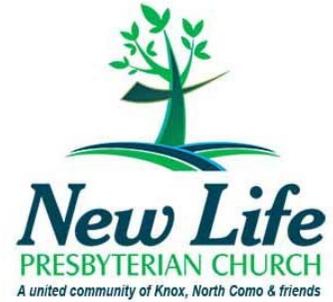


# New Life News

Volume 10, December 2020



## Riz's Reflections...

*And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. – Luke 1:46-50*

Dear Church,

Peace be with you. We find ourselves in the familiar season of advent, the time that led up to the joyful celebration of Christ's birth on Christmas morning. Advent is a paradox as we acknowledge the present-but-not-yet aspect of the Christ. However, this is going to be a Christmas like none other given the persistence of the pandemic that has significantly altered our plans to gather in person for worship and family celebrations. One of the hardest things we are asked to do during this time is to socialize distantly and abstain from the familiar traditions that now potentially jeopardize our health. As we sing along to Christmas favorites like O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, which means God is with us, we must hold on to the truth that the Spirit of God continues to abide with us, even in the midst of this global pandemic.

Advent calls us to simultaneously contemplate our past spiritual narrative as Christians living in the present as we live with hope about our future together. We can live with hope because Jesus came to liberate us from counting our past transgressions as our sole reality. This hope that Christ gives us is so needed for this present moment where the realities of the pandemic have caused

(Continued on page 2)

## Inside This Issue...

Riz's Reflections.....	1
Operating Fund.....	3
Preschool News .....	3
Winterwear for IAGSP .....	3
Daring Group.....	4
Garden Fundraiser.....	4
Earth Care Advent Devotional .....	5
Reopening Update.....	5
Free Groceries.....	5
Mission Partners In Peru.....	6
Calendar .....	8
Contact Info.....	9
2021 Session.....	9
Other Holidays.....	9
December B'days .....	9

*Daring to live  
in Jesus  
transforming  
love*

**Riz's Reflections... (cont'd)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

so much economic instability, that it is difficult for those struggling to imagine a new day ahead.

Mary, a teenage girl in Nazareth, a desperate place in the middle east under Roman occupation, did not know what tomorrow would bring and she certainly did not expect to receive a message that she would bear the Son of the Most High God. We could only imagine how Mary must have felt in that moment and the scripture from Luke reveals her perspective of joy that is centralized around God. Even when we can't celebrate as we used to, or at all for that matter, we can take a moment to celebrate the goodness of Jesus Christ in our lives as a guiding light that points us to another day. When our lives and our joy are centralized around God we are indeed living in an advent moment, that is living between what was and what will be, and what will be is determined by how we choose to live now. Mary chose to magnify the Lord, meaning that her life would amplify God's ways. There is no way to magnify the Lord whom you have not seen when we fail to serve our neighbors whom we have seen.

Jesus teaches us that the happiness of each is bound up with the happiness of all. When he taught us to love our neighbor as ourselves, Jesus was telling us to recognize a basic fact of our existence. We are all in this together.

Advent is challenging us to rethink why we do what we do, in relation to our past which we can learn from as we shape our collective future. Instead of striving to make a better place for ourselves in the world, we can work to make the world a better place for everybody.

Remember that God is Emmanuel, God is with us. God is with us as we have been given the Holy Spirit of life to guide us and God is with each other as we minister to each other as the body of Christ. Not just today but from generation to generation. May you have a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the joy of the Lord that abides with us now and always.

In Christ,

Rev Riz



*Even when we can't celebrate as we used to, or at all for that matter, we can take a moment to celebrate the goodness of Jesus Christ in our lives as a guiding light that points us to another day.*





**Operating Fund—Through October of Fiscal 2020-21**

Year-to-date income exceeds expense by about \$30,000 — that’s an impressive number, but it’s about \$9,000 below what we expected because contribution income is below expected. Income typically exceeds expenses early in the year while expenses exceed income later in the year. But don’t expect anything typical this year! Our year-to-date net income reflects \$20,000 of Presbytery and Synod COVID operating grants. Session limited budgeted expenses to the actual expenses incurred in fiscal 2020 (that is, no increase in actual spending). At this point, that seems realistic.

