



## *An Oasis of Calm in the Midst of Frenzy*

*A new year has begun! No, I haven't totally cracked up. The season of Advent signals a new year for the Church as we begin at the beginning to prepare for what we know is coming, the birth of the One who is called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel – God with us. For me, this is the most fantastic season of the church year. Advent is a stark counterpoint to all that is going on around and in us in preparing for Christmas. On the Sundays of Advent we come together for a break. A break from Christmas music in every public place. A break from glitz and glitter. A break from stress and sometimes artificial cheeriness.*

*Advent worship is a time of calm and quiet. A time to be re-centered in the Christ of Christmas. A time to breathe deeply in the presence of God and not commerce. In contrast to the RED of the holidays, the color of fire and excitement, Advent BLUE calls us to calmness and reminds us of Mary's assent to bear Christ to the world in the same way we are given the call to bear Christ in our baptism.*

*I always look forward to the Sundays in Advent. I hope you do too.*

### **Office Hours**

**Monday - Thursday**  
**9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**  
**Friday**  
**10:00 a.m. to Noon**

*We are called to ponder mystery and await the coming Christ, to embody God's compassion for each fragile human life. God is with us in our longing to bring healing to the earth, while we watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior's birth. ELW #258 Unexpected and Mysterious, v.3*



*Candlelight Vigil  
In remembrance of Sandy Hook  
and all others affected by gun  
violence.*

*Wednesday, December 13,  
2017*

*Arrive at 4:15 pm*

*Gather from 4:30-5:30*

*SW and NE Corners of S Colo-  
rado Blvd and E Hampden Ave  
Bring a flashlight and dress for  
the weather.*

*Sponsored by Colorado Faith  
Communities United to End  
Gun violence, First Universal-  
ist and First Plymouth Con-  
gregational Churches. Parking  
is available at First Plymouth  
UCC. This event is inspired by  
National Gun Violence Preven-  
tion Sabbath Weekend.*



*Christmas Tree Sale*

Once again our friend and lawnman, Nermin, is selling Christmas trees in the south parking lot. There are fresh Christmas trees in many shapes, sizes, species and wreaths and garland. Tell your friends and neighbors!



*It is time to talk about money in the church. We shouldn't limit this conversation to one part of the year but it is all too easy to do, especially when the "good news" about money is hard to come by.*

*The patterns of the past remain: budget deficits are the way of life at Messiah. We've made some significant strides this year to reduce the deficit. When Jim Krebs retired in June his full-time position was replaced by a 12 hour a week position and a cadre of volunteers. We have increased building use income by renting former Sunday School rooms as office space and gently increasing fees from our long-time building partners. Even so, a significant deficit budget looms in 2018.*

*In the coming months we will make a decision about the future of this congregation. Will we remain in this space? Move as a tenant into another space? Look for a non-profit to take over this building? Or bring this congregation to holy closure and plant seeds, both human and material for something new to spring forth?*

*Whatever decision is made, we continue to need your support in money, time and talent. There is no formal stewardship campaign this year. No pledge cards. We just ask that you make a pledge in your heart*



**Council Spotlight  
Carolyn Smith**



I grew up in South Dakota. I was born and raised on a farm in the northeast corner of the state. I graduated from Augustana College in Sioux Falls and began my teaching career in Des Moines, Iowa. After a couple of years, Avis, my roommate, and I decided to move to Denver where I met Leo, my husband. I continued to teach for another 25 years or so and retired in 2006. We have two grown boys and have lived in Park Hill for some fifty years.

I enjoy working outside and going for long walks with my dog, Nickelby. I try, with some success, to keep a flower garden blooming in my yard.



**A Very Merry Christmas Party**  
Come join Messiah Women for their annual Christmas party on December 9th. Most of our meetings start at 1:00 but, our Christmas buffet starts at 12:00. Please note the time change. Ham will be served as the main entrée. You are welcome to bring a side dish or contribute to the ham as is best for you. We hope to see you there. (Su-

Children's Christmas  
Pageant  
December 17  
9:30 am



Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service  
7:00 pm  
Featuring the Capitol Brass



## Volunteers Make a Difference...

...especially in times of transition. Over the last several weeks, you have been asked to “do a little bit more” to help us in the transition process. Your collective response has been nothing short of amazing; painting, organizing, cleaning, REorganizing, pulling weeds, counting offering, closing on Sundays, keeping records, tending the office, watering the plants, straightening the pews.....the list goes on and on, but so do the needs. If you can give some time on Sunday after church, we can use more members on our Closing Team, and the Altar Guild is also in need of people to setup and cleanup Communion on Sunday mornings. Both of these “opportunities” would be about a 30-minute commitment. If you’d like to be a part of the Sunday morning ministry team we can certainly accommodate you there also. Lector? Greeter? Communion Assistant? Contact Leah if you’d like to help in any way. (leah@messiahdenver.org). THANK YOU MESSIAH FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

## Budget Update

In an effort to keep the congregation informed of the financial status of the congregation, here are the current 2017 figures.

