

Weekly Word
Sunday, December 2

Dear United Church Congregation,

As we begin the busy weeks of Advent and our calendars fill up (if they haven't already), I want to remind everyone to please check their Chimes, Sunday bulletin announcements, and/or the church's website and Facebook page for our events and programs throughout these weeks. The Weekly Word usually focuses on the upcoming weekend.

Advent is filled with irony, isn't it? On the one hand, our weeks become quite dense and frenetic because of events. But on the other hand, Advent devotions and Sunday sermons encourage us to get ready by slowing down and embracing "the wait" that comes with this season before Christmas. So, which is it?

It's even more confusing when we encounter one of the traditional scripture readings on the 1st Sunday of Advent that tells about "fear and foreboding", signs in the sky, apparent end times, and the coming of the "Son of Man". Is an "apocalyptic" reading really the best way to get us to slow down and prepare our hearts and minds? Well, somehow through the thick, dark smoke and the blood moon we are to hear a message of hope in all of this. How appropriate on the Sunday when we light the Advent candle for Hope. But that doesn't remove the contradiction that comes with trying to live more intentional AND urgent lives of faith.

Whether you're able to read this passage before Sunday or not— How can this teaching of Jesus inspire us to prepare for the joy and peace of Christ's coming (other Advent themes) AND to live with a sense of urgency, being "on guard" throughout each day? Why do you think the church throughout the centuries has heard this and other gospel readings like this as lessons of assurance and hope?

Join us for worship this Sunday at 8 and 9:30 a.m.
Communion will be celebrated during both services.
Scripture Reading: Luke 21:25-36
Sermon: "Urgent Hope"
Sunday morning classes begin at 11 a.m.

Alternative Giving stations will be available and open this Sunday (Sundays, Dec. 2, 9, and 16).

The Everything Christmas Sale by WCSS will be Wednesday, Dec. 5 from 8:30am-12noon.

Advent Brown Bag Class will begin on Thursday, Dec. 6 from 12-1pm in Graves Hall.

In Our Prayers...

We continue to keep the family of Dorothy Crawford in our thoughts and prayers during this time. A memorial service for Dorothy will be Saturday, December 22 at 1:30 p.m.

Grace and peace,
David