



RLC Newsletter

December
2020

A Message from Pastor Allman

Waiting! Some people hate waiting. Some people will pick up something to buy and then decide not to buy it because the line at the cash register is too long. There are others who have learned to wait, even though they may say they do not particularly like it. Waiting requires a decision to be patient and expectant. The desired outcome will happen. Sometimes waiting becomes bearable because others are there to encourage us that the wait will be worth it. Sometimes we simply have no choice except to wait, because we have done everything we can and now the situation is up to someone else.

As I write this (11/7/20) the whole country is “waiting” for a number of states to declare a winner in the presidential election. Some will be happy with

the outcome, some will not. The whole country is also “still waiting” in the midst of a pandemic for a vaccine that is proven, affordable, and readily available to everyone.

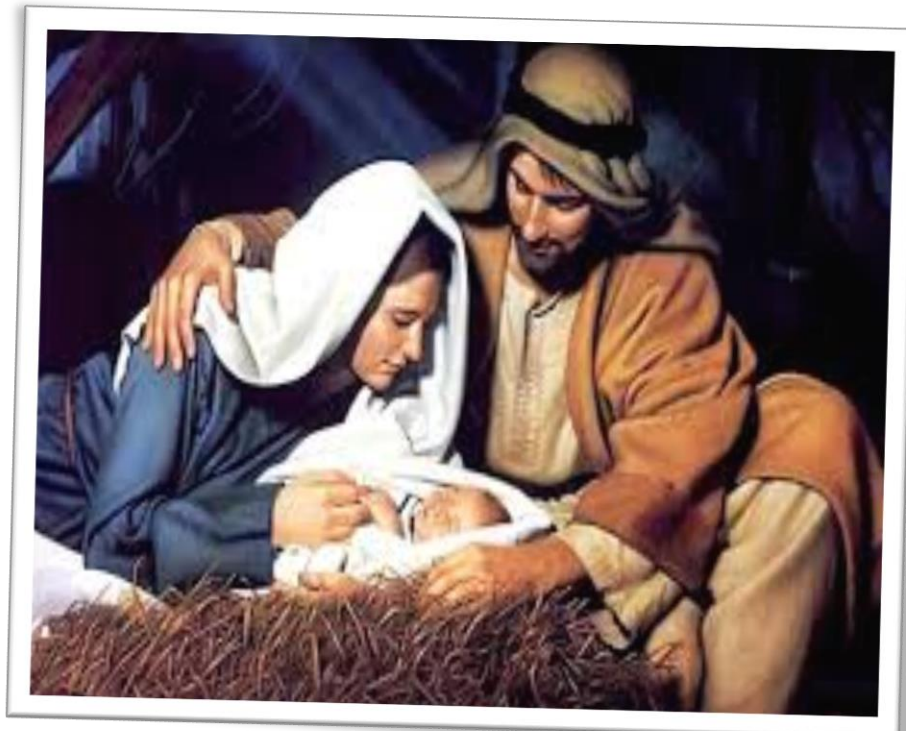
The Christians in Thessalonica have been waiting; and, like many of us, they are getting anxious to have the time of waiting to be over, or at least get some questions answered. They are not waiting for the same reasons we are waiting. They are actually waiting for something with bigger implications. They are waiting on the return of Jesus, which they eagerly anticipate because they are ready to be done living under the life-and-death threats of arrest and torture.

The Apostle Paul writes to them a letter of encouragement and hope. In 1 Thessalonians 5:8 & 11 he writes, *“Since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation... Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”*

Advent begins 11/29/20, and the entire focus of Advent for Christians is to lift up a season of waiting with anticipation. Thanks to marketing strategists who want the season of consumerism to begin as soon as possible, we are well into their “spirit of Christmas” before Advent even begins. As much as some people may criticize stores putting out Christmas displays so early, Christians also want to

start singing all the Christmas carols before Christmas begins on December 25th. Some people hate waiting.

