A NOTE FROM PASTOR LEAH’S DESK

When Congregationalist Isaac Watts was searching for inspiration for a new, joyful hymn that broke free of theologian, John Calvin’s closely followed “rules” for church music, he turned to Psalm 98 to write “Joy to the World.” Since his youth, Watt’s had complained to his non-conformist father about hymn singing in church, once stating, “To see the dull indifference, the negligent and thoughtless air that sits upon the faces of a whole assembly, while the psalm is upon their lips, might even tempt a charitable observer to suspect the fervency of their inward religion”. More than anything, this man who became the father of English hymnody, desired an authenticity of faith to well up in the churches and shine in and beyond worship in new ways.

“O sing to the Lord a new song” declares Psalm 98. Each week during Advent, we’ve been singing those exact words in the beautiful Advent introit Bron has written to align with a “Joy to the World” descant. We sing to invoke joyful attention to God’s presence with Watts’ same desire for authenticity of faith. But we aren’t just singing of joy in worship, Fauntleroy Church; we’re living our worship and joy beyond the spaces of the sanctuary too.

A year ago, when we began our capacity-building campaign, we sought to free Fauntleroy Church of the burden of a mortgage (which we did) and the burden of not knowing how we might pay for anticipated building needs by establishing a maintenance reserve fund (which we’re doing – thank you for continuing to keep up with your pledges). The goal of these two endeavors was not simply to achieve greater security, but to open up space in our budget and time to make possible a path forward for greater capacity of ministry. We showed that intention through the inclusion of a very important third element to the campaign: the addition of a permanent Associate Pastor.

On Sunday, December 15, exactly one year after we gathered in church to celebrate the culmination of the capacity-building campaign, we will follow on the joyful heels of our Camp Second Chance sponsorship decision by gathering to vote on 1) calling Rev. Karyn Frazier as our settled Associate Pastor and 2) hosting an asylum-seeking family in the two-bedroom, lower-level of the parsonage. Because there is much to celebrate and because living our faith authentically, with praise of God, actually is worship, we’ll begin the meeting in the “prayers of joy” for the day, focusing on Karyn’s call as worship concludes, then turning our focus to the second, missional motion from our Immigration Task Force after the benediction.

We hope you’ll join us for this momentous Sunday of invitation into living joy and faith together as Fauntleroy Church! Given that our worship theme for Advent is “Joy to the World” and that the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as “joy” Sunday, and that in many ways, we’re celebrating another joyful culmination of our capacity-building campaign, I’m calling December 15, Fauntleroy Church’s “Joy Cubed” Sunday. We hope you’ll join us and add your joy to the mix!

Blessings, peace, wholeness, Leah
CALENDAR

Saturday – December 14
11:00 Memorial Service for Tena Hendrie - Sanctuary

Sunday – December 15
3rd Sunday in Advent
9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
10:00 Worship
Vote on Karyn Frazier as our Settled Associate Pastor
Vote on hosting an Asylum-Seeking family in lower parsonage.
4:00 Christmas Concert – Sanc.

Monday – December 16
8:30 Altar Guild

Tuesday – December 17
5:15 Homelessness T.F. – Library
7:00 LPS Staff Meeting - Classes

Wednesday – December 18
9:45 Staff – Fish Bowl

Thursday – December 19
10:00 Knitters/Crafters – Library
7:30 Choir

Sunday – December 22
4th Sunday in Advent
9:00 Adult Bible Study – Library
10:00 Worship

Monday – December 23
LPS Winter Break until 1/6/20
8:30 Altar Guild

Tuesday – December 24

4:00 Children’s Service
7:00 Choir and Candles
11:00 Communion Service

Wednesday – December 25

Thursday – December 26
Office Closed

As an open and affirming congregation, the members and staff of Fauntleroy Church are committed to fostering community among people of all races, cultures and sexual orientations.

SEASONAL STUFF
THE GIVING TREE

This season’s giving tree in the narthex has tags in support of two ministries. Our Homelessness Task Force is asking for $25 Safeway gift cards (green tags) for low-income families at three area elementary schools to help them purchase food over the long winter break. And, our Camp Second Chance Implementation Committee is asking for cash to help build five tiny homes or things to outfit the homes (red tags).

Each tag includes an envelope; just enclose gift cards or cash in the envelope and put in the plate or drop it by the church office. Some red tags also have information about heaters and other things needed to equip tiny homes; if you want to give a tangible gift, that information will tell you how to use Amazon’s wish-list function to purchase the thing you want to donate.

If you want to make your gift in honor of a loved one, simply keep the decorated tag to give to the honoree as a Christmas or birthday gift.

All donations are due by Sunday, Dec. 15.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Sunday, December 15, 4 PM, Sanctuary

The Fauntleroy Chancel Choir will celebrate the season in song. This year, we will present a diverse repertoire of music, singers and instrumentalists, including the Fauntleroy Women’s Ensemble and the Duey Auringer Memorial Ukulele Band. There will be plenty of carol singing. Our concert is free and all are welcome.

DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS AND CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

As we did last year, the Caring Ministry purchased devotional booklets to handout to folks having difficulties and in need of a bit of support. And, as usual, the church will be decorating the sanctuary on Christmas Eve with poinsettias. If you would like to help defray the cost of these flowers and booklets while honoring/remembering someone special, you are welcome to do so. Please complete the following and place in the offering plate along with your check with “poinsettias” on the memo line. You can also mail your check to the church office. Thank you!

