

Dear Friends in Christ,

2017 is drawing to a close, and many of us are looking forward to 2018.

This year has been full of activities, gatherings, fellowship and worship! The sanctuary is beautifully decorated for Christmas, and we are ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, our Savior. We will have only one worship service on Christmas

Eve. It will be in the morning on December 24 at our regular time of worship. We will worship at 10:45 AM, the service will begin with the lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle, and then as we worship we will light Christ Candle..

Enclosed are the calendars for December and January. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2018, with the Budget Presentation on December 31, 2017.

Please look at the information on the Food Pantry, the Book Study, and the calendars.

See you in Church!

Peace, Rev. Denise



Christians in Action Food Pantry can use the following: "Items we need currently: baked beans, canned fruit, soup (not chicken noodle), boxed potatoes, boxed rice meals, stew, canned hash, manwich/sloppy joe, canned chili, catsup,

fruit juice, cookies" We continue to collect personal care items in addition to the food that is needed.

Mazomanie UCC covers the January distribution. Please speak with Dick Royston or Mike Klessig if you can help with this ministry.

The Altar decorated for the Thanksgiving Worship Service. The blessings of the season are among the many gifts God has graciously given us.



This coming year (2018) we will again have a Lenten Book Study. The book we are reading is titled *Christianity for the Rest of Us—How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith* by Diana Butler Bass.

Diana Butler Bass is the author of *Strength for the Journey* and *The Practicing Congregation*. She has served on the faculty at the University of California at Santa Barbara, Rhodes College, and the Virginia Theological Seminary. From 1995-2000 she wrote a weekly column on religion for the *New York Times* syndicate. She is a popular speaker at retreats and workshops.



"the most important book of the decade about emerging Christianity and the renewal of mainline congregations." - Marcus Borg, author of *The Heart of Christianity*.

This book is just over 250 pages, and we hope to have opportunity for good discussions during the book group, so we are starting the LENTEN Book Study before Lent. We will meet Wednesday evenings starting January 31. Please let Rev. Denise know by **January 10** if you will be part of this coming year's Lenten Book Study.

Thank you to everyone who helped with decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. The church is so beautiful. Thank you to those who have participated in worship by lighting Advent candles, providing music and singing so the holiday is truly special.