~ Treasurer Jym Hubbell

**Happy Holidays from NCP!**

Every year in December our Preschool and Pre-K kiddos have a long-standing tradition of our Holiday Program Songs and making Gingerbread Houses, and this year we were able to keep the tradition going! While the “grown-ups” weren’t able to attend in person, my son Cooper graciously video recorded the program, so families were able to view the performance. If you would like to view our Winter Program, please go to the NCP website at <https://www.northcomopreschool.org/>.

We continued the tradition of the gingerbread house-making with the teachers, and fun was had by all!

We appreciate all of the prayers and support that are coming our way during this unprecedented time of teaching in a pandemic. Our teachers continue to work hard and are vigilant with our COVID procedures to keep themselves, our families, and kiddos healthy.

Wishing each and every one of you a Blessed New Year, with Health and Happiness!

With gratitude,  
Sher



**Winterwear for IAGSP**



We will soon begin collecting winterwear for Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul to ensure all our neighbors stay warm! We would appreciate donations of the following items:

- Adult men’s and women’s gloves/mittens and hats
- School-age girls’ and boys’ gloves/mittens and hats
- Adult and kids’ jackets/coats

For hats, mittens, and gloves, new items only, please. For coats/jackets, either new or very clean, like-new only please. For adult coats, larger sizes are most preferred. Sizes Large to 3XL especially are preferred.



**DETAILS ON DROP-OFF TIMES TO COME!**

**Daring Group  
meets online  
December 5  
at 2p**

Daring Group did not meet in November, because Kate had a bad cold. We'll try again on December 5, discussing the same interview with Michael Curry: "We go to church in order to get the energy to believe that love wins," suggests Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry in an [interview with Brené Brown](#). "We need the Source of life and love to infuse and energize us." In a conversation they are calling "love and hope in troubling times," Brené and Michael discuss places, the Holy Spirit, and spiritual emancipation. We'll share our highs and lows and talk about how the interview resonated in our lives at the next Daring Group.

**Newcomers are welcome.**



We'll meet using the Zoom platform. [HERE](#)

Contact Kate Wolfe-Jenson to find out more. [Kate@Jensons.com](mailto:Kate@Jensons.com) or 651.402.5927.

**Please donate to the Planting Seeds of Hope  
Community Garden Fundraiser**



Our garden leadership team has a dream. Our church has been recognized for being accessible to people with physical disabilities. Let's make the *garden* as accessible! **From November 15-December 15, the garden will be part of a crowd-funding-to-grant program.**

**Please visit: <https://donate.seedmoney.org/4811/planting-seeds-of-hope-community-garden> to donate or send your check to the church with the word "garden" in the memo section.**

We are partnering with Seed Money, an online charity that helps community and school gardens create fundraising pages and provides grants for garden improvements.

Our garden began in 2011 with a charter agreement of 1/3 church members, 1/3 surrounding community non-church members, and 1/3 immigrant populations. Our garden supports vegetable growing for about 30 individuals and their families. As you probably know, we are a ministry of New Life Presbyterian Church.

In addition to our rented garden plots, we also have designated food shelf plots where we plant, grow, and deliver fresh vegetables to surrounding food shelves. In 2020, we began providing vegetables (812 pounds so far) to [Every Meal](#), (formerly The Sheridan Story) a nonprofit providing food for children living with food insecurity. These plots are managed by the participating gardeners and church volunteers.

We are seeking to improve the accessibility of our garden for people using wheelchairs and walkers. Our church is a beacon of accessibility, with a flat entrance, three accessible bathrooms, pew cut-outs, and a ramp to the choir loft/chancel area. In the last two years, we installed fencing around the garden, protecting it from deer, rabbits, and other critters. Unfortunately, the gates included with the fence have thresholds that make it difficult for people with physical disabilities to enter.

The complete project will include installing pavers, making garden gates accessible, and constructing wheelchair-accessible garden beds. Funds collected through Seed Money will go towards these efforts.

Have questions? Contact Nancy Marchetto, [trimarc07607@gmail.com](mailto:trimarc07607@gmail.com) or 201-663-3105.

Please give generously!



**Celebrate 25 years... of Presbyterians for Earth Care with a special Earth Care Advent Devotional [here.](#)**

### Reopening Update

As COVID cases continue to surge throughout Minnesota and Ramsey county, the reopening group continues to meet virtually to plan for New Life’s eventual reopening. The recent reopening survey generated 71 total responses – over 25% of membership responded to the survey. Overwhelmingly, survey respondents were supportive of safety measures when in-person worship is resumed. Most respondents stated they would be comfortable returning to in-person worship when the 14-day case rate for Ramsey County falls below 10 cases per 10,000 people. Unfortunately, the current case rate is over 120 and trending upward so it may be some time before our members and friends are comfortable returning to in-person worship.



The reopening committee is taking this time to work through our detailed reopening plan required by the Department of Health and addressing safety protocols for our building users. The recent spike in cases has limited the number of people who can meet in the building safely.

The committee is planning to issue a repeat survey after the holidays and/or in the spring to reassess the readiness for in-person worship once more information is available on the spread of COVID and the potential for vaccination. We very much look forward to seeing all of you in person one day soon!

~ Sara Drake, Plan Administrator

# FREE GROCERIES





**Keystone's mobile food shelf is coming to New Life Presbyterian Church!**

**When:** 3rd Wednesday of each month, 1 - 3 p.m.

**Where:** 965 Larpenteur Ave W, Roseville, MN

**CHOICES OF:** Meat, milk, bread, fresh produce, canned vegetables, rice, beans, pasta, cereal, snacks and more!

[www.keystoneservices.org/foodmobile](http://www.keystoneservices.org/foodmobile)

## A Letter From our Mission Co-Workers in Peru—the Koballs

*Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?  
If I go to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.  
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
If I settle on the far side of the sea,  
Even there your hand will guide me,  
Your right hand will hold me fast.*  
**Psalm 139:7-10 (NIV)**

Dear friends,

In his right hand the dancer holds two metal blades that resemble a pair of scissors. With nimble fingers he clanks them together, keeping the rhythm of the violinist and harpist. Dressed in traditional Andean garb sparkling with gold trim, he flips across the stage like an award-winning gymnast, twirls on his head like a modern-day break dancer, and prances on tip toe like the most gracious ballerino. All the while the clanking metal blades never fall from his hand. In fact, they never even lose the beat. This is La Danza de Tijeras – the Scissor Dance.

Every September, we invite the newly arrived Young Adult Volunteers to experience Peruvian Folk Dance. With great pride we want them to see the magnificent artistry that has been passed down from generation to generation throughout the Andes and the Amazon. Just as importantly, we want them to be oriented to the stories of life struggle, resistance and celebration that are told through the dances—stories that shape a common understanding of history and tell of the presence of the sacred over time.

The origins of the Scissor Dance go back to the 16th century following the arrival of the Conquistadores. There were three prongs to Spanish Colonization: extract resources from the land (namely gold to finance the Spanish Empire); construct a hierarchy through a caste system (the seeds of white supremacy in Latin America); and plant a Church to promote a religious belief that would attempt to justify the conquest while also erasing the indigenous spiritualities that sought harmony with the Earth. As church buildings were literally built on top of destroyed Incan temples, indigenous healers developed a dance to spread a message

throughout the land: the sacred is still alive because the sacred never lived in the building; in fact, it lives far beyond the building. The sacred is encountered in the mountain top heavens and the valley depths below, in the rising of the dawn and on the farthest side of the sea. The indigenous healers were saying that the sacred is as alive as an acrobatic dancer flying through the air and that the clanking of the metal blades – formed from the mountain rock itself – was the language of the Earth reminding all that the oppressive darkness of the occupation had not snuffed the light of life celebrated through their spirituality. It was an act of resistance. It was a dance of rebellion.



