

Phillips Memorial Baptist Church

December 2020



Dear Phillips Members and Friends,

Howard Thurman (1899-1981) has been one of my favorite writers. He was not only an author; he was a philosopher, theologian, educator, and civil rights leader. Thurman played a leading role in many social justice movements and organizations of the twentieth century. His theology of nonviolence influenced and shaped a generation of civil rights activists, and he was a key mentor to leaders including Martin Luther King Jr.

One of his books is a favorite read during the season of Advent. The book, "The Mood of Christmas" contains the following poem which to me captures the true meaning of the holiday.

The Work of Christmas

**When
the song of
the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is
gone, when the kings and princes
are home, when the shepherds are back
with their flock, the work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace
among others, to make
music in
the heart.**

Howard Thurman

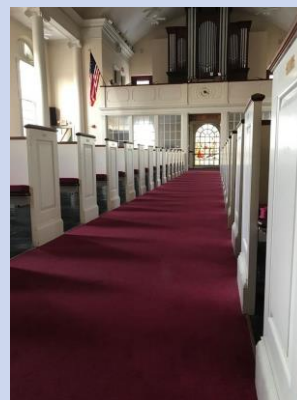
I wish you a blessed holiday season. It will be, without a doubt, a different Christmas but not necessarily an unpleasant one. While we will miss family traditions and gatherings, perhaps there will be hidden gifts in imposed solitude. After all, God has a way of surprising us when we least expect it. In Christ,

Pastor Alan

Join Us for On-line Worship Sundays at 10:00 am

Remember services are held every week on Zoom. Click "Join the Meeting!" below.

Recordings of services are posted on YouTube.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9HfT9D4BVHZC6iuHHLRbTQ>



[Zoom Phone Info](#)

[Join the Meeting!](#)

Virtual Christmas Concert

The JOY Praise Team and the Sanctuary Ringers have been hard at work to prepare a virtual Christmas Concert. Thanks to Robb Rasmussen, this will be recorded in the church chancel, and included as **part of the December 20th zoom worship service**. *Please join us in celebrating the Christmas Season with voices and bells!*

Moderator

I am happy to report that the Search Committee for our new pastor is complete. The members of the committee are: Kyle Baker, Steve Bergquist, Steve Brown, Peggy Chatellier, Bonnie DerManelian, David Fresch and Kathy McKinney. The members represent different generations as well as old time members and some newer members. The Committee will meet the week after Thanksgiving as they prepare for their mission. We have received a list of potential candidates for the custodian position. We will be interviewing one of the candidates after Thanksgiving. I have asked Rod Suennen and Sheldon Belmain to sit in on the interview.

Preparing for Christmas is usually a lot of hustle and bustle: decorating the house; buying and wrapping gifts; putting up the tree, baking cookies, the list goes on. We exhaust ourselves and cannot really focus on the true meaning of Christmas. As we approach the Advent season, let us all find some quiet time to focus on the following: What is the true meaning of Christmas? During Advent we light the candles for the Future, for Justice, for Joy, and for Peace. Each week as we light the candles, focus on what each of these mean for you, especially this year with all we have been through. It will help us all to stop and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and remember, above all, that "*Jesus IS the Reason for the Season*".

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas,

Jean Manocchia

Board of Deacons

The deacons have been in monthly discussions concerning in-person worship vs. Zoom worship. As you all have seen and read about, Covid cases are rising. Leaders are asking and limiting in-person meetings. We as a deacon board continue to view our congregation's safety as our top-most priority. We believe, though not ideal, Zoom worship is our best option for the immediate future.

Please be assured that, when this pandemic slows, we will be ready to roll out a way to start worshipping again at Phillips, the building. Until then, if anyone has any questions, ideas or concerns regarding our worship experience please let us know.

Jeff Damrad

Board of Trustees

We are happy to report the lift finally arrived to be used to scrape and paint the steeple. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and this outside project will get done. Come January this board will need to fill two seats. If you are interested to serve on the board of trustees, please contact the church office.

We are in the need of snow shoveling removal for the coming winter. If interested please contact the church office. Thank you!

Diane Steele

Phillips Memorial Free Baptist Church at Eden Park

A Report on the History of the Movement

[Click to Read the Article](#)

Board of Mission

The food drive will be December 12 from 11am - noon. We will be on the Branch Avenue side, where it's a little sunnier. We got an overwhelming response last month, please continue to support. There is an immense need in our area at the present time. Last month the donations went to Calvary Baptist; they service 200-300 families a month. We will also be collecting new children's mittens, gloves and hats to go to local children in need. If you aren't able to get out to shop, we can help with that. Just put a note in the memo of a check or on an envelope.

Thank you,

Cindi LaCroix

Donations - Update

World Mission Offering total: \$630. Many thanks!

Calvary thanks us very much for the food donations!

One Great Hour of Sharing has released \$8,500 in relief grants to Honduras and Nicaragua for food, clothing, water filters, blankets, and medicines. Massive devastation in the form of floods, roadway collapses, power outages

and crop destruction, has occurred in addition to loss of life. This, plus COVID-19, is expected to extend the emergency into mid 2021.

During December, we will be giving to an offering honoring retired missionaries and ministers (RMMO). The theme this year is “Hope for Today, Hope for Tomorrow” – encompassing the true strength and dedication of these servants. It is a way for us to honor those who have given so much over the years with a “Thank You” check and emergency checks to those who need help with emergencies (medical, car repair, glasses, etc.) their budget doesn’t cover. Over 3,000 recipients will be very grateful to be recognized for their tireless efforts to carry forth God’s work. Note on your check how much for RMMO, if combining with regular giving.

Diana Litterick



[Click for Daily Bible Study for December](#)



****Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**

December 24 at 7:00 pm

**** (on Zoom - same ID as Sunday service)**

Sharing Prayer Concerns and Celebrations and Pastoral Prayer

Bonnie DerManelian's daughter and the family of Bonnie's client who has died, Diana Litterick's granddaughter, Rina Hopkins, Rev. Dr. Tom McKibbens, Sheldon Belmain's sister Judy Carver, Linda Liebrich's parents, Peggy Chatellier's brother, Joyce Smith, Jean Mannoia's daughter-in-law's mother Linda Guisti, David Fresch's friend Evan and his neighbor's family who have experienced a loss, David Barber's colleague's brother, Sarah Blusiewicz's assistant whose father died, ABC Missionaries in lock down around the world, our shut-in members.



News from ABCORI

Dam at Canonicus in Need of Major Repair

[Click to Read the Article](#)

Sharing Good News of Great Joy Resource

[Click for Conversations & Activities Ideas](#)

Preparing the Way Coffee Chats

[Click for Info About Zoom Coffee Chats](#)

Birthdays!



Glenn Fresch	December 3
Diane Steele	December 9
Eileen Stroud	December 18
Victoria Day	December 20
Ellen Scianna	December 27
Jean Manocchia	December 30
Amy Smith	December 30
Nina Mennillo	December 31

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[Visit our website](#)