Church General Fund Income	October	YTD
Offerings	\$ 9,946.52	\$ 114,747.65
King Soopers	1,213.70	
Rental and Building Use	1,840.00	13,165.00
Other	919.97	
Total Income	\$11,786.51	\$ 130,046.32
Total Expenses	\$ 18,541.10	\$ 211,017.76
Net	(\$ 6,754.59)	(\$ 80,971.33)

*Messiah League of Hope would like to thank everyone that contributed to our scholarship fund for 2 college girls next year. We have met our goal and we will be introducing you to our scholarship recipients soon. As you know, before one can go to college one must have finished high school. In our partner community of Boca de Cantaro this is no small task. Children can attend school for free but there is often no money for backpacks, uniforms and supplies. In the past Messiah has been able to support all of the children in this community who want to attend to do so. We are again asking for your support to do the same. Elementary scholarships are \$50/student and high school scholarships are \$120. There will be a Christmas tree in the parlor with cards and an explanation of your contribution that you can include with your gift to someone whom you would like to honor or as a memorial. Take a card and fill out the part you want to acknowledge and return it with cash or a check made out to **JustHope**. Give the other part to the recipient as an acknowledgment of your gift on their behalf. We will send your check and place your card back on the tree. Your gift to JustHope is tax deductible. We hope to be as successful as we have in the past with your generous donations. Any amount of contribution is appreciated. Education is the only way out of poverty for many and our help is greatly needed. For more information on the program go to <https://justhope.org/programs/education/52-scholarships>. And from 20 Women of Hope (<https://justhope.org/our-work/us-faith-based-partners>) which includes our League of Hope (Susie, Barbara, Tammy, Adrienne, Sandy, Leah, Denise, Frances, Barb, Myrna and Shirley) plus our partners in Nicaragua, we wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year. We could not do what we do without your help and support.*

## Birthdays For the Month of December

Thomas R. Speicher	December 3
Cindy Pannebaker McClain	December 7
Sherrill Morris	December 7
Deborah Blom	December 16
Emma Roy	December 17
Warren G. Loeckle	December 22
Liam Gill	December 26
Mira Larson	December 30
Eleanor S. Miller	December 30
Kristen Roy	December 31

## Sunday School Schedule

December 10	Rehearsal
December 16	Dress Rehearsal in sanctuary
December 17	Pageant presented during worship service
December 24 & 31	No Sunday School
Classes resume on January 7	

All children are welcome to participate in the pageant. If your child, grandchild or friend would like to do so, contact Leah (303-564-0847) or [leah@messiahdenver.org](mailto:leah@messiahdenver.org). Attendance at all rehearsals is not required and there are plenty of costumes awaiting!



## In Our Prayers

John Cain, Winnie Jergensen, Mira Larson, Kelly McGuire, Eleanor Miller, Derek Meixell and his family (friend of Adrienne Adams), Ken Peden, Rocky Piro, Sue Ricci, Karen Rose, Nancy Wee (friend of Bonnie Short), Vera Thorne, Jackie West, and Ron White.



### **December 3**

Assisting Minister: Sue Edwards  
Lector: Carolyn Smith  
Greeter(s): Susie Anderson  
Communion Server: Sharon Lipsey  
Altar Guild: Sue Bishop  
Closer(s): Webers  
Counters: Denise Larson

### **December 10**

Assisting Minister: Frances Sitone  
Lector: Karen Schimke  
Laity Prayer: Adrienne Adams  
Greeter(s): Irene Brock  
Communion Server: Dick Chuvarsky  
Altar Guild: Sue Bishop  
Closer(s): TBD  
Counters: Sue and Dave Edwards

### **December 17**

Assisting Minister: Denise Larson  
Lector: Marcia Chuvarsky  
Laity Prayer: n/a  
Greeter(s): Webers  
Communion Server: Frances Sitone  
Altar Guild: Sue Bishop  
Closer(s): Adams  
Counters: T. and D. Heid

### **December 24**

Assisting Minister: Teresa Stenwall  
Lector: Sue Edwards  
Laity Prayer: Bill Dillon  
Greeter(s): Johnsons  
Communion Server: Marcia Chuvarsky  
Altar Guild: Sue Bishop  
Closer(s): Adams  
Counters: Sue and Dave Edwards

### **December 31**

Assisting Minister: Barb Ritcher  
Lector: Adrienne Adams  
Greeter(s): Inga Weiland  
Communion Server: Tammy Heid  
Altar Guild: Sue Bishop  
Closer(s): Webers  
Counters: tbd

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### **Support the MCC Budget – Use Reloadable King Soopers Gift Cards**

Please remember to use your King Soopers card when buying gas, groceries and prescriptions. If you need a card you can purchase them on Sundays after church from Susie Anderson or the coffee table if she is not there. It's easy to use and can really make a difference in our monthly offerings.

*Beautiful cookies decorated by  
beautiful children*





**Church Staff**

Interim Pastor + Rev. Beverly Piro  
 Director of Music + Eric French  
 Office Administrator + Suzanne Miller  
 Volunteer Coordinator + Leah Peden

**Web site**

www.messiahdenver.org

**E-mail**

info@messiahdenver.org

**Phone**

303-355-4471

*After hours pastoral emergency 206-300-1947*

**Sunday Worship  
 and Sunday School**

**9:30 A.M.**

<b>Contact Information</b>		<b>E-Mail</b>
Pastor (Interim)	Pr. Beverly Piro	revbev@messiahdenver.org
President & Property	Dick Chuvarsky	DickChuvarsky@messiahdenver.org
Vice President & Worship & Music	Craig Fischbach	CraigFischbach@messiahdenver.org
Treasurer & Learning	Julie Chickillo	JulieChickillo@messiahdenver.org
Secretary & Messiah Mtn. RC	Roger Miller	rogermiller69@gmail.com
Green Team	Karen Schimke	telephone only
Community Outreach	Carolyn Smith	carolyncolorado@gmail.com
Social Action	open	
Stewardship	James Bonham	JamesBonham@messiahdenver.org
Hospitality	Laurel Karabatsos	laurel.karabatsos@state.co.us
Volunteer Coordinator	Leah Peden	Leah@messiahdenver.org
Music Director	Eric French	Eric@messiahdenver.org

