



Dear family and friends of Lodi UMC,

This year Thanksgiving Day is late, and (I don't know about you) I do feel rushed to make this season perfect. "Wait a minute," you may say to me, (as I feel I hear an inner voice of asking) "What makes a happy Thanksgiving and a perfect Christmas?" What are we busy with to make this season 'the most wonderful time of the year'?

I pause and take deep breaths as I am mindful of sitting in the presence of God, and say to myself, "Bless the Lord oh my soul. Prepare your heart. Make a room in it for Jesus, Immanuel God-with-us."

What a gift! God took on human flesh to assure us that our LORD dwells among us and abides in us. We are not forgotten. We're told we are precious enough for the greatest gift of Jesus - because God first loved us. With such eyes of God on us, can we see ourselves and others? There is a better way than a full-of-table dinner or home decorations or beautifully wrapped gifts to honor our guests or even ourselves. It is to tell them the good news of God's love, bringing a new meaning, new life and new beginning into their tired and weary soul.

Many opportunities and events are here for you to come and invite your loved ones to. Lifting up those seasonal programs in my prayer, I think of you and pray that God may surprise you this joyous season! More than magical feelings of the holidays the world promises to you, by the heart-warming and life-changing attention of God, may you know and be assured that God comes to YOU.

I'm looking forward to celebrating this season at church, not just on Sundays or Christmas Eve, but on Wednesdays and many other days.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Peace.

Merry Christmas