

Good morning,



My little dog Mitzi sits in front of the patio doors every afternoon all year round, watching and waiting like a sentinel. She keeps alert for anything unusual in her world of our yard. Her silent presence is like the Sphinx of Egypt. Could I sit like that for hours, always alert, but not troubled by the birds flitting to the feeders or the breeze that moves the branches? She waits and watches because it is her world and she takes responsibility for it. We didn't teach her that. She just intuitively knows that tending to her garden world is important.

She is usually quiet... unless the evil one enters: SQUIRREL!!!! Then the relentless barking ALARM of warning begins its shattering cycle until we slide open the door. Disappearing in a blur Mitzi races along the perimeter of the yard as the squirrel sprints atop the fence highway and out of harm's way. If Mitzi could climb a tree or the fence, she would do so. She never had an altercation with the grey or black squirrels but knows she keeps us and the property safe.

This season of Advent calls to us over the next four Sundays. We are urged to pay attention, be on guard, and stay alert. We watch for signs telling us of changes that take place. Should the unexpected happen, our history of trust in God will remind us that God is always near, especially in hard times. We can stand tall, lift our heads and know we are never forgotten. Everything and everyone eventually passes away, except the promises of Christ. So we remain watchful and even wary as the days pass, but knowing in our hearts that the Lord is with us and always will be.

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On **Saturday, Dec. 7 at 2:00** we will be having an **OLD FASHION CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY** at the church. It will be a "pot luck" **cake and cookie** party with coffee and tea. Enjoy the fun amongst the "pine and candles" as we sing carols and visit.

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Please note that the Memorial Service for Ralph Galer has had a time change. The service will take place at **11:30 a.m.** on Saturday, November 30 at the church

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Coming up at Hope:

Nov 28 @ 10:00 a.m. *Hymn Sing* on Zoom

Nov 28 @ 3:00 p.m. *Time to Remember for **Doug Bender*** (in the sanctuary)

Nov 29 @ 8:30 a.m. *Men's Group* in person and on Zoom

Nov 29 @ 9:00 a.m. - Noon. *Hope Quilters*

Nov 29 @ 10:15 a.m. *Hope Men's Chorus* practice

Nov 30 @ **11:30 a.m.** *Memorial service for **Ralph Galer***

Dec 1 @ 10:00 a.m. *First Sunday of Advent Worship Service* (Zoom opens at 9:30 a.m.)

Dec 3 @ 1:30 p.m. *Tuesday afternoon Bible study*

The *Sunday service* and *Invitation to Zoom* will appear in your email on Saturday morning.

The Lord is with us.

Pastor Terry