Yet some things cannot be rushed. The birth of a baby cannot be rushed, even the long-awaited Messiah (Christ). The return of the Messiah (Christ) also cannot be rushed, and it is one of those events for which we have no choice about waiting. We do have a choice about how we wait and prepare. The gospel readings from November about the five foolish bridesmaids and the lazy servant who buried his talent, as well as those we will read during Advent are meant to encourage everyone to prepare wisely, use our talents to make disciples, stay alert as we wait, and continue to encourage one another.



Pastor Allman †

News from the Office Administrator

December 2020

Here we are in the midst of the holidays! On November 8th we began in-person worship again, with a limit of 50 people per Sunday. As I am writing this we are still working on plans for Christmas services so stay tuned for more information as the plan is developed.

Our live stream of the Sunday morning service continues for those who prefer to worship from home. This is a great way to be part of the service while also staying safe. We are excited to be able to continue to offer this even as we are able to gather again for in-person worship. If you are having difficulty getting the live stream on your computer, please give us a call for assistance. During the week, Kadie emails the upcoming Sunday's bulletin to our distribution list. If you are not receiving this email, please give the office a call and make sure we have a correct email address for you. The email includes information on how to connect to the live stream. We want as many people as possible to be able to be a part of worship in this way.

Please know that if you are in need of financial assistance, we have funds available at the church to help. This remains confidential, only Pastor will know that you received aid. We don't want anyone left in need. Please speak with Pastor Allman if we can be helpful.

First and foremost, stay safe and healthy. Our first priority is the safety and wellbeing of all of you, so please be good to yourselves.

DECEMBER STEWARDSHIP

December is a month that has somewhat of a split personality. It is the beginning of the Church year, which ended with Christ the King Sunday and begins with the First Sunday in Advent. At the same time, it is the end of the calendar year and the end of our fiscal year.

Some will say they are glad to see 2020 end, although currently there is no reason to believe we will have a proven vaccine that is readily available and affordable for everyone until some yet-to-be-determined time in 2021. Whenever there is such a vaccine, we will be able to begin anew and begin to develop our new normal.

First and foremost, we want to thank everyone who has continued to support Redeemer with your offerings and special gifts. It was a special gift that is allowing us to live stream our worship service so that those who wish to continue to stay safer at home can still feel connected; and, we will continue to live stream the worship service even after we can return to in-person worship without restrictions.



Currently the pandemic has made the 2020 Spending Plan impractical as the fiscal year is almost over. Some typical expenses were less than anticipated, while others were more than anticipated. Trying to calculate a 2021 Spending Plan based on current spending would be illogical. Trying to project what 2021 will look like without knowing more about when a complete worship and ministry programming schedule will begin would also be illogical. As much as is possible we will use the 2020 Spending Plan to continue into 2021 with some adjustments that we know will be necessary.

If all goes well in Sun City Center while record setting new positive COVID-19 cases are spiking across the USA, we will present a projected 2021 Spending Plan to the congregation at the special congregational meeting after worship on December 13th. The Constitution requires the presence of 50 voting members for a quorum to transact business. The 2021 Spending Plan will be the only business conducted at that meeting.



Stewardship is not just something we do; being stewards of God's resources is who we are as Christians, combining mind, body, and spirit with time, talents, and treasures. Using God's resources to further the work of God's Kingdom is the ministry to which God calls us. Let us wisely use God's resources, as a congregation and as individuals.

KNOW THE SIGNS of Domestic Violence

- Tells you that you can **never** do anything right
- Shows **extreme** jealousy of your friends and time spent away
- **Keeps** you or **discourages** you from seeing friends or family members
- **Insults, demeans** or **shames** you with put-downs
- **Controls** every penny spent in the household
- **Takes your money** or **refuses** to give you money for necessary expenses
- Looks at you or acts in ways that **scare** you
- **Controls who** you see, **where** you go, or **what** you do
- **Prevents** you from making your own decisions
- Tells you that you are a **bad** parent or **threatens** to **harm** or take away your **children**
- **Prevents** you from working or attending school
- **Destroys** your property or **threatens** to **hurt** or **kill** your pets
- **Intimidates** you with **guns, knives** or other **weapons**
- **Pressures you to have sex** when you don't want to or do things sexually **you're not comfortable with**
- **Pulling your hair, punching, slapping, kicking, biting** or **choking** you
- **Forbidding** you from sleeping or eating
- **Preventing** you from calling the police or seeking medical attention
- **Abandoning** you in unfamiliar places
- **Driving recklessly or dangerously** when you are in the car with them
- **Forcing you to use drugs or alcohol** (especially if you've had a substance abuse problem in the past)

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive, controlling behavior that can include physical abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, sexual abuse or financial abuse (using money and financial tools to exert control).



