

The Envoy

Edgeboro Moravian Congregation

December, 2017

Dear Edgeboro Friends & Family,

The season is here. No longer do we have to separate ourselves into people who decorate for Christmas *before* Thanksgiving and those who do so *after*. It's after Thanksgiving, which means we are now all on the same page. The trees and lights are going up, the music is on the radio, and all the traditions celebrating Christmas that we know and love are just about to take place.

Christmas traditions are easy to fall into and hard to break. We go to the same places and do the same things and see the same people. More often than not, this is a good thing because hopefully the reason why we do the same things is because we find them enjoyable. Yet there is something we need to be aware of when we enjoy the traditions that we always do.

Advent is a season of waiting and watching for God to do something new. As we celebrate the story of Jesus' birth, a time when God did something new and spectacular in the world, we also should be looking in our world to see the new and spectacular things God is doing today. When we do the *same* things with the *same* people in the *same* places, it can become challenging to look for the *new* that God is doing.

To keep our eyes open to the *new*, maybe there's something new that we can do in the midst of our traditions that will keep us tuned-in and filled with Christ's hope during this Advent season.

Find a free Advent devotional to do each day. (*Google it.*)

Do an "Advent Picture Challenge" on your Facebook/Instagram account. (*Google it.*)

Try something new here at Edgeboro – work at the Putz for a night, help make food and spend time with others for Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering (Dec. 16th) or *Esperanza* (Dec. 21st), or something else you have wanted to try.

Make a small donation each day of Advent to a different organization helping the community.

Find a new Advent calendar that has you doing something each day of Advent: "Random Acts of Kindness Advent Calendar," "Gratitude Advent Calendar," "Advent Prayer Calendar." (*Google it.*)

I would encourage us to be creative, as well as intentional, when it comes to seeing what new things God is bringing to light in our world.

I look forward to sharing with all of you this season and all the new things and traditions that come with it. May your Advent and Christmas be blessed by the hope, peace, joy, and love of our coming Savior!

Sharing Light with you,

Pastor Dan

Important Notes

- On Sunday, **December 3rd** at 4:00PM we will hold a special Candlelight Communion service as a way of marking the beginning of the Advent season. This is one of the most meaningful and beautiful services held at Edgeboro.
- Our **Joyful Noise offering** for the month will be on **December 3**. The offering will benefit the Moravian Open Door Ministry in New York City. Please come with lots of spare change!
- Please make sure to order your Poinsettia by **December 10th**. They will be displayed on Christmas Eve at the three services; 3:00PM, 5:30PM and 8:00PM. You can pick them up either after the 8:00PM service, after Christmas or donated them to a shut-in. The price is the same, \$6.50 for a 6" pot with 4-6 blooms.
- On Sunday, **December 3rd** the Edgeboro Ensemble will practice from 12:15—1:15PM. Then on Sunday, **December 10th** the Ensemble will play before and during the two services. They will play a prelude starting at 8:45AM for the first service and they will also play starting at 11:00AM for the second service. They will also play some of the Liturgy music and some Hymns.
- On Sunday, **December 17th**, the Christmas Musicales along with the annual Sunday School Christmas program will be presented. There is only one service that day at **10:00AM**, which will have our Sunday School children and all choirs participating. You will certainly want to be here for this wonderful event.
- The **Christmas Eve Candle Services** are one of the highlights of our Church year and represents a wonderful time to invite your family and friends to experience our Church family. Please be sure to order your free tickets for the service you want to attend so that we can manage overcrowding and assure that you will have a seat. The Service Schedule is :
3:00PM—Lovefeast and Candle Service
5:30PM—Lovefeast and Candle Service
8:00PM—Candlelight Vigil
If you need to order some tickets, please call the office at 610-866-8793.
- There is only one service on Sunday, **December 24th**, and **December 31st** at which the 2018 Watchwords will be distributed. These services are at **10:00AM**
- The calendar for the Unity Prayer Watch has come out. The day that Edgeboro is responsible for is Thursday December 14th. There will be sign up sheets for covering the times . Watch for them!
- What better way to close out the old year and seek to prayerfully enter the new year than to receive Holy Communion. On Sunday, **December 31st** from 4:30—6:00PM the sanctuary will be open for quiet reflection and dialogue with God. Upon entering the Sanctuary, participants will be offered a guide for this reflection time. This will be a time to review the past year and dedicate yourself anew to Christ for the new year. Then when ready, participants may come forward to receive Holy Communion from Pastor Dan. You are welcome to stay as long as you like.
- **Luminaria Night for New Bethany Ministries**
Consider purchasing luminaries in memory of loved ones. All proceeds go to New Bethany Ministries. Luminaries will be displayed on Saturday night, December 9th. Volunteers needed to set up luminaries beginning at 4:30pm. Purchase luminaries and sign-up to volunteer for set-up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary.
- **Thank You for PB&J's!**
Thanks to everyone who helped make PB&J sandwiches. From April through November, Edgeboro gave over **2,200** sandwiches for people to take at The Salvation Army and Trinity (Episcopal) Soup Kitchen. We are shifting gears for the winter months - *and we still need your help!*
From December through March, Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering (BES) is active, and because of that, we will begin making **Brown Bag Lunches** (which contain PB&J sandwiches among other things). Our tentative goal is to make bag lunches on two Saturday mornings a month. Why Saturdays? That's when other Bethlehem Moravian churches are regularly volunteering at BES. Look for our first Brown Bag Lunch-making to happen **Saturday, December 16th, 9:30am** in the kitchen!
- **Online Book Study**
An online, intergenerational, six-session book study is coming in the new year. This would be a great way to start the new year off with a new commitment and a new way to connect with other Moravians across the country. Sign up by December 18th online at <https://goo.gl/VsX4qX> or contact Pastor Dan.
Book: *Jesus Wants to Save Christians: A Manifesto for the Church in Exile* by Rob Bell & Don Golden
Dates: Tuesdays, 8pm ET/7pm CT from January 2nd through February 6th
Led by: Pastor Dan, Justin Rabbach (Director of Board of World Mission), Rev. Greg Behrend, Rev. Judy Ganz, Rev. Jason Andersen, Rev. Brian Dixon, Jill Kolodziej, and Dason Kurkiewicz.
- **Bethlehem Putz Crawl**
Come join others in seeing a series of putzes all in one day! Start at Central Moravian Church and buy tickets on the spot. (All ticket proceeds go to Moravian Disaster Response.) Edgeboro is one of five stops along the way! Join the crawl on **Saturday, December 9th, 10:00am-3:00pm**.