

Common Ground

The Presbyterian USA Congregation
in the Colonial Heights Neighborhood
Advent In the Chapel ~ December 19, 2021

***Calm me, Lord, as you calmed the storm;
still me, Lord, keep me from harm.
Let all the tumult within me cease,
enfold me, Lord, in your peace.***



I Will Light Candles This Christmas
by Howard Thurman

I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy
despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope
where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage
for fears ever present,
Candles of peace
for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace
to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love
to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

Welcome newcomer or long time friend.
We're glad you are with us today!
We invite you to share in
the ministry & celebration of our life
together in Christ
through Worship, Study, & Service.

2828 SE Stephens St. Portland, OR 97214
office@chpcpdx.org ☎ chpcpdx.org
503-236-2430

Welcome

Those at home, please mute during the songs so you can sing—this allows all participants to hear the music provided in the service. No playlist-Live music only this week.

We are following the requirements to mask (vaccinated or not) and request that those for whom this poses too great a burden join with us online.

GREETING

Rev. Linda Stewart-Kalen, PASTOR

I Will Light Candles This Christmas by Howard Thurman

PRELUDE *Venite Adoremus (the Snow Lay on the Ground)* Ms. Ivona Schacker, MUSIC DIRECTOR

We invite you to light a candle at the table

GATHERING IN THE LIGHT OF ADVENT CANTORS AND CONGREGATION .

#89 For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

ADVENT PRAYER & SONG OF WAITING #2095 Star-Child STAR CHILD

One: Not to one, but to many you have called: Come.

On the dancing wind -- Come

From the deepest forest -- Come

From the highest places -- Come

From the distant lands -- Come

From the mist of dreams -- Come

From the edge of darkness -- Come

Come even from the depth of fear and become Theotokos, the bearer of God.

Let us pray, Eternal Source of birth and life, help us prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. Lift up the hidden parts of ourselves – our talents and our tenderness, our resilience and our prophetic witness – so that your love may be seen and your glory revealed.

All: As this season unfolds, help us respond with our “yes” to your call. Like Mary, faithfully responding, risking all, and rejoicing in bearing your surprising love and presence to the world we come.

In the name of Emmanuel -- God With Us -- we come as we await Your coming. Amen

At the Font

We Come Remembering Our Baptism in Hope

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WATERS OF LIFE Ruling Elder Kate Belt, LITURGIST

The world may say, “You are too small. You are too old. The world may say that Mary was too young, too foolish, too lowly, but God lifts up the lowly and calls them blessed.

In the living waters of our baptism we find we are called beloved, blessed, and we are enough.

The world may say, “There is not enough time!” Yet Christ enters this time, this people.

The Spirit will lead us now and always, yes, even beyond the bounds of time!

Calm Me, Lord see front—sung twice

We continue our prayer in silence.

WE SEEK YOUR WHOLENESS IN OUR WAITING

Come to us, with your peace. **Come to us, with your will and with your mercy.**

ASSURANCE & PEACE

Word among us **have mercy.** Friend of the poor **have mercy.**

Spirit of Light and Love **grant us your peace.**

God’s forgiveness is abundant! **Christ’s peace is ours to share!**

CELEBRATING GOD'S GRACE #126

WONDERFUL CHILD

Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child sung twice

**Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child. Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;
new life, new hope the Child will bring. Listen to the angels sing,
"Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!**

*Through Word and Wonder**We Are Shaped as God's Own in Love*TIME OF WONDER *Visiting the Houses of Mark, Matthew, & Luke***BLESSING #110** *Love Has Come* verse 3

BRING A TORCH

Love has come, and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.**Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.****Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!**

OUR PRAYER FOR HEARING GOD'S WORD

THE STORY OF FAITH FROM THE SCRIPTURES

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Micah 5:1-5a

CANTICLE #100

Canticle of Turning

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

ADVENT REFLECTIONS TOGETHER

Rev. Ms. Linda Stewart-Kalen

*At the Table**We Are Nourished and Given Strength in God's Peace*

AN INVITATION FOR OUR OFFERING & PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION

Watching and waiting for the coming of Christ, we pray for the promise of a new
creation, saying: Come quickly, Risen One; **our hope is in you.**

#94

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

JEFFERSON

*our trust, our gifts and tithes, our prayers***GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** *see insert*

INVITATION

An open invitation to communion is practiced within Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations.

*We invite all visitors and friends who trust in Jesus Christ to join us today
in being nourished at the Lord's Table.*

THANKS & PRAISE ...we lift our praises to you:**Sanctus from the St. Anne Mass****REMEMBERING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION****CALLING UPON THE HOLY SPIRIT & THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT** *see back page***SHARING THE BREAD & CUP***We invite all to receive God's love for the world through communion or a blessing.*

*For those wishing to have an anointing for healing, peace, and for their journey of the week,
our Pastor will be at the baptismal font.*

*In Every Place God Sends Us**We Will Live the Gospel with Joy***HYMN OF SERVICE** *see insert (PH21)* **All My Heart Today Rejoices**

WARUM SOLLT' ICH

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland (Savior of the Nations, Come)

Many thanks to our liturgist's prayers and leading our worship, to Ivona Schacker, MUSIC DIRECTOR and our Musicians in Residence for the ministry of music, and our online host, Kate Belt, who ensures that the technology is a blessing, not a burden for our congregation.

Seeing that we had no hope in ourselves of moving past what separates us, God offered us a gift in Jesus Christ who opens a door — a door we could not open ourselves. Seeing that we had no hope in ourselves of moving past what separates us, God offered us a gift in Jesus Christ who opens a door — a door we could not open ourselves. Seeing that we had no hope in ourselves of moving past what separates us, God offered us a gift in Jesus Christ who opens a door — a door we could not open ourselves.



2021 CURRENT BUILDING USE

Sunday	9:00-10:00 am 10:00-11:00 am 10:15 am 10:30 am	Musician Rehearsals Chapel & Sanctuary MCC Worship-Sanctuary in-person and on Facebook Welcome & Greeting for Common Ground in the Chapel Common Ground Worship in the Chapel & Zoom— see worship page for weekly details of our guest preachers and communion observations
Monday	11:00 am-6:30 pm 12:00 -2:00 pm 12:00-5:00 pm 4:30 pm	Meg Dixon, MIR- Voice & Piano Lessons-Chapel Office Hours Megan Cronin, MIR-Violin & Viola lessons–Friendship Room Session Meets at the home of Kate Belt December 21
Tuesday	9:00 am-12:00 pm 6:00-8:00 pm 6:45 pm 7:00 pm	Office Hours Clarinet and Woodwind Ensemble-Sanctuary ***New Building Partners*** Monthly Reading & Reflection Book Group-Zoom & at the home of Kate Belt Jan. 18, Blue Christmas Service— Rev. Tim Winslea, PUN RN see link below
Wednesday	11:00 am-3:00 pm 11:00 am-1:00 pm 12:00 pm	Possible Office Hours—can you help? Advent Quiet Space in the Sanctuary or Chapel Mid-day, Midweek Prayer—Rev. Tim Winslea, RN
	Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81327678965?pwd=dURsbW9xdEZ0QVh2Z2NDTFRzZmJsUT09	
	6:30-8:30 pm 6:30-8:30 pm 7:00-9:00 pm 7:00-10:00 pm	HFP Board Meetings (first Wednesdays): 1/5 Community Meetings (typically 3rd Wednesdays) 2nd Wednesdays MCC Board Meeting-Social Hall Logan Thane Brown, MIR- Brass groups- Sanctuary
Thursday	9:30-11:30 am 10:00-11:00 am 11:00 am-12:00 noon	Office Hours Weekly Tai Chi Joan Smith-Front Porch or Grounds, Carols for a Front Porch sing along this week only
Friday	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service jointly celebrated with MCC in the Sanctuary-Carols on the Front Porch following the service
Saturday	10:00 -11:30 am 9:00 am-12:00 pm 1:30–6:30 pm	Christmas Day—Merry Christmas <i>Overeaters Anonymous online at the moment in-person mtg. soon– Social Hall</i> Logan Thane Brown, MIR- Brass groups- Sanctuary Gregor McGee, MIR—Sanctuary
NEXT SUNDAY	9:00-10:00 am 10:00-11:00 am 10:15 am 10:30 am	Musician Rehearsals preparation, Chapel & Sanctuary MCC Worship-Sanctuary with in-person and on Facebook We will not be scheduling Sanctuary use without MCC coordination Welcome & Greeting for Common Ground in the Chapel Common Ground Worship in the Chapel & Zoom or use website resources for personal at home devotions

Looking Ahead:

- ◆ *Blue Christmas Service* with PUN & Tim Winslea on Tuesday December 21 at 7:00 pm Zoom– use the mid week prayer link for this service. See insert. Remember all are welcome and you can invite anyone who you feel moved to include in this way, grieving or not. Remember, “Sometimes you come for yourself, and sometimes you are coming for others.”
- ◆ *Monthly Conversations and skill building in Mental Health & Illness* (January-Loneliness & Isolation, February– QPR Suicide Prevention, March-TBA, 2nd Sundays at Noon. Tim Winslea & Naomi Caster are part of a design team shaping this opportunity for our Common Ground congregations and neighbors.

Christmas Bird Count Sunday, January 2, 2022 they will not be gathering in our building but we are welcome to add our Common Ground count to theirs this Sunday—see Pastor Linda if you would like to identify & count birds on the grounds of the Church that day.

Naomi J. Caster



I am a positive and energetic leader who has 20+ years of experience in the Mental Health field, most of which has been with SPMI and dually diagnosed adults, older adults, teens and youth. I have been in leadership for the last 15 years and have a strengths-based focused leadership style that encourages employees to work at their best through direct communication and accountability. My goal is to provide a recovery-focused environment in the programs that I work in where participants have opportunities to learn and grow and experience successful lives to the best of their ability. I value diversity in the workplace and strive for a dynamic and diverse team of staff to best serve the needs of our participants and stake holders.

Are you curious to learn more about understanding and supporting mental health? All are welcome to attend our series. This conversation and skill building opportunity is designed to equip the average non-professional with important basic mental health info. The workshop is designed and facilitated by Naomi Caster (MS, LMFT, CADC II), with more than 20 years of professional experience in the mental health field. All are welcome to attend this FREE opportunity.

Our next two month's are currently planned:

January 9	Isolation & Loneliness training
February 13	QPR– a national certification for suicide prevention

We'd like your input going forward

Additional topics could be:

- Dealing with depression
- Boundaries
- Substance use recovery (this is very broad and could be broken down)
- Anxiety in the pandemic
- Conversation on Mental Health & Wellness with Youth & Children
- Other topics you would like us to address? _____

Name: _____ optional



***We Practice the Privilege of Prayer.
Jesus said, "Abide in me...Love one another."***

Seeking ways for the light of Christ to be visible within
and beyond our church walls.
May our door be narrow enough to keep out hate and prejudice,
but wide enough to welcome all in God's love.

We Give Thanks for . . . Dale's successful tests, time with family and safe travels, support of our faith community, worship together and Ivona's music . . .

We Seek God's protection and guidance for . . . Our government in their deliberations, the health care workers overwhelmed with the continued pandemic . . .

We Call upon God's Strength & Healing Presence for . . .

We Ask for Hope & Assurance for Those Who Face Uncertainty . . . Those beginning the recovery after storms in the Mid-West and in the Philippines . . .

Through Us May God Comfort Those Who Grieve . . . All who mourn death of so many in the aftermath of the tornados, Rosa Silver, Zane & Lexington Russell on the death of Rosa's mother, those celebrating the lives of: bell hooks (noted feminist scholar and theologian), Beverly Stewart's family & friends (Linda's mom) . . .

We Pray for the Church and the World . . .

With confidence that you hear our prayers, we offer ourselves for your good purposes, watching and waiting for the healing of your creation as we work toward your coming reign and we pray the prayer that Jesus taught:

**Our Father, who is in heaven, holy is your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

We will publish a new directory with our Annual Report for 2021. If you would like us to include updates of your information, please email or phone the church office.

A Week of Intercessory Prayer for:

Our Church Family: Leland Cain and his family (Yvonne & Woody, the Speck family-Erica, Chris Emma & Ethan and the children they foster)

Our Ministry & Mission: Building Partners who strengthen children & families: Hawthorne Family Playschool, Playground Yoga, Serene Green's Art Camp, Musicians teaching children . . .

When did you see Jesus?

Share your story in a few words (less than 250) send to the church office by email: office@chpcpdx.org, so we can share this good news.

