



Knox News

December 2020



WAYS TO HELP

[Loaves & Fishes Needs](#)

[Hesed House Updated Needs](#)

[Wayside Cross](#)

[Donate online at Knox](#)

A NOTE FROM PASTOR PAT



Most of us say something like this every year: "I can't believe it's almost Christmas!" This has got to be totally true in this strange, confounding year of pandemic 2020. Where has the time gone? With everything so abnormal, most of it related to the absence of time physically together as a congregation for now almost nine months, how in the world could Christmas be just around the corner? It is so, so strange. It is so, so true. Christmas is almost here.

Hope may feel rather tenuous, so we will spend Advent and the early weeks of Christmastide affirming the wondrous love of God to promise, bring and be our truest and deepest hope. Our preaching series is, "Hope Has a Home." God is our hope in all times and circumstances. This hope is most dramatically ours in God's arrival to be born one of us as Jesus. It is a most amazing reality, one we get to celebrate once again during the month ahead. Nothing stirs us like hope that comes in the midst of our most challenging times, times like right now.



WAYS TO CONNECT

[Pray For Others](#)

[K- 5th Grade Bible Study](#)

[G3 Virtual Bible Study](#)

[Knox Family Time](#)

[Youth Activities](#)

[Adult Bible Study Groups](#)



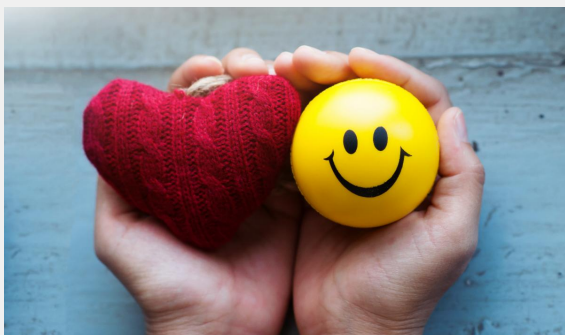
Online Worship

Sunday@9am

Click on the graphic to learn more

In Person Worship

Knox will keep you posted to when we will resume In Person Worship



NEED ASSISTANCE

Knox can help!

[**CONGREGATIONAL CARE**](#)

The Advent and Christmas Season won't likely see us gathering together as in years past. This is a true and deep loss for all of us. It will make this a most poignant Christmas related to what is missing. Family tables will likely be filled with fewer of us. Sanctuaries will be empty or largely empty. Traditions and those things that typically bring us joy will be in short supply.

That's not the whole story, not at all. The reality of God's arrival is still the same joyous promise. The reality of our lives once again focused on Jesus' birth at Christmas is still the same joyous celebration. The reality of our salvation, the world's rescue in Messiah Jesus, is still the same gracious gift of God, the greatest gift of all. Our joy can remain and even soar, because it is not bound to rooms or who we are with but to the spirit of the coming of Jesus.

I wonder how God will move each of us to not only invest fully in all aspects of our ministry and mission during Advent and Christmas but also invest in inviting others to join us in this virtual Christmas world. All it takes is a phone call, a note or a post on social media to spread the word starting today that everyone we know can (1) check out our website to get involved and, (2) join us for our Christmas Eve virtual services as noted in this edition of Knox News. It's never been easier to invite people into the life of Knox, people far beyond Chicagoland even to the ends of the earth.

In a time of great need, hope shines on!
Let's enter into it and share it like never before.
Pat



ADVENT

"Hope has a Home"

Nov. 29 - "Hope is On the Way"

Isaiah 64:1-9



KNOX SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS

All Gatherings are on pause at this time until we move back to Tier 2 guidelines. Dates, time and location need to be scheduled with [Ron](#)

[Mobley](#) at rmobley@knoxpres.org.

Dec. 6 - "Hope is a Sure Thing"
Isaiah 40:1-11

Dec. 6 - Carols & Candlelight
Last Year's Recording
4 PM Livestream

Will be able to view multiple times
throughout the Advent Season

Dec. 13 -: "Hope-Filled News"
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Dec. 20 -: "Hope's Ancestry"
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Christmas Eve
Dec. 24 - "Hope is Here"
Luke 2:1-20

Dec. 27 - "Hope is Celebrated"
Luke 2:22-40

Star Sunday
Jan. 3 - "Hope is Honored"
Matthew 2:1-12



Christmas Eve Services

This year, Knox is planning on holding two virtual services on Christmas eve.

The first service, a Family Service, will be streamed at 3:00pm on December 24th. The second, a Traditional Service, will be streamed at 7:00pm.

