



## A Humble Advent

The season of Advent is upon us. So is the season of shopping for gifts, trimming the tree, baking cookies, sending cards, making travel plans and so much more. In the midst of all of this, we celebrate Advent.

Advent means “coming” and is a time of waiting for Christ’s coming. We wait for Jesus’ birth that we will celebrate Christmas morning. But we also wait for Jesus second coming when he will bring the fullness of the kingdom of God forever. Advent is a time of waiting that looks back and looks ahead.

***“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” Psalm 27:14***

As we wait for the Lord, we know the story of Christmas. How Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph. Then this young engaged couple received the surprise of their life when the angel came to Mary and told her she was with child. So, they almost called off the wedding because of the scandal. Instead, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem for the census. There they found no room at the inn, so they stayed in a stable, where Jesus was born and placed in a manger.

This year I have become fascinated with how the Orthodox Church has emphasized Jesus’ infancy in the Christmas Story. Nathaniel Torrey, an Orthodox priest, describes it as “the profound humility of Christ as he became an infant to save us.” Thus, “Advent is a time to humble ourselves” as Jesus’ humbled himself for us.

This idea is in the Christmas Carol “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly.”

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.

There is so much to do this season. May we take some time to slow down and humble ourselves as we wait for Jesus. Christ has come, Christ will come again! Come, Lord Jesus.

In Christ,  
Pastor Kevin



# OPC News

## Women's Bible Study

The AM Women's Bible Study will meet on the second Thursday of December, the 12th, at OPC, at 11:30. Geri Benshoof will be the leader of chapter 3. A potluck will follow. If you are unable to attend, please call Marilyn Reuhl, 954-4180.

The PM Women's Bible Study will also be December 12 at 6:30pm.

## Deacons Sock & Glove Drive

The OPC Deacons are collecting new and gently used socks and gloves of all sizes during the fall and winter months. There is a collection bin in the narthex. There is a big need in the homeless community this time of year for warm items as the weather gets colder. Contact Sarah Neelands with any questions.

## Second Sunday Brunch

You are all welcome to join us on Sunday, December 8 for Second Sunday Brunch and fellowship after worship. Please bring a hot dish, salad or dessert to share. We look forward to seeing you!

A big thank you and appreciation for all who helped us decorate the church for Advent on November 30! The church looks beautiful. We will be taking down the greens on January 4, 2020 at 9am. Linda Baggarley will be around to sign up those who can help. Thank you!

Linda Baggarley and Joy Flint

## Guatemala Mission Trip

OPC is working through our presbytery to send a team to Guatemala next summer. Interested participants should talk to Pastor Kevin ASAP. Deadline is January 15.

Approximate dates: June 25-July 3

Approximate cost: \$2000 (pay half, fundraise half)

**\*There will be no Mingle and Munch in December\***



# Family Ministry



Happy Holidays!!! The kids have all been working hard on a song to share in the worship service the Sunday before Christmas. Thanks to Chenoa Turner and our Sunday School teachers.

Our first Fall Dinner Fundraiser was a great success. The desert auction was so much fun and some really yummy desserts were donated. Thank you everyone for your continued support. The kids all did such a wonderful job keeping everyone entertained. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season.

## Youth Group

OPC youth group meets on Sundays after church (11:30am-1pm) with lunch provided. All middle school and high school students are invited to join us. We meet in Felts' Lounge for lunch about 10 minutes after the church service ends and then meet down in the basement youth room. Sunday, December 22 we will gather after the service for a Youth Christmas Party!

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING FUN FOR FAMILIES

Please reserve Saturday, December 14, 2019, from 4:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.

Thank you for participating in our new effort to bring old fashioned Christmas Caroling into our hearts, as well as to precious seniors who are less able to be out and about during our snowy Christmas season.

Please fill up your car with your family members and come! We welcome the participation of your young children & teens as well as adult children.

First Stop: Be there at 4:00p.m.

#### Orchard Crest Retirement Community

Located on the corner of Evergreen and Fourth Avenue

Park by the Assisted Living entrance, which is off of Fourth, and next to the new construction. We will sing to the Independent Living residents in the Great Room and then move to the Assisted Living area dining room and sing for those beloved people.

Second Stop: (& last stop) Be there at 5:15p.m.

