



# The Messenger

## December 2024

Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
P. O. Box 1028  
400 Highland Avenue  
Coos Bay, OR 97420

### Rector Reflection

It has been a stormy week!

Lots of wind and rain. Branches and trees down. You know.... the beginning of winter.

I have heard many folks say something like: "I wish I could just stay home, drink tea and read." I echo that sentiment! I suspect there is something about the darkest time of year that triggers a desire to 'hibernate', to withdraw and hunker down. Nothing wrong with that... it just is what it is. We are affected by shorter days and foul weather. In the rhythm of the Church year the season of Advent occurs during this wintery season in the northern hemisphere. I want to say that it is an opportunity to slow down and take real time to pray, observe the awesome forces of nature and wait. We wait in Advent. We practice patience even as we prepare for the festival of Christmas. We have patience knowing that winter is only a season that will soon give way to spring. Advent is only a season that gives way to the remembrance of the Word of God being made flesh in Jesus Christ. The season of waiting, patience, anticipation and longing gives way to angelic choirs and stars dancing in the heavens that God, the Creator of all and Lord of all, is born of a woman and lived among us. Don't let the dark and gloom be defining for this season. The God of hosts is with us to reveal in our hearts how deeply this world is loved even in days of hibernation, waiting and prayer.

Blessings and peace, *Patti*+



### Holiday Office Hours:

The parish office will be closed Monday, December 2 and Tuesday, December 3 as Kerri has family in town for Thanksgiving. Please also note the parish office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 – Friday, December 27 in observance of the Christmas holiday. Rev. Sr. Patti Hale will be out of the office and on vacation Wednesday, December 25, 2024 – Wednesday, January 1, 2025.



### Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to make an offering toward the poinsettias that decorate our church at Christmas time in memory of or thanksgiving for a loved one, please contact the church office, and your remembrance will be included in the Christmas bulletins.

Administrator@episcopalcoosbay.org or 541-269-5829



### Pledge cards

If you haven't returned your 2025 pledge card, please do so **before Friday, December 13**, so a budget draft can be presented to our Vestry at their December meeting. If you need a pledge card sent to you, please let Kerri in the parish office know. Pledge cards can also be picked up in the parish office or the church entryway.



**Thank you for your support!**



### Coos Food Cupboard

For the month of December, the food cupboard would appreciate donations of canned soup. Hearty soups make a comforting and filling meal for those neighbors of ours that are food insecure.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation to the Coos Food Cupboard, please make your check out to "Coos Food Cupboard" and mail it to P.O. Box 1028, Coos Bay, OR 97420.

Thank you for your continued and generous support of the Coos Food Cupboard!

~submitted by Brian Sullivan

**2025 Episcopal Church Year Guide Kalendars** are now available in the parish office. We ask for a \$3.00 donation. In addition, there is a selection of FREE 2025 calendars donated by several members of the congregation so stop by and check them out!



### Christmas Baskets Outreach

Calling all of Santa's elves. Everyone can help wrap presents!! There will be wrapping supplies in the undercroft. We want to make it a real Christmas celebration for the whole congregation during extended coffee hours on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Families will be able to pick up baskets at Emmanuel December 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We will need elves from 10-12, and 12-2 all three days and 4-7 on Wednesday. The sign-up sheet will be in the church entryway.

Please contact Susan Foreman: 541-808-5242, [smforeman.sf@gmail.com](mailto:smforeman.sf@gmail.com), acting Christmas Outreach Coordinator, to let us know how you would like to participate.

We usually spend about \$200.00 per basket and give out approximately 30 baskets every year. The Christmas outreach is entirely supported by donations from the congregation, so any amount helps. If you can help, please put Christmas Basket Outreach in the memo line of your check.



### Save the Date: February 16, 2025 - Parish Annual Meeting

This is an official invitation for you to pray about whether you are called to serve on Vestry, the leadership council for the parish. Vestry members serve a 3-year term. Vestry obligations include an active faith and participation in the life of the congregation, attending monthly meetings on the third Sunday at 11:00am-12:30pm, and a desire to share in the leadership of Emmanuel Parish. If you think you want to volunteer, let a member of your Vestry know. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rev. Patti at [rev.patti.hale@gmail.com](mailto:rev.patti.hale@gmail.com) or 541-654-3758.

#### Gentle reminder:

If you are not current on your 2024 pledge, please become so before December 31st as it really helps the finance team in closing out the books for the year. All pledges/donations for the 2024 tax season must be received in the office postmarked by December 31, 2024. THANK YOU!!



## A Call for Help & Sponsorship...

*HRACC: Celebration of Life*  
Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

### **Human Rights Advocates of Coos County: *Celebration of Life* on December 21st**

Dear Church Community Partner,

On behalf of the Human Rights Advocates of Coos County, we are honored to invite your congregation to join us in creating a meaningful *Celebration of Life* on December 21st. This year, our event expands and transforms the annual Homeless Persons' Memorial into a day-long multi-venue community event. This day will be filled with creative activities, community bonding and supportive spaces: fostering and honoring remembrance, unity; open to everyone.

**Our new vision for the *Celebration of Life*** will span multiple venues in Coos Bay, featuring shared meals, arts activities, and a candlelight memorial at the Dignity Archway. For the first time, we are inviting all community members to add the names of loved ones who have passed, honoring their memories alongside those who have experienced homelessness.

Last year, we served 125 guests a warm meal and essential supplies thanks to our dedicated volunteers and generous donations. Yet, some guests still left without the essentials they needed. This year, our goal is to raise \$4,000 to expand our offerings and provide more robust support for our guests, ensuring that everyone leaves with the items needed, a feeling of warmth, nourishment, and a sense of community.

### **How Your Church Can Support**

There are several impactful ways for your congregation to join us in our effort:

1. **Pray for Our Community** – We ask your church to pray for God's blessing, provision, and presence for everyone involved. Your prayers make a difference in uplifting our community to guide in creating a meaningful day of compassion & remembrance.
2. **Sponsor or Partner with Us** – Provide support for the event through in-kind services and resources. We're especially seeking commercially prepared food donations from certified kitchens to provide a healthy breakfast, snacks and dinner for all guests.
3. **Volunteer as a Congregation** – We need help with meal preparation and service, event setup, arts activities at venues, and at the SunStore. Volunteer drivers are needed to assist with transportation and to move guests and supplies between venues.
4. **Make a Financial Contribution** – Contributions from your congregation will help us reach our \$4,000 goal, ensuring we can meet the needs of attendees experiencing homelessness and those in need.
5. **Share the Event within Your Church Community** – Share our flyers and event information with your congregation and networks, extending the invitation to all.
6. **Participate in the Virtual Auction** – Bid in our Virtual Auction. All proceeds will be used to purchase items for the SunStore.
  - **November 29 - December 15** – Virtual Auction Bidding Period

### **Reach Out with Any Questions:**

Christopher Reynolds, *Event Co-Manager, Community Engagement Lead*  
541-217-0286 | [ForestsofUnity@gmail.com](mailto:ForestsofUnity@gmail.com)

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**Together, we can make a positive difference in our community. Thank you for considering how your congregation can be part of this celebration of life, unity, and remembrance. We look forward to working alongside you to create a powerful impact.**

**Rev. Sr. Patti Hale's trip to Bogota, Columbia as Master of the Order of the Dominicans.**



**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Knoll Gederos Birthday - December 8

Ali Nicholson Birthday - December 9

Tom Collins Birthday - December 14

Pat Cross Birthday - December 15

Violet Laird Birthday - December 16

Miranda Seldon Birthday - December 18

Wyatt Laird Birthday - December 21

Rev. Doug Hale Birthday - December 23

Gene Svatos Birthday - December 23

Brian & Ingrid Sullivan Anniversary - December 24

Carla Courtney Birthday - December 26

Diana Wall Birthday - December 31

If you don't see your name(s) on the birthday and anniversaries list, please let Kerri in the office know so we can add you to our parish list. *Thank you!*

**\*\*January Newsletter Submissions Deadline is Friday, December 20th\*\***

# DEAR SANTA,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

This year I am grateful for:

**PERSON** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLACE** \_\_\_\_\_

**THING** \_\_\_\_\_

For Christmas this year I would like:

**SOMETHING TO READ:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SOMETHING I NEED:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SOMETHING TO WEAR:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SOMETHING TO SHARE:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SOMETHING I WANT:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU,  
SANTA!**



**SEE  
YOU SOON!**

For more resources like this one visit: [www.unitedthankoffering.com](http://www.unitedthankoffering.com)

# Querido Papá Noel,

Me llamo \_\_\_\_\_

Este año estoy agradecido por

**Persona** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lugar** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cosa** \_\_\_\_\_

Para Navidad este año me gustaría:

**Algo para leer:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Algo que necesito:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Algo que ponerme:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Algo para compartir:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Algo que quiero:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Gracias,  
Papá Noel!**



**Hasta  
pronto!**