

# THE TIDINGS

Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

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## Tidings of Great Joy!

It is wonderful to step into this new role as your Bridge Pastor with the beginning of the Advent season. In a way, this is a new beginning where we bring our hope, love, joy and peace to the future of Admiral church as well as our own personal lives. We bring our hope for the vision of the church and mission of justice that has been laid so well all these years, to continue to flourish and grow. We bring the love of God that has grown in our hearts and in turn

in our relationships as a church family to continue to grow deeper, wiser, and reach more people. We bring joy of what has been and what is to come and allow the Spirit to work in strengthening our imagination of what is possible. We bring a sense of peace in our bones, knowing God goes with us and will never leave us no matter where our destination ends up.

I know having a part time pastor will be an adjustment but I am willing to work with each of you to find times in person and over the phone (or Zoom) to connect. The best way to get a hold of me is by text message. Please put your name in the text message and maybe one or two things that will help me know who you are if you haven't messaged me before. I'm still learning everyone's names so don't hesitate to keep telling me your name.

I have to admit, it's taken a bit of an adjustment to move from chaplaincy back into a parish pastor mindset. I realized it's been almost 3 years since I have been out of full time ministry. I don't say this to worry you but it's been fun to reconnect with my old parish pastor self. I'm also adjusting to getting out the bulletin info

each week. I am not offended if you need to remind me of due dates and deadlines. I am excited to journey with you for as long as you need me. I have truly loved my time with you as a pulpit supply pastor and honestly would not say yes to just any old church. I really believe Admiral church is a special place and I hope I can encourage, challenge, and bring some hope, love, joy and peace to each of you and the community.

Rev. Allysa De Wolf



**Office Manager's Fall Office Hours are Tue-Thurs, 2:00 - 4:30 PM**  
**You can reach the Admiral Church office at 206.932.2928. The fastest way to contact us is via email at [admiralchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:admiralchurchoffice@gmail.com)**

**Pastor Allysa De Wolf will meet with congregants by appointment. If you would like to make an appointment for an in-person, Zoom or phone call, contact her via email at [aedewolf@gmail.com](mailto:aedewolf@gmail.com).**

**NEXT SUNDAY POTLUCK IS JANUARY 4th.**



## **Dec. Church Events**

Tuesdays Tobi's Jazz Hang 5 -7 at Admiral HUB

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- **Dec. 8** - Westside Shelter Feeding Prep 3:00 - A&P's Kitchen
- **Dec. 13** - Congregational Visioning Retreat 1:00-4:00
- **Dec. 14** - "Joiner's Fair" During Coffee Hour
- **Dec. 15** - Westside Shelter Feeding Prep 3:00 - Admiral Hub
- **Dec. 21** - Joint Coffee Hour with SJB
- **Dec. 21** - Council Meeting 1:00 - 2:30
- **Dec. 21** - Longest Night Service 7:00
- **Dec. 22** - Westside Shelter Feeding Prep 3:00 - A&P's Kitchen
- **Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve Service 5:00
- **Dec. 29** - Westside Shelter Feeding Prep 3:00 - Admiral

## **What Do You Fear?** **Sermons & Scriptures**

Grounding Song:

Prayer Response:

Outro:

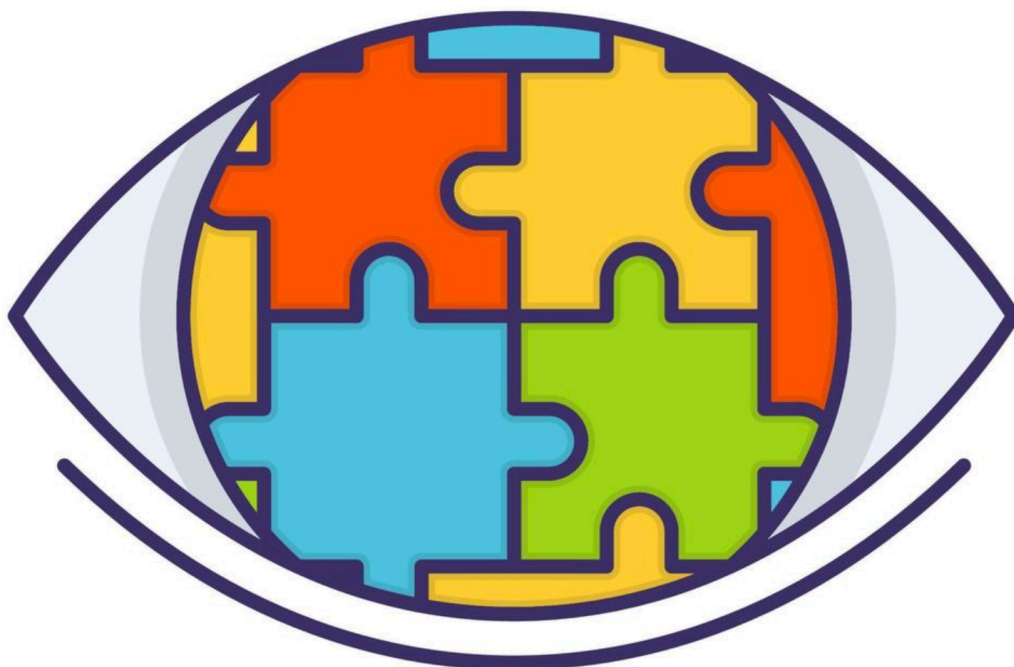
- Dec. 7** - Sermon: When We're Running Out of Hope, God is at Work  
Scripture: Mathew 11:1-11, Isaiah 43:19-21  
Anthem: Canticle of Turning
- Dec. 14** - Sermon: Even in Our Fear, We Are Called Forward  
Scripture: Luke 1:26-39, Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Anthem: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord
- Dec. 21** - Sermon: When You're Afraid, Give Me Your Hand  
Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25, Isaiah 41:5-10  
Anthem: Do You Hear What I Hear?
- Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve Service  
Sermon: Good News is Louder Than Fear  
Scripture: Luke 2:1-20  
Anthem: O Holy Night
- Dec. 28** - Sermon: Let Fear Fuel a Fire For Justice  
Scripture: Matthew 2:13-15,

**Congregational Visioning Retreat**  
**Saturday, December 13th from 1:00-4:00**  
**Facilitator: Rachel Haxtema**

Admiral is getting ready for a ministerial transition. Part of that process is working together to develop a short term vision of our church as we are in transition. We have experienced a great deal of change during the past year and the next six months will hold even more. This time will be less traumatic if we have a plan of what we want to see happen during that time and we want you to be part of creating that plan.

The Council has engaged an experienced facilitator, Rachel Haxtema, to help us through this process...yes, we feel that it is **THAT IMPORTANT!** We want to be ready for our new pastor!

Please come and provide your wisdom to this discussion. Every voice has a story to tell about what they envision for Admiral Church in the short-term and in the long-term. We need to hear yours!







## **JOINER'S FAIR December 14th During Coffee Hour**

We need YOU to be involved in Admiral's teams and committees! We have a lot to do in the coming year to help our Bridge Pastor, prepare for our new pastor and complete our move out of the old building. We will be encouraging everyone to sign up for some active role as we enter 2026. It's going to be a BIG YEAR! We need everyone's help! Sign up and share the load!

## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING February 22nd After Worship**



The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place later than usual this year. The Council expects to have some definitive information from Homestead by that time regarding funding and moving forward with the Affordable Housing Project which is worth waiting for. We have already made important changes to employees' salaries in response to the rising minimum wage for 2026 which is now in effect, so there won't be complications with having the meeting a bit late for our employees or for our Office Manager.

# Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace: Our 2026 Stewardship Journey

Our 2026 Stewardship Campaign is drawing to a close, and our Admiral community is already demonstrating remarkable generosity and hope. Guided by this year's theme, "Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace," we enter this season with gratitude for the strong foundation we share and the bright future unfolding before us.



Just as the tree in our campaign logo reaches skyward while drawing strength from deep, steady roots, our congregation continues to grow from the enduring love of God. Though we are preparing for a new church home, stewardship this year is about much more than buildings. It is about sustaining the ministries that shape who we are—worship that grounds us, service that reflects our values, and community that holds us together.

## Campaign Progress: A Strong Start

We are delighted to share that we have already received half of our pledges, totaling \$70,000. This early response is a testament to the commitment and faithfulness of our members. Thank you to everyone who has already participated—your generosity encourages and inspires our whole church family.

## A Season of Stories and Discernment

In the past few months, we have heard and shared stories of how God's grace is guiding us through this season of transition; stories of resilience, gratitude, and the transformative power of community. We know and are grateful for how much Admiral has done for us. Of you haven't yet shared your pledge, please take a moment to pledge at our online portal or send a

quick email to Stephanie Trinneer at [sltrinneer@gmail.com](mailto:sltrinneer@gmail.com). Ever pledge, no matter the amount, strengthens our shared ministry and widens the circle of grace we extend to the world.

As Colossians 2:7 reminds us:

“Rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

## Learn More

To learn more about our campaign, visit our Stewardship landing page or reach out to the Stewardship Committee with any questions.

Together, we remain rooted in faith—and joyfully growing in grace.

In Peace,

## The Stewardship Committee



# The Longest Night



Longest Night  
Service

December 21st 5:00

**May the coming of the light help ease the pain, sadness, anxiety and grief many feel during this season.**

There was a time when all of our daily rhythms were governed by the light of day. With no electricity, when the daylight was out we were up; and when the night fell so did we – asleep.

We built temples to the sun. We told stories of monsters that came out in the dark. Archeologists have told us that many of the great archeological sites were built to mark the place of the sun at the summer solstice – the longest day of the year.

We knew without calendar or clock that at some point, something would shift. Nights that had been growing longer shifted and the sun would return on its slow path north and the days would begin to lengthen.

Last week, I spoke about how the Church adapted an old pagan ritual that celebrated this return of the light as the metaphorical equivalent of the coming of the Christ child.

This week, I talk about another tradition associated with this moment in each year: the longest night commemoration or, as some have come to call it – the Blue Christmas service.