Both of these services will be viewable anytime after their streaming time. So if you want to watch the Family service at 4pm instead of 3, you will be able to do just that!

In addition, we encourage you to have small candles on hand for a special moment at the end of both services. We know that Christmas Eve services are a tradition in many families, and though we will not be able to gather together in person for those services this year, we hope you will join us virtually to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THIS MONTH

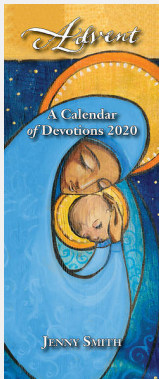


Stewardship - a reflection on 2020 and look forward to 2021 . . .

At this point, it is not too late to prayerfully consider a couple of actions that will be very helpful toward realizing our pledges for 2020 and stewardship goals for 2021.

At the time we were completing our pledge cards or submitting pledges online on Knox's website for our 2020 campaign, none of us could have foreseen just how meaningful the "We are the Church" part of our campaign theme was about to become. Throughout 2020 we truly experienced God's love...

[READ MORE](#)



Free Advent Devotionals

Knox has a limited supply of advent devotionals available for you to use at home. Please click the button to sign up for one to be mailed to your home or schedule to pick up at Knox.

[SIGN UP](#)



Advent Begins November 29 Gather Candles To Light at Home

Advent is a season of waiting and preparing. We remember Israel's longing for the arrival of the Messiah, and we live into our own longing for the return of the Messiah. To guide our waiting through these weeks, the Church lights candles, one each of the four Sundays of Advent, and one on Christmas Eve.



Angel Tree Virtual Sign Up - Only 73 Angels Left!

Angel Tree Sisseton Children's Gifts sign ups are available and only 73 Angels are left

If you cannot use Sign up Genius or have a specific Angel you want from the past, or any questions, call Julie Milldrum at 630-470-7044 or 630-717-8240

Angel Presents "drive thru, drop-off" will be Saturday, December 12, 12-3pm or you can contact Julie for alternate "drop-off" arrangements.

[SIGN UP](#)



Shop Amazon Smile & Contribute to Knox!

Most likely you have shopped on Amazon but did you know that your purchases could also help Knox? Amazon has a program called Amazon Smile, it offers the same selection of products, prices, shipping and shopping features as on Amazon.com.

The difference is, when you shop on smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization that you select.



Knox Presbyterian Church is part of that selection! All you need to do, next time you want to shop amazon, is type in smile.amazon.com and select Knox Presbyterian Church as your charitable organization! What an easy way to help promote the many missions of Knox.



Knox Blood Drive Save The Date!

December 14, 2020

2-6pm

Knox sponsors a “season of giving” Blood Drive right before Christmas!

[REGISTER](#)



Christmas Card Fund 2020

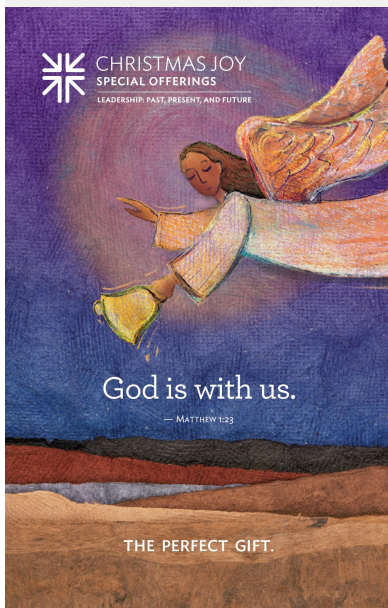
Instead of sending Christmas cards this year, consider being a part of a longstanding tradition at Knox by offering Christmas greetings to the entire congregation while making a donation to one of our mission projects at the same time!

This year we encourage you to sign up online and designate what you would like your mission choice to be. Mission projects include: The Pastor’s Discretionary Fund, Loaves & Fishes Community Services, The Scott Moreau Fund, The Lehman Foundation Fund, and The Anne Sherren Scholarship Fund.

If you’d prefer to send in your donation to Michal Baker, please make your check payable to “Knox Presbyterian Church” and mark in the memo section “Christmas Card Fund – your mission choice.”

We will keep a list of everyone who contributes and provide everyone’s names in the January newsletter. Can you think of an easier way to send over 500 Christmas Cards? Contact Anne Sherren at 630-932-0481 with questions.

[DONATE HERE](#)



Christmas Joy Offering “God is with us” The Perfect Gift

One of the most powerful things that Christians claim is that God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift in response, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God’s perfect gift, Jesus Christ. “God is with us” shows God values togetherness and relationship with us, leading us to value togetherness and relationship with one another.

We offer our gifts during this Advent Season to the Christmas Joy Offering because God shows us the power and importance of being together. We might not be able to meet face to face with those who need the support that our gifts provide, but we are very much still together. We see students who will become our leaders, we see church workers who have critical financial needs and we see the witness of the whole Church, either gathered in buildings or connected home to home, member to member, sharing what we have together.

Knox receives donations to the Christmas Joy Offering during Advent beginning November 29 through Christmas Eve. Please go online and choose Christmas Joy or mail your check payable to Knox and be sure to mark Christmas Joy in your memo section.

[DONATE HERE](#)



The Knox Deacons are excited to offer an alternative to our Knox Cookie Walk this year - a digital recipe book!

Please help us celebrate our love and connection as a community by submitting a recipe! You can submit it on a google form, or send it directly to the email cookies@knoxpres.org. **Deadline for submissions is December 6.**

We will be distributing the cookbook by email (or printed and picked up at Knox), by Mid December. We suggest a \$5 donation to support the Deacon missions.

Dr. Anne T. Sherren Scholarship Fund Committee

encourages each person to consider their future vocation. Each person is encouraged to follow their passion. If you are considering a vocation of full-time Christian Service please feel free to talk to Anne or one of the Pastors. Remember that Knox Members are eligible to apply for a Dr. Anne T. Sherren



Scholarship. The next deadline is March 15, 2021.



Storytime with Santa: We hope you can join us for a Storytime with Santa! Santa will read us the Christmas Story and have a conversation with the kids on Zoom. We encourage everyone to get in their comfy Christmas jammies, grab a cup of Hot Chocolate and join us for this wonderful event! There are two dates: 12/15 and 12/17.

[REGISTER FOR 12/15](#)

[REGISTER FOR 12/17](#)

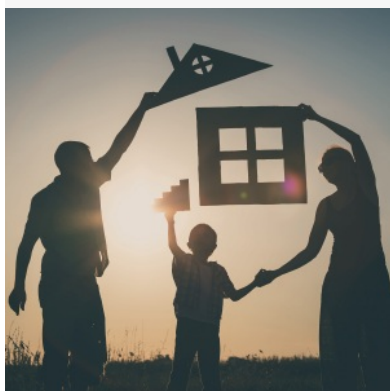


Looking for Family Christmas/Holiday Recipes:

Do you have a favorite recipe that your family makes every Christmas Season? We know that the holidays will be different this year for many families, but how fun would it be to make some fun recipes! If you have some you would like to share, please email them to Erin at ehartman@knoxpres.org.

Kids in the Kitchen: Since we can't meet together for Kids in the Kitchen, we have donated our unused food items to Loaves and Fishes. Thanks Kids in the Kitchen!

[EMAIL ERIN HARTMAN](#)



Knox Family Time: Each week, Ms. Erin will send out "Knox Family Time" in the weekly email blast. They will also be posted online. They include a devotional for the week connected to Sunday's scripture and sermon as well as other activities and conversation starters for families at home.

Knox Kids Weekly Updates: Each week new activities are posted in the Knox Kids Facebook group. They are also shared here on the website.

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)



3rd Grade Bible Delivery: In light of our current situation, third grade bibles have begun to be delivered to our 3rd graders. Each child receives their bible as well as some other small gifts to get them going on their studying of God's word. It has been a blessing to see kids surrounded by their family as they receive their bibles as well as friends. God is good!



Scripture Readers For Worship

Have you enjoyed seeing families read scripture during our service?

We would love to have your family read for our upcoming services. If you are interested, please reach out to Erin Hartman for more information at ehartman@knoxpres.org

EMAIL ERIN HARTMAN



Women on Wednesday: Women on Wednesday has begun Max Lucado's Advent study Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born, Hope is Here - Four Sessions for Advent. We are meeting on Zoom beginning at 9:15 for a gathering and visiting time and opening with prayer at 9:30 to begin the study. We conclude at 11:00. WOW welcomes women of all ages and Bible knowledge so if this time frame works for you please feel free to join us!

Please contact Robin Kolar at skolar7227@aol.com or Margaret Lambka at mllambka2@gmail.com for more information or help in purchasing a Study Guide.



