

Kevin's Korner – January 2026

Well Christmas has come and gone at First Christian Church. “For Such a Time As This” was our theme for Advent this year, reflecting upon and responding to a time of high stress in our community, our nation, and around the world. We live in an unsettled time, hmm..., much like the time of Jesus’ birth. Maybe the messages of hope received before and during the Advent/Christmas story just might speak to us today?

I celebrate the spirit of hope, peace, joy and love that I experienced during this season, worshiping, studying the Bible and serving others, with all of you. We continued to delve into the Gospel of Mark with great questions and insights from all of our participants. We celebrated the season and welcomed a number of guests for the Sentimental Journey Band Concert and Tasting Party. Thank you, once again, for your wonderful hospitality! And then we celebrate Christmas with our neighbors in the Street Ministry, providing them with a Christmas, with acceptance and love, and some warm things to buffer the winter cold. Again, thank you for your hospitality! And, of course, Christmas Eve let us bask in the season and remember the reason for it. I was blessed! And now we come to the end of Christmas. Or is this just the beginning?

As I look around our world. It looks pretty much the same as before Advent. What happened to our season of preparation for the Christ child to come into our world and into our lives? Does your life feel different, other than just feeling a bit more tired after the rushing around and eating too much, maybe losing too much sleep? Even if that is so, maybe all is not lost? After all, we’ve been preparing ourselves to receive the Christ into our lives. If we feel a bit more tired and bit less inspired, maybe even a bit less hopeful for our world, remember though, being less confident in ourselves and our own resources might convince us to be more dependent upon God and more willing and able to trust and to invite God to take the controls and lead us into His future plans.

Yes! I think I’m ready to follow Jesus into this new year and this new world in the making! I’m remembering a favorite hymn of mine, actually from youth ministry days long ago. I hope we’ll sing it soon: “I Am the Light of the World,” by Jim Strathdee (I used to watch him perform this at youth ministry training). It is based on a poem by theologian and Christian mystic, Howard Thurman. I invite you into 2026 with his poem:

The Work of Christmas

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.
~ By Howard Thurman*

Pastor Kevin