

Spire Express

JANUARY 2023

Pastor's Pen



2023
HAPPY NEW YEAR

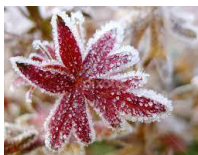


Dear church friends,

As the new year dawns, we give thanks for God's coming among us as Emmanuel, God with us, always. I'm grateful for all who made the church's celebration of Christmas a joyful time!

Kate McIlhagga, a poet of Iona, pens these lines that echo the promise of the new year:

Gracious Christ,
as ice skims the pond
and bright frost
gilds the leaf with glory,
may the clarity of your call
awaken us to new hope
and new beginnings.



Wishing you renewed hope and much joy in this new year,

~ Audrey

Mission and Service Initiatives

Looking ahead to this new year, our church will send a mission/service team in April to Kamwenge School in Uganda, one of our mission partners to deepen our relationship with them and partner with them in what God is doing in the community. Our youth also plan to travel to the Philippines in July to serve with the Ingan Leyte project. Our church member, Marci Hope, founder of this mission and will accompany the church youth and adults on this trip. Closer to home, we continue to help host a series of community dinners at the Rosenbaum Plaza affordable housing community and will be expanding to serve meals in Alder House as well. We're grateful for all these ways of loving and serving our neighbors near and far, and invite you to take part, whether in person or in prayer.

Session Retreat

Our Elders plan to meet at Menucha at the end of January for a time of reflection and discernment as we look to live out the church's strategic plan for the coming years. The plan calls for an emphasis on mission and service as we seek to love God and our neighbors. Guest speaker Rev. Janice Reynolds will guide the Elder's reflection. Please be in prayer for the Session as they continue to guide the church through the challenges and possibilities of the coming years.

Stewardship Committee

We're grateful for the ways that you've helped the church keep its life and mission strong through your generous giving and faithful involvement. Thanks to those who've pledged support for the coming year, and if you've not had a chance to make a pledge yet, we hope you'll consider doing so to keep the church's outreach strong through the year ahead. Many thanks!

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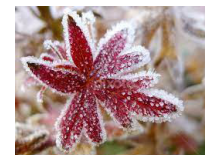


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