



916 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043
www.houseofprayerhingham.org

Tidings

The Monthly Newsletter of
 House of Prayer Lutheran Church

December 2024

“How much greater is the God we have than the one we think we have.”

— Fr. Gregory Boyle, *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*

As we embark on the waiting journey of Advent, we should remind ourselves of the story that the God we wait for inserted Himself into. There is a double movement in Advent, celebrating first how God comes close to us in Jesus, and secondly the advent of the fullness of God’s incoming Kingdom that will make all things new. In this story, we witness a God, as Fr. Gregory Boyle affirms, is greater than the one we limit ourselves to have based on purely doctrinal, dogmatic and traditional terms. Nobody expected God to come down to us in the level that He did. Nobody expected God, from His impenetrable eternity, to take up vulnerability and share with us our pains, and sorrows and joys. Motivated from the fountain of His own being of Love, God undertakes a way that breaks every mold we try to put God in. And we should expect God to continue to break those limits we impose on Him.

How far can God’s grace reach us? As far as He did in taking the very being of our humanity. How far can God’s Love go? As the theologian Stanley Hauerwas remarked: “All the way down”. Advent is a time of waiting, yes, it is a time of expectation, yes, but we must give space for that “something greater” than what we expect. God will surprise us in the ways that He will come to us and bless us with His presence. That “something greater” also might change our definition of greatness, for God’s ways are not ours. In the Christmas story, God makes vulnerability, the poor, the marginalized, the place where He reveals Himself fully instead of power, riches, and callousness. I’m reminded by the 43rd sonnet of Elizabeth Barret Browning, when she answers the question “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways”. God loves us to the depth, breadth and height of our own being, He loves us to the level of our every day’s most quiet need. He is a surprising God, as love is always surprising and all-encompassing. So in our Advent waiting, let us give space for the “greater” God can be, let us make space for God to

Weekly Virtual and In-person Worship

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

www.houseofprayerhingham.org

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Dates to Note

Confirmation Meeting

December 20
 6:30-8:30 PM

In Stiches

December 10 – 1:00 pm

Father Bill’s Sandwich-making

December 14

Church Council Meeting

Via Zoom December 19
 7:00 PM

Tidings Deadline

December 25

Wellspring Dinner Box Packing (Box Pick-up December 9) / Final Day for Ascentria Giving Tree

December 8

Epiphany Luncheon/Yankee Swap

January 11 – 12:30 pm

Semi-annual Congregational Meeting

January 26

surprise us with the ways His grace, love and peace can take shape in our lives, always leading us into more love and communion. Let Him count the ways He can love us now and forevermore.

-Pastor Emmanuel J. Correa Vázquez



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CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

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Vice President Kathleen Almand
Treasurer Kathleen Almand
Secretary Open

AT LARGE CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dana Abbott
Bill Hayes
Naomi Just
Cathy Martin
Jen McCready
Ann Moegle
Thea Morad
Marci Sutkowski
Shawn Wegener

HOUSE OF PRAYER MISSION STATEMENT

*To share and spread Christ's message of love.
To nurture a vigorous and
compassionate church family, open to all.
To provide meaningful worship and Christian education.
And to actively reach out to help and serve others.*

ELCA MISSION STATEMENT

*"Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed,
gathered and sent for the sake of the world"*

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Christian Education Kim Boyd
Evangelism open
Facilities Shawn Wegener
Finance Ed Martin
& Stewardship
Parish Life open
Shepherds Sue Bose
Social Ministry Cathy Martin
Worship Life Carla Hill and Mary Howarth

Bulletin Announcements

STEWARDSHIP THANK YOU

On behalf of our entire congregation and staff, thank you for your participation in this year's stewardship emphasis, "Moving Forward by Faith." Your willingness to make a commitment with others at House of Prayer is very much appreciated.

You have enabled us to continue to share the good news of the Gospel and to minister to people in Jesus' name. Your financial support, as well as the investment of your time and talents, is a vital part of all that we do for the Lord here at House of Prayer Lutheran.

Thank you for being part of this fellowship. May God bless your life and all that you do for the sake of the Gospel in the days ahead.

The Stewardship Team

FOR THE MATCH - SPECIAL DONATION MATCH OPPORTUNITY

Christmas Gifts to HOP

A very generous member of our Congregation has offered to match contributions made in the month of December that are over and above member pledged amounts. Please consider an additional donation this year that will be matched in this way - there are many wonderful things happening at House of Prayer that need your support. Christmas cards to accompany your donation are available in the foyer or from the office.

LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN EPIPHANY LUNCHEON & YANKEE SWAP

Saturday, January 11 - 12:30 p.m. What had been an annual event until the Covid epidemic is now being revitalized. All are welcome to attend: members, daughters, granddaughters, nieces and friends. All who attend must sign up on the sheet on the table in the hall for choices of food donations. Yankee Swap items - \$20.00.

COAT DRIVE

Our cleaning company, The Cleaning Authority, thanks everyone who has donated to their coat drive. We will continue to collect new and gently used coats, jackets, gloves, hats, scarves and socks through December 19.

Shepherding Committee, Sue Bose, Chair

Please reach out to any member of the Shepherding Committee if you know of anyone who is in need of assistance or just in need of a friendly contact.

Sue, Kate, Linda, and Barbara



Mutual Ministry Committee, Sue Bose, Chair

The MMC meets with Pastor Emmanuel on the 4th Sunday of the month. If you have any suggestions or concerns or words of praise! and you are unable to speak with Pastor directly, please feel free to contact any Committee member.

Sue, Kathy, Cathy, and Steve

Friends of the Homeless

Once again, we are pleased that we can offer the Friends use of our Fellowship Hall for the month of December, so they can further their mission to help make Christmas a bit brighter for the homeless in our community. Program coordinator Polly Walker writes:

“On behalf of Executive Director Herb Newell and the Friends of the Homeless Holiday Giving team, I want to thank you for allowing us to use your Fellowship Hall again this year for our Christmas/Holiday Giving Program.

*Having the Hall space available for volunteers to sort, wrap, organize, and store gifts last year meant we could deliver hundreds of gift bundles -- and holiday joy! -- to **more than 300 families and 700 children on the South Shore**. This year, as the number of families living temporarily in local hotels has steadily increased, **we expect those numbers to be even higher** --- and our need for the large space to be even more critical.”*

They will be using the Hall from **December 4 through December 23**. As in the past, we will relocate coffee hour to the Narthex.



IVY ACADEMY NEWS

The folks at Ivy Academy wish everyone at House of Prayer a very Merry Christmas.



Social Ministry *Cathy Martin, Chair*

Ascentria Ruth House: Pastor is coordinating with the Ruth House to come to do a Temple Talk visit in December. We will give them any additional prayer shawls we have ready at that time.

Migrant Family Support: Pastor highlighted a letter to assist migrants through fundraisers and volunteering. The link to the letter is included here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPmuBR3h7WIKWZ1U9MjxbK0Bq3tczsb_N7TbTtcw_YM/edit

Kathleen added that we provided funds for an Ascentria family but they still cannot find a place. As soon as they move in, they will send us a video clip.

Father Bill's Update: Ann continues to organize monthly bag lunches; the next date is December 14. We discussed doing another sandwich assembly activity on March 9, 2025. This time with peanut butter and jelly since we already have that. We just need to get the bread. The In Stitches group made six blankets to be donated to Father Bill's as well as a collection of handmade scarves and hats.

In January, we will collect new sheets and blankets for the new facility in Brockton. The committee is also planning to sponsor a room at the new facility with an approximate cost of \$650, a one-time cost. The congregation will be invited to help with the sponsorship. The committee will cover any balance remaining. The cost is to cover new items needed to start a new apartment including pots and pans, dishes, sheets, and other items. A list will be provided.

Wellspring: Per our tradition, we will put together Dinner boxes for the Christmas holidays for Wellspring. On December 8 we will have an intergenerational event after church service with members wrapping the boxes and assembling them for pick up by Wellspring on December 9th. Since the Friends of the Homeless folks are using the Hall, packing will take place in the Narthex.

Ascentria: Victoria Warneck (thank you!) is coordinating the Giving Tree for the holiday season. We continue to collect gifts in the office until December 8.

Friends of the Homeless: The group is willing to work around the preschool hours which would be after 2:00 in the afternoon and on weekends. The details will be shared with Ivy for their approval. This would be happening in December. Pastor is going to check with Friends of the Homeless to see how the congregation can support this December activity.

God's Work, Our Hands: The plan is to do another cookie walk on May 4, 2025 (after Lent and Easter). Any proceeds would benefit the Weymouth Food Pantry.

Veterans' Home: Members are still providing meals to the Home twice a month. Thanks to everyone who participates in this program. For more information about meal prep, please see Millie Hill.