The names of those being honored/remembered will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

Your Name________________________
Person you are honoring/remembering________________
Check Amount________________

BAKING COOKIES, COULD YOU SHARE?

During this holiday season, if you’re baking cookies, please consider baking a dozen (or more) extra and bring to the church at your convenience. Thank you so much!

CELEBRATING EPIPHANY

On January 5, 2020, we will have a service remembering the story of how the three wise ones followed the star to the Christ child. On this special day, we’ll celebrate communion together, listen to the stories of three people reflecting on how and where a simple word guided them this past year, and then receive a “star word” meant to invite us to our own epiphanies in the coming year.

Leah
CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING
On Christmas Eve, the offering will be split in three ways: 1/3 will go to support the Christmas Fund of the United Church of Christ, 1/3 will go toward building a tiny home at Camp Second Chance and 1/3 will go to support the mission of Fauntleroy Church.

The Christmas Fund provides assistance to ministers and lay employees of the church who served in settings and situations that made it difficult to obtain financial security in retirement, and still actively serve, but find themselves in emergency situations of financial need.

As we’ve already done so, we are all aware of how important helping to build additional tiny homes at Camp Second Chance.

As the needs of the mission of the church are ever-growing, supporting it in this way is always helpful and much appreciated.

LITTLE PILGRIM SCHOOL HOLIDAY SUPPORT
Each year during the holidays, the Preschool Team chooses an organization to support that serves children locally. In years past, LPS has had a Toy Drive donation, and last year they worked with ReWA to provide coats to children who may not have one. ReWA supports refugee and immigrant families and children through a variety of services, including Early Learning Centers. We encourage you to view their website here.

Last year’s coat drive was such a huge success, we have decided to support ReWA again this year, but in a slightly different way. After receiving so many coats last year, the staff at ReWA realized the children they support needed warm winter accessories as well, such as gloves, mittens, scarves, underclothing, etc.

Through the project, teachers will begin planting seeds for children that surround the idea of giving, especially tied to giving warm clothing, as we know what it feels like to be cold. Through developmentally appropriate discussion, stories, and modeling; children and their families will be offered the opportunity to give warm winter accessories to the children of ReWA. We hope to make an even greater give this year, providing infants to 6-year-olds with warm items so they can learn and play outside in comfort.

Bron Edwards

Tuesday evening, December 24
“Joy to the World,” a beloved Christmas classic, turns 300 this year. Composer Isaac Watt’s interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a “new song” of all creation being renewed and freed. Rather than “joy” being just another word for “happiness,” the depths of joy can be found even in the midst of suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion. This is a message of Love the whole world still so desperately needs. We hope you’ll join us for Christmas Eve at Fauntleroy Church this year, as together we seek to sing our “joy to the world” …and to one another.

4:00 PM Children’s Worship
This 30-minute Christmas Eve worship is created with children in mind—but it is for anyone with the joyful heart of child. We share a Christmas story and familiar carols. Then it’s our tradition to enjoy birthday cake together after the worship in Fellowship Hall.

7:00 PM Worship
This traditional service includes the Christmas story, carols, special music and ends with a candlelight singing of “Silent Night”.

11:00 PM Communion Worship
This quieter, reflective service includes the Christmas story, carols, special music, communion and the singing of “Silent Night” as we close worship in a circle of candlelight.

Karyn Frazier
IN MEMORIAM

Jeanne Hansen
April 26, 1923 – November 12, 2019

Long-time church member, Jeanne Hansen, passed away on Nov. 12. No service is planned. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

SAVE THE DATE FOR TRIVIA NIGHT 2020!
Trivia Night is happening again! Get out your 2020 calendar and reserve the evening of Feb. 22 for our 2nd Trivia Night. More details to come! 
Sarah

FAUNTLEROY HOLIDAY ART AND GIFT SHOW WRAP UP
Seventeen artisans showed and sold their lovely, unique and varied wares. Net proceeds of $2,192 will help to support our church’s mission.

Thanks to committee members: Frances Gifford, Chair, Izzie Lewis, Bev Fletcher, Bonnie Beerman, Janice Menaui, Marilyn Bernahl, Kristen Warfield, Leah Hunkins, Judy Pickens and Pat Gedney.

PARENT’S NIGHT OUT!
Attention Fauntleroy Parents! Do you still have Christmas shopping to do, need a night out or want to wrap presents in the quiet house? If so, now is your chance! Fauntleroy Youth will be hosting a Parent’s Night Out from 5-8 PM Saturday, Dec. 14, for kids age 4-12 (toilet trained required). The cost is $20/child or $30/family.

We are planning to send a group of youth to the National Youth Event in 2020, so this is doubling as a fundraiser for the trip! Please RSVP and reserve your spot by Thursday Dec. 12. To RSVP, email Kristen at youth@fauntleroyucc.org.

WOMEN’S RETREAT
Women of Fauntleroy! Save the date for this year’s Women’s Retreat, which is March 27-29, at Pilgrim Firs Church Camp. More information will be coming in the new year. 

Meg Collins, for the Planning Committee: