

Greetings as we enter the Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas seasons!!

Kathy and I were just saying; “it is hard to believe Thanksgiving is almost here.” We have so much to be thankful for. At the top of the list for us is God’s love. God expresses His love in so many ways; but giving us the gift of His Son is always the most amazing gift. Not only did God give us forgiveness and give us eternal life through faith and belief in Jesus’ death and resurrection, but also the blessing of walking and working side-by-side with Him in this life. We can’t imagine living life without Jesus being at the center of it. We would encourage everyone to take five or ten minutes, in person or on the phone with a friend or loved one each day, between now and Thanksgiving, and share something or someone you are thankful for.

Advent is also right around the corner and that provides so many opportunities for us to prepare for Jesus birth. We hope you will take some time to ponder Jesus presence in your life each day of Advent and when Christmas arrives, you will be prepared to celebrate His birth.

There will also be many opportunities to serve this Advent season. Perhaps, serving is the best way to prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth, after all, Jesus was first and foremost a servant to all.

One can serve in so many ways;

- **Decorate the church and dining room (November 20th)**
- **OAKS luncheon (December 7)**
- **Adopt-a-family (December 17th - Kathy Bromley needs shoppers, wrappers, and people to deliver. We also need donations of various items.**
- **Christmas Eve Dinner (December 24 and the days leading up to it) We’ll need people to help bake pies, put together the delivery bags, cut and package desserts, make deliveries, set up and serve food Christmas Eve afternoon, and of course clean up**
- **Worship – if you wish to light one of the advent candles or be a reader in worship (call Pastor Brett, office, or an Elder).**
- **One can host a coffee hour with someone.**

- One can also serve by simply calling someone and saying hi, writing a note or card to someone you haven't talked with in a long time.
- Giving - There are also numerous opportunities to donate items to each of these events.
- Prayer - One can also not forget the most important way to serve; pray, pray for each of these events and the people God places on your heart to pray for.

Some of you have also been asking about Kathy and her condition. Kathy is currently undergoing what they call "consolidation chemotherapy" to keep her in remission prior to a bone marrow transplant. These treatments require Kathy to be in Grand Rapids for three weeks at a time and then we can be home for two weeks in between. When Kathy's immunities are good, she can be in church to sing, but still needs to be careful about being in public to avoid illness. These treatments will continue until a bone marrow match is found.

Kathy and I look forward to celebrating this Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas season with all of you. It will be a bit different as we will not be as present physically as we would like, but we'll find a way to make this year even more special.

Call the office, Pastor Brett or the leaders of each ministry event to volunteer your time to serve or to give financially to each of these wonderful ministry events.

God's Blessings and our love to you and yours,

Pastor Brett and Kathy