

❖ Faith Builder ❖

Volume 20 Issues 12

“A Church with a Heart for People”

December 2020

Message from the pastor

Dear Faith Family,

First, I want to wish you a belated Happy Thanksgiving and tell you how thankful I am for you. I echo the words of Philippians 1:3-6: “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Second, I wish you an early Merry Christmas! And while this Christmas is shaping up to be one of the most unusual ones in our church history—we won’t be riding the bus to go Christmas caroling; we won’t be gathering around the fellowship hall for festive snacks and cookies; we won’t be able to light candles as we stand around the sanctuary singing Silent Night...—our team has been working hard to prepare several memorable events you can enjoy online.

To start things off, we are including advent readers at the beginning of every Sunday worship set. I hope you’ll tune in each week to see some familiar faces. Next, the Faley family have prepared a wonderful caroling video that comes right to your door. I hope you’ll enjoy this and share it with others, particularly shut-ins and/or anyone in need of some Christmas cheer. Third, John and Tanya have recorded their annual, worship CD filled with old and new worship songs for you to enjoy all year long. These are for sale, and all proceeds will go towards supporting Vision House families. Finally, we are eagerly preparing a wonderful, online, Christmas-Eve service for you to enjoy on December 24th. This service will feature many of our favorite Christmas carols, our kids and teens reading the Christmas story, a special musical talent playing a piano offertory, a short Christmas message from yours truly, candles, Christmas lights, and everything you need to make you feel like you’re celebrating Christ’s birth at church, all from the comfort of your own home.

And while I know these aren’t the same thing as being in church in person, I believe these efforts are the tools God has given us to continue to stay connected with one another, and to Jesus. As we’re stripped of some of our regular, seasonal comforts—Christmas parties, gathering together at church, etc.—I believe Jesus wants to use this time to cause us to search for Him in deeper, more meaningful ways. With fewer distractions and more time for contemplation,



Giving Options

We now have online giving! Please see our webpage (www.faitthedmonds.org) or download the Tithe.ly app to be able to make payments through credit card. Or, you can still send in checks through the mail. Thank you fo your faithfulness during this difficult season!



Thank You for Your Financial Support

November 2020

Income: \$16,870.66
Expenses: \$17,601.36
\$ (730.65)

YTD

Income: \$164,650.04
Expenses: \$171,417.17
\$ (6767.13)

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Cont'd

with hearts full of yearning for fellowship and company, perhaps Jesus will reveal Himself to us in ways we never even dreamed of.

Covid can't cancel Christmas! It can only cause us to search for it deep within our souls. For this reason, I hope you'll play our videos and tune in to our services; I hope you turn to your Bibles and to prayer; I hope you spend some time in meditation and contemplation, wondering at the amazing event of God's birth; and I pray that as you do so you'll encounter Jesus in a fresh, new way.

Eventually we'll be together again. For now, may you use this time to draw near to the Christ-child, Jesus, the Emmanuel—God with us.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Andrew



Virtual Caroling! Follow this link for a special Christmas caroling video by the Faley Family. Feel free to share it with anyone who may need an extra dose of Christmas cheer. https://youtu.be/jji4iIO_6g0 . **Worship CD's for sale:** John and Tanya have created another fabulous worship CD full of old and new worship songs we often sing in church. If you would like to purchase one, please contact John, Tanya or the church office. CD's are \$15 and all proceeds will go to supporting Vision House families.

Announcements

No in-person Christmas Eve Services: Instead look for our online service at faithedmonds.org--available by December 24th at noon. The service will feature readings by our kids and teens, Christmas carols, and a special Christmas message from Pastor Andrew. BYOC (bring your own candles).

Saturday Recording Services: If you would like to attend one of Pastor Andrew's live, sermon recordings, on Saturdays at 10 a.m., please email/call/text Pastor Andrew the week before. Attendance is capped at 25 people, and safety protocols are emailed in advance and expected to be adhered to.