



IN JOINT FELLOWSHIP

*Sustaining a vibrant and growing congregation through Christian spiritual transformation,
making our work and the church relevant and visible.*

December 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is blessed gift to be alive at this season of humanity. Our faith practices inspire us to witness hope, inspire hope, see hope and share hope so that all will truly experience God's inclusive and expansive love.

To know that Emmanuel chose to lead us from the most vulnerable of positions is a powerfully humbling experience, one that transforms life. This Christmas season I ask you to continue to live out that powerful faith in all your relationship and with everyone you encounter, however briefly. We simply do not know how one act will transform the life of another of God's Children.

One act – God's choice to come live with God's people change the world – particularly, changed you and me. One act on your part will change one life, one hope. One act of giving will save one life. Without a doubt we can say, we are part of doing God's work in this world.

This Christmas season, in behalf of our Stewardship & Generosity Team, I ask you to give towards the **Covenant House, Oakland** gift card fund for the young adults between the ages of 18-24 living at Covenant House Oakland. Most of these young adults have been 'aged out' of foster care and were homeless or were trafficked and escaped that bondage. All have never had the chance to spend money just on themselves. The \$25 gift cards will give them that chance. Some of us will give \$100; some will give \$1,000; some will give \$1. Just imagine though if EVERYONE gave at least \$1. Imagine how many lives will be transformed.

At worship you will find a Christmas offering envelope to use to give towards the **Covenant House, Oakland**, through December 30, including at our Dec 24 **Christmas Eve worship at 6:30 pm**. You can also 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.

Most importantly, I pray that this Christmas season, you find your abiding faith in the impossible made possible through the reality of Emmanuel – God with us. A Blessed and Holy Christmas to you all.

Shalom, Salam,

Rev. Pamela L. Kurtz, Pastor

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*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.*