
Pemberton UMC

NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 2022 ISSUE

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Isaiah 9:6 (NLT)

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

As we enter the season of Advent, this is the season of expectation. Every year it seems Christmas time is earlier every year. I walked into Walmart just the other day and the Christmas decorations and candy was already out. They were also preparing for the Black Friday sells.

I have friends that are anxiously waiting for what seems like the appropriate time to put the Christmas tree up. I have other friends that have already started playing Christmas music. I'm one of the friends that is saying it's too early. We haven't even had Thanksgiving yet.

Then as I was thinking about writing this newsletter article which I was planning to focus on Advent.

I realized that maybe the reason that people want to celebrate early is the way that Christmas makes them feel. Who wouldn't want to have a little more hope in their life. The hope that no matter what we are experiencing in the moment we can find hope that things will get better.

This is the season that we can remember that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Just like we can hope for the future, we have to access our faith for our hope for the future. So why wouldn't I want to begin to put my tree up to begin to feel the joy that Christmas brings.

When I remember the Christmas of old, the things that came to mind are getting up early to presents under the tree. breakfast in my pajamas, smelling the percolating of coffee even though at that time I wasn't allowed to have it and the big Christmas dinner we would have at my grandparents's house with my extended family that would last for hours. It is in those moments of remembrance that I feel a sense of joy and peace.

So if you are reading this and you want to put the tree up early and lights around the house. Go for it. We have so much to look forward to this coming season. God offers us access to Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace. Don't wait till the Sunday after thanksgiving to begin to celebrate Christmas. Honestly, we should celebrate Christmas all year long. So put your tree up early and keep it up as long as you want. Not only will I not tell anyone I might even join you and start celebrating the season early. Deck the halls with boughs of holly. Fa La La la la, la la la la (fa la la la la, la la la la). 'Tis the season to be jolly.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr Tiffany S. Murphy



Upcoming Events

November 23- 7pm Joint Thanksgiving Service at Grace Episcopal

November 27-decorate the church after service, Pizza lunch will be provided

November 27-December 11 Angel Tree gifts will be given a \$15 gift card

December 17- Free pictures with Santa for the Community, 10am-12pm

December 18- Christmas Covered dish after service

In the next few weeks look out for an announcement to update your contact information or to give it to us. We want to make sure our records reflect the correct information.



Reflections

During my first four months, lots has been experienced and happened. When moving in, there was lots to get done. There were fire alarms, ceiling fans to be installed and brine tanks to be clean. There are boxes yet to be unpacked as Bailey and I get settled in our new home. I have seen the clients that come for our food pantry and God's closet and have seen how important these ministries are to our community. I have had meetings with several members to get a sense of the great history of the church. I learned that there is a great love for Pemberton. There were hopes that we become the church that God desires for us as Christians.

In September, the youth went to the Ignite conference in Wildwood. It was a great weekend of worship and hearing amazing speakers.

The youth leaders and youth all got to spend time together speaking of God and how he is always there for the youth. They are still journeying together through youth group and personal interaction.

In October, on Laity Sunday we got a chance to honor Greg Fertig and Cheryl Watkins for their service to Pemberton. On October 31, we had 7 cars for trunk or treat. It was great seeing over 200 plus kids stop by in their fun costumes with parents in tow. The weather that day was absolutely beautiful.

We were excited to offer a Thanksgiving dinner for our clients that come to the pantry. There were new faces and old that attended the day. It was great day and we are grateful for the local farmers that donated the turkeys and the fixings. The season of Thanksgiving and Christmas are starting off with a bang.