RESOURCES

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/domestic-violence/need-help.shtml>

<https://marymarthahouse.org>

Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-500-1119

If in immediate danger, call 911.

From Parish Nurse Team

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd – Jim Moyers
 4th – Carole Beltz, Angie Wiechers
 5th – Elfi Nolden
 6th – Carol Crawford
 8th – Sue Kovacik, Doris Hahn
 12th – Richard Doerfler
 13th – Anna Miner
 14th – Hazel Crosby, Carol Thompson
 19th – Jim Smeltzer
 22nd – Susan Pearson, Carolyn Stahl
 24th – Donald Munford
 26th – Irene Brenner
 29th – Delores Turner



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3rd – Dietrich & Helen Schaefer
 22nd – Dean & Carole Beltz
 26th – Pete & Carolyn Robinson
 28th – Rick & Debbie Andrews



We ask if you notice information is missing or incorrect, please let us know. Thank you!



Please remember Redeemer when you are doing your estate planning.



Redeemer has reopened

Redeemer reopened in November with limited attendance. We will continue to limit attendance to 50 guests. Worship is held every Sunday at 10:00 AM. Please be sure to RSVP each week via phone or email between the hours of 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM Monday through Friday. Please use sccredeemerlc@gmail.com. to RSVP.

Please make note that there will be two services Christmas Eve and no worship service on Christmas Day.



SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



Dec. 6 – Dick Fricke

Dec. 13 – Wendy Kitzman

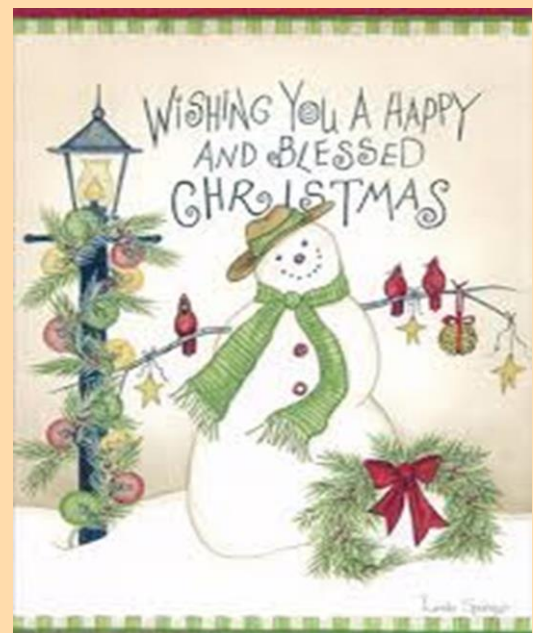
Dec. 20 – John Minor

Dec. 24 – 4:00 PM-Carolyn Cole

Dec. 24 – 7:00 PM- Dick Fricke

Dec. 27- Hal Wold

Please call Carolyn Cole if you would like to read on Sunday. 813-812-7527



Nearly New Shop

The Nearly New Shop is open for those of you who are looking for some shopping fun. We practice strict CDC guidelines. Only a small number of shoppers are allowed into the shop at a time. The shop is open Wednesday Dec 2 and 9 from 8:00 AM to noon and on Saturday Dec. 5, 12, & 19 from 8:00 AM to noon. Shopping can also be done by making an appointment on weekdays between 9:00 AM and noon. Call the shop at 813-642-9099 to schedule an appointment.

The Interfaith council is still awarding scholarships (\$172,000) and grants (\$27,067). Which are funded by sales at the Nearly New Shop. Please support the shop.

We have many volunteers from Redeemer. Your ISAC reps are Ann Miller, Janice Walsh, Jenise German, Susan Pearson, and Jane Trefren. We are happy to answer any questions you have about Nearly New or the Council.

