

# BY THE WAY ...

December 2020

Interim Pastor: Rev. John Cheek

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Editor: Kathy Walsh-Americanano

## From the Pastor...

My Dear Friends:

Advent blessings! I hope that, as you read this, you are safe and well.

What a year this has been! A global pandemic, the beginning of a national reckoning on race and racism, one of the hottest summers ever, and a divisive national election. Any one of these would have been enough, but we've had all of them! And now we enter into that season when things can become even more stressful than normal.

My prayer for you, and for myself, is that we will focus our eyes on the road that leads to the manger. The fragile infant resting in the straw is the Prince of Peace, and his love for us the source of our peace.

Please stay safe. Please reach out to one another in love. Please practice gratitude. Please know that you are beloved of God.

Richest Blessings,

*Pastor John*



As 2020 draws to a close, thank you for your time, talent and treasure in this stressful year, mostly apart from one another. The Holy Way has many blessings with our congregations faithfulness to our financial obligations even though we haven't gathered since March 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you all.

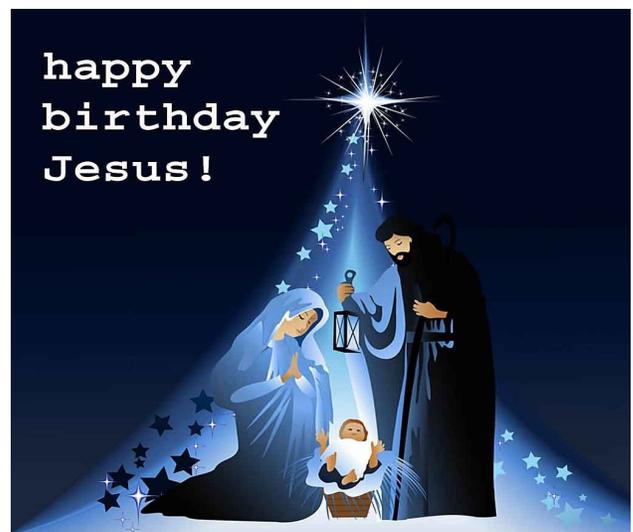
And, if you would like to fulfill your 2020 pledge for the year but are unsure of your remaining balance please contact Kathy at [kathy@holywaytucson.org](mailto:kathy@holywaytucson.org)

Christmas Blessings for all!

—Sharon Groves, Treasurer



Anita Parsil	12-2
Joan Valenzuela	12-3
Paul Sessler	12-5
Andy Thomas	12-9
Rev. Ed Parsil	12-12
Dorie Scott	12-23
Marv Knittel	12-24
Beverly Malmberg	12-27
Richard Swibold	12-27



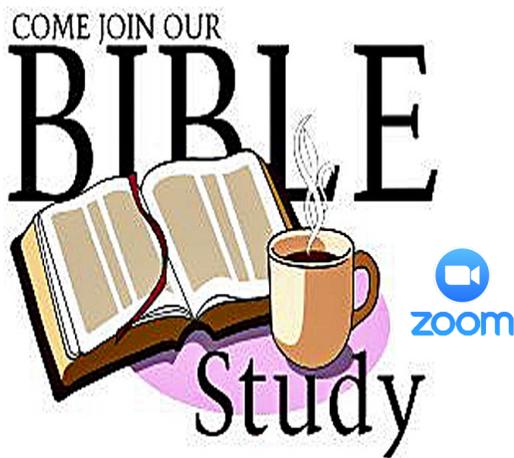
# What's Happening at Holy Way....

## COVID-19 UPDATE:

GATHERED WORSHIP IS CURRENTLY SUSPENDED. DURING THIS TIME OF PHYSICAL SEPARATION, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO READ THE SERMONS POSTED AND ENJOY THE VIDEOS WE WILL SHARE FOR REFLECTION AND WORSHIP ON OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.HOLYWAYTUCSON.ORG](http://WWW.HOLYWAYTUCSON.ORG)



Under the worship tab, click on “online worship services”



Join us for Bible Study via Zoom or phone call **Wednesday Mornings from 9:00 a.m.– 10:00 a.m.!** Contact Pastor John at: (John@holywaytucson.org) for the Invite ID or phone number to call and let's get into the word of God!

Pastor John Cheek is usually in the office:  
Tuesdays-Fridays 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
and Sundays 9:00 a.m.-Noon.

The narthex is open during these times to purchase coffee and drop off/pick-up any printed materials. Please call the church ahead of time in case Pastor John has had to step out of the office temporarily.  
520-883-9417.

