



**Our Vision—A beacon of God’s love radiating faith, hope, and joy... Everywhere!**

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**The Flowers on the Altar are given by Evelyn Heinrich in loving memory of family: My parents and siblings and especially Noel, belated for his Christmas Birthday.**

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**Today one service at 9:30 -Charge Conference at 10:30 am**

We will be holding a Charge Conference after the one service, around 10:30 am, on December 31 to vote whether to approve the proposed 2024 budget. The balancing of the budget needed to be done after the Church Conference on 11/15, once the pledges were received and were compared with the proposed 2024 expenses. The proposed budget includes a 3% pay increase to the church staff. We will also vote to approve the candidacy of our seminary intern, Veejay Strama, for ministry. All church members are invited to attend this short meeting to review and vote on these two important items.

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**Today - Hymn Sing, Sunday, December 31, 9:30 am**

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**King’s Sunday, January 7, 2024, 8:30 and 10:45 am**

We return to two services, at 8:30 and 10:45 am, on Epiphany, or Kings’ Sunday 1/7. Church school and Coffee Hour are at 9:30 am and Adult Ed is at 9:45 in the Concord Room. We will be bringing forward our special Advent Mission Project gift during the services.

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**Please join us in our special giving on “Kings’ Sunday” 1/7/24**

This year we are supporting Greater Lowell Community Foundation Refugee and Immigrant Resettlement Fund, which supports the efforts of Greater Lowell organizations to help ensure those in need are welcomed and connected with housing, employment, transportation, food, acculturation, and other related support. On Epiphany, also known as “Kings’ Sunday” next Sunday, January 7, we will bring our monetary gifts from the savings we have made and will offer them to support this Advent Mission Project.

**Church School and Adult Ed will not meet until January 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be no classes for either on 12/24 or 12/31**

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**Flower Chart available**

The Flower Chart for 2024 is now available on the board in the hallway. Please sign up for the dates you would like for 2024.

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**Confirmation Class 2024**

We plan to offer the confirmation class starting from January. **Please pick up the registration form** in the welcome area and return it to Cheryl Ortolfo, our director of Christian Education. There will be 8 classes this spring and 1 retreat. For more info, please see Cheryl or Pastor Bob.

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**Aldersgate U.M.C. Advent Mission Project**

This year our church council and outreach committee has selected the Greater Lowell Community Foundation Refugee and Immigrant Resettlement Fund.

This fund will support the efforts of Greater Lowell organizations to help ensure those in need are welcomed and connected with housing, employment, transportation, food, acculturation, and other related support.

You can find out more about this organization at: [www.glcfoundation.org](http://www.glcfoundation.org).

You are welcome to take one of the special ornaments on our Mission tree in the front lobby area. On Epiphany, also known as “Kings’ Sunday” - **January 7**, we will bring our monetary gifts from the savings we have made and will offer them to support our Advent Mission: Greater Lowell Community Foundation Refugee and Immigrant Resettlement Fund.

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**Prayer Wall in Fellowship Hall**

The Church Council recently created a prayer wall on a rolling partition in the Fellowship Hall, asking you to post prayers of what our church will look like as a result of the on-going Inclusion discussions. The Council recently decided to expand the purpose of the wall and we invite you to post prayers on **any** topic that you wish to have other members of our church family pray about.

## **Big Thank you from the Bair and Swan Families**

Thank you from the Bair and Swan families to those who have contributed to and sent boxes to my grandson. They haven't started arriving yet but soon there will be at least a box a week. Joyous days when the mail arrives. 55 deg. and wet. Muddy outside and in. But it will be 120 deg. in the Summer, so he is content with rain. He says "things have been very busy lately, but we are making a difference and keeping people safe here."

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### **Advent Study will conclude on Thursday 1/4 and Sunday 1/7**

There will be no adult class today 12/24 or Thursday 12/28.

Adult Ed will conclude the Advent Study of *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch* by Matt Rawle on Thursday 1/4 and Sunday 1/7.

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### **Early Bird Bible Application**

Early Bird will not meet for the next two weeks. We will convene again on Tuesday 9 January at ten o'clock.

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### **From Evelyn Heinrich**

