



GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST
AND ON EARTH PEACE. —LUKE 2:14

December 2024

Dear Church Family, Christmas Greetings!

This year has passed by in a blur. It has been a year filled with many changes and challenges.

One of the biggest changes and challenges was becoming a full time pastor to a 3 point charge: FUMC Deposit, Windsor UMC, and Sanitaria Springs UMC. I am honored and humbled to be able to serve a church that nurtured my faith as a child into my teen years. It is wonderful to see so many familiar faces. It was hard to leave a position I loved at Johnson City Elementary, but I could not turn down the opportunity to become a full time pastor, although there are some days when I say to myself, "What was I thinking agreeing to being a pastor to 3 churches", and there are other times I think "how did I ever pull off working full time and being a pastor." Either way life is still very full. I thank you all for your grace and patience as we navigate this new chapter with all its different dynamics.

I head into this holiday season with a little melancholy at not being able to celebrate them with my dad. Whenever we lose people we love the holidays can be filled with a plethora of emotions. I want you to know that if you are grieving the passing of a loved one you will be in my prayers during this holiday season as I pray for the Lord to fill your heart with comfort and peace.

While I am a full time pastor doing my best to meet the pastoral needs of all the churches, I want you to know how important it is for you to understand that I cannot do this alone, I need your help. I want to remind us that we are a Christmas people and that Jesus is incarnated in every act of love and kindness we extend to one another. I want to encourage you to reach out and lend a hand where needed. Especially in visitations, people need to know we still care. I thank you for those who do visit the shut ins, but it takes all of us doing our part through calls, visits, and particularly with your prayers.

With this, I invite you to stay connected and don't underestimate the value of your presence (online or in-person), service, prayers, witness, and giving/pledging. We need each other more than ever before. Please reach out to each other and encourage one another, particularly as we may be tempted to give up hope. Ask for help if you need it.

Included please find an envelope for a Christmas donation, of which half will go toward the General Operating Fund of our church and one half to our Ministry Shares funding the world-wide ministry of the United Methodist Church.

During this Advent Season, it has been my prayer that each of you would find opportunities to reflect on your own faith and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. Whatever it is that our hearts and souls desire, whether we realize it or not, our ultimate desire is Jesus Himself, for this reason, we are filled with joy and consolation at Christmas to know that all that we hoped for has been fulfilled in the person of the Christ Child.

I am privileged to be your pastor, and I feel incredibly blessed and honored to be with you. My prayers are with you always. May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen.

Christmas Blessings,

Pastor Deb

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