



Dear Congregants,

Happy fall! We have a wonderful series of programs for youth and children in Faith Formation this fall. Mark your calendars for the Halloween, Day of the Dead and Christmas events in 2019.

If you are like me, reading the word, “Christmas” is a reminder that the days will fly by and Christmas will be here before you know it. The holiday season is often accompanied by a cultural focused on materialistic expectations to buy and feed the economy. And yet, December is also a special month when we are tasked with other priorities in our faith journey. At a time when we are called to pray and reflect as we move closer to Jesus’ birth, it is difficult to maintain our values while negotiating cultural expectations.

Now is the time to think about your values related to the holidays. On that note, I’m formulating a plan to give less material items to my 4-year old son, Kai. My hope is to focus on holiday activities and shared time with our family (family of origin and chosen family). With that in mind, I bought discount ticket to attend a performance of the Nutcracker, a tribute to my late aunt. As a child, Aunt Phyllis took me and my first and second cousins to the Nutcracker at Radio City Music Hall every year. I have fond memories of the experience and joyfully play the music every December. The Nutcracker remains the only ballet that I enjoy as an adult.

Kai may like the Nutcracker this year, or he may not. For me, it’s worth a try to add meaning to holiday gifts. Maybe it will become an annual event for us. I can’t say for sure but it is a solid first attempt at creating a holiday season that is meaningful and aligned with my values.

I know it feels early and I’m continually reminding you of the holidays in this letter. Take some deep breaths and then take some time to get in touch with your heart and your values. Reflecting on them now will lead to a holiday season that is more aligned with you and your family’s culture. Inevitably, your reflections will result in more care and love in your choices. What better model is there for our children?

Speaking of models, Eve Paris modeled leadership and contributed her time and talents to KCC over the summer. Thanks to her efforts and creativity, we have a new sign to welcome the congregation and community. I'm feeling some Mama pride right now...When you see Eve, be sure to thank her.



With much love and support for you,
Barbara