



BETHANY UNITED METHODIST
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Greetings,

I hope you find this devotional helpful in your daily journey. Let me know what you think.

Blessings, Pastor Dan

A Reflection: Hope

Once again, we began our journey toward Bethlehem with the beginning of Advent. Christmas will soon be upon us. However, are we open to receive God's gift? What I mean by that is beyond the story of His coming, Jesus seeks to imbue us with the Spirit. Hence, each week leading up to Christmas we hear about different aspects of God's Spirit which we are invited to receive more fully into our lives. This week we heard about hope. Not just a lighthearted sentiment, but a quality that we can count on. For instance, the prophets proclaimed the hope and expectation of a Messiah. They were not sure what that would look like, they did not have the benefit that we do to

look back in history to the event of His coming. Yet they were convinced. Are you open to hope in your life? Or does fear, rationalization, doubts and cynicism keep hope from growing in the soil of your soul? Perhaps this Christmas season is a time for getting rid of some weeds and letting the Spirit of God take greater purchase in your life.

Grace and peace, Pastor Dan

Upcoming Dates

Monday: Bounty Food Bank - 9 am to Noon, Volunteers welcomed.

Friday: Bounty Food Bank: needs Volunteers every Friday for food pickup and storage help. Call 253-335-7860.

Next Sunday: Choir Practice 10:00

Worship Service 11:00

- Charge Conference - Our annual review will take place on December 15th @ 1:00p.m.. All are invited to come and hear about the ministry of the church.
- "The Blanket Brigade!" continues will continue through December 25th. Please bring new or clean, gently used Blankets and Tarps to the church. This year we are also collecting new or clean, gently used Sleeping Bags, Coats, Gloves/Mittens, Stocking Hats and Scarves. Collection box and shelves are in the Friendship Room.
- The Longest Night Service: Friday, December 21st, 7pm. This is particularly helpful for those that have lost love ones during the Christmas season
- Kids Movie (upstairs) and Adult Game Nite (downstairs): Saturday, December 22nd, 6pm - It is still evolving - if you have ideas check with Danielle or Bela.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Monday, December 24th, 11pm

Please keep in your prayers...

Judy Egan

James & Jenifer Angus

Mary Egeland

Laura

Danielle - and family

Denise - Her mother died on Monday