This Sunday, December 13, at The Met®

- On this Third Sunday of Advent, Pastor Dan will "Testify!" along with John to the coming Light in his sermon message. The scripture is John 1:6-9.
- Here is your printable Sunday bulletin, including congregational music lyrics.
- Get your favorite bread and juice ready for communion.
- Please share your prayer requests and praises by email. Let us hear from you!
- You're invited for some warm virtual fellowship at our Sunday Social Hour at 10:15 AM. Join us via Zoom at https://zoom.us/j/191859310; Meeting ID: 191 859 310
- View last Sunday's service by clicking on the YouTube or Facebook link above.

Christmas Eve

It's not Christmas Eve without our annual Candlelight Worship Celebration. Join us on Thursday, December 24 at 5 PM via Livestream (on our regular Sunday worship links). There will be glorious music, prayer, a special Christmas message from Pastor Dan, and of course, candlelight. Along with your cracker and juice for communion, have a candle ready to join us in sharing the light that is Jesus' hope throughout the world. The service will be archived for viewing later to fit your Christmas plans. Invite your friends by sharing the YouTube and Facebook links (imbedded here).

A Christmas Wish

What is your passion in ministry? Is it our Deaf Ministry that signs every worship service? Or San Diego Pride, our biggest community outreach of the year. Or maybe it's keeping our facility safe through 24-hour security and camera monitoring. Perhaps one of these or other regular expenses for the church speaks to you. That’s the idea behind our annual Met Christmas Wish List Catalog! Full of items, mostly right from the just-approved 2021 church budget and in various monetary ranges, you can match your gift to your passions for ministry. Just select items, and, whether by check, bill pay, PayPal, however, please mark your gift "Wish List." It doesn't even have to be wrapped! Download your catalog now. We'd love to hear about your choices.
**Christmas Dedications**

Other holiday traditions at The Met have been poinsettias and Christmas dedications. There is no reason this year not to have live plants on the altar and dedications in our Christmas Eve bulletin in memory and honor of our loved ones. It has been a year of many losses, right in our congregation.

The dedications are a great way to honor the special people who are in our hearts and have them a part of Christmas Eve. The dedications are $15 each. Click here for the downloadable Dedication Form, or you may contact the church office.

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**Regathering Committee Meeting**

The Regathering Committee that is monitoring the pandemic numbers and guidelines toward meeting again in person, met virtually on December 3. With San Diego County in the highest (purple) tier for cases of COVID-19, the committee concluded that indoor in-person worship is not a reality for the near future. The planned Parking Lot Blessing Service on Saturday, January 2, 11 - 11:30 AM will remain on the calendar for now. The team will review the situation later this month. They stress that safety is the #1 concern and that no service or event will be held unless deemed safe, with precautions, and is permitted under current guidelines.

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**Christmas at the Office**

Yes, the church office is abounding in the Christmas spirit. Thank you to Susanne Esparza for her help in decorating and brightening our office. 'Tis the season.

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**smile.Amazon.com**

As you holiday gift shop make sure you register at smile.Amazon.com and follow the easy directions to designate Metropolitan Community Church San Diego (that's how we're listed) as your charity beneficiary. It's a mirror site to the regular Amazon one, and .5% of most purchases will come to the church. Once set up, it becomes automatic. All you have to do is ... shop. Get your friends to join you. We are having our best year yet in dividends from Amazon, so let's add to that record.

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**Remember Scrip for Christmas**

Scrip Gift cards - available for most all of your favorite retailers - make great Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers. One size fits all and they never get returned. And they benefit the church at the same time. Scrip Gift Cards my be ordered from Bookstore & Scrip Manager Fred Ihler. See instructions. The cards can even be mailed to you for your convenience.
MCC Christmas Concert
Vocal soloists, praise teams, choirs, and instrumentalists from all over MCC will share Christmas hope and cheer through music! Get comfy in your home and enjoy a nice musical gift this Saturday, December 12. The concert will air on YouTube at www.bit.ly/UFMCC.

Concert 4 - (8 pm EST/1 am next day GMT)
Eastern Canada & US - local time 8 pm EST; Central Mexico & US - local time 7 pm CST

Concert 5 - (10 pm EST/3 am next day GMT)
Western Mexico, Canada & US - local time 8 pm MST and 7 pm PST

The Poinsettia ... a San Diego Star
Did you know that the popularity of the poinsettia as a Christmas plant is tied very much to San Diego? With a little help from David Root, here's a little history lesson for you. Poinsettias are actually sub-tropical plants native to Mexico. The plant was first brought to the U.S. during the 1800’s by Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Ambassador to Mexico. While serving in Mexico, he sent a few plants back to South Carolina, where he began to grow them and give as gifts to friends.

Fast forward to the early 1900’s and Albert Ecke first saw the potential for the poinsettia shrub. By 1915, his son, Paul Ecke Jr. planted poinsettias on his farm in Hollywood, and by 1920 developed a plant that could be successfully grown indoors. From 1923, when the Eckes started a farm in Encinitas, through 1963, Paul Sr. perfected outdoor growing techniques and introduced varieties of poinsettias to a global market. From 1963 to 1991 Paul Ecke Jr. moved to greenhouse grown plants, advanced a poinsettia breeding program, and promoted the poinsettia as a holiday plant. The poinsettia grew in visibility from the White House to prime-time TV shows to holiday displays. In the process, our own county, and particularly Encinitas, became the "Poinsettia Capital of the World." Over 70% of the poinsettias sold in the US come from San Diego County.

We Want to See Your Wreaths!
Please share photos of your Advent wreaths. We would love to highlight them here in the MetLink for all to see. Just take a photo (JPEG) and send it to the church office.

Ongoing Ministry by Zoom
- Praying the Rosary, Sundays, 8 – 8:30 AM, Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/174434185, Meeting ID: 174 434 185
- Social Hour, Sunday, 10:15-11:00 AM; Zoom Meeting at: https://zoom.us/j/191859310; Meeting ID: 191 859 310
- Centering Prayer, Mondays, 1-2:00 PM, Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/251632413, Meeting ID: 251 632 413
- **Virtual Dinner at 6:30**, first Tuesdays of the month; Zoom Meeting: [Zoom Link Dinner @ 6.30](#); Meeting ID: 880 4644 2889
- **Wednesday Bible Study** exploring the Book of John, 7 PM; Zoom Meeting: [https://zoom.us/j/611869117](https://zoom.us/j/611869117); Meeting ID: 611 869 117

If you do not have a computer with a video camera or audio capability, and you do not have a smart phone, call in on a landline at 1-301-715-8592 to participate via audio. Enter the appropriate Meeting ID for the gathering you want to attend when prompted.

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**It’s Just This Easy to Support the Ministries of The Met:**

- Send checks by mail to MCC San Diego, PO Box 33291, San Diego CA 92163.
- Set up [Bill Pay](#) for your gifts via your bank or credit union account. It’s smooth, quick and user-friendly. We receive a check with your name on it for easy crediting. (With these first two, 100% of your gift goes toward our ministry.)
- Call the church office at 619-521-2222 with **credit card** info to make gifts.
- Donate via [PayPal](#).  
- Use [Text-to-Give](#) right from your smartphone by calling 619-383-0380. 
- Get [Scrip Gift Cards](#) for all your favorite retailers; benefit The Met. Contact Fred Ihler by email or at 619-889-3791. Read the **details**. Purchase Scrip from your phone via [benefit-mobile.com](http://benefit-mobile.com). Contribute as you shop at [Ralphs & Food-for-Less](#).
- Benefit the church by using [smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) when ordering from Amazon.
- Remember Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego in your estate planning!

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**With just one click visit our website**

**Happening with The Met:**

- **Thursday, December 24**: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5 PM, online  
- **Thursday, December 31**: New Year's Eve, offices closed  
- **Friday, January 1**: New Year's Day  
- **Saturday, January 2**, 11 AM: Parking Lot Blessing Service (pending)  
- **Tuesday, January 5**: Dinner at 6:30, online  
- **Monday, January 18**: Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, offices closed

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