Upcoming Activities:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Activity</u>
December 8, 2024	Wellspring Christmas Dinner Box and Advent Event (see list below for what to include) Collection ends for Ascentria Giving Tree
December 9, 2024	Wellspring Collects Christmas Boxes
January 12, 2025	Social Ministry Meeting
February 9, 2025	Souper Bowl of Caring
March 9, 2025	Father Bill's Sandwich Preparation
May 4, 2025	God's Work, Our Hands Cookie Walk

Christmas Dinner Boxes

The Social Ministry Committee is organizing the collection of dinner boxes for Wellspring's food pantry. Please wrap your copy paper box festively like you would wrap a gift (wrap the lid separate from the box.)

Items for the Boxes

1 – 3 lb. ham or 3 – 1 lb. hams **(must not require refrigeration)***

1 – 16 oz. can pineapple or 2 small cans

2 cans of vegetables

1 box or bag of granulated sugar

1 box hot cocoa (bulk or single pack)

nuts and/or hard candy

1 package cookies (home-made or store bought)

Boxes are due December 9th

*Hams can often be found at Rite Aid, Walgreens, CVS, BJ's or the canned meat aisle of your supermarket.

In addition to the items listed above, please fill the box with other non-perishable items such as pasta, sauce, tuna or canned chicken, soups, peanut butter, canned fruit, etc. Toothpaste, soap and other toiletries are also much needed items (including travel/sample size.)



Please share your ideas regarding where and how we can get out and care for the environment by which we are all fed! A few local organizations are listed below. Do you have ideas about how we can support and enjoy these local groups more as a church? Please send suggestions to Phoebe at pheebcong@gmail.com (or for faster response - text - 617-599-2722).

North & South Rivers Watershed Association - <https://www.nsrwa.org/>

Hingham Farmers Market - <https://www.hinghamfarmersmarket.org/> -- *almost every community has one!*

Hingham Net Zero - <https://www.hinghamnetzero.org/>

Ascentria Migrant Family has a Home!

Thanks to everyone who responded to Ascentria's request for support for their migrant family placement program. House of Prayer contributed \$2,000 in total, so "Mary" and her family will be finding a new apartment shortly. Contributions are still welcome - please make your check payable to Ascentria with URM Support in the subject line.
Thank you all!

Other Ways to Give

House of Prayer is a generous community of Christ. Here are some different ways to give to support our ministry.

Automated Check Contributions - contact Dana Abbott, drsabbott@verizon.net, to easily set up a regular bank transfer

Online - you can easily set up regular or one-time contributions by credit card using this [link](#) or by going to the donation page on our website: houseofprayerhingham.org

Thrivent Choice - Thrivent members have the option of designating House of Prayer as the recipient of their "Thrivent Choice" dollars - a program in which Thrivent contributes to charitable organizations

Helpsy Bin - when you contribute used clothing to the Helpsy Bin in the parking lot, House of Prayer receives a monetary contribution based on the weight of goods in the bin.

Thank you for all you do for House of Prayer.



Christian Education Committee *Kim Boyd, Chair*

We're coming up on an amazing time of year, filled with wonder and joy!

This past month the confirmation group met on November 15 and talked about the first five books of the Bible. Do YOU know what they are?? If you need a refresher, ask our confirmation class! The next confirmation gathering will be Friday, December 20. The topic will be Kings and prophets of the Old Testament (and finishing talking about the law). We had a fun time making Advent wreaths to prepare for the Christmas season on November 24 (see pictures below!) If you missed making one for your home, please feel free to ask us for a wreath and some decorations to make one. We have plenty of supplies.


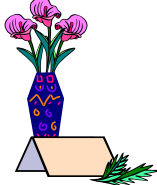
Hope you all had many things to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

Make sure to join us for church on December 22 for the adult choir's cantata, and stay for the last Sunday School class of the year to hear about the Christmas story. Merry Christmas to you all, and we'll see everyone again in the new year on January 5.





	Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary
December 1	Kathy Gray	December 31	George & Lynda Watt
December 2	Morgan Lundin		
December 10	Jane Ohlson		
December 12	Ingrid Lancaster		
	Dalton Vassallo		
December 24	Barbara Buntrock		
	Ed Martin		
December 28	Mabel Ericson		
December 29	Molly Folino		

	Happy Birthday		Happy Anniversary
January 2	Michaela Johnson	January 8	Ken & Barbara Buntrock
January 3	Cathy Martin	January 14	Kristin & Bob Golden
January 6	Ursula Hackemer		
January 12	Donna Hudson-Bryant		
January 18	Gene Lancaster		
January 20	Glen Olsson		
January 24	Dee Davidson		
January 21	Camden Vassallo		
January 25	Tim Linscott		
January 28	Linda Vassallo		

If you would like to have your birthday or anniversary added to the calendar, contact Barb in the office.