#### Holman Gardens Retirement Community

Located on the corner of McDonald and Twelfth Avenue.

Park in the Baptist Church's adjacent parking lot. (We do have permission).

*Going south on McDonald, drive past Twelfth Avenue and past the Baptist Church, to the end of their large parking area. Just before the fence separating the church from McDonald Elementary School, is a sign saying "Holman Gardens". Enter there. Park back by the residents' carports, but on the church's parking area. Enter Holman Garden's side door.*

Thank you from the Opportunity Presbyterian Deacons.

Deacon Stephen Wieber will be leading us for the caroling. Song books will be provided!

For more information, please contact Deacon Gerrie Hobbs at 926-7355 [gerriehobbs@gmail.com](mailto:gerriehobbs@gmail.com) or Deacon Mel Nelson at the office.

# Finance

Thank you for your faithful financial support – here's our year-to-date income / expenses:

2019	Total Donations	Total Expenses
January	\$27,435.25	\$27,467.13
February	\$25,689.50	\$31,786.88
March	\$24,004.75	\$25,636.45
April	\$31,987.24	\$23,390.44
May	\$23,199.66	\$32,224.34
June	\$31,876.76	\$23,542.23
July	\$27,734.89	\$26,188.76
August	\$25,425.62	\$32,596.24
September	\$28,293.86	\$26,975.67
October	\$23,121.91	\$26,290.96

- Our budget target is \$30,000 a month of income – we were short last month and are still short year-to-date – yet continuing to keep current on all bills
- Our annual Stewardship campaign “Faithful Steps” is underway – we’ve received 63 pledges at \$254,444 for the General Fund. We are looking forward to hearing from the other 80 households in our congregation. Prayerfully consider your gifts to OPC for the coming year and step out in faith.
- For our Building Campaign we have \$60,689 in pledges towards the \$100,000 challenge to raise by the end of 2020. Imagine reducing our loan by \$200,000 in a little over a year – that has huge implications of money we would have spent in interest by being able to pay off our loan 5 years earlier than expected. Will you help contribute to our goal?
- Session is working on our 2020 budget and we need you to help us Love, Grow & Serve in the coming year – turn in your pledge today
- Per Capita for 2020 will be \$36 per member

## Office Hours over the Holiday

The church office will be open Monday and Tuesday, December 23-24 but closed December 25-26. The following week, same schedule. Open Monday and Tuesday, December 30-31 9am-1pm. Closed Wednesday and Thursday January 1-2. Thank you.

# TOY STORE

Saturday, December 7

from 1-3pm

For the twelfth year the Toy Store at OPC is coming for this Christmas season on Saturday, December 7 from 1-3pm.

Toy Store partners with local elementary schools to invite low-income families from around Spokane Valley to shop for Christmas gifts for their children. We have received so many great responses from families over the years who feel a sense of ownership and pride in being able to purchase Christmas gifts for their children thanks to Toy Store. In recent years, we have grown to serve an average of 250 kids.

If you would like to help make a difference in the lives of local children and their families this Christmas, here are some ways you can help.

-Donate new, unopened toys for children ages 0-12 by December 4. These toys will be sold in the Toy Store for 80 percent off their retail value. Donation boxes will be out in the narthex. The best toys for most families are in the price range of around \$10-30 regular retail price (before sales) but all items are greatly appreciated. There is also a Christmas gift shop for the kids to pick out a free little gift to give their parents.

-Monetary donations (checks made out to OPC and designated for Toy Store) will be collected and used to purchase more toys for specific age groups based on greatest need. Monetary donations can be put in the offering on Sunday mornings or sent to the church office.

-While Toy Store is open to shoppers there will also be free child care, gift wrapping and refreshments available. Volunteers are needed for these things plus toy shopping, pricing, setup, cashiers and cleanup. Signup at church or by email to [kevin@opportunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:kevin@opportunitypresbyterian.org).



