it. The day we introduced it to the service, I told a story about how when times are tough, if we just keep our eyes on God as the song says, it will be well, even if it's not the well we may have envisioned. Through God, and with God, our struggles that seem so difficult and impossible, feel a little more doable knowing that He is beside us in all things. Keep Him centered in our lives and we are going to be OK.

It was only after we played the song that I realized who in the congregation needed this song (there were probably a few others, too) and why God was insistent I needed to get His message. It was me. I needed to hear that message in this song! My son was experiencing a lot of struggle and hardship at that time. As a parent, that is a really difficult thing to watch. You feel so helpless, you want to fix it for them and take all their pain away, but you can't. I was really struggling emotionally with it all. Later that week, I discovered something pretty amazing. My 14 year old son, who I didn't think ever heard a thing I said, or ever really picked up on much he hears at church, had an alarm set on his phone to go off every night to remind him to pray. God is good!! So, if you haven't had a chance to listen to this song, I encourage you to do so. Close your eyes, turn it up a little, and listen. Through it all, through it all, my eyes are on you. And it is well with me.

Blessings, Alicia

Please Pass the Psalter...

Our United Methodist Hymnal explains that the book of Psalms is the hymn book of the Bible. John and Charles Wesley encouraged Methodists to pray and sing the Psalms. We have been doing responsive readings of the Psalms every Sunday as our CALL TO WORSHIP. But St. Luke's has not sung the Psalms on a regular basis for many years, and Pastor Dan suggested it might be nice to resume that practice for a time. So, starting on *Christ the King* Sunday, November 21, we will resume singing the Psalm designated for that particular Sunday, and we will continue through the Advent and Christmas Seasons.

Pages 738-832 in the hymnal contain 100 Psalms written to speak and to sing responsively. This collection of Psalms is known as the Psalter, and it is designated as such and is a major heading in the hymnal. "How do we sing the Psalter?" you ask. The red **R** at the beginning of the Psalm stands for "Response", and it will always be sung by the choir first, repeated immediately by the congregation. The reader will speak the light printed words, and the congregation responds with the **bold** printed words. Any subsequent **R's** are to be sung by both the choir and congregation together.

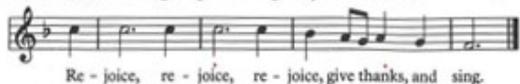
Looking forward to hearing Psalter-singing Methodists.
Blessings, Becky Zinser

PSALTER 8

Psalm 100

Edward H. Plumptre
Arthur H. Messiter

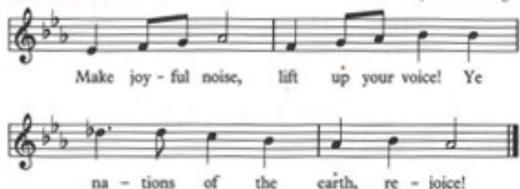
RESPONSE 1 (*Thanksgiving, Morning Prayer & General*)



Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks, and sing.

Charles Wesley
Timothy E. Kimbrough

RESPONSE 2 (*General*)



Make joy - ful noise, lift up your voice! Ye
na - tions of the earth, re - joice!

R

- 1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!
- 2 Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into God's presence with singing!
- 3 Know that the Lord, who made us, is God.
We are the Lord's;
we are the people of God,
the sheep of God's pasture.
- 4 Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,
and God's courts with praise!
Give thanks and bless God's name!
- 5 For the Lord is good;
God's steadfast love endures for ever;
God's faithfulness to all generations. **R**

ST. LUKE'S UMC CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

The Church Council met on Thursday, October 21, 2021. The following items were discussed:

- Property & Investment Management
 - The parking lot restoration was a success.
 - Installation of the education building second floor restroom will begin soon.
 - Work on the roof over the education wing will begin 10/25/2021.
- Mission & Ministries
 - Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes need to be delivered to the church by November 21.
 - Children's Christmas Shop will be held on December 11, 2021. We are always in need of donations, especially for men.
- Finance
 - Net income over expenses is \$9,610.30.
 - Cash balance as of 10/19/21 is \$126,269.25.
- Pastoral Update
 - Combined services in 2022 will be held on the following dates: 1/30/2022, 5/26/2022, 7/31/2022, and 10/30/2022.
 - There may be another delay in holding the General Conference due to travel restrictions.



