



FUMC Loveland

January 2024

Senior Newsletter



Epiphanyes

By Rev. Lee Anderson-Harris



Epiphany begins with the visit of the magi, but it doesn't end with them. The following weeks of the Christian calendar, we reflect on the ways in which Jesus reveals more and more about who he is and what his purpose is. That's why there is actually a *season* of Epiphany; it's about the ongoing revealing of Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, or the divine made flesh. We need more than one day to reflect on this, because this revelation doesn't happen all at once in our own lives either. How long did it take you to truly accept and believe? I bet there are still moments of epiphany or revelations happening all the time.

In Jesus's time it didn't happen all at once either. Some heard and never believed. His closest disciples struggled throughout their lives. And each trip around the sun creates more opportunities to come closer to Jesus for each of us, but also for the world.

John Donne, who lived and wrote during the late 16th and early 17th centuries, wrote about personal epiphanyes in "The Showing Forth of Christ." He reminds us that Simeon was told that he would see Christ before he died, and he did. Donne refers to this as "Simeon's Epiphany, Simeon's Christmas day." Simeon spoke these words: ²⁹Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, ³⁰because my eyes have seen your salvation. ³¹You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples. ³²It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel. *Luke 2:29-32 (CEB)*

I can easily speak of what Christ has done for me personally. With that, I think I could depart in peace because my eyes have seen God's salvation. My restlessness lies in wanting to know how the rest of the world turns out. What about you? How do you relate to Simeon's words?

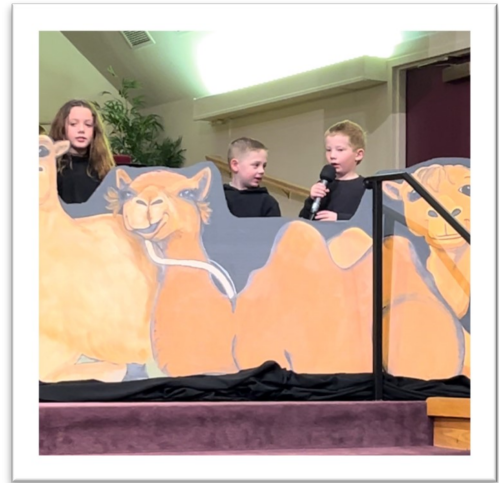
Donne wrote, "So also this day, in which we commemorate and celebrate the general Epiphany, the manifestation of Christ to the whole world in his birth, all we...have had another Epiphany, another Christmas day, another manifestation and application of Christ to ourselves....Make good your Christmas day, that Christ be born in you, and he who died for you will live with you all the year, and all the years of your lives, and inspire into you, and receive from you at the last gasp, this blessed acclamation, 'Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace...'" (Donne, 1967).

Let the epiphanyes continue for you throughout this year. And may we all be a part in sharing the light of the world to everyone else.

Reference:

Donne, J. The showing forth of Christ. In Orbis Books (Eds.), *Watch for the light: Readings for advent and christmas* (pp.304-305). (Reprinted from *The showing forth of Christ*, 1964, Harper and Row.)

December was a season of giving and receiving! Here are



Rehearsal for The Hanging of the Greens service on December 3

The service was well attended and received rave reviews. Afterward, everyone gathered for a delicious soup supper and fellowship. A big thank you to all the children and adults who put their time and effort into this treasured service that starts off the Advent season!



Pozole dinner fundraiser for Truscott Elementary School on December 14

Thank you to the Missions/Social Concerns Committee and the parents and teachers of Truscott for once again putting together this festive and delicious dinner that raises money for Truscott children. We were entertained by these lovely traditional dancers, and by Pastors Leslie and Lee trying out their fledgling Spanish-speaking skills during their welcome speech.

some ways that we gathered, gave, and were blessed in return.



Angel Tree gift giving...a great turnout of gifts for children of incarcerated parents. We're grateful for your generous hearts!

The return of the Cookie Jar fundraiser for FUMC youth! Thank you to those who baked cookies and helped with this yummy tradition that raises money for youth missions and ministry.



Children and adults of Union Ministry gather to decorate cookies for shut-ins and learn and celebrate together. Thank you to those who support this important ministry with your prayers or service!

January/Early February Birthdays

January 1

Nancy Weber

January 14

Mary Kelman

January 26

Lynnette Mannering

January 4

Art Grotenhuis

January 18

Diana Anderson

January 27

Betty Balderson

Lester Marcinowski

January 7

Larry Jones

Nola Marrs

January 29

Doug Burns

January 10

Jack White

January 20

Jan Coffey

January 30

MJ Willard

January 12

Georgia Chenoweth

January 21

Sally Allen

February 5

Terry Gindlesparger

January 13

Nancy Westbrook

January 23

Steve Farnham

February 6

Sheila Berg

January 25

Bill Boegli

Resource for Aging Well

Larimer County Office on Aging provides **Chore Vouchers** to anyone age 60 and over to provide financial assistance with household chores you are unable to do on your own. You find the provider, but the county will help with the cost. Contact the Larimer County Office on Aging at the contact information below for details and to begin the process, or visit

www.larimer.gov/humanservices/aging/ooa

970-498-7750

ADRC@larimer.org

Contact Us

Pastor Leslie:

leslie@fumcleveland.com

Office: (970) 667-0876

Cell: (719) 650-9449

Pastor Lee:

lee@fumcleveland.com

Office: (970) 667-0876

Cell: (303) 506-6724