### Family Promise December 29- January 4th 2020 at OPC

Amazing!!! We are already discussing 2020 for Family Promise!! Yes, OPC will be hosting the last few days of this year and celebrating into the new year with our families. If you are able to help us welcome these folks into our home, please contact Sue Webber at 474-0514 or webber758@gmail.com. We need food for breakfasts and lunches and we need prepared dinners for Thursday and Saturday. The families sleep in the downstairs part of our church at night, prepare a quick breakfast and sack lunch, and then go to the Day Center for the day. There, the parents have assistance resolving their cause for homelessness, as well as access to a computer, and laundry facilities. Meanwhile, the children attend school or daycare. At 5:00 p.m. the families return to OPC for a prepared dinner and the evening to relax before going to bed on the cots in the basement. We have the three families for one week before they move to another church. Each 12 weeks the cycle begins again. OPC partners with two other churches, Spokane Valley Baptist Church and the LDS church on 40th and Bowdish. Opportunity Christian Church brings a dinner on Monday night.

In addition to food and overnight hosts, we need volunteers to set up the beds on Sunday morning, December 29. Please contact Bruce Cutter, if you are available to help.

Overnight hosts come to the church around 6:00 PM and interact with our guests. They sleep downstairs in the church and help with the morning routine. They are usually leaving the church at about 7:30 AM.

We need volunteers to help with laundry after the families have left. Please contact Ritchie Whipple, if interested.

There are many homeless families in Spokane. Children in those families suffer especially. OPC is there to follow Christ's example of serving God by being the hands of help. We hope you will decide to serve with us as we welcome three homeless families into Christ's church/home. "Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord. If you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart."

Love...grow...serve...

Sue Webber

#### 2020 OPC Book Sale

The library committee would like you to know the annual book sale will be held on March 26-28. If you are cleaning out your bookshelves, you can leave donations in one of the coat rooms for the sale.

#### Thank you from the Baggarleys

We thank all of you, our church family, for all your prayers for our son Steve. He is home and feeling better. Love and blessings to you all.

God truly blessed our congregation on November 10, as we assembled for worship with family and friends at OPC, then the signing of the guest book in the narthex was followed by Second Sunday Brunch in the fellowship hall with the reception. Thank you kindly for all your attention as I arrived at this milestone in life! May God continue to bless all of his endeavors at OPC!

Love in Christ,  
Ruth Parman



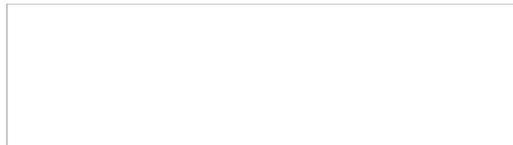


# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11:15am— Guatemala Meeting	2 6pm—Zumba	3 7pm—Building & Grounds Meeting	4 6:30pm— Handbell Prac- tice  6:30pm—Choir Practice	5 6pm—Zumba	6 10am—Toy Store Set Up	7 1pm— Toy Store
8 11:30am— Second Sunday Brunch  12pm— Youth Group	9 6pm— Zumba	10	11 6:30pm— Handbell Prac- tice	12 11:30am— Women's Bible Study  6pm— Zumba  6:30pm— Women's Bible Study	13	14 4pm— Christ- mas Caroling
15 11:30am— Youth Group	16 6pm— Zumba  7pm— Session Meeting	17	18 6:30pm— Handbell Prac- tice	19 6pm— Zumba	20	21
22 11:30am— Youth Group Christmas Party	23 6pm— Zumba	24 7pm— Christmas Eve Candlight Ser- vice	25 Christmas Day	26 Office Closed	27	28
29 Family Promise Host Week 5th Sunday Deacons Offer- ing	30 7pm— Zumba	31	Office Closed	Office Closed		

---

*Opportunity Presbyterian Church  
202 N. Pines Rd.  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206*



**OPC STAFF**

*Pastor: Rev. Kevin Lind*

*Music Director: Jennifer Pearman*

*Pianist: Dr. Sigrid Brannan*

*Organist: Libby Grammer*

*Family Connections Coordinator: Jenny Pitts*

*Nursery Coordinator: Chenoa Turner*

*Secretary: Melanie Nelson*

*Maintenance: Ben Beach*

*Go Green! Subscribe to Our E-Newsletter. If you subscribe to our print newsletter and would prefer to receive our news by email, please call the office at 924-9750 or email us at [home@opportunitypresbyterian.org](mailto:home@opportunitypresbyterian.org)*

**Identification Statement**

The Lamp Post  
Published Monthly  
Opportunity Presbyterian  
Church  
202 N. Pines Road  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206  
Non-Profit Organization  
Issue #409