

# Hope Persists

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ~John 1:5*

As Christmas draws near and the pandemic drags on, many of us are beginning to feel the disappointment that we won't be able to enjoy some of our favorite Christmas traditions. But one thing we can still do is decorate for the season. We can put up Christmas trees and lights, nativities, and other decorations that bring a spark of hope to our community. And First Pres wants to turn your outdoor Christmas decorations into a project we're calling "Hope Persists."

## What is the "Hope Persists" Project?

"Hope Persists" is a project to bring tangible signs of hope to our community during a socially-distanced Christmas season. First, we want to scatter "Hope Persists" signs all over the community. And second, we want to publish a driving-tour map of "Hope Persists" homes for people to visit and be inspired by our sense of hope.

## How can I participate?

There are three ways to participate:

1. Pick up a "Hope Persists" sign to put in your front yard or window during Advent (pickup at the church on Nov 28 or 29—[see sign-up page](#) for details);
2. [Sign up to be a "Hope Persists" home](#) (details below); and
3. Take the self-guided tour between December 18-25

## What do the "Hope Persists" homes need to do?

Those who sign up to be a "Hope Persists" home will be a stop on the driving tour. They will decorate the outside of their homes/front yards for the tour dates—December 18-25. Between those dates, people will drive by your home (staying in their cars) to enjoy your display. Displays can include traditional Christmas lights and decorations, but the idea is that at least some aspect of the display speaks to the theme of "Hope Persists." To put it another way, the displays answer the question: *What gives you hope this Christmas season?* Each home will provide a brief description of what gives them hope. Each home is responsible for its own decorations, but the church will provide some design materials and other technical support.

## When will the tour happen?

"Hope Persists" decorations will be on display between December 18-25. The church will publish a map of the homes with instructions for a self-guided driving tour.