



**Piedmont  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH**

# THE MESSENGER

BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 71, NUMBER 99

December 16, 2017

## UPCOMING SERMONS

December 24, 2017  
NAUGHTY OR NICE?  
Isaiah 9:2-7  
Hebrews 1:1-9  
Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP  
Christmas Meditation  
Rev. Dr. William McNabb

December 31, 2017  
NEW YEAR, NEW YOU  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Rev. Dottie Hutch

January 7, 2018  
DO NOT SWEAR AT ALL  
Matthew 5:33-37  
Rev. Dr. William McNabb

## MILESTONES

If there a milestone in your life that you would like to share with us:  
a wedding, a birth, an engagement, the passing of your dear one?  
Please contact Abby Rose at 547-5700 ext. 103 or [abby@piedmontchurch.org](mailto:abby@piedmontchurch.org)



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400 Highland Avenue  
Piedmont, CA 94611  
**510-547-5700**  
VISIT US ONLINE:  
[PiedmontChurch.org](http://PiedmontChurch.org)



Photo by Michael Barber

## ENCORE!

The Piedmont Community Church Choir, directed by Minister of Music Dr. Stephen Main, performs 'Love's Pure Light, Overture to Christmas' for the second time last weekend. The performances, which included full orchestra, drew more than 500 people from the Bay Area, who also enjoyed a post-concert reception in Guild Hall.



worship services

## December 24

5 pm - Family Service

9 pm - Candlelight Service with Full Choir

11 pm - Candlelight Service with Full Choir

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord"*  
Luke 2:11

## Staff

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### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

DEC 4, 2017 (12/16 issue)

JAN 1, 2017 (1/13 issue)

Send submissions to

Michael Barber at  
news@piedmontchurch.org

Visit Facebook.com/  
PiedmontCommunityChurch



## Volunteers Needed for Berkeley Men's Shelter Christmas Dinner Saturday, December 23



### Christmas for the Homeless at the Berkeley Men's Shelter

Volunteers are needed to serve a Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 23 from 6:30 to 8 pm.

The sign-up list for serving the dinner as and donating gift bags

will be available in Guild Hall on Sunday, December 17. If you have any questions, please see Barbara Crawford in Guild Hall on that date, or call the church office at (510) 547-5700. Thanks for your help in this seasoning of sharing.

## Volunteer with CityTeam

Saturday, January 6



Serve Lunch or Dinner with CityTeam Oakland. CityTeam is working towards an empowered, changed and new Oakland. Every day, CityTeam's dining hall serves a hot meal for breakfast, lunch and dinner to the city's poor, hopeless and homeless. Join CityTeam's staff every 1st Saturday of the month in serving lunch from 11-2pm, or dinner from 5-7pm. Recommended for ages 8 and older for lunch service, and

ages 12 and older for dinner service. Additional dates can also be added if interested. For more information, please contact Selma Chin at 510-290-5732 or selmachin@yahoo.com.

## Imani Rockin' Crab Feed Fundraiser

Saturday, January 27



Join us in Guild Hall for this delicious garlic crab feed fundraising event for Imani Community Church, our sister church in Oakland.

Imani is **raising funds for their A.D.A (Americans with Disabilities Act) project**. The evening includes a special performance by **Imani Ya Watume**, Imani's liturgical dance ministry.

5-6 pm - Cocktail hour

6-8 pm - Dinner Service

Tickets: \$55/person.

For tickets and more information, please call (510) 531-5411.





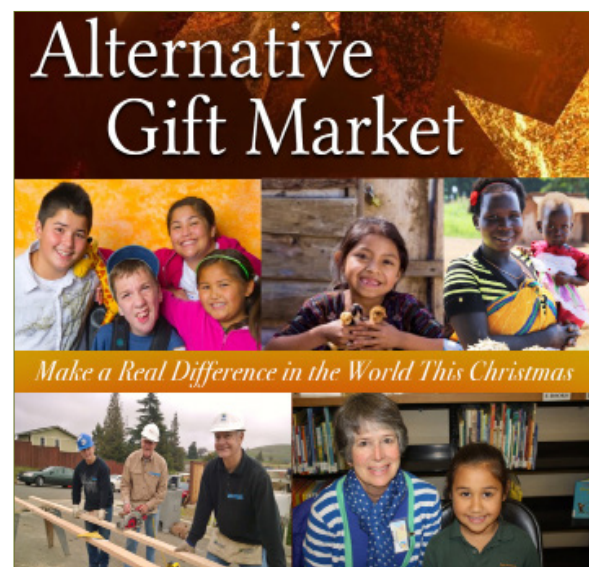
## ANGEL IN REPOSE

Photo by Michael Barber

Idara Essien takes a moment to admire her wings while playing the part of an angel in the 82nd annual Christmas Pageant at Piedmont Community Church Sunday, December 10. The pageant is made possible by the Board of Christian Education with special music by the Salvation Army Band.

## Alternative Gift Market (AGM)

Sunday, December 17



Make a real difference in the world this Christmas. Shop the Alternative Gift Market to help alleviate the daily struggles of those in our community and abroad. Your catalog will arrive soon. 100% of your gift will go to the ministries you support.

## Remember Your 2018 Pledge

Please send your payment  
**by December 31**

December is PCC's 'make or break' month in terms of our church's financial health. That's when we find out how much funding we can rely on for all of the programs you have come to count on for the next year. Completing your pledge payment by December 31 allows you to take a deduction on your 2018 taxes, lowering your tax bill. We are counting on you to make sure we meet our 2018 budget.

## Memorial Poinsettias

The sanctuary will be adorned for Christmas with traditional poinsettias, to be designated in memory or honor of someone special. To donate a plant, please fill out this form, attach your check (\$15 per plant), and mail to: Piedmont Community Church, 400 Highland Ave., Piedmont, 94611, or drop off in the office. Make check payable

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$15 per plant) Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Address \_\_\_\_\_

Give in Honor / Memory (circle one) of: \_\_\_\_\_



## The Time to Come

For many of us, this pre-Christmas time is busy; full of shopping and parties, maybe singing some favorite carols and coming together with family and friends. The word

“Advent” itself comes from a Latin word meaning “to come.” What’s coming? For Christians, the four weeks before Christmas are a time to reflect on that question. We remember that Jesus was born long ago in the little town of Bethlehem. But more than simply reflecting on something that happened 2,000 years ago, Advent is a time of preparation. It’s a time to get ready – not just for a party, or to get “the right gift” – but to have an encounter with the living Christ.

The great Advent hymns, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” and “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” remind us of the coming of Christ. But they also tell us that he didn’t come just once. Christ is still coming into the world; still coming to establish the realm of God where people are set free – free from fear, free from sin, free for joy and free for love. And as those who follow him, we’re called to do the same. So, Advent is a time to ponder what we ourselves will do in times ahead. What will we do to set people free, including ourselves? As God’s light comes into what sometimes seems a very darkened world, will we be attracted by it? Will we reflect it? Or will we avoid it?

In a world of constant change and seemingly endless conflicts, no one knows for sure what is to come. There may be turmoil and pain ahead. There may be great joy and peace. But this we do know: That Jesus Christ, the light of the world, will never abandon us. He will always be “God with us” – Emmanuel, in Hebrew. So, this Advent, may we all search our hearts, and walk together along that well-lit path of faith, hope, joy and love. And, along the way, may we invite others to join us on the way.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Don Ashburn



## Piedmont COMMUNITY CHURCH

Office Hours: 9 am to 4 pm

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Dec. 17** - Alternative Gift Market

**Dec. 23** - Berkeley Men’s Shelter Christmas Dinner, 6:30 pm

**Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve Worship Services

5 pm - Family Service

9 and 11 pm - Candlelight Service with Full Choir

**Dec. 25 & 26** - Office Closed for Christmas

**Jan. 1** - Office Closed for New Year’s Day

**Jan. 6** - CityTeam: Serve Lunch or Dinner

**Jan. 7** - Communion Sunday

**Jan. 27** - Imani Crab Feed Fundraiser

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