On one side of the longest night, we celebrate the return of the light



On this side of the longest night, we acknowledge the presence of pain, sadness, anxiety, and grief we all carry.

We live with both joy and sadness. Faith as we know it doesn't promise that we will only know happiness with God – only that God will not abandon us in the shadowed valleys. In fact, what we have come to experience with our sacred is that in those valleys the presence of God matters.

“Yea, though I walk through the valleys of the shadows of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me. Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

Blue Christmas services have become a part of my annual walk towards the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Whether it is my own pain and grief that needs to be acknowledged, or a recognition that the world we live in must articulate its own cry in the midst of the enormity of suffering it endures, this service speaks to me deeply.

We tend to focus on the Christmas season as a time of great joy. And for many that is exactly what it is.

Others face what used to be the time to gather with loved ones as a time of loneliness and suffering – sitting at a table without the one that made it special for them in the past. Divorce or disease or death can invade the rooms where once joy was abundant – and holidays like this one serve to remind us of what we no longer have.

For all those who suffer through this time, for whom the longest night and its interminable darkness have become the metaphor for the living of their days, we pause to recognize both the pain they live with and the presence of one whose rod and staff, they comfort us.

May joy abound for us all – and when it doesn't may there be recognition of another's suffering the accompaniment of a Creator whose unbounded love heals all wounds on this, our journey into the mystic.

by [Steven \(Steve\) Liechty](#) | published on Dec 17, 2019, National UCC Newsletter

## OUTREACH TEAM



Annual Admiral Church Warm Clothing Drive is coming to an end on December 15th. It's time to dig into those closets and pull out the warm boots, coats, gloves and hats that are hiding in there that you won't be wearing any time soon and donate them to those who could use them NOW!

There is a deep need for warm children's clothing this year, so if you have neighbors with school age children who have outgrown their winter cloths from last year, encourage them to donate to this great cause.

There are two drop-off points this year - one in front of the Admiral HUB and the other at the Admiral Chapel. The HUB location is for community donations. The Chapel site is for congregate and St. John the Baptist donations. The children's clothing will be distributed at WIN's Saturday Feeding Program in White Center to those who need the clothing the most.

**So far the response has been amazing!**

**PFLAG**  
**MEETING DECEMBER 16TH at 7:30-9:00**

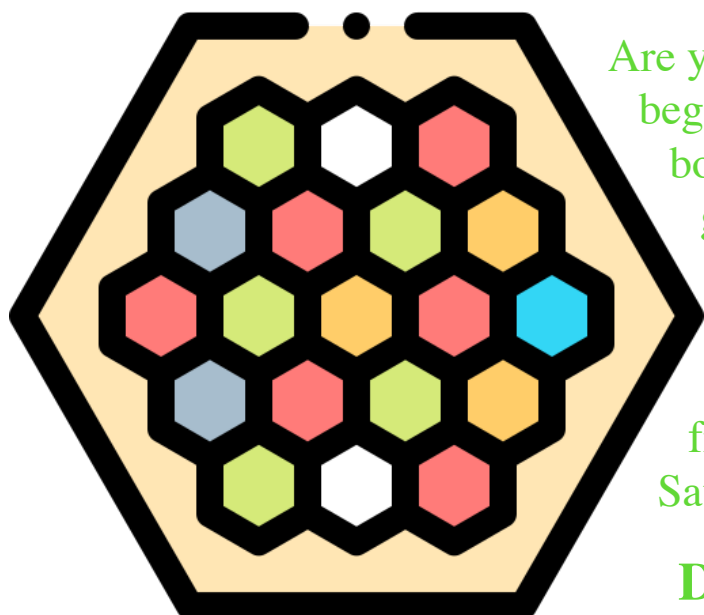
PFLAG is continuing to meet at the Admiral HUB on third Tuesday nights! Cori and Anita will be there to provide peer-to-peer support, publications, toolkits, and other resources to make sure that the family members of people who are LGBTQ+ get the support they need.



Please join us for our next PFLAG meeting on Tuesday, December 16th @7:30 PM! Supporters are welcome!

## CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS TEAM

### GAMES, GAMES, GAMES



Are you an old-fashioned gamer? Expert or beginners are welcome. Hands on boardgames, traditional games, new games, card games, whatever type of game you like to play - this is your chance to show us what you've got! Come share a fun time with church friends and their friends on the first Saturday of each month!

**December 6th Games, Games, Games 2:00 - 4:00.**

## **TOBI'S JAZZ HANG**

**WHERE "CREATIVES" GET TOGETHER**

**AT THE ADMIRAL HUB**

**Tuesdays 5 - 7**

Tobi Stone holds a weekly jazz improv jam for all ages in the Sanctuary. Jazz standards and rare swing tunes- easy sight reading, fun jamming! Beginners learn from advanced students, and advanced players get a

Do Justice

Love Mercy





chance to play with others. Call Tobi with questions at 206.412.0145. All are welcome, so dust off that clarinet, saxophone or piccolo and join Tobi for a

**Worship Service  
every Sunday @ 10:30  
[www.admiralchurch.org](http://www.admiralchurch.org)**

relaxing, fun evening. Listeners are welcome.



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