



Friends and Neighbors

Denver Friends Church

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The Season of "So Much" by Cassi Coleman, DFC Youth Pastor

When I think of the holiday season, I think of a rush and an energy that gets renewed in us every year. We might get excited to decorate for Thanksgiving and then we prepare. It takes a lot of work to prepare a large meal for many people. Hopefully you do not have to go to the store on Thursday for a last minute ingredient! Humans are everywhere!

And oh the CHOICES of sides! SO MANY choices. This year, I made a creamed corn casserole because I have been in a corny mood lately and I love alliteration. Think about your favorite side dish. Why is it your favorite dish? Is it because it tastes so good? Or is it because it is tradition to love it? Maybe another reason? Not everyone loves the traditional turkey for the main meat, but they eat it anyway just because it is tradition!

Fast forward to after Thanksgiving and past the family drama that may or may not have ensued! The Christmas music begins! Maybe you decorate for Christmas together at Thanksgiving. Maybe you wait until the next day. Maybe you do not decorate at all!

However, first our culture dictates that we must be set upon by numerous deals and sales for Christmas time to come! Whether you participate or not, there is an energy in the air that can be contagious! There is a busyness about us. There is "so much" to do. "So much" to prepare. "So much" EXTRA about this season and there is only "so much" time to get it all done. We ask each other, "What do you want for Christmas?" We usually say "want" and not "need". Christmas is a time of excess for many people!

We may feel so busy that we do not have time to rest. Or maybe we don't have the time to sit and have that talk with Jesus we have been meaning to have. Or sit and be still and allow our brain to slow down. Or go on a walk and enjoy God's creation. Our culture these days is so full of busyness all year round, we may forget to do this all of the time!

Have you ever walked outside while the snow is falling? Sometimes everything can be so quiet and still. The snow can blanket the earth and hushhhhhhhh the normal noises that we usually hear. Sometimes in that hush, we can hear other things that are normally much quieter. Like our own footsteps. Or we might hear a twig crack under an animal's foot. Or a bird song from far away. Or we hear silence.

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Denver Friends Church Business

Meeting—TONIGHT, November 29, a light meal will be served at 6:00 PM in the church parlor followed by the business meeting at 6:30. We will be approving the 2023 officers and committee members and the 2023 budget. Everyone is welcome.

The November and December Men's

Ministry Breakfast has been combined and will meet THIS Saturday, December 3 at 8:30 AM in the church parlor. All men are invited to join in the prayer, food and fellowship. Please RSVP to Phil Burgi.

Piano Recital—Come hear Annalynn Deeds, Maelyn and Rebekah Savery and Sam Jarvis playing piano in Sarah Dawson's annual holiday recital at Denver Friends Church. Also, Halee Savery will be singing Sarah's arrangement of, "I Wonder as I Wander". Saturday, December 10, 3:00 PM. See you there!

Volleyball is played on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month in the church gym. Anyone high school age or older is welcome to join us for a few games. We will be playing again December 12 at 6:45 PM.

Movie Night and Hot Chocolate—

Mark your calendar to join us in the parlor on Saturday, December 17 for a Movie Night! The movie will be, *The Star. The Story of the First Christmas*.

Thank you for your help with the Pen Friends Thanksgiving cards. It is time now to write in **Christmas cards** for those in local assisted living facilities. There is a box of blank Christmas cards you may use on the shelf under the table in the church foyer or you may provide your own. Deadline for cards is **December 18**. Thank you for your help! These seniors really appreciate hearing from us.

If you have questions, you may contact Terry Semones.

December/Christmas Events

Men's Breakfast—Saturday, December 3, 8:30 AM, DFC Parlor

CrossTrainers' Decorating Party—Saturday, December 3, 2:00 PM

Holiday Piano Recital—Saturday, December 10, 3:00 PM, DFC Sanctuary

Seekers' Class Party—Saturday, December 10, 5:00 PM, DFC Parlor

Movie Night and Hot Chocolate—December 17, 5:30 PM, DFC Parlor

Children's Christmas Program—December 18, 11:00 AM, DFC Sanctuary (No Christian Education classes)

Youth Christmas Party
December 22, 6:00 PM, Reeser home

Christmas Eve Service—Saturday, December 24, 5:00 PM, DFC Sanctuary

Christmas Day Fireside Worship—December 25, 10:30 AM, DFC Parlor

Church Office Closed—December 26

Let's have some fun while we have no heat!

Winter Themes for December 2022

- * **December 4 – Bring your favorite stadium/TV blanket**
- * December 11 – Wear your favorite Christmas socks
- * December 18 – Bring your favorite Christmas throw/blanket
- * December 24 – Wear your favorite warm Christmas sweater
- * December 25 – Wear your favorite warm Christmas apparel



It is not too late to turn in your green Missions' Partnership form. There are extra forms on the table in the church foyer. You can mail it to the church office or place it in the offering bag any Sunday.

Al-Anon—If you know of anyone who struggles with another person's drinking or drugs, please suggest they join us at 7:00 PM in the church parlor on Tuesday nights. Contact Marlene Pittman for more information.

Celebrate Recovery is a 12-Step program based on Christian principals. They meet at 6:00 PM on Fridays in the sanctuary. For more information or if you would like to help with this program, please contact Michelle Cordean.

Prayer time with the staff— Our prayer times on Mondays from 9:00-10:00 AM in the church annex have been such a great time of prayer, openness, and sharing. YOU are invited to join us as we pray for our staff, each other, and the Connect card requests.

Remember, you can donate online at www.denverfriendschurch.com. Click on the "donate" button on the top right of the home page. You can also mail your check to the church office or to our treasurer, Kay Burgi. We thank you so much for your continued giving. You are amazing, Denver Friends Church!

Refugees in the Middle East

Christians in Lebanon are still in need of our aid, especially in this time of COVID-19. Please give your \$1 or desired donation in the black box at the back of the sanctuary next time you are at the church. Thanks for supporting our brothers and sisters with the basics of life.

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The Season of "So Much", cont. from front page

What does silence really sound like? When distractions around you are turned off. When you step out of your normal routine. When your brain has calmed and you aren't thinking of all of that "so much". Can you then hear God's still, small voice in that silence?

This season, I want to encourage you to take time out to be still. Take time to be silent. Take time to quiet your mind and heart. Take a break from the "so much" that is happening.

As Quakers, we may know how to do silence well, but maybe we are out of practice. It is a good thing that practice makes perfect! Since we can't be perfect, we had better keep practicing. I urge you to find silence in your day to connect with God. The morning may be much easier than the evening, before "so much" enters your mind.

Our staff

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Other

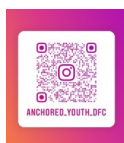
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Anchored Youth Instagram