MAY YOUR NEW YEAR BE FILLED WITH SMILES,

LOVE & HAPPINESS

Having just closed out 2020 and now moving into 2021 it is both a time for reflection and for anticipation. I think we could all agree on how 2020 was a year like none other and one we would sooner forget than hold on to.

When I think of the deaths of beloved church members, friends, family, and others I am saddened to my core. Too many deaths, too many losses, too much suffering, too much worrying, too many experiences lost for me not to be happy to see a new year begin. I’ve cried too much this past year.

The New Year holds new promises, new opportunities, new chances to begin again. That’s the heart and soul of our faith isn’t it? New life, new hope, new beginnings in Christ. With the COVID-19 vaccines just now arriving there is hope on the horizon and we can all look forward to life returning to something like normal again. Of course, the “new normal” won’t be like the “old normal” but it will be better than what we have experienced this past year.

Just think, coming back to church to be together, to share in singing and sharing and worshipping the Lord together will be renewing, joyful, and life giving. The New Year may present a time for healing in our nation too. Without taking sides, since the political divide pretty is close to 50-50 I think we can all agree we have had enough of the in-fighting, bickering and nastiness between the two parties. Who knows, maybe we’ll even see a lessening of people labeling anyone who disagrees with them. I can’t think of any other year when the fresh, new start of a New Year seemed so welcome…and needed.

What are your hopes for the new year? What lessons have you learned from the past year? In spite of all the pain and all the division and all the loss what can we identify that was good? For me, affirming the importance of being together, of experiencing community and being here to support and love one another has never been clearer. Sadly, it too often takes loss to remind us of what we had and what is important to maintain, to nurture, to ensure and hold on to, with all our heart and soul.

May the New Year be a good one for you. May hope replace despair. May fond memories of life shared with the people you have lost put a smile on your face. May the new year begin with a smile on your face, love in your heart and happiness in your soul.
NEWS AMONG OUR CHURCH FAMILY

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

10 Arnita Crutchfield
11 Richard Knott
13 Jack Hanson
17 Arnita & Roger Crutchfield
29 Joel Owen

In Memory and Celebration of Life Together

Sadly, Richard Knott passed away after a brief period in the hospital. Please keep Carol, Sherry (Jim), Susan (Bill), and Steve (Rosie) in your prayers.

Richard was a long-time member of our church, husband, and father. He worked many years at A&P Grocery store as a Manager and loved taking part in the many programs of our church. No details as to a Service of Life Celebration are available at this time.

If you would like to send cards, please call office for address.

NOTE

Please let us know if you know of someone who is sick or is a shut-in. Thank you.

Michael Lastre – Still doing well at home with Orlando. Keep in your prayers.

Dolores Wachtman – Feeling a bit better but good days and bad. Keep in your prayers.

Wauneta Wine – Please keep Wauneta and Jim in your prayers.

Norm Laine – Continuing recovery at home. Please keep in your prayers.

Al Abraham – Recovering at his daughter’s home in Kansas. Call the church office if you would like Al’s address while in Kansas.

Edwina Meheaux – Recovering at her daughter’s home. Please keep in your prayers and call the office if you would like to send a card at her temporary address.
NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES

FELLOWSHIP…Amy Buckingham/Mary Chance
Our Fellowship has created miracles this season. From over 30 Thanksgiving Baskets, over 65 Toys collected, on-going food donations in the food pantry that are handed out weekly to those in need, and Christmas dinner for a family needing our help. Let’s continue to carry the miracles into 2021!

PROPERTY…Jeff Price
Greetings from the Property Ministry. The weather is getting colder and we had our first snow event. The parking lot did not need to be plowed and the sidewalks quickly melted. I’m sure there will be more snow ahead. We did some gutter inspection and cleaning of vital areas around the Church grounds. Hope everyone has a safe enjoyable Christmas!

OUTREACH…Connie Spoon
Thank you to everyone who donated Toys for the local Georgian Forest Elementary Students. Over 65 toys were collected. Our next Annual outreach project of “Souper Bowl” starts in January. All soup collected will be donated to Manna Food. This year, the need is greater than ever. Please consider a donation.

WORSHIP
As the new year rolls in, we start hearing and thinking about New Year’s resolutions. Have you started your list? Maybe yours is to lose weight, stop a bad habit, stay in touch with old friends more. As we create each of our lists, how many of us have added “attend church every Sunday”? Although we miss worshiping together, attending is now easier than ever. Won’t you add attending regularly to your resolution list this year?

Please be sure to watch and enjoy our Worship Services online at www.aspenhillcc.org. Click on the green “Videos” Tab and choose the date of the Service you wish to watch. Our beautiful Christmas Eve Service is online too.

Did you take part in our first ever Virtual Caroling Event? It was a beautiful evening, enjoyed by all and even had a real visit from Santa. Special thanks to Dr. Chance, Judy, Amy, Mary, and Karen for making it such a joy.
STEWARDSHIP…John Small
Our 2021 Every Member Commitment campaign

We need everyone to be as faithful as possible and to give regularly and generously. Our many ministries continue to occur every day and we touch the lives of many with the love of Christ. That is only possible if you make it so. Thank you for all you do. Continue to “Give Cheerfully and Live Generously”.

OUR GIVING TREE

A special Thank You to all who donated to “Our Giving Tree”. As the Christmas season had ended and a New Year has begun, please arrange with the church office to receive your ornament. To date we have collected $1530.00

Highlights From The Board Meeting

The Board met via Zoom on December 9. Among the items discussed and actions taken are:

- At this point we are planning to stay virtual for Worship but will evaluate that on a week to week basis as circumstances change.
- Reviewed the church calendar and set dates for the first quarter of 2021.
- Prepared for our first ever “Virtual” Annual Meeting.
- Heard reports from the Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Ministry Chairs, Elders & Deacons, and other leaders.
- Received the Pastor’s Report.
- Discussed the financial challenges that lie ahead as we do our best in these times of Covid 19 restrictions and burdens.

Elders and Deacons Meeting....January 10th

Please remember the St. Paul's Breakfast for Elders and Deacons will be held January 10th instead of Jan  at 9:00 a.m.
Sharing Corner

We are so sad to learn of the death of Diane Long, wife of Larry Long. Larry is Eric’s twin brother and has been a friend of the Church and former Softball Team member for many years. Please keep all in your prayers.

Thank You for the generous cash gift at Christmas (especially this year). It is deeply appreciated. Mary and I are truly blessed to belong to such a family as Aspen Hill Christian Church.

Blessings,
Dr and Mrs. Chance

Thank you for thinking of me with the Staff Christmas Gift. I know I have not been here very long and have not had the chance to meet everyone, but I have been here long enough to know that this is a special place full of loving hearts and I am grateful to have a little part in this special place.

Sincerely,
Karen Heidelberger
Worship is now online at www.aspenhillcc.org, Click on the green “Videos” Tab. Be sure to click the thumbs-up icon and make any nice comments you want to. Comments help drive our visibility to others up. Share the links for our weekly worship with your friends and neighbors.