November 2021



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| | <p>1</p> <p>12pm AA 7:30pm NA</p> | <p>2</p> <p>Election Day 10am Caroline Cunty Home- less Board</p> | <p>3</p> <p>10am Prayer Team 1pm Cookies & Cards 6pm Bells</p> | <p>4</p> <p>6:30pm Boy Scouts</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6</p> <p>8 am Men's Breakfast</p> |
| <p>7</p> <p>Communion 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship</p> | <p>8</p> <p>12pm AA 7:30pm NA</p> | <p>9</p> <p>7pm AA</p> | <p>10</p> <p>10am Prayer Team 10am Staff Mt 11am Blood bank 6pm Bells 7pm Praise Band</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Veterans' Day 6:30pm Boy Scouts</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> |
| <p>14</p> <p>Veteran's Sunday 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship</p> | <p>15</p> <p>12pm AA 7:30pm NA</p> | <p>16</p> <p>7pm Denton Childcare Center Board mtg 7pm AA</p> | <p>17</p> <p>10am Prayer Team 6pm Bells 7pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir</p> | <p>18</p> <p>6:30pm Boy Scouts 7:30 Church Council</p> | <p>19</p> <p>Voice Deadline</p> | <p>20</p> <p>12 pm Operation Christmas Child Packing Party</p> |
| <p>21</p> <p>10am Worship in the Sanctuary 11am Congregational Brainstorming & Sharing</p> | <p>22</p> <p>12pm AA 7:30pm NA</p> | <p>23</p> <p>7pm AA</p> | <p>24</p> <p>10am Prayer Team 6pm Bells 7pm Praise Band 7:30pm Choir</p> | <p>25</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day Office Closed</p> | | |
| <p>28</p> <p>First Sunday of Advent 8:30 Trad'l Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:40 Ignite Worship 11:00 Trad'l Worship</p> | | | | | | |

