

December 10, 2020



Dear Brothers and Sisters at Hingham,

I am glad to share the results from our **2020 Annual Congregational Meeting** with you! *Overwhelmingly*, the congregation has affirmed both our General and our Benevolent budgeted funds, both of the proposed constitution changes, and both of our elder candidates, Kurt Dulmes and Jeff Kolste! In addition, Kevin Dekker, Mike Oppeneer, and Jan Rauwerdink were selected to serve as deacons next year! I loved that we had so many who gathered to worship the Lord through some of those family matters. Thanks to all who came and participated!

**Update on Sanctuary Seating:** Due to recent increased attendance on Sunday mornings over the past few weeks, *the elders have decided to allow every row of pews for the first ten rows nearest the stage to be seated.* The back half of the sanctuary will continue to have every-other row blocked off. We would like to encourage (in general) that we fill the sanctuary front-to-back, but those who would prefer to have greater social distancing may feel more comfortable towards the back. In addition, the back rows are dismissed first by the deacons, which allows those individuals to depart before many other people pass by them.

The elders are very aware that these higher attendance numbers may make some less comfortable attending due to COVID health risks. The problem itself, along with the spectrum of responses to it, are incredibly challenging to navigate for us all. We are grateful for your willingness to show love and kindness to your brothers and sisters in Christ. And, if it is unsafe for you to attend or you are concerned about getting COVID, there is nothing improper about remaining home on Sundays. There are instances when we are providentially hindered from fellowshiping with other Christians, and those circumstances certainly fit that bill. Personally, I would like to direct all of our hearts to continue to do our best to live out Christ's humble example by following the Apostle Paul's commands in Philippians 2.1-4: "*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*" By the grace of God, may we exhibit these attitudes toward each other.

I also want to announce that I will be leading a **Covenant Membership Class** on **Saturday, January 16th, beginning at 1:30 pm.** So many of you have waited patiently for us to create a new pathway to membership in line with our mission, and I appreciate it! This class is meant for anyone who is interested in finding out more about becoming a member of Hingham Church—it's the first step in that process. If you plan to attend, **please RSVP** to [clint@hinghamchurch.org](mailto:clint@hinghamchurch.org) so that we can have adequate materials available for all attendees. Also, if you really want to attend this class but are unable for whatever reason, please still shoot me an email to let me know and I will do my best to put another time on the calendar that will fit better with your schedule.

Our Christmas Eve Service will look different this year. We are calling it our **Christmas Eve Night of Prayer**, and it will begin at **6:30 pm.** COVID has sadly prevented us from putting on a Christmas pageant with our kids, but it has hopefully made us gladly go to God more regularly and more fervently in prayer. We pray to God in both spoken word and in singing, and this night will have a good amount of both. We'll spend significant time in guided prayer. This is a busy season, which I think is all the more reason to take a beat and pray. A few of the songs we will be singing that night are new to our congregation (or, at least they may be new arrangements), and I've provided links here so that you can listen ahead of time to prepare your heart for the evening. If you can, we'd love you to join us! Here are the links:

[O Come, All You Unfaithful](#)

[Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery](#)

[O Holy Night \(Hear the Gospel Story\)](#)

[Joy To The World \(Our God Reigns\)](#)

Last, but not least, let me set the stage for the text we'll be studying in our next worship service. Week 1 of Advent focused on our universal need for a leader who would free us from political corruption. We spent week 2 (last week) looking at where the world (wrongly) tells us we can find salvation: humanity itself. This Sunday, we will see the HOPE that Isaiah PROMISED to Israel! We will be looking intently at **Isaiah 9.1-7**, which includes the phrase that has become the title of this series: And the Government Shall Be upon His Shoulder. Both to Isaiah's original readers and to us today, this passage is one of incredible hope to get us through this life's trials and pains. I'm looking forward to putting that text before all of our hearts and minds this Sunday because we all need the hope of Christ until that day when we will see him face-to-face.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Clint

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

#### **FOR OUR BODY:**

- Barb Veldboom – Parkinson's Disease. Please pray for strength and healing for Barb. She is currently at The Bay at North Ridge Manitowoc for recuperation.
- Carl Wilterdink - Metastatic Prostate Cancer. Pray for Carl as he has ongoing chemotherapy treatments.
- Delmar Hoopman – Currently in Hospice Care at Rocky Knoll.
- Gloria De Groff – Multiple Sclerosis
- Sue Arentsen – Ovarian Cancer

**Thank you** to my church family for all of the prayers and cards I received. I am continuing to gain strength and healing every day. Ella Block

**CONGRATULATIONS** to *Fred & Sharon Klein who are celebrating their 62nd Wedding Anniversary Today, December 13th!*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **UPCOMING HINGHAM CHURCH EVENTS:**

- Sunday, December 13 - 9 AM Worship; 10:15 AM Sunday School; "How Shall We Then Live" Sunday School class will meet in the choir room
- Wednesday, December 16 - 6:30-8PM MSYG and HSYG will meet in the fellowship hall
- Sunday, December 20 - 9 AM Worship; 10:15 AM Sunday School; "How Shall We Then Live" Sunday School class will meet in the choir room
- Monday, December 21 - 6:30 PM Consistory; 7:30 PM Elders' Meeting; 7:30 PM Deacons' Meeting
- Wednesday, December 23 - NO YOUTH GROUP
- Thursday, December 24 - 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Night of Prayer
- Friday, December 25 - 9 AM Christmas Day Service

**Please pick up your 2021 giving envelopes located in the narthex.**

The Thursday morning bible study will not meet in the month of December and will resume on Thursday, January 7th.

### **COMMUNITY**

- **VOLUNTEER THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON!** With more people facing hardship this year, the need to serve those most vulnerable is greater than ever. Although these challenges are unprecedented, The Salvation Army is committed to providing hope to those who need it this Christmas and beyond. We need your help! Volunteer to ring bells at [www.RegisterToRing.com](http://www.RegisterToRing.com). Just two hours makes a great difference.
- **SHEBOYGAN COUNTY WARMING CENTER** This is an interdenominational organization to give homeless adults a warm place to stay during the night (7:00pm-7:30am.) in January & February. Volunteers needed to help set up/clean up, serve meals, provide assistance in the evening. 3 shifts available Call Ken 920-980-9520 or Email: [Sheb.co.wc@gmail.com](mailto:Sheb.co.wc@gmail.com)