

Christmas 2020



A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God Eternal Father, Prince of Peace, and authority will be on his shoulders.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This Advent and Christmas season is like none other than we have experienced in our lives nor our faith community. Yet we come together in hope, trust, grace and love awaiting in a new way to celebrate the inbreaking of Immanuel, in Jesus, the Christ. Knowing that we cannot be together in person to sing and lift the light of Christ, we have made song and light our focal point being led by the words of a Jewish poet during the Holocaust, “I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining.”

While we have not been able to gather in person to worship, our faith community has gathered with hope and faith to serve those who are most vulnerable with food, hygiene items, some donated clothing, your donations. Many in the Oakland community and beyond (from as far away as Concord) have joined us to serve the unsheltered, poorest families with children, and seniors. Our service to the lost, last and least have been a beacon of God’s justice to those new volunteers and to the most vulnerable. Thanks be to God!

This year our Christmas offering is for the folks of one of those particular ministries: Our *Connectional Ministries Lake Lunches* program clothing needs of socks, hats & mittens. Our unsheltered neighbors are so vulnerable in general, and particularly during the season of the Covid-19 pandemic. The winter season is a very harsh time to be living outside, and having winter clothing significantly helps reduce their risk of cold and flu viral infections.

You can make your Christmas offering online through our webpage, www.lakemerrittumc.org and click on the tab, “Give” then follow the instructions to give specifically to “Xmas Offering.” You can also give by way of check to “Lake Merritt UMC” noting in the memo section “Christmas offering” and mail it (or drop it off) to Lake Merritt UMC, 1255 First Ave., Oakland, CA 94606. If you have any questions please contact us at office@lakemerrittumc.org or via telephone at (510) 465-4793.

We pray that this season, even though you may not be with family and friends in the usual way, you will feel their love, and the love of Christ through calls, video conferencing, and prayer.

Shalom, Salaam,

Inshallah,

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, Pastor

Linda Weingarten, Chairperson
Stewardship & Generosity Team