

First United Methodist Church

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Everywhere you look...things are happening. The street decorations appeared in Mitchell over a week ago. But I'm seeing more and more homes with Christmas Lights up. Even driving home last weekend it was interesting to see the number of Christmas Trees on top of SUVs making their way to someone's home. I've even received a Christmas flower arrangement and a couple Christmas Cards already. These are all things that are a part of helping us "prepare" for Christmas.

Even here at our church, preparations are underway. Christmas Trees and Christmas decorations have appeared in our sanctuary and chapel during the week. (You'll be awed this Sunday!) Carolyn has already had her first Sunday School Christmas program practice. (It will be a great/fun program on the afternoon of the 11th!!) I hear more conversations about Christmas "things" going on with families and community events. "Tis the season," as they say.

In the midst of all these happenings, there are some other preparations taking place here at Mitchell First UMC. Because of your generosity with the Gratitude Offering, the Sanctuary Repair Project is moving forward. You might notice that a few things have been moved around in hallways, etc. We're already making preparations for when we have to move a few pews out of the sanctuary at the end of this month. In fact, the plaster crew has started with some work in the south entrance stairway. (The actual work in the sanctuary won't begin until early January.) But it is great that they are starting some work now in some less visible areas.

So, as you've just read...preparations are taking place all around us. The question I want to ask is, what are the preparations taking place within us?? All the decorations, all the activities, even the work to "touch up" the beauty of our sanctuary, are of little value (other than for beauty sake) unless we allow the Spirit of God to "touch up" or "make over" our hearts and souls as we live in community with one another and the world around us...and as we live as followers of Jesus.

My prayer for all of us (Myself included) is that we will find some moments of quietness in the midst of the busyness of this season, to simply allow God to speak to us or nudge us in some way to prepare us, not just for Christmas, but also for the year that is before us. God is at work in our midst! Not just through the seasons of Advent and Christmas...God is at work in our midst empowering us to touch this community with the Love of Jesus. The greatest Christmas gift we can give to the world (or this region) is that we help other people know this Jesus that we keep talking about. Together, let's spread the word!!

Serving Together,

Pastor Keith

Remember, this week's Advent Manger Gifts are....Light weight sleepers and light weight receiving blankets. Bring these items to church and let the children bring them up during Children's Time and place them in the manger at the front of our worship area.

See you Sunday. It's going to be a great day. Our Church Hall Gathering will follow our 11 am worship service. We'll have pizza for lunch and then our meeting. Our DS, Rev. Roger Spahr will be with us. At 3:00 pm we will have our Service of Remembrance to remember and honor loved ones who have died this past year and in recent years. This service will be held in the Chapel. All are welcome!