Prayer list

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints." Ephesians 1:18

Armstrong, Sophie (Bergman's granddaughter)
Badger, Dan and family
Badger, Tim
Bergsten, Chris
Brett, Virginia (friend of Martha)
Bryson, Caitlin (friend of Chris Hayes)
Clancy Family (bereavement)
Clifford, Kathy (friend of Kim Boyd)
Dallamora, Joe (Jen M's father)
Dauber, Lynda (friend of Parsekians)
Davis, Elise (neighbor of the Hayes)
Derderian, Craig (nephew of Parsekian's)
Derderian, Glenn and Sue (nephew of Parsekian's nephew and his wife)
Derderian, Gloria (sister-in-law of Parsekian's)
Dixon family
Ericson, Family (bereavement)
Errichiello, David (Carla's brother)
Fields, Leisel (friend of Jen McCready)
Galotti, Debbie (friend of Rita LaPlante)
Gatturna, Joan (friend of Lenae)
Gifford, Bill (friend of Chris Hayes)
Gitungano, Alex (friend of HoP)
Gleason, Linnie (friend of Martha Willson)
Glynn, Mary (friend of Sue Bose)
Graham, Ellis (granddaughter of Rob Lacy)
Hall, Gerda
Hansen, Mark (friend of Jacqui Lyons)
Hickman, Myrtle
Higginbottom, Sophia (friend of Rita LaPlante)
Hilston, Paula (Pastor Hilston's wife)
Hutchinson, Rick (friend of Lundins)
Ikoribitangaza, Leo (friend of HoP)
Jensen, Dee (friend of Lenae's)
Just, Christian (brother of Ginny & Naomi)
Just, Ginny (former member)
Just, Naomi
Kalla, Judy (friend of Bill & Chris Hayes)
Kardok, Andy (friend of Martha Willson)
Knight, Patty (friend of Linda Vassallo)
Lacy, Rob
LaRocca, Debi & family (friends of Warnecks)
Leary, Erin (Millie's granddaughter)
Leary, Kris (daughter of Millie Hill)
Lundin, Kurt
MacKennon, Linnie (friend of Lundins)
Mafra family
McCullough, Lynne (relative of Emily Badger-McCullough)
McGivney, Marlene
McGivney, Paul (Dana's brother)
Meslo, Lisa (Hayes' sister-in-law)
Michaels, Marcia (friend of Victoria Warneck)
Mitchell, Marcia
Murray, Maggie (friend of Mary Jane)
Myers, Chuck (friend of Lundins)
Neat, Kathy
Niendorf, Kris
Nucifore, Linda Nilsson (sister of Karen Nilsson)
Nucifore, Alan (brother-in-law of Karen Nilsson)
O'Donnell, Kathleen (friend of Rita LaPlante)
*Olsson, Todd (Doris' grandson)
Oman, Linda
Paresky, David (friend of Parsekians)
Parsekian, Patty (MaryJane's daughter-in-law)
Pryor, Mark (friend of Leah McGaughey)
Rawlins, Betty (friend of Myrtle Hickman)
Rawlins, Patty (friend of Myrtle Hickman)
Read, James L (friend of Martha Willson)
Richardson, David (Victoria's uncle)
Rodrigues, Mary Ellen (friend of Lenae)
Ruplenas Family (friends of Lenae)
Rush, Jean (friend of Ursula Hackemer)
Rylan, Austin (friend of Martha Willson)
Santacroce, Linda (friend of Sue Bose)
Schooning, Sonia (friend of Martha)
Scott-Rawlins, Chereese (friend of Myrtle Hickman)
Severson, Karen (friend of Ann Moegle)
Silva, Jeffrey (grandson of Dorothy Flett)
Sonie (friend of Martha Willson)
Spatola, Patty (friend of Martha Willson)
Sullivan, Elisabeth (friend of Ursula Hackemer)
Tarby, Mrs. (friend of Martha Willson)
Temperly family (bereavement)
Toomey, Patricia (sister-in-law of Hayes)
Toomey, Skip (brother-in-law of Hayes)
Toughill, Nancy
Trainque, Pam (friend of Jen McCready)
Vita, Melana (friend of Martha Willson)
Walsh, Dennis (friend of Chris Hayes)
Walter, Helmut (Stefanie Wegener's father)
Watt, George & Lynda
Weaver, Ryley (friend of Bill & Chris Hayes)
Williamson, Gordon and family

*serving in the military