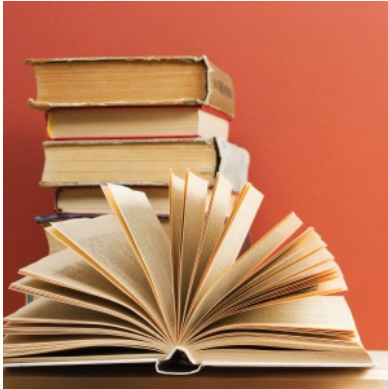
The Knox Connection Groups

The Knox Community hosted it's first Virtual Connection Group- Celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas During the Pandemic on Wednesday November 11 on Zoom. In our current circumstance of increasing Covid cases and Stay at Home Advisories, Zoom is a very good tool to build and maintain community.

Those who joined the uplifting event had the chance to see familiar faces and to share ideas. Jane Burkelman reminded us that these times require us to reframe our thinking. She stressed the importance of "remembering what we can do instead of focusing on what we can't do." Erin Hartman, Angel Seitz and Carol Pfeiffer shared a multitude of faith filled ideas for families to incorporate into their holiday traditions while at home as well as great ideas like "Cooking with Grandma on Zoom" and creating "Sacred Spaces" at home for prayer and devotions. Cindy Karis, Associate Pastor, shared the importance of giving during the

holiday season, highlighting the acute need at Loaves and Fishes, which has experienced a 770 percent increase in need.

Knox will be hosting two more Connection Groups in the coming months. In February Mary Horek, Nancy Whitmer, and Alice Snelgrove will host a Connection Group about planning your spring and summer garden. Finally, March marks the one year anniversary of when most of us across the country experienced "Lockdown." In March of 2021, we will have a final connection group to "Imagine the Post Pandemic Life" and reflect on what we have learned and how we go forward. We hope you will join these discussions, see familiar faces, stay connected, and discuss a topic of interest to you! Go to the website to sign up today!



The Evening Book Club meetings will continue on the second **Wednesdays, 7 pm**, for the duration of the pandemic. Our discussion **December 9** will be on *The Tea Girl Of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See.

All readers are welcome, but if you are new to the group you will need to email Janice Wiles, wilesjan@gmail.com so your name can be added to the list to receive the Zoom link. Our reading list for future months can be found on the Knox website, under 'Groups'.

[READ MORE](#)

PW Circle's



Mary Martha circle will meet Tuesday, December 8 at 9:30 am. For more information contact Susan Burns at sbburns@comcast.net.

Rachel Rebecca Circle will meet Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 9:30 AM on Zoom. Kathi or Eileen will be sending details to members. This Circle always welcomes new members. Contact Kathi Olson at 630-420-1953 to learn more.

Ruth Circle hopes to get together via Zoom on Thursday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. to wish everyone a nice holiday and hear how they will celebrate this year. Contact Bev Mayer if you have any questions at 630-202-5097.

Click [Here](#) For The Full Knox Calendar

Thank You Knox

2020 Virtual Bed Brigade for vets raises \$10,000!

As a result of the extremely generous contributions of Knox families during our recently completed virtual bed brigade,



ManKIND Men's Ministry raised more than \$10,000 for our veteran's bed ministry. As you know, ManKIND has partnered with the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans to provide veterans in need with bedding.

Since its inception, ManKIND Men's Ministry has purchased, delivered, and prayed over countless beds and bedding to grateful service men and women throughout Chicagoland.

Due to your generosity, we are able to continue this much needed ministry! The additional funds allow us to purchase beds and frames for another 40 or more vets needing a comfortable place to lay their heads. Thank you!!



A Special Thank You to Everyone Participating in Last Week's Winter Coat Drive

Last week Knox sponsored a Winter Coat Drive for Wayside Cross. Let me send a very heartfelt thank you to all who were able to participate. We were able to pull this important event off even under the difficult circumstances of the pandemic. These coats will provide a warm hug from their Knox friends to all who will receive them over the coming days.

I'd like to offer a special thanks to our Custodial Team who emptied the Blue Box every day so our neighborhood was kept in pristine condition.

With the holiday season approaching other donations are always appreciated. If you have other items, arrangements can be made for pick-ups of furniture or appliances, by calling Wayside Cross Ministries at 630-892-4239 or filling out the form on the WCM website, www.waysidecross.org.

If you have any questions about this effort or Wayside Cross Ministries, call Gary McGregor at (630) 926-2603.



HOPE
is on the
Way

Oh,

that you would burst from
the heavens and come down!

Isaiah 64:1



MUSIC TO INSPIRE YOUR SOUL

[My Hallelujah](#) by Bryan & Katie Torwalt

[Holding Onto Hope](#) by I AM THEY

[Heaven Everywhere](#) by Francesca Battistelli

[King of Kings](#) by Hillsong Worship

[The Hope Of Christmas](#) by Matthew West



