

December 2, 2019 Huntley UMC weekly email

Dear friends,

Yesterday in worship at Huntley United Methodist Church we celebrated the beginning of Advent. We lit the first candle on our Advent wreath, the candle of Hope. For centuries, the people of Israel hoped for the promised coming of the Messiah, and that hope was realized in the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem of Judea. Charles Wesley wrote of this hope in his hymn, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus."

*"Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne."*

Being the first Sunday of the month, we also celebrated Holy Communion. When you think about it, we really cannot separate the manger from the cross. Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem, and we celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. But Jesus also came to save us, and he accomplished this task on the cross of Calvary. We remember and celebrate the ultimate gift of salvation when we celebrate communion and receive the symbols of Jesus' suffering on our behalf.

Yesterday at Huntley United Methodist Church we also celebrated our annual Chrismon Service, where we decorate our Christmas tree with symbols of Jesus' Nativity, Passion, and ultimate Victory. Jesus was and is the hope of God's presence with us, in his birth, in his death, and in his ultimate victory. Please join us for worship as we continue to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ into our world and our individual lives.

Evening Advent Bible Study will be on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. this week. A light meal will be served at 5:30 p.m.

Suicide Prevention Training will be held at Huntley United Methodist Church on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Training is presented by Suicide Prevention Coalition of Yellowstone County and RiverStone Health. This training is valuable for anyone who is active in our community.

Huntley UMC church board meeting will be on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Holly Dinner will be served at the VFW Hall in Worden on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Huntley Christmas Stroll will be on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

See you in Advent worship,  
Pastor Gary Geiman