Over the years, the message of the dance has changed. Some might say the dance was co-opted by the Church as it is often performed during religious festivals in which the dancer is considered to have acquired other-worldly abilities through a pact with the devil. However, some will argue that the message of resistance is now working from the inside out, firmly planted within the structures of a religion that can still be very oppressive to this day. A hope persists that a time will come in which the dancers will rise up and both the Church and the world will be healed.

Until then, for so many – especially the poor, the indigenous, the oppressed – it is difficult to say

*(Continued on page 7)*

**Jed and Jenny Koball, Mission Partners in Peru**



*(Continued from page 6)*

that anything has really changed over the past 500 years. The pandemic has only further highlighted the inequities and evils of humanity. While Peru suffers the highest fatality rate in the world from COVID-19 and a projected 12% degrowth in an economy that has left more than half of the work force unemployed, the government has turned its eyes to gold as it fast tracks new mining projects and rolls back environmental protections. Like the Spanish Empire of centuries ago, the earthly powers of today seek salvation in the extraction of resources from the land. Those paying the ultimate price are the same as always. In the seven months of pandemic, five indigenous leaders have been assassinated for raising their voices in defense of the Earth.

But what about the Church? Have we changed? An honest look and a truthful answer may provide us with a mixed report. We are a confessional church after all – always being reformed. As Presbyterians, though, we can say that our denomination’s Matthew 25 initiative is a faithful and promising commitment to not only right wrongs of the past but also to live life more fully, more equitably, and more harmoniously into the future. Our partners here in Peru will also suggest that the three foci of the Matthew 25 initiative not only reflect the work they have been

committed to for decades but also serve as a response to the three prongs of the Spanish Conquest that continue to ail Peru: addressing a systemic poverty driven by human destruction of the Earth; dismantling structural racism rooted in white supremacy; and promoting vibrant congregations that seek the sacred beyond the building.

From here in Peru we see you among such congregations! This year has shown us more than ever how important you are to us. Over the years some of you have come to visit us in Peru, and we and our partners have been sustained by



those sacred encounters. The pandemic took that away from us this year, just as it prevented the Young Adult Volunteers from joining us in service. Nonetheless, as the Dance of the Scissors reminds us, even when the world seems to be spinning out of control all around us God is still very much alive and holding us fast wherever we may go.

For joining with us in this dance, we thank you!

In Christ,

Jed and Jenny



# December 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	<b>1 Julie using Comp Time thru December 26th</b> 11:30a Staff Mtg 5p Personnel	<b>2</b> 10:45a Meals on Wheels	<b>3</b> 1p Worship Prep	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 2p Daring Group	
<b>6</b> 10a Worship 10:30a KCOC 11:15a Adult Ed 11:15a Faith Form 11:15a Fellowship 5p Firing Line AA	<b>7</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>8</b> 11:30a Staff Mtg 1p Former Dementia Caregivers 6:30p Faith Form 7p Care Coordinators	<b>9</b> 9a Men's Breakfast	<b>10</b> 11a Reopening Team 1p Worship Prep 5p Building & Grounds	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 10a Worship 10:30a KCOC 11:15a Adult Ed 11:15a Faith Form 11:15a Fellowship 5p Firing Line AA	<b>14</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>15 NEW LIFE NEWS ARTICLES DUE</b> 11:30a Staff Mtg 6:30p Esther Circle 6:30p Personnel	<b>16 Maryfran on Vacation thru Dec 31st</b> 1p Keystone Food Mobile	<b>17</b> 1p Worship Prep	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10a Worship 10:30a KCOC 11:15a Adult Ed 11:15a Faith Form 11:15a Fellowship 5p Firing Line AA	<b>21</b> OFFICE CLOSED  6:30p Session	<b>22</b> 11:30a Staff Mtg 1p Former Dementia Caregivers	<b>23</b> 9a Men's Breakfast 10:45a Meals on Wheels	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b>  OFFICE CLOSED	<b>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 	<b>26 Riz on Vacation thru Jan 8th*</b>
<b>27</b> 10a Worship 10:30a KCOC 11:15a Adult Ed 11:15a Faith Form 11:15a Fellowship 5p Firing Line AA	<b>28</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>29</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>30</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b>  OFFICE CLOSED		

