

Good morning,

You may have heard the expression about finding your happy place. But have you ever walked **Happy**



Street?

My friend was out for his early morning walk and decided to spend some time, as Christmas approaches, being mindful of what brings joy to his life. As he walked the dark streets early in the morning, he thought of family and friends. Then he heard something and had to stop. There was a small noise coming from an apartment building he was walking past. He stood still and listened. It was a child's voice calling out, "Happy! Happy! Happy!" He looked up into the dark night and thought he saw the partially opened window from which the voice of the little herald was speaking. So he waived in the darkness. Maybe the child saw him and was making the announcement to him, a grandpa was walking alone on the street. So he swept his arms aloft and waived in a bigger way, unsure if the child could see him. He wanted the child to know that the announcement rested on his heart. He then smiled and walked on never to forget that sometimes joy comes out of the darkness.

In the Christmas story of **Luke 2:10-11**, an angel announces to shepherds watching their sheep in the night. ***"Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord."***

An unexpected voice in the night. Joy called out unexpectedly. Darkness doesn't win. That is Christmas. My friend now calls that lonely road **Happy Street**. We will both always remember the little message of joy on Happy Street in the dark of the night.

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The **Family Christmas Eve service** at Hope will take place on **Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m.**

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Coming up at Hope:

Dec 19 @ 10:00 a.m. *Hymn Sing* on Zoom (last one until January 9)

Dec 20 @ 8:30 a.m. *Men's Group* in person and on Zoom

Dec 21 @ 9:30 a.m. *Church Council* meets on Zoom

Dec 22 @ 10:00 a.m. *Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service* (Zoom opens at 9:30 a.m.)

Dec 24 @ 6:30 p.m. *Christmas Eve Service at Hope* (Zoom invitation will be sent out on Dec 23)

The *Sunday service* and *Invitation to Zoom* will appear in your email on Saturday morning.

(I will be on holidays from Dec 27 - Jan 9. This UPDATE will resume on Wednesday, Jan 15)

The Lord is with us.

Pastor Terry