



The Herald

RUMC Newsletter

December 2020
Issue No. 1296

"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6





Dear Rockville Family and Friends,

Finally, we are beginning our Christian year anew as we move into the season of Advent-Christmas. What are your Christmas preparations? Are you getting excited about welcoming the family or travelling to your parents or grandparents?

Everybody knows that Christmas 2020 won't be like any other Christmas. As the church, we are supposed to be busy preparing for the Christmas Pageant, the Men's Club Christmas Supper, celebrating a Family Christmas with Santa Claus, and a Candlelight service on Christmas Eve. Yet, at this moment the Pandemic has "spiked" and we are forced to be stuck close to home once again. As good citizens of our country as well as God's children, we must respect the rules of social distancing for the safety and health of all in our communities.

Does that mean Christmas this year is ruined? I sure hope not. If we consider Christmas as a holiday or a party, then yes, the situation may be cause for disappointment and lament. Then we totally misunderstand the true meaning of Christmas. In the biblical perspective, Christmas is a divine gift that God has given us in Jesus Christ – Emmanuel—"God with us!" **No matter what, Christ has come, Christ is coming, and Christ will come again.** In the biblical perspective, therefore, we are called to celebrate the birth of the Savior and prepare for his second coming into our world in the midst of darkness.

Christmas this year may be a "blue" Christmas to people all over the world. But since we know the point of Christmas, we will still celebrate. During this joyful season, we will light the Advent candles in our sanctuary each week, the candles of hope, peace, joy and love; we will continue to gather together online for our worship, fellowship, and meetings. (Our worship team is now working hard to prepare for a Candlelight service in a very creative way). We will be generously supporting our community. (Kathy Sunderland and Amy Velásquez are once again chairing the Holiday Gift Fund). Due to Covid-19 they are requesting monetary donations only, to be used to provide items on a "Wish List" from New Hope House Shelter in Rockville.

Of course, I know that we still want to come together in this joyful season to sing together, eat together, and worship together. **But this Advent and Christmas season, we simply can't do that and remain safe. But this is what I am going to do for you: I will keep you all in my heart and prayers every day.** I also ask you to pray for each other and reach out to our families through phone calls, emails, and cards, so that we can feel like we are gathering together in God's love. **In doing so, we can still celebrate Christmas and let the Light shine in our hearts, in our communities, and in our world.**

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love
Pastor Cheol





During Advent, we emphasize Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, which God sent with Christ.

HOPE. We have an inheritance reserved in heaven, a living hope through the resurrection of Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3-5).

PEACE. We will love life and see good days if we turn from evil and do good and if we seek peace, for the Lord watches over the righteous and hears their prayers (3:10-12).

JOY. We have inexpressible joy even though we have trials because our faith is being tested and proven genuine. The end of this faith is the salvation of our souls (1:6-9).

LOVE. We can love one another with a pure heart because we have been born again through the Word of God which lives and abides forever (1:22-23).



Because Christ came the first time, we can live with hope, peace, joy, and love until He comes again.

Children's Message

The (Empty) Stable: Waiting for Jesus Then and Now



Right now we are beginning the season of Advent. At the end of Advent is Christmas. The word “advent” means “coming.” It is the season when we remember the coming of Jesus Christ, God’s only son, into the world.

Have you ever waited for something for a long time? God’s people had been waiting for a very long time for God to send a Savior to them and keep all of his promises. That Savior was Jesus—who was born long ago in a stable in Bethlehem. The baby Jesus would grow up to save all of God’s people.

Yet that is not all of the good news. It was God’s plan to send Jesus to the world twice. He came long ago and he is coming back again. Like the people of Israel, we are waiting for him to come. Jesus, thank you for coming down into our world! As we learn about your coming help us to see what you have done for us. Help us to be ready for you to come again. Amen.

Bible Readings: Psalm 130; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18



HOLIDAY GIFT FUND

As with every aspect of our lives, 2020 is forcing us to make a change to the annual Holiday Gift Fund program. We will not be able to coordinate specific gifts nor sponsor individual families this year. However, in an effort to continue this long-standing tradition of RUMC, we will instead be providing items of need at the New Hope House shelter in Rockville.

How can you help? We are asking only for monetary donations this year. Checks can be made payable to 'Holiday Gift Fund' and sent to the church. All funds received will be used to provide items on a 'Wish List' we have received from New Hope House.

If you would like to support this project, please do so by Friday, December 11th. This will allow time to determine available funds; time for shopping; and delivery.

Any questions, please reach out. As always, many thanks for your support!

Kathy Sunderland & Amy Velásquez



Many Thanks to Amy and Kathy for managing the Holiday Gift Fund once again this year!

Special Request from the SPRC Team

I'd like to take a moment to wish you a very Merry Christmas on behalf of the entire SPRC team (Wayne Badstuebner, Steve Chisenhall, Lorraine White, Michelle Yoder Gerow and myself)!

As members of the Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) one of our responsibilities is to stay in touch and in tune with you (the congregation) on what's going well and what we can be doing better. Please consider sending us the gift of feedback this Holiday season on what's going great and maybe also what you'd like to see us (Staff and Church leadership) improve on in the upcoming year. Please send your thoughts to me at geoffgerow@gmail.com Thanks so much!!



Merry Christmas!!
Geoff Gerow, SPRC Chair

Many Thanks to Carol Robbins, Judie Culy and Ann Chisenhall for preparing the offering envelopes for distribution!



VIRTUAL CANDLE-LIGHTING CEREMONY CHRISTMAS EVE 2020

YOