

“Advent means “coming” and is the name given to the four-week period before Christmas. Advent also marks the beginning of the church calendar and is part of the cycle of seasons that includes Advent, Christmas and Epiphany (celebration of the arrival of the wise men). Advent is a season rich in tradition, symbolism, scripture, art and music. It is also the season to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming Christ.

Matt Rawle highlights that Christmas is a time of change. The days leading to Christmas are darker and shorter. Rawle contends that “everything changed when God put on flesh and was born in Bethlehem.” Advent offers us an opportunity to retell the story of Christ coming into our lives. As our lives change, we experience the story of Jesus’ birth in new and exciting ways. Advent is an invitation for each of us to enter the story, experience how God is interacting in our world today, and allow our faith to grow in unexpected ways.

Advent was never intended as a time for us to simply wait for the coming of Christ. Rather, we are to RISE UP and actively participate in the building of the beloved Kingdom of God. Consider the courage of Mary who was a young girl anticipating her future wedding. She became an active participant in God’s plan and kingdom by proclaiming “I am the Lord’s servant.” She then nurtured, loved and provided a safe place for our Savior to grow and fulfill God’s plan. Consider the Magi who diligently studied the stars. They then traveled a far distance to worship Jesus after his birth. Consider Harriet Tubman who led slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad. Consider Desmond Doss, a World War II veteran, who rescued 75 men trapped by enemy fire while refusing to carry a gun or threaten another human life.

May you rise up!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Leah



# Notes from the Choir Loft



We all have that one Christmas song that we can't go through the holiday season without listening to at least once. That song that reminds us of our childhood, our family, our friends, our home. What song is it that brings you joy this time of year? Close your eyes. Can you hear it?

These pieces of music, whatever they may be, will always live in our hearts and in our memories. For me, that song is "White Christmas". Every December our family would dust off our DVD and watch Bing Crosby sing and dance his way into the holiday. And every December, whenever that song comes on the radio, I turn it up and sing along. In those moments, my shoulders always feel a little less tense and my heart feels just a touch lighter.

This year I feel an even deeper connection to the song, dreaming of all of the people I won't see, all of the concerts my students and I won't perform, all of the services I can't attend. Even writing this now I get a little teary thinking of all the ways this Christmas will be different. But in these moments, I am brought back to one piece of Christmas that will never change, no matter the circumstances. No matter what, every December, we remember the sacrifice that Jesus made when he came to earth to live among us.

So, even if your favorite Christmas song isn't necessarily religious, listen to it. Sing your heart out. Cry your eyes out. Remember the people in your life that you are thankful for. Feel the sadness for the people you won't see this year. And above all, remember the miracle baby that was born in Bethlehem that night. Let the comfort of knowing that God cares so deeply for you that he sent his only son to us bring you warmth. What song will bring you closer to God this time of year? Close your eyes. Can you hear it

Teaching young people to grow in their relationship with God prepares them to serve Christ for a lifetime. Simpson UMC is committed to this principle and has made our Youth Program a priority. With the onset of COVID, the church's plan to hire a Youth Director was delayed. The church and the SPRC must continue to evaluate alternatives for supporting the mission of the church. Since Chen Wu has prior experience with the youth, the SPRC has temporarily shifted her responsibilities and focus from the music program to the Youth Group.

We welcome Chen into this new role and appreciate her flexibility and passion for the church's ministries. Please support her on this new journey.

## Starting the Holidays with Blessings!

*Many thanks to all who purchased a holiday wreath and to those who added a donation to your purchase! We raised more than \$3,000 for our church!*

HUGE thanks to Pam Shinto for donating her time, talent and supplies, George Kawamura for donating to the cost of wrapping supplies and Dennis Kitayama, Charlotte and Ken Namba and Pastor Leah for handing out the wreaths on pick up day! We also thank Jolie Noguchi for purchasing wreaths to sell at Pacific Mercantile!

**Good things happen when we work together to spread joy and holiday cheer!**



Thank you to all who bought our church cookbook. We ordered and sold over a 100 copies within 2 months. The profits went to funding the general maintenance of the church.

During this COVID-19 time when we do not use the building every day, we still have bills to pay. We netted approximately \$1,000 and had \$400 in donations. We appreciate you!

There are many ways that you can support Simpson by shopping at Amazon, Safeway and King Soopers. If you shop at these stores, you can support Simpson at the same time you purchase your items at no extra cost to you. Consider using:

[smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

and

<https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards>

Thank you!

**From The Denver Post, 12.13.2020:**

Memories of 23rd and Welton: Lawson Park among the last remnants of Denver's Japanese American Baseball Leagues

[https://denverpost-co-app.newsmemory.com/?publink=13a73146b\\_1343921](https://denverpost-co-app.newsmemory.com/?publink=13a73146b_1343921)

## An Invitation for You:

The Christ Candle is the largest white candle in the Advent Wreath. This candle is in the center of the wreath as a reminder that Christ is in the center of our lives. The light of the candle represents the light that Jesus brought into the world. The Christ Candle is lit on Christmas Eve, symbolizing the moment Jesus was born, fulfilling past Prophecies.



A luminary is also lit on Christmas Eve. The light of the luminary guides the spirit of the Christ Child to one's home.

The worship committee invites you to create two luminaires, one for your home and Simpson UMC. Decorate a white or brown paper lunch bag with loving images and messages. Then please put one of your bags in our silver mailbox slot (located on Wolff Street, next to the Blessing Box.) We will also invite our local neighborhood to be involved in this celebration.



On **Christmas Eve**, the luminaries will line the sidewalks around the church and lit from **6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** spreading the light of Christ to our neighborhood and beyond.

Be creative.

Join us for our virtual Christmas Eve Service  
At **4:00 p.m. on December 24th.**

The Service will celebration of music and the  
retelling of the greatest biblical story!



# ***Helping our Local Neighborhood***

Suggested Items  
that you can donate to our  
Blessing Box



Peanut butter  
Hamburger Helper or similar  
Noodles  
Instant Lunch Cups (like Nissin Noodle Cups)  
Spaghetti sauce  
Individual puddings, fruit and apple sauce  
Cereals and granola type bars  
Canned tuna or chicken  
Vienna sausages, the little cans  
Peanuts  
Shampoo  
Toothpaste and brushes  
Deodorant  
Diaper wipes  
Laundry soap (smaller packages from the dollar store  
will fit in Blessing Box)  
Dish soap and hand soap.  
Sugar, flour, rice and beans (smaller packages)

We are pleased to announce that Simpson is offering an additional option for giving to the church. Online Giving will become available for those who would like to make donations online.

More information and training will be available in the weeks to come.





**Simpson United Methodist Church**

**Arvada CO 80003-6833**

**Telephone: 303/428-7963, Fax: 303/427-1577**

**December 2020**

Virtual Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

All Meetings are Virtual until further notice

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line	4	5 Pick up wreaths and cookbooks <b>Virtual Japanese Language Class</b>
6 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE HOLY COMMUNION 12:00 noon—Charge Conference	7	8	9	10 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line	11	12 <b>Virtual Japanese Language Class</b>
13 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE	14	15 7:00 pm O.N.E. Newsletter Deadline	16	17 10:00 am Simpson Chat Line	18	19 <b>Virtual Japanese Language Class</b>
20 8:30 am Trustees 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve virtual service Time: 4:00 pm	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>	26
27 10:00 am—VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE	28	29	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>		

A Brief Note about the Author and the Poem Clement Clarke Moore's famous poem, which he named "A Visit From St. Nicholas," was published for the first time on December 23, 1823 by a New York newspaper, the Sentinel. Since then, the poem has been reprinted, translated into innumerable languages and circulated throughout the world. Clement Clarke Moore was born in 1779 to a well-known New York family. His father, Reverend Benjamin Moore, was president of (what is now) Columbia University and was the Episcopal Bishop of New York. Moore's father also participated in George Washington's first inauguration and gave last rites to Alexander Hamilton after Hamilton was mortally wounded in an 1804 duel with Aaron Burr. Moore himself was an author, a noted Hebrew scholar, spoke five languages, and was an early real-estate owner and developer in Manhattan. Despite his accomplishments, Clement Clarke Moore is remembered only for "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," which legend says he wrote on Christmas Eve in 1822 during a sleigh ride home from Greenwich Village after buying a turkey for his family. Some say the inspiration for Moore's pot-bellied St. Nicholas was the chubby, bewhiskered Dutchman who drove Moore to Greenwich Village to buy his holiday turkey. Moore never copyrighted his poem, and only claimed as his own over a decade after it was first made public. Moore read the poem to his wife and six children the night he wrote it, and supposedly thought no more about it. But a family friend heard about it and submitted the poem to the Sentinel, a newspaper in upstate New York, which published it anonymously the following Christmas. Moore's poem immediately caught the attention and imagination of the state, then the nation, and then the world. Finally, in 1844, he included it in a book of his poetry. Moore died in 1863 and is buried in Trinity Cemetery in Washington Heights, New York. Because of his "mere trifle," as he called it, 175 years ago Clement Clarke Moore almost single-handedly defined our now timeless image of Santa Claus. Note: Some scholars now believe the poem was actually written by Major Henry Livingston, Jr. Whatever the authorship controversy ultimately determines, this work has become a Christmas favourite. "'Twas the Night Before Christmas."



**Simpson United Methodist Church**  
**6001 Wolff St**  
**Arvada, CO. 80003-6833**

## ***December 2020***

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Or Current Resident

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### **How would you like to receive our monthly newsletter?**

The Simpson News provides an update on the events in the life of our church. The newsletter is available on the church website (<http://www.simpsonumc.com/member-newsletter/>). We also can provide you a copy of the newsletter electronically or mail a hard-copy to your home.

As a way to stay connected with our members, we are like to know how you would like to receive the newsletter. Please contact Mari Welch with your preference ([simpsonumc@comcast.net](mailto:simpsonumc@comcast.net) or 303-428-7963 or return the form below. Thank you for your help!

#### **Simpson Newsletter Contact Update Form**

Please send me a hard copy of the newsletter:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please email me a pdf copy of the newsletter:

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Feedback: