

## Church News Briefs for November/December 2021

**Celebrate Paul Castelfranco's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday – Sunday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> following our 10 AM worship service** -- Paul turned 100 years of age October 16<sup>th</sup> this year, but various circumstances have prevented our efforts to celebrate his life among us. So, this is our chance! Kathy Schinski is providing a trifold foam board with photographs from Paul's life and as our poet laureate will gift us with a tribute poem. Bring your cards and plan to express your well wishes to Paul in celebration of his first century!

**Sunday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> @ 11:30 AM - Worship Service for Families with Younger Children** -- Twice monthly we offer this worship experience for our families with children under 12 years of age until they receive a vaccine to address COVID concerns. Pastor Brandon will be providing these children a chance to participate (by video) in this year's Christmas Eve service. Children will be offered a chance to read portions from the story of Jesus' nativity that will be recorded and inserted into our in-person Christmas Eve Service. Christmas costumes will be available for their use.

**Charge Conference – Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00 PM (In Person!)** -- Each year, United Methodist congregations gather to establish their ministries for the next year. Membership status is confirmed, church officers are elected, the pastor's compensation is set, and candidates for ordination are certified. These are the official actions of the church that connect us to the work of the larger church. Join Pastor Brandon, Rev. Cathy Morris of Dixon UMC, and current church officers to vote on these important matters. All official church members may vote, and everyone is welcome to attend.

**Church Officers 2022** – What we do as a church is possible only because members among us step forward to be officers that make essential decisions regarding the administration of our life together. These officers address matters of our facilities, staff, funding, worship, representation, and leadership. Without them, we are not a church but an amalgam of people who habitually show up at the same time in the same place for some reason. With them we are people aligned for purposes of ministry, service, and witness to the love of God and compassion for others in the world. Our Nominations & Leadership Committee is meeting to discern who best to call forth to be officers/leaders among us for our ministries in the year 2022. If you are contacted, and some of you have been contacted already, please prayerfully consider how your answer expresses your spirituality and commitment to a reality infused with the better angels of our nature and God's vision for the world. Your position as an officer may be service for only a season (term) but essential for our life together!

**2022 Giving Commitment Cards** – Most of you have received and read Pastor Brandon's stewardship letter that included a "commitment card" for 2022. Our finance committee is counting on our continued faithfulness so that only those of us who expect to change our level of giving need to submit a "Giving Commitment Card" for 2022. If you expect to do so, please do so this week. If you need another "Card" please contact our church office or simply indicate your expected level of giving for 2022 to our office by email. Confidentiality of your giving will be maintained. Thank you!

**Congratulations to Mary Anne Ingenthron and John Castelfranco** -- Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> was certainly a day of celebration as John Castelfranco delivered his first sermon and Mary Anne Ingenthron was commissioned as our newest Stephen's Ministry Leader. John's well delivered and received sermon completed a preaching course designed for training Lay Persons the craft of preaching. We hope to hear him preach again! Mary Anne's role as a Stephen's Ministry Leader has required her attendance at a multi-day online training in addition to the 50 hours of Stephen Ministry training for Care Givers. Her skills and experience will provide guidance for other Stephen Ministry care givers and will serve well our attempts to provide a spiritual presence for those receiving care from this vital ministry currently under the leadership of Caroline Chantry.

**Advent Devotional 2022** – Pastor Brandon has purchased an Advent devotional resource for use in our congregation. About ten of the booklets remain. You may request yours by calling/emailing our church office or by attending worship to pick up yours in person.

**Youth Group** - Five of our youth, John Uhte, and Pastor Brandon met Sunday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> in our church sanctuary to share “highs and lows” and to discuss their participation in our Christmas Eve Service and in a mission project supporting the *Heart of Davis* non-profit serving Davis’ houseless population. You can assist them in their efforts by bringing any of the items on the list below to the church on Sundays through Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> or drop them off during office hours on Wednesday and Thursday – *please call the office (530-756-2170) before your visit!*

- Warm jackets, socks, long johns, shoes, etc in good condition for shelter guests
- Sleeping bags, pillows, and pillowcases in good condition
- **Toiletries**
  - Shampoo / Conditioner
  - Soap / Body wash
  - Tampons / Pads
  - Razors
  - Shaving Cream
- **Household Items**
  - Paper towels
  - Toilet paper
  - Plates
  - Cutlery
  - Serving utensils (ladles, spatulas, etc)

**Music Ministry** – We are grateful for the musical gifts of Tricia Barbieri and her entourage of ensemble singers, including much of her family! They have accompanied us since mid-August and will see us through our Christmas worship services. Looking to the future, SPRC is fielding a variety of options to keep both handbells and our chancel choir active and “in play.” Stay tuned for developments in this essential element of our worship.

**Worship Updates** – As we live into the future, changes in our life together are inevitable. Many will be temporary, assigned to particular times and places, others may be lasting. Here are a few practices you can expect to see in our times of worship in the coming year: **Worship Teams** – Rather than have the worship committee work to enhance our worship experience, our congregation will be invited to participate as teams to develop specific themes of the Christian calendar to enhance our worship experiences. Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost, Christmas Eve are included in the list of specific services we celebrate together. Artists, musicians, gifted linguists, are most welcomed to take part. **Centering Moments** – Each service may begin with a time of breathing or prayerful “centering”, a quiet pause, to raise our attention to God’s presence, as we begin our time in worship. **Signing Songs** – Some of those among us find added meaning to songs as we employ “hand signs” that accompany the words we use when we sing our hymns of worship. Children are likely to appreciate these expressions most of all, but adults are among them! **God Moments** – All of us are invited to be eye – witnesses or I – witnesses to God’s love alive in our world. As some of us share our experience of these moments, perhaps more of us will become attuned to God’s presence among us. In the meantime, if there are other expressions or elements you might enjoy in worship, please send an email to Pastor Brandon or to Rita Lundin, our 2022 Worship Committee Chairperson.

**YES! WE WILL PROVIDE GIFTS TO EMPOWER YOLO GUESTS THIS YEAR --** Empower Yolo provides a Safe House for women and families escaping domestic violence. Hiding and recovering in a Safe House during the holidays is a sad and lonely experience. For many years our church has provided Christmas gifts for these guests so that their holidays are somewhat more cheerful, and they know that the community cares about them. Pre-pandemic we described the desired gifts on ornaments placed on a tree in the Narthex in early December and members of the congregation selected one or more ornaments and purchase the described gifts. We cannot proceed this way this year with many people attending service online. We are developing an alternative mechanism for distributing “ornaments” and getting the gifts to Empower Yolo. Watch for details in Thursday emails, church bulletins, and on the church web page.