Financial Update: Budget through Sept. 2021

| Description | Annual Budget 2021 | Actual Income or Expense To Date | Variance | % Budg Used | Budget through September 2021 | Actual Income or Expense To Date | Variance | % Budg Used |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|----------------|--|---|-------------------|----------------|
| <u>Income</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Offerings | 242,307.00 | 180,621.29 | 61,685.71 | 74.54% | 181,730.25 | 180,621.29 | 1,108.96 | 99.39% |
| Offerings - Sunday School | 100.00 | 39.00 | 61.00 | 39.00% | 75.00 | 39.00 | 36.00 | 52.00% |
| Interest Income | 25.00 | 24.53 | 0.47 | 98.12% | 18.75 | 24.53 | (5.78) | 130.83% |
| Building Use | 3,000.00 | 3,816.00 | (816.00) | 127.20% | 2,250.00 | 3,816.00 | (1,566.00) | 169.60% |
| Administrative Building Use | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Total Income | 245,432.00 | 184,500.82 | 60,931.18 | 75.17% | 184,074.00 | 184,500.82 | (426.82) | 100.23% |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Pastor Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| Salary | 58,000.00 | 43,499.97 | 14,500.03 | 75.00% | 43,500.00 | 43,499.97 | 0.03 | 100.00% |
| Travel Reimbursement | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| Cable TV at parsonage | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| Hospitalization/Dental | 18,180.00 | 15,300.00 | 2,880.00 | 84.16% | 13,635.00 | 15,300.00 | (1,665.00) | 112.21% |
| Bishop's Retreat | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| Continuing Education | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| Pension Plan | 9,512.00 | 7,134.03 | 2,377.97 | 75.00% | 7,134.00 | 7,134.03 | (0.03) | 100.00% |
| Pastor Expenses - other | | 0.00 | 0.00 | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Total Pastor Expenses | 85,692.00 | 65,934.00 | 19,758.00 | 76.94% | 64,269.00 | 65,934.00 | (1,665.00) | 102.59% |
| Staff Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| Staff Salaries | 71,400.00 | 50,282.05 | 21,117.95 | 70.42% | 53,550.00 | 50,282.05 | 3,267.95 | 93.90% |
| Wage and Tax Expenses | 7,140.00 | 4,218.01 | 2,921.99 | 59.08% | 5,355.00 | 4,218.01 | 1,136.99 | 78.77% |
| Worker's Compensation | 1,428.00 | 470.00 | 958.00 | 32.91% | 1,071.00 | 470.00 | 601.00 | 43.88% |
| Expenses - other | | 0.00 | 0.00 | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Total Staff Expenses | 79,968.00 | 54,970.06 | 24,997.94 | 68.74% | 59,976.00 | 54,970.06 | 5,005.94 | 216.55% |
| Other Operational Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| Accounting & Legal | 400.00 | 509.08 | (109.08) | 127.27% | 300.00 | 509.08 | (209.08) | |
| Annual Conference expense | 500.00 | 150.00 | 350.00 | 30.00% | 375.00 | 150.00 | 225.00 | 40.00% |
| Christian Education/Sunday School | 1,200.00 | 63.47 | 1,136.53 | 5.29% | 900.00 | 63.47 | 836.53 | 7.05% |
| Conference Apportionments | 22,379.00 | 10,406.50 | 11,972.50 | 46.50% | 16,784.25 | 10,406.50 | 6,377.75 | 62.00% |
| Easton District Office | 1,343.00 | 783.00 | 560.00 | 58.30% | 1,007.25 | 783.00 | 224.25 | 77.74% |
| Janitorial Supplies | 1,000.00 | 338.25 | 661.75 | 33.83% | 750.00 | 338.25 | 411.75 | 45.10% |
| Electricity/Oil | 12,000.00 | 10,564.19 | 1,435.81 | 88.03% | 9,000.00 | 10,564.19 | (1,564.19) | 117.38% |
| Equipment Rental & Maintenance | 6,500.00 | 4,125.09 | 2,374.91 | 63.46% | 4,875.00 | 4,125.09 | 749.91 | 84.62% |
| Kitchen/ParsonageFuel | 4,000.00 | 2,233.85 | 1,766.15 | 55.85% | 3,000.00 | 2,233.85 | 766.15 | 74.46% |
| Grass and Shrubbery Maintenance | 1,800.00 | 2,740.00 | (940.00) | 152.22% | 1,350.00 | 2,740.00 | (1,390.00) | 202.96% |
| Insurance | 10,300.00 | 9,255.00 | 1,045.00 | 89.85% | 7,725.00 | 9,255.00 | (1,530.00) | 119.81% |
| Maintenance and Repairs | 5,000.00 | 3,686.25 | 1,313.75 | 73.73% | 3,750.00 | 3,686.25 | 63.75 | 98.30% |
| Miscellaneous | 100.00 | 412.29 | (312.29) | 412.29% | 75.00 | 412.29 | (337.29) | 549.72% |
| Music Committee | 1,200.00 | 338.00 | 862.00 | 28.17% | 900.00 | 338.00 | 562.00 | 60.14% |
| MYF Program | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 | 0.00% | 150.00 | 0.00 | 150.00 | 0.00% |
| Office Supplies | 3,000.00 | 1,750.46 | 1,249.54 | 58.35% | 2,250.00 | 1,750.46 | 499.54 | 77.80% |
| Postage | 1,300.00 | 788.55 | 511.45 | 60.66% | 975.00 | 788.55 | 186.45 | 80.88% |
| Pastor/Organist, Substitutes | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| Pastor's Moving Exp Escrow Acct | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| Stewardship | 1,300.00 | 957.82 | 342.18 | 73.68% | 975.00 | 957.82 | 17.18 | 98.24% |
| Telephone | 2,000.00 | 2,587.17 | (587.17) | 129.36% | 1,500.00 | 2,587.17 | (1,087.17) | 172.48% |
| Water and Sewer | 1,500.00 | 828.61 | 671.39 | 55.24% | 1,125.00 | 828.61 | 296.39 | 73.65% |
| Spiritual Life | 1,750.00 | 1,253.87 | 496.13 | 71.65% | 1,312.50 | 1,253.87 | 58.63 | 95.53% |
| Worship Materials | 1,000.00 | 215.01 | 784.99 | 21.50% | 750.00 | 215.01 | 534.99 | 28.67% |
| Total Operational Expenses | 79,772.00 | 53,986.46 | 25,785.54 | 67.68% | 59,829.00 | 53,986.46 | 5,842.54 | 90.23% |
| Total Expenses | 245,432.00 | 174,890.52 | 70,541.48 | 71.26% | 184,074.00 | 174,890.52 | 9,183.48 | 95.01% |
| Net Income over Expenses | 0.00 | 9,610.30 | (9,610.30) | | 0.00 | 9,610.30 | (9,610.30) | |

Submitted by Louise Webb, Treasurer

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
100 South Fifth Avenue
Denton, Maryland 21629

410-479-2171
email: stlukes@goeaston.net

Return Service Requested

To:

The Voice of St. Luke's UMC November 2021

St. Luke's UMC Staff

Rev. Dan T. Gedman- Pastor

Administrative Assistant: Carrie Soldano

Director of Music: Becky Zinser

Director of Ignite Band:: Alicia Weippert

Nursery Coordinator: Alex Penn

Sexton: Denny Weaver

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