God Bless you during this holiday season.
Stay safe and healthy,
Jane

Free Mental Health Therapy through the end of the year for those in need.

We can all use a little help through these troubling times. Therapy can be done through telemedicine on your computer or in office space available in Sun City Center. Thru a special grant, the South Shore Coalition for Mental Health and Aging and Seniors in Service have funds to help pay for those in need with 9 therapists ready to take your call. <https://www.observernews.net/2020/11/19/we-can-all-use-a-little-help-through-tough-times/> or call 813-582-3600 and leave your contact information. Someone will get back to you within 48 hours.

We Can All Use a Little Help Through Tough Times

By **LOIS KINDLE**

When it comes to thriving in this world, our mental health is just as important as our physical health. But many folks fail to recognize this and seek help, even in the best of conditions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made matters worse. Seniors are isolated from their loved ones; children are struggling with home schooling; parents are stressed over related discipline problems and helping cover their kids' lessons, while trying to work to support their families; healthcare workers and caregivers are exhausted; people have lost their jobs or businesses; and others grapple with the tedium of following COVID protocols. Many of these folks need help, but they don't know where to turn.

Thanks to a \$50,000 grant from Hillsborough County's R3 Safety Net program and a partnership between Seniors in Service and the South Shore Coalition for Mental Health and Aging, South Shore area residents who need mental health services can receive them here in the community through the end of the year. Being able to afford them is not an issue.

"The South Shore Mental Health Initiative is (available) for a limited time with limited funds, so it's being offered on a first-come, first-served basis," said Seniors in Service CEO Robin Engles. "We will have nine therapists and counselors available – four psychologists, a psychiatric nurse practitioner and four licensed mental health counselors. "I encourage anyone who feels they need help to reach out. Prolonged stress and isolation can turn into physical and mental illness."

Participants will initially be screened by a licensed mental health counselor to determine what kind of help and therapist they need and whether or not their insurance can be utilized to cover some of the cost involved. Help is available to supplement co-pays and deductibles.

"If you don't have the means to pay, the grant funding will fill the gap by covering the cost," said Debbie Caneen, president of the South Shore Coalition for Mental Health and Aging. "The whole point of the grant is to make therapy possible, regardless of anyone's ability to pay.

"The counseling sessions can take place in your home through telemedicine or at one of two convenient locations: Sun Towers or the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center," Caneen added. "A private room will be made available with someone to set up a one-on-one session with a

licensed mental health professional, and then leave.”

Consider your needs

If you are experiencing one of more of the following symptoms, you could benefit from this program:

- Long-lasting sadness or irritability
- Extremely high and low moods
- Excessive fear, worry or anxiety
- Social withdrawal
- Dramatic changes in eating or sleeping habits
- Little or no interest or pleasure in doing things
- Feeling down, depressed or hopeless.

“A lot of folks have never experienced mental health counseling, but they’ve never experienced anything like what we’re going through right now,” said Anna Lively, LMHC. “This program gives people the opportunity to receive this type of (help) at no cost to them. If this is something you need, don’t wait.”

Caneen agrees. “Don’t allow any preconceived thoughts about therapy to keep you from taking advantage of this awesome opportunity,” she said. “We can all use a little help to get through tough times.”

The South Shore Mental Health Initiative is open to all South Shore residents. To sign up, visit <https://bit.ly/2IE5QHe> or call 813-582-3600 and submit your contact information. Someone from the South Shore Coalition for Mental Health and Aging will get back to you within 48 hours.



Christmas gift bag pick up

Merry Christmas everyone! This year has been very different for all of us in many ways. Since we are unable to gather in larger groups this Christmas, Redeemer came up with a new way to share some Christmas cheer. We will be giving Christmas gift bags to members and friends of the congregation. We will have a gift bag drive-through on Thursday December 10th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. All you have to do is drive up under the covered doors and we will be waiting to deliver your gift bag to you. This will be an opportunity to say hello and Merry Christmas from a distance. You will also receive your offering envelopes at this time. If you have any questions please reach out to Kadie or Susan in the office at 634-1292.



December 10th

Pick up:

10:00 AM -12:00 PM

