



When they had heard the news, they set out; and there ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. Matthew 2:9

Dear Bethany

As I have prayed over this season of wonder the words, I keep hearing are “**following the star**”. Those words reflect what I am hearing from you, from the Spirit, as we look ahead to the celebration of Jesus’ birth. In this strange time of uncertainty, with some anxiety and some guarded anticipation, there is a confidence in a star emerging. But where is this star? How can we find it? My conviction is this, *the kingdom of God has come near* (Luke 10:9). My heart is ready for this divine connection! Join me as we “get ready” together. How will we “Follow the star?” Here are some pathways...

Faith Study Wednesdays 7 pm November 24, December 1, December 8, December 15 in the sanctuary, led by Kevin, Ann and Shawn. “Can you hear what I hear?”

Advent Sundays - November 29, December 5, December 12, December 19
Each Sunday we focus on the star, finding it, preparing for it, deciding what we shall bring.

Living Nativity & Olde Fashioned X-mas Sunday December 5, 6:30 pm.
Including live animals; donkey, sheep, and goats...the story told with Bethany actors (would you like to be included?), and our youth asking you to bring donations in support of Phoenix Youth Programs.

White Gift Sunday December 12 at 10:30 am. We will be collecting donations of **non-perishable snacks and food**, such as granola bars, in support of **Brunswick Street Mission**. Past tradition gifts were wrapped in white paper, but items can be delivered in grocery bags.

Sunday December 19 at 10:30 am. Annual Service of Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve Friday December 24

4 pm. Our **Christmas Eve Family service** will be modified this year. The nativity story with a special appearance of our Christmas star, Rosie the donkey, will be recorded in advance and shown during the service. The readers and musicians will offer their contributions in-person.

8:30 pm. Christmas Eve Prelude with Ellen Gibling, harp.

9 pm. A Reflective Evening **Christmas Eve Service with Carols, Christie Chisholm’s “O Holy Night” and Sermon.** This is an opportunity to “go deep” at Christmas time.

We will keep “**following the star**” wherever it takes us, finding new life there.

Peace. Kevin

PS: Tax Receipts for 2021. Greetings from your “new” treasurer!!!

2021 is rapidly coming to a close, meaning it will soon be...you guessed it...tax time! As per the last several years, and, in the continuing spirit of saving trees, we will not be sending out interim statements for your review. However, if you would like to review your givings please contact the office to arrange a meeting with our finance officer, Tina Gascon. Thank you all for your continued support! Rob Steeves