

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

November 2016

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Advent

As the days shorten and the night seems to want to swallow up what light we have left, we are invited to turn inward, to slow down, to move into a time of reflective quiet and succumb to the gifts and blessing of the darkness. Is that a crazy thing to say this time of year? Maybe. But so much of what we are invited to experience in the Christian life depends on our willingness to open ourselves to something countercultural, something that takes some intention and effort to pull off. Advent is one of those gifts that can open us to a beautifully deep and meaningful experience of the Holy. It is also easily missed.

It used to be that the rhythms of the seasons dictated human behavior. As the sun gradually disappeared, the land stopped producing, and the cold temperatures made the vast outdoors less hospitable, people slowed their pace and moved indoors to the warmth of the hearth and candlelight. Their attention turned to jobs

less physical, mending tools, spinning, or weaving perhaps. There was more time for telling stories in the evenings and gathering with family and friends.

Gertrud Mueller Nelson, in her book *To Dance With God* tells the story of ancient Nordic people who removed a wheel from their carts, festooned it with greenery, added candles and then brought it into the home to make very clear that they weren't intending to go anywhere in the near future. Instead, they were hunkered down waiting for the light to return and during that time they attended to more interior matters.

Of course, now, we don't have to depend upon the daylight or the wind chill. We can keep up the pace as long as we want. And, I guess, that is what I wonder. Do we want to keep up that pace? Or is there something in us, that is quietly begging us to slow down and savor, allowing the beauty of the season to have its way with us?

Consider your desires in these next few days and consider being "all in" for Advent this year. I can promise you the gifts are rich and deep and satisfying. Here are some ways we would like to help you and your family find meaning in this season that prepares us to welcome God into the depths of our being.

---The Advent Festival, December 4th, is a wonderful way to mark the beginning of the season in community.

---We have a guide for each household that will take us all through the scriptures for each week and some simple practices that can open us to Beauty, Justice, and Intention in our own lives during the week. The guide uses the life of Van Gogh as illustration of how God uses those outside the camp to bring about the Kingdom of Love.

---On Sundays during the Christian Education hour we will offer an adult education class that looks at the art and writing of Vincent Van Gogh in concert with the weeks' scriptures.

---If you want to have a time of quiet and meditation during the week, groups will gather for Soul Collage, an intuitive prayer practice, on Friday, December 9th* and on Saturday, December 17th*.

---Blue Christmas*, December 17th, is a simple service for those who grieve or find this time of year difficult.

---As always, feel free to wander into WPC anytime the doors are open and find a space that calms you and brings you peace. The sanctuary is often quiet and offers a place for silence and rest.

---If you are looking for a devotional book to read through the season, see me. I love to share. Here are some suggestions: *To Dance With God* by Gertrud Mueller Nelson; *Preparing for Christmas* by Richard Rohr; *God With Us, Rediscovering the Meaning of Christmas* edited by Greg Pennoyer; *The Season of the Nativity*; *Confessions and Practices of an Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Extremist* by Sybil MacBeth; *The Vigil*; *Keeping Watch in the Season of Christ's Coming* by Wendy Wright

May your Advent time be rich. -Rev. Heather Monkmeyer

Children's Ministry (CM)



CM wrapped October with a spooktacular Halloween party. Kudos to Club 56 and the Youth for creating a wonderful Spook Alley – who knew the Conference Room could be so scary?! Many thanks for all the many helping hands that made the party a success....from Donuts on a String to Cookie Decorating to Bobbing for Apples to Relay Races to Pumpkin Painting, your efforts were so appreciated!

October also saw the first Club 56 gathering for the program year. We gathered for dinner, explored the church, and played games in the park. The current Club 56'ers are a fun and energetic bunch, so anyone looking for a little excitement in their life is invited to help chaperone one of our monthly get-togethers. I promise you won't be bored!

November brought a lovely Children's Choir performance, with the cutest among us singing a rendition of Amazing Grace. We had a smaller crew for the performance this time, but that didn't stop them from singing with gusto and making us smile, inside and out. Thank you, Children's Choir!
-Rebecca Sandulli, Children's Ministry



Youth Ministry



October was a fun month for the youth at Wasatch! We kicked off the month with our first service project of the year: building crafting kits for kids at Primary Children's hospital. At the end of the month, we worked with club 56 on the Halloween party's annual Spook Alley -- it was a blast! In November, we'll join Club 56 again for the Kids Eat! service project.

We are taking reservations throughout November for our Christmas wreath sale!

--24" wreaths for \$20

--16" wreaths for \$15

--10' cedar garlands for \$15

All orders will be available for pickup at Coffee Hour or at the Advent Festival on December 4th, along with an assortment of purchasable baked goods. All proceeds will go toward summer programming for the youth (camps, trips, and outings).

-Annalise Ford, Youth Ministry



The Bridge Builder

Adult Education

We will continue Lectionary Discussion groups through the end of the year and into next year. Maybe your first question is "What is a lectionary"? Very basically, when we read from the Old and the New Testaments during a worship service, we are following an ancient pattern of reading the Bible so that it is read aloud over a two or three year time span, depending on which system a particular church uses. You can Google this for Wiki and find something more descriptive, but this is it in a nutshell. The Adult Education Team will print the Sunday's lectionary items in the Flash, the BB, and provide a posting on the Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall so you will know what they are in advance. With many thanks to Heather Monkmeyer, we have listed some questions which we hope will help you in spiritual formation as you read each week. The questions to consider follow here:

1. Is there one thing or several things that intrigue you about this text?
2. Is there something in this text you had not noticed before?
3. If you could ask a Biblical scholar any questions about this text what would it be?
4. Is there something that draws you or disturbs you?
5. Is there an invitation in this text for you?

These are suggestions and you may find that your reflections present additional questions pertinent to your own journey of faith. We invite you to read your Bible, allow some timespace to let it sink in, and see where this takes you. You may do this in private, or part of a discussion group, but either way you will find yourself continuing that journey.

The Church year begins with Advent, November 27th; we will be considering some of the letters of Vincent Van Gogh as he takes his own journey and expresses it through art. Reading your Bible in a reflexive way, or reading Van Gogh's journey in "Van Gogh: A Power Seething" by Julian Bell, we can call these Advent Opportunities. Go for it.

- Linda Griffen, Adult Education

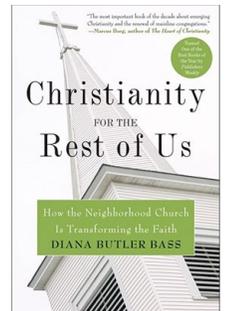
Wasatch 101

Are you new to Wasatch and have questions about how things at Wasatch Presbyterian Church work? Do you know who the staff is? Do you know what the Session is and how it works? How about the Deacons, who are they and what do they do? Maybe you have some other questions about how you can get involved in the life of Wasatch. If so, then this class is for you. We will meet for **three consecutive Sundays, starting November 13th at 10:10** in the Wortley Conference Room. Led by the Pastors and Elder Doug Howe, we will answer these questions and more. This will be a great chance to connect with other people, improve your Wasatch Church IQ and have some fun. Please call Doug Howe for more information at 801-485-9142

Library Book Notes

CHRISTIANITY FOR THE REST OF US: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith.

For years we've been hearing that only evangelical churches are thriving. **Diana Butler Ross** spent three years looking at a wide variety of mainline churches across the country and found, to the contrary, a number are thriving. Why some and not others? In the course of her study she identified ten characteristics shared by all, whatever the denomination or the particular circumstances of a congregation - and many we're experiencing here at Wasatch. An encouraging book now in this time of deep change, change with a vivid glimpse of an exciting future. Like life, God's gift. Our part is to open it.



Annual Library Open House and Book Sale

Thanks to all who made the Library Open House and Book Sale an enormous success on Sunday November 6th. First you showered us with books and then kindly bought them back! We raised considerably over last year and in addition, over forty books never made it to the sale. They'll be catalogued and on the shelves soon. If you've missed out on visiting the Library, it's on the Main Level just past the Gym and is open on Thursdays and Fridays from 1 pm—4pm and on Sunday morning. **Come in and enjoy the variety of books our Church Library has to offer!**

- Beth Phillips, Librarian, bethphillips416@gmail.com

Alternative Gift Market

A unique gift that offers a unique way to do something about global issues like poverty, injustice and hunger while celebrating occasions such as Christmas and birthdays. Giving a life-sustaining gift in honor of a family member or friend is a wonderful way to show you care.