# Drive-Through Trick-or-Treat Halloween Event!



**Thank you to those that helped with donations of candy, pencils, and more to make this fun for the kids of AVSD!**

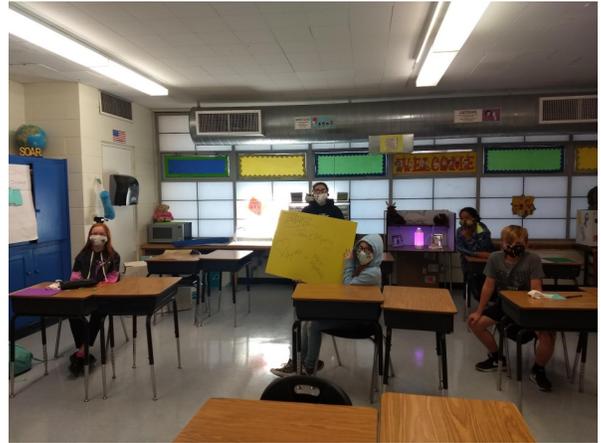


**Candy was given out to 284 kids accompanied by 162 adults. That's 446 people!!!**



A Big  
**THANK  
YOU!**

**THANK YOU to John and  
Mary Scillieri for making  
masks for the hybrid kids at  
Altar Valley Middle School.  
You are awesome!**



  
**PRAYER  
SHAWL MINISTRY**  


The prayer shawl project has been a major part of our church for years. Carrying on this ministry is Dee Ellis. She says making the shawls helps keep her busy and focused, especially during this Covid19 period.

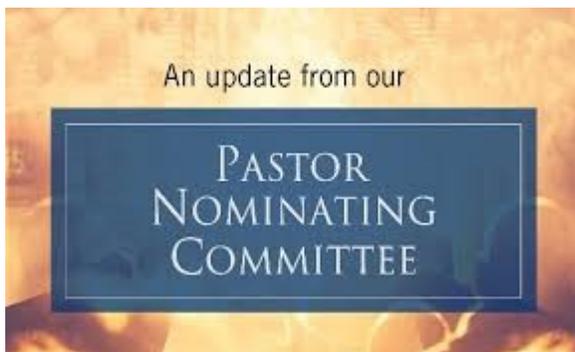
Dee has made numerous knitted items over the years. Recently, 4 of her completed prayer shawls (lap robes) have been delivered by church members to those in need. A man with stage 4 cancer received a beautiful lap robe as well as one for his wife. Both expressed appreciation for these works of art and appreciation for the thoughtfulness behind it. Another shawl was given to an elderly lifetime woman in Three Points who said she "could feel the love in the warmth on her frail body." Another work that featured muted sage, cream, and browns came to a church member who has recently suffered several family losses.

Dee is currently making hats for distribution in the warming up Sells project. These will be distributed at the Presbyterian Church in Sells and is a part of our overall mission to reach out to our reservation neighbors.

We love and appreciate you Dee!



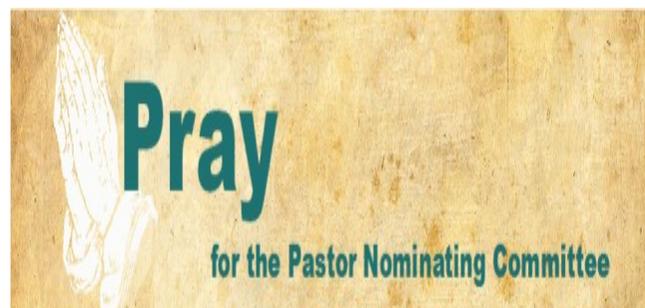
Friends, the Pastor Nominating Committee has been actively working. In this newsletter you'll find Terry Saxton's article about the PNC and its work. We have added a new tab to our church website. This will be another way for you to stay updated on the progress toward calling a new pastor. In the meantime, please continue to pray for the members of the PNC, for their work, and for Rev. Pete Seiferth, who is our Liaison from the presbytery Commission on Ministry.



As you may recall from the November newsletter, we introduced you to the Ministry Information Form (MIF) that prospective pastors read to determine their interest in responding to our call. Well, we have been busy – we now have a MIF that has been approved by both the PNC and the Session. Yeah for our team! It is now on the way to

the Presbytery de Cristo for their approval, which is the final hurdle before we can post the MIF on the Presbytery's Church Leadership Connection (CLC) website. Then it gets exciting. As soon as it is posted, the CLC searches for a match between our MIF and all candidates who are looking for a new position and have submitted a Pastor Information Form (PIF) – and then automatically generates a download of all matches via email. This could happen by mid December! At that point, your PNC will be busy screening and categorizing all the PIFs we receive.

