

December 23, 2019 Huntley UMC weekly email

Dear friends,

Yesterday at Huntley United Methodist Church the children and youth told us a story. It was an old, old story that we have heard many times before, but we never tire of hearing it once more. It is the story of our Mighty God who loved us so much that He came to be with us in the person of Jesus Christ.

It was an amazing story of angels, and wise men and shepherds. It was a story of a family with no place to stay finding shelter in a barn with animals who witnessed the birth of a King. It was a story full of faith and love and devotion and intrigue. It was a story about the best of divine intentions smacking up against the worst of human intentions. It was a story of God's ultimate love overcoming man's worst instincts. It was the story of Christ's birth, the Messiah, come to rescue us as promised from long ago.

We will continue to tell this wonderful story of God's love for each of us with our Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. It will be a service of Christmas Carols and scripture retelling this wonderful story of a savior who came from glory to live and die for all of us. Please join us to once again celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

I would like to share this Christmas Blessing written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes:

*"May the coming of Christ  
deepen your wonder  
and widen your gratitude.*

*May the helpless child  
bring forth your tenderness  
and strengthen your love.*

*May the gentle mother  
give you courage to embrace the holy  
and find the divine in yourself.*

*May the child who shares our death  
bring light into your darkness,  
and hope to your weariness.*

*May the holy family in the stable  
open your heart to the poor,  
the homeless, the refugee.*

*May the child sought by soldiers  
embolden you to cry out  
and empower you to resist injustice.*

*May the angels who sing above you  
awaken your heart  
and surround you with beauty.*

*May the One Who Comes  
remind you of your belovedness  
and fill you with kindness and mercy,  
and give you joy."*

See you in worship,  
Pastor Gary Geiman