Thanks to many donors, this organization has raised almost \$29 million in the last thirty years. This is the 19th year that Wasatch has participated. Together we've helped victims of war and natural disasters get support, brought medicine to the sick, freed thousands of women and children from sexual slavery, educated children across the globe, and fed those with empty stomachs.

From **November 13 through December 18** you will find catalogs and project displays for 30 projects in Fellowship Hall. We invite you to take home a catalog, and choose one or more projects to help fund in honor of a family member, a teacher, or a friend. We will provide as many cards and project descriptions as you wish.

-Sue Marquardt, Service Committee

The Giving Tree

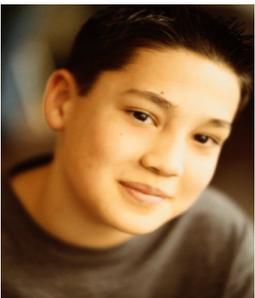
We're all busy at Christmas time. But we invite you to think about children in foster care this Christmas. Imagine: You've lost your parents, your home, your bed, your friends, your clothes, sometimes your siblings. You're in a strange home with strangers, with new schools, surrounded by other kids you don't know, strange food, and new rules that don't make any sense to you.



There is no replacement for all of that. But a good and generous Christmas is a good diversion from the craziness of life that these children experience. It's a chance to experience normal. And it's a great help for children who otherwise have nothing. The Giving Tree Program is sponsored by the Utah Foster Care Foundation, which partners with the Division of Child and Family Services to recruit, train, nurture, and support foster parents, who are each foster child's best chance for normalcy. It provides an opportunity for children in foster care to receive 3 gifts (\$25 limit each) that they have requested. All gifts are provided by generous donors throughout the community.

"Ornaments" with the child's first name and the item they have requested are displayed on a "Giving Tree" in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to fulfill the wish of a child in foster care, please take an ornament off the tree before and attach it to the gift(s) you will donate. Monetary donations and/or gift cards are always welcomed and appreciated. Please return all gifts (unwrapped) to Wasatch, where space will be available to store them. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you so much for supporting the children in foster care within our community.

-Shelley Horel, Service Committee



Soul Collage

A meditative discernment process that engages the imagination and the intuition using images, scissors, paper and glue in a quiet prayerful space. No artistic tendencies required, just an open heart and a willingness to engage. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Monkmeyer at hmonkmeyer@wpcslc.org.

Friday November 11th 1:30-3:30

Friday December 9th 1:30-3:30

Saturday December 17th 10:00-12:00

Saturday November 19th 10:00-



NOVEMBER 2016

NOV 10 - MARTHA CIRCLE

Thurs 10:00am (Library)
Janet Wortley
801-733-490

NOV 14 - EVE BOOK CLUB

Mon 6:30pm (away)
Janet Wortley
801-733-4490

NOV 18 - STITCH & CHAT

Fri 6:30pm (Fellowship Hall)
Mary Beth Keidl
414-550-3295

Thanksgiving Dinner

You're invited to join us at Wasatch for food and holiday fellowship on Thanksgiving Day - at 3pm in Fellowship Hall. The turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and drinks will be provided - if you are able, please help fill in the rest with your favorites. Please RSVP so that we can plan accordingly. Join us in celebrating and giving thanks for our extended community!

To RSVP, either fill out the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or contact Courtney Raines, Congregational Life Chair
801.656.9925, courtney.raines@yahoo.com

Christmas Poinsettias

The time goes by so quickly. It's already time to order your poinsettias for the Christmas Season. The Deacons are now taking orders for the poinsettias at the cost of only \$15.00 per plant. These plants will decorate our Sanctuary during the Christmas Season. Each year, our Deacons, bring you the opportunity to make a dedication to your loved ones during the Christmas Season. We hope this year you will join us in this tradition. The deadline for orders is December 18th.



