This weekend, not only do we turn the pages of the calendar to the initial days of December, but we also begin the season of Advent in which we seek the light of God's presence amid the darkness of the world. Accordingly, during Advent, we light candles to overcome the darkness of deadly violence in Ukraine and the Middle East. We light candles to shine the rays of hope and peace upon the struggles in our own lives and in the church. And we light candles to remind us that there is no situation so dark that God's light cannot shine. So, as we embark on our journey through Advent, let us discern how the hands of the heavenly Potter are working to remold and reshape our lives in ways that enable us to serve God and one another as a healing, unifying, enlightening force in our church and in the world. With the anticipation of Advent, I will look forward to seeing you on Sunday at our 8:30 and/or 10:30 a.m. worship service.