## PASTORAL COVERAGE:

Once again, Rev. David Stewart will be covering for Pastor Riz while he is on vacation. You may reach David by phone at 651.270.6756 or by email at [h david.stewart@gmail.com](mailto:h david.stewart@gmail.com). Riz will be unavailable from December 26th through January 8th.

## Contact Information

**Ministers:** New Life Congregation  
**Minister of Word & Sacrament:**  
 Riz Prakasim, ext 211 (Sabbath Mondays)  
[riz@newlifechurchroseville.org](mailto:riz@newlifechurchroseville.org)

**Church Administrator:**  
 Maryfran Moen, ext 220  
[maryfranc@newlifechurchroseville.org](mailto:maryfranc@newlifechurchroseville.org)

**Director of Music Ministry:**  
 Julie Lueck, ext 217  
[juliel@newlifechurchroseville.org](mailto:juliel@newlifechurchroseville.org)

**Administrative Assistant:**  
 Deb Griffin, ext 210  
[deb@newlifechurchroseville.org](mailto:deb@newlifechurchroseville.org)

**Preschool Director:**  
 Sher Noot, ext 219  
[director@northcomopreschool.org](mailto:director@northcomopreschool.org)

**Communications Collaborator:**  
 Pam Schoon  
[communications@newlifechurchroseville.org](mailto:communications@newlifechurchroseville.org)

**Custodian:** Tori Golder  
[tori@newlifechurchroseville.org](mailto:tori@newlifechurchroseville.org)

## 2021 Church Leadership

**Buildings & Grounds:** Cynthia Reimers-Erickson

**Celebration & Worship:** Cindy Ward-Thompson

**Church & Society:** Mari Hirabayashi

**Community Garden:** Pete Marchetto

**Congregational Care:** Joanne Kallstrom

**Faith Formation:** Anice Lucas

**Finance:** John Kachel

**Membership & Growth:** A.D. Dickson

**Nominating:** John Bootier

**Personnel:** Larry Lane

**Stewardship:** Deb Griffin

**I.T.:** Larry Lane



### Other December Holidays

1st— Giving Tuesday, World AIDS Day	12th— Gingerbread House Day	21st— National Short Girl Appreciation Day, Winter Solstice
7th— National Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance	14th— National Energy Conservation Day	26th— Kwanzaa
10th— Human Rights Day, Hanukkah	15th— National Cupcake Day	28th— National Call a Friend Day
	16th— National Chocolate Covered Anything Day	30th— National Bacon Day
	20th— National Ugly Sweater Day	

### December Birthdays

2nd — Marti Cook, Walter Fombe	13th— Koffi Eklou, Isabel Hansen
4th— Namrata Ceisel	15th— Butch Inks
6th— Dawn Jones, A. J. David Mackinnon	16th— Scott Holbrook
7th— Helen Anufor Ngu	18th— Karen Lee
8th— Stephen Bogen, Nathan Hubbell	19th— Carol Baumann
9th— Sheryl Fairbanks, Jan Silliman	20th— Mike Hirabayashi, Heather Holbrook, Karen Peterson
11th— Sonja Ihlenfeldt	22nd— William Schoon
	25th— Jesus, Scott Barraclough
	26th— Christopher Pohl



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 Y

If your December birthday is missing from this list, our apologies. Please let Deb in the church office know so we can include you next time. ([deb@newlifechurchroseville.org](mailto:deb@newlifechurchroseville.org))