If you have questions or can't find an order form, contact Jan Thomas at 801-759-2017 or Jan.Thomas@hsc.utah.edu

Thank you all for your support!
-the Deacons

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found at Wasatch is located at the front desk on the main floor. For the next two Sundays in November the Lost and Found will be brought upstairs to Fellowship Hall so you can retrieve any lost items you may be missing. Please have a look before or after services on 11/20.
-the Front Office

Budget Update

	As of 10/31/2016	Budget	Actual	Difference
Pledged Income		410,000	391,380	(18,620)
Other Income		133,066	129,560	(3,506)
Totals		543,066	520,940	(22,126)
Expenses		553,762	527,053	(26,709)
Net Difference		(10,696)	(6,113)	4,583

Sudanese Connection

Her energy, laughter and straight-forwardness take your breath away, from the moment you first meet her. She is a Sudanese woman who came to the U.S. via Cairo in 2005. She is brilliant. She is funny. She is Marcilina Lodongi. She comes at life with the energy of a thousand firefighters and is a force to be reckoned with. This semester, she re-entered college at SLCC in order to earn her degree in Surgical Technology.

Lodongi is a single mom with her own cleaning business. Marcilina also works part-time as one of our professional custodians on staff here at Wasatch Presbyterian Church, and in addition, as a caregiver--when she isn't attending classes or studying, or being mom to her 9-year old son. There simply are not enough hours in a day to accomplish all that she does each and every day. "I can do it," she says, "because I have a goal. My goal is to be independent." Together with the programs offered by Salt Lake Community College, Marcilina is making that happen.

Marcilina knows her way around the surgery room because she was working as a surgical assistant before she left Cairo. She loves the work and wants to gain the certification to do in the U.S. what she did in Cairo—but that's just the beginning for Marcilina. She intends to become a Physician's Assistant--but one thing at a time.

When she came to the U.S., Arabic was her primary language, English was not even yet her second. Lodongi worked hard to learn the language of her new homeland and to satisfy the requirements of becoming an American citizen. After arriving from Africa, Marcilina took only two years to earn her U.S. citizenship.

Lodongi's son, Phillip, is her whole life. Their lives have always been harder than hard. Providing for her son drives her ambition to make progress everyday—even just one percent more than yesterday is all it takes to keep learning, to keep working, and to keep striving. Marcilina knows that in going to school, she is modeling the importance of education and hard work for her son. For the generations of Sudanese born in the U.S., failure is not an option. The survival of their people and the future of their nation depends on their education and their success.

There is no stopping Marcilina Lodongi, who has survived wars in Africa and overcome being a stranger in in the strange land of America, to become a citizen, an entrepreneur, an employee, and a student. In addition to being a spectacular single-mom with the intention of renewing a career in the world of medicine, through WPC she learned the value of networking. Through networking, she reveals, "I can accomplish a so much more. Life is too hard to do all by yourself—I am very grateful for the generous support of WPC."

Because Marcilina knows she will succeed, she also wants to encourage others to succeed. She says that if you have a goal, you too can do whatever it takes to realize your desire. "Never give up—keep looking forward—and never lose your focus on your goal--you can do it," she says, "I believe in you."

-Ashtora, Sudanese Task Force



Annual Crossroads Thanksgiving Food Collection

Please join us in gathering non-perishable items and fill up the grocery bags handed out on Sunday November 13th with non-perishable food to be return to the Church on Sunday November 20th. This is one more wonderful opportunity for Wasatch to assist in feeding the hungry families in our city.

-Service Committee

KidsEat! Service Project

A very hearty thank you to the congregation at large for your generous donations for the KidsEat! service project. We collected a ton of food (figuratively, not literally) – in fact, so much that the operations of storing it proved challenging. But this was a welcome challenge and one that will help feed so many children across Salt Lake. The Youth and CM are gathering today to pack the food into backpacks. We'll keep you posted on how many backpacks we end up being able to pack. Thank you again!

-Rebecca Sandulli, Children's Ministry

Stewardship

At bottom, these words come to us as a challenge. They ask us this: no matter what our circumstances; no matter what we think of the state of the world, can we do our best to wake up in the morning alert and expectant, instead of depressed and annoyed?

Joy can be a choice. If one is predisposed to look for it, one can be predisposed to find it. Simple as that.

At Wasatch Church we are a community of people who are trying our best to live intentionally. We look at the life of Jesus (who walked this, God's earth, no more than 33 years) and we see a picture of grace and love that may be unsurpassed for its intentionality. By that example we are constantly humbled and inspired.

What is my point? Here it is. We don't want our life to be a spinning of our wheels. We get one go round here. We want it to count for something and we look to the church for the strength and purpose it gives us in a community full of people with similar hopes and values. As you read on the cover of this issue of Bridge Builder, advent, the wonderful season of joy and expectation, begins on November 27.

The sermons and accompanying art that we will feature during this season will attempt to identify what makes for true joy in this world. We will do our best to pursue beauty, share each others burdens, and be alert to signs of grace that are especially available in this season.

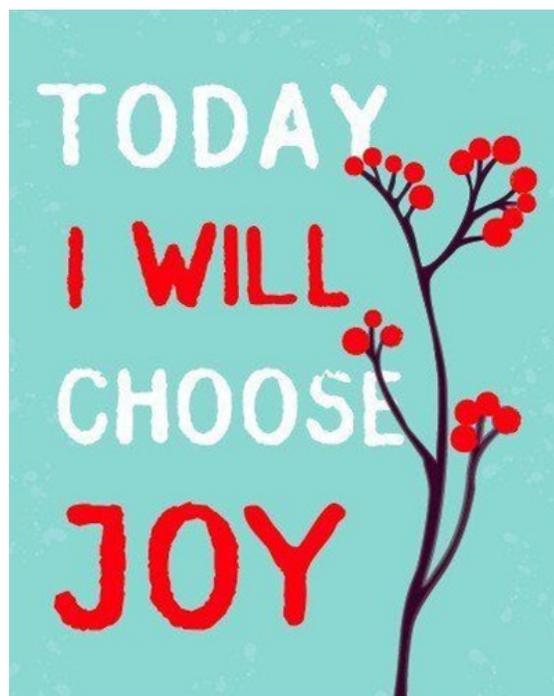
Having said these things, allow me to offer you a very palpable way to show your support for this kind of outlook on life.

If you haven't done this already, I am asking you, the members and friends of Wasatch, to submit a pledge to support the ministry of the church for the coming year. Please fill out a pledge card (you can find them in any pew in the sanctuary) prayerfully, hopefully, intentionally. Thanks so much to all for your partnership in this great ministry!

Those of us on the Worship and Music Committee are really looking forward to these four Sundays of advent this year. We look forward to exploring with you what true joy might look like.

With genuine affection, and hope for every blessing.

-Pastor Scott



Wasatch Presbyterian Church
1626 South 1700 east
Salt Lake City, UT 84108-2662

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

November 2016 Bridge Builder

Sunday Schedule

Wasatch Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Scott Dalgarno	Pastor/Head of Staff, sdalgarno@wpcslc.org
Rev. Heather Monkmeyer	Pastoral Associate, hmonkmeyer@wpcslc.org
Donna Henry	Director of Congregational Care, dhenry@wpcslc.org
Rebecca Sandulli	Director of Children's Ministry, rsandulli@wpcslc.org
Annalise Ford	Youth Ministry Coordinator, wasatchpresbyterianyouth@gmail.com
Dr. Kenneth Udy	Director of Music, kennethudy@centurylink.net
Carol Rugg	Financial Secretary, crugg@wpcslc.org
Todd Wheeler	Director of "i believe" band, Todd_wheeler2560@msn.com

9:00 am	Worship
10:00 am	Coffee Hour
10:10/15 am	Sunday School
10:45 am	Choir
11:15 am	Worship
12:15 pm	Coffee Hour
2:00 pm	Sudanese Worship

*Communion on the First Sunday
of every month in both worship
services.