Last note – anyone in the Holy Way Directory is welcome to submit the name of a pastor they think would be a good choice for our church. For more information on the process to do this, please contact anyone on the PNC. Please continue to pray that God would be by our side as we start to evaluate candidates. We want to know God's will. Stay tuned for our next update. Nothing can separate us from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Nothing!!





Advent Services have been planned for the observance of our Lord's birth. Pastor John, Astrid Chan and Ryan Phillips will lead us in online services. Advent services will be online at [www.holywaytucson.org](http://www.holywaytucson.org).

### **Advent Schedule:**

Week One:	November 29—December 5:	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Week Two:	December 6—December 12:	Isaiah 40:1-11
Week Three:	December 13—December 19	Psalm 126:1-6
Week Four:	December 20—December 25:	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Christmas Eve:	December 24:	Luke 2:1-20
Nativity of the Lord:	December 25	

Advent is a season of the liturgical year observed by Christians as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus.

Lighting a candle is part of the celebration. They represent HOPE, LOVE, JOY and PEACE. Candles and the lights they produce are a reflection of the light that came into the world with the arrival of Jesus Christ. The fifth candle is the Christ Candle and is lit on Christmas Eve. Consider lighting an Advent Candle in your home. Church is closed because of Covid19, but you can imagine the lighting of the Advent Wreath candles during our first Sunday of the four weeks before Christmas. Concentrate on the four themes as you light each of your own. The best and last is to light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve and we pray for the light of the Lord to brighten our lives with its message of Peace and Love.



The Three Points Community is in dire need of **TOYS** and **CLOTHING** for Christmas!! The Deacons are supporting this need in our community. Please consider helping by making a donation.

Due to COVID19, we are not asking you to go out shopping this year. You have the option of donating cash, checks, or gift cards and the Fireman will do the shopping!!

However, if you are a shopper or shop online and would like to donate toys or clothing (children's sizes up to XL) donation boxes will be placed in the Narthex. Please do not wrap the gifts.

Cash or checks are also being accepted. Please mark "Toy Drive" on your check or envelope. You can mail your donation to:

The Holy Way PC  
4040 S. Bilbray Ave  
Tucson, AZ 85746

If you are planning to bring donations to the Church, please call ahead 520-883-9417 to be sure someone is available in the office.

**Donations must be received by DECEMBER 9th** so the Three Points Fire Department has enough time to organize the donations. They set up the toys in Bays and the parents "go shopping". Each parent is allowed to pick 3 items per child. Please consider donating to help make Christmas special for a child this year!! Thank you.





For those of you who are thinking about where to make your contributions which will qualify for an Arizona Tax Credit, there are two mission partners of Holy Way which qualify:

**Altar Valley Middle School:** The Altar Valley address is: Altar Valley School District #51, Attn: District Business Office, 10105 S. Sasabe Rd., Tucson, AZ 85736. Gifts can be made to either Robles Elementary or Altar Valley Middle Schools. Information is posted on the district website: <http://altarvalleyschools.org/index.cfm?plD=1658>.

**Interfaith Community Services (ICS):** Contributions can be mailed to the Main Office: 2820 W. Ina Road, Tucson, AZ 85741, or made online at [www.icstucson.org](http://www.icstucson.org).

## Donating IRA Assets to Charity

### Turn your required distributions into charitable donations

IRS rules mandate that individuals age 70½ and older take RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions) from their IRA each year, regardless of whether the income is needed. These annual withdrawals are subject to ordinary income taxes. By making a contribution from your IRA to the church or other charity, you can satisfy your RMD amount without reporting additional income.

This provision may be especially attractive for retirees who don't need all the income from their IRA to meet current living expenses. By donating the money to a charity, you can enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to a worthy cause while effectively lowering your tax bill.

### How it works

The provision allows retirees age 70½ and older to donate up to \$100,000 tax free from their IRA each year. Generally, when you take a distribution from your IRA, it is treated as taxable income. Under this provision, made permanent in the 2015 federal spending and tax package, those assets are excluded from income if the distribution is made directly to charity.

The distribution is not included in your income so you avoid the potential negative consequences that regular IRA withdrawals in retirement can create, including taxes on Social Security benefits. Normally, charitable contribution deductions are limited or are eliminated altogether for taxpayers who do not itemize deductions.

### Talk to your financial representative

It's important to consider your tax situation before deciding whether to make a charitable contribution from your IRA. Be sure to work closely with your financial advisor to determine whether this tax provision is right for you.

*This information is not meant as tax or legal advice. Tax laws are complex and subject to change. Please consult a professional tax advisor to determine how this tax law affects your situation.*



# December

# 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	 25	26
27	28	29	30	 31	1	2