



Photo by Michael Barber

## Herald Angels Greet

Children participating in the Christmas Pageant greet church member Susan Chew as she arrives for worship Sunday, December 15. The pageant, historically celebrated as an independent event, was combined with services for the first time. Children presented the Christmas story while the congregation participated by singing carols.

## God's Shoes



DR. WILLIAM  
MCNABB  
Senior Minister

I came across some interesting musings on a question that has stumped theologians for centuries. Monks have meditated for years on end, nuns have said a thousand rosaries, many have simply guessed. A few are absolutely

sure but their claims vary widely. We can only speculate on this subject, volatile and ponderous as it is:

What kind of shoes does God wear?

There is certainly the classical school of thought that insists that God wears gold Roman sandals, not unlike the ones in *Ben Hur*. But this would assume that God and Charlton Heston share the same feet, which might not be true.

This brings us to the larger question of God's sex: male or female? This could make all the difference in the world,

unless the shoes were Dr. Martens or (God forbid) running shoes. Male or female, one would hope for a little more pageantry on God's part which would rule out those casual styles.

Good taste would also negate platform shoes and spike heels. A manifest destiny attitude would propose a conservative oxford or a modest, sturdy pump. It seems rather Catholic to assume God's shoes could be made by Italians.

The Buddhist frame of mind is

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toward simplicity, but rustic sandals are just too boring.

I have personally always pictured God as wearing black lizard-skin cowboy boots made by the Tony Lama Company of El Paso, Texas.

All this speculation leads us to a simple answer. The New Testament tells us that we, the church, are the body of Christ.

If God's message is to be shared with others it will be with our lips. If the poor are to be helped it will be with our hands. God and his shoes are truly within each and every one of us.

So, the choice is ours. Since we are the body of Christ, the only feet God has in this world, the answer to this question

"What kind of shoes does God wear?" is very simple—the kind you do.

## Prayer Boxes

Prayer boxes are located at the main entrance and in the breezeway. Our congregation, along with the wider Piedmont community, is invited to write joy and concerns for our church to pray over in confidence.

## Online Media

Our selection of media, both in audio recordings and video production, has grown significantly in the past year.

Visit [PiedmontChurch.org](http://PiedmontChurch.org) and click MEDIA.

### PARISH REGISTER

#### Deaths

*Jim Obando* passed from this life on December 4

*Patty Ruvkun* passed from this life on December 9

#### Baptisms

*Jayden Oh*, son of Kuni and Kyla Oh, was baptized on November 17



## Party On

Livewire youth celebrate the holidays with their own Christmas party. The youth programs at Piedmont Church reach the community in valuable ways, providing fellowship, discussion and fun.



Photo by Michael Barber

## Good Conduct

In near total darkness and alone, Dr. Stephen Main practices conducting pieces to be performed during the December 7 and 8 Overture to Christmas at Piedmont Community Church. Steve said that practicing in silence helps to imagine the music as it should be, allowing him to more confidently direct choir and orchestra.

# Words



DR. DON  
ASHBURN  
Associate Minister

As we end an old year and start a new, each of us is writing a new chapter in the book that is our life. So, it's hard not to think about words.

What do you recall about all the things you said, or wrote, or heard, or read this past year? And since some of us write down resolutions for the new year, what words might you want to put down on paper? There are plenty of possibilities – of things to do, and not to do.

For me, I want to reconsider how I use my own words. I come to this after having spent Advent and Christmas on a social media “fast.” I didn’t look at, or post, anything on Facebook or Twitter, or the rest. At times, I wished I could’ve given up email and texting too. But, for now, that’s more than a bit impractical.

Still, my fast gave me a fresh perspective on the “wordiness” of our world, and of my life. Hemingway wrote, “All our words from loose using have lost their edge.” That certainly rings true to me. There are words I am too quick to use, or too slow to hold back. There are words I hear or read – whether from public figures or just regular folks – that bring me down or set us apart. So, it was with a sense of relief that I read something Henri Nouwen wrote in his book, *Bread For the Journey*. It’s a caution to consider how readily we consume the words of others, and share our own:

*Words, words, words. Our society is full of words: on billboards, on television screens, in newspapers and books. Words whispered, shouted and sung. Words that move, dance and change in size and color. Words that say, “Taste me, smell me, eat me, drink me, sleep with me,” but most of all, “buy me.” With so many words around us, we quickly say: “Well, they’re just words.” Thus, words have lost much of their power.*

Still, the word has the power to create. When God speaks, God creates. When God says, “Let there be light,” light is. God speaks light. For God, speaking and creating are the same. It is this creative power of the word we need to reclaim. What we say is very important. When we say, “I love you,” and say it from the heart, we can give another person new life, new hope, new courage. When we say, “I hate you,” we can destroy another person. Let’s watch our words.

In times to come, may we be a bit more careful, and lot more caring.

## Children’s Ministry

■ BY LESLIE QUANTZ

Piedmont Community Church Children’s ministries programs have started off the school year with *Epic Teachings of the Bible*.

Our events for the year include:

Sunday School, each Sunday at 10:30 am. Sunday school will be starting in the Sanctuary on the second Sunday of each month.

Kidz Club meets once a month on Friday afternoons from 3:30 - 5 pm in the Youth Room. Kidz Club is Piedmont Community Church’s group for 4th, 5th and 6th-grade children. It is dedicated to building friendships, helping the wider community by performing service projects and exploring and developing personal faith.

## MONTH OF SUNDAYS

Each Sunday, we gather to celebrate our faith and our friendships during worship at 9 and 10:30 am.

### January 5

THE GOOD SAMARITAN FOR OUR TIME

Part 1 – Becoming a Good Samaritan  
Luke 10:29-37

### January 12

THE GOOD SAMARITAN FOR OUR TIME

Part 2 – Caring for the Sick  
Mark 5:21-47

### January 19

THE GOOD SAMARITAN FOR OUR TIME

Part 3 – Seeing Justice and Reconciliation

Amos 5:21-34; Isaiah 1:16-17; Ecclesiastes 4:1-3

### January 26

A FOOLISH MESSAGE

Dr. Don Ashburn, preaching  
1 Corinthians 1: 10-18

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

In January, we will be starting our lessons on the Ten Commandments.

### January 5

God’s Commandments: Worship God (Exodus 20:2-3; Acts 17:16-34)

### January 12

God’s Commandments: No Idols (Exodus 20:4-6; 2 Kings 23:1-20)

### January 19

God’s Commandments: God’s Name (Exodus 20:7; 3:13-14; Deuteronomy 10:17; Isaiah 9:6-7; Revelation 1:8; Psalm 22:3)

### January 26

God’s Commandments: The Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11; Genesis 2:1-3) Summary Verse: “Jesus replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’” (Matthew 22:37)

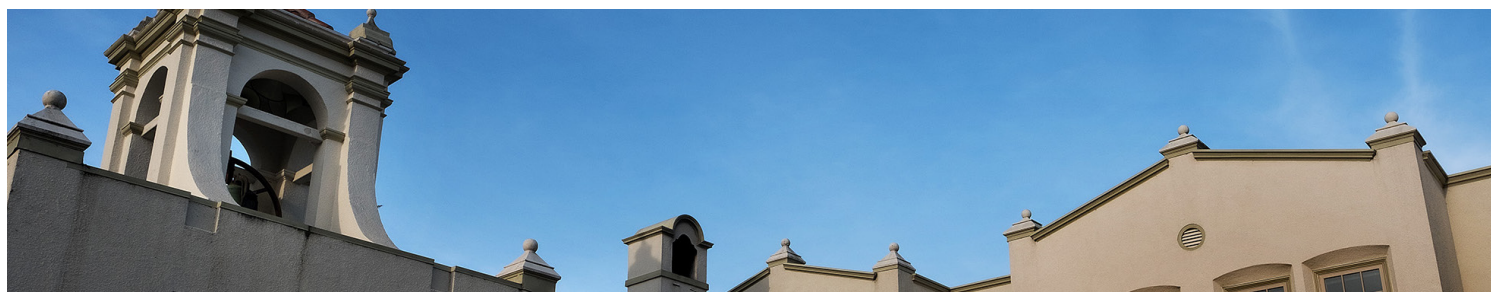
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## JANUARY CALENDAR

### **Sunday, January 5**

Communion Sunday

### **Monday, January 6**

Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, 2 - 4 pm,  
Guild Parlor  
– Board of Deacons, 7 pm, Guild Parlor

### **Friday, January 10**

KIDZ Club, 3:30 pm, Youth Room

### **Sunday, January 12**

Celebration of Giving Luncheon, 11:30 am, Guild Hall

### **Monday, January 13**

Board of Trustees, 7 pm, Staff Workroom

### **Wednesday, January 18**

Coffee and Conversation for Seniors, 9:30 am – 11 am,  
Guild Parlor

### **Monday, January 20**

Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, 2 - 4 pm,  
Guild Parlor

### **Monday, January 20**

MAT, 7 pm, Staff Workroom

### **Monday, January 27**

Board of Christian Education, 6:45 pm, Guild Parlor

## RECURRING EVENTS

### **Sundays**

Children's Sunday School, 10:30 am, Christian  
Education Building  
Journey, 10:30 am, Youth Room  
Rock, 5 pm, Youth Room

### **Mondays**

Spiritual Formation Group, 4:30 pm, Guild Parlor

### **Tuesdays**

Rock Pizza Lunch, Youth Room  
Just Breathe, 5:30 pm, Chapel  
Handbells, 6:30 pm, Clara Barton Room  
Small Group Bible Study, 7 pm, home of Bob  
and Judy Wright

### **Wednesdays**

Piedmont Gardens Bible Study, 10:15 am,  
Piedmont Gardens  
LiveWire, 2:15 – 3:30 pm, Youth Room  
Chancel Choir, 7:30 pm, Lindamood Choir Room

### **Thursdays**

Women's Bible Study, 10 am Guild Parlor  
Walking Together, 7 pm, Guild Parlor

### **Saturdays**

Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am, Founders' Room