

Congregational Meeting

November 2023

Opening Welcome/Prayer - Regan

Pastor's Welcome - Kara

Financial Update - Dave

- We're ahead on our budget both in tithes and having lower expenses than expected
- IRS refund came through
- End of the year gifts would be very appreciated
- Thinking in the future about raises as things level out and continue to grow
- Process of building the next budget starts in Jan and finalized in March/April and new fiscal year starts July 1st
- The budget we picked was to encourage growth - Oct was the first month that there was an increase in tithes
- Cash reserve has grown by about 12,000
- We budgeted to be taking from our cash reserve and we haven't touched it

Ministry Updates - Kara

- Advent theme: How Does a Weary World Rejoice
- Intentionally pause some of the monthly activities to leave space for other activities
- Christmas Party will be Friday Dec 8th
- Advent kit will be able to pick up on Nov 26
- Liturgy for the Weary space for prayer and song
- Share Christmas Cookies post Sunday worship and a sign-up is accessible with Rebecca (can be homemade or store bought)
- Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, no morning worship that day but we will gather for candlelight service on Christmas Eve at 4:30pm - no Christmas Day celebration
- Teen gathering is tonight in the conference room
- December teens will have an outing - possibly glow festival
- Osheta and Kara have been navigating how to best serve kids and teens
- Jan 8th is New beginnings Sunday - if you are sensing an invitation to share something new, contact Pastor Kara
- Elder team is planning a group around LGBTQ inclusion and how to we lean into supporting and sharing joy with our LGBTQ siblings
- Quarterly Scripture circles with 40 Orchards will begin in January
- Thinking about social gatherings - potentially pickleball, narrative circle, ice skating, etc.
- Ask for everyone to be a part of our new location search and request for prayer for this process and discernment
- Had our first new members since 2021! Alex & Katie Ducklow have joined membership at Genesis.

New Location Search Team Updates - Cassandra

- 4 key search criteria: Office space, Kids spaces, storage, worship spaces and within budget
- Within budget appx 3000 a month
- Looking at all creative options
- Reach out to Kara or hellowest email for any ideas or connections you might have

