

Unity Presbyterian Church 2018 Advent Devotion Writing Project

Thank you for your interest in preparing a devotion for Unity's 2018 Advent Devotion Writing Project. The devotions will be written by the members of our congregation and will be available in printed booklet form and online on the church website and Facebook page. The devotions will begin on the first Sunday of Advent, December 2nd, and continue each day until Christmas day.

The theme for the devotions is: "Anticipating the Word Made Flesh." These devotions will help members of our church family learn more about each other, learn from each other, and prepare for the celebration of Christmas. You are encouraged to choose one of your favorite Bible verses from your "Year of the Bible" readings this year. The devotions may be written by individuals, couples, or families of all ages. We are also looking for a cover illustration for the printed booklet. Please speak to Kathryn McGregor about illustration guidelines. **To participate, please sign up for a particular day of Advent and post your selected scripture here:** www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0E4AA9AF22A4FE3-unity1

Guidelines for writing a devotion:

- Each devotion is to consist of the scripture citation for the day, one reference verse or phrase from the scripture passage that you want to highlight, a brief devotion, a short prayer, and the writer's or writers' names.
- The word limit for the devotion and prayer together is 250 words.
- Families also have the option of writing a brief reflection and having a child illustrate it as part of the devotion.
- Please cite anything you choose to quote from another published written piece.
- All devotions should be submitted electronically, preferably as a Word document, to Kathryn McGregor at KMcGregor@UnityFortMill.org by **Tuesday, November 6.**

Tips on writing devotions:

- *Spend time with the text.* Read the scripture in several different translations, if available. A good place to access various translations is <https://www.biblegateway.com/>. Read the scripture several times, listening for words or phrases that stick out to you. What questions does this text bring up for you? What is the main message you hear in this text?
- *Tell a story* or share one illustration that shows how this scripture speaks to you as you prepare for the coming of the Christ child this Advent.
- *Be yourself.* Every devotion will be different and will display the diversity of gifts and experiences in our congregation. Be authentic. "The best devotions flow from a vulnerable heart that is willing to share what God revealed in those dark, frustrating, or even embarrassing moments. Instead of telling your reader how to live, what to believe, and what God commands, share what He taught you."¹

If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn McGregor at 803-547-5543 or at the email address above. Thank you for your contribution to this exciting project which will help our church family prepare together for this Advent season and for the celebration of Christ's birth.

¹ Hanscome, Jeanette. "On Writing Devotions." Writing Devotionals, 2008-2014, writersconferenceguidelines.com/writing-devotionals.html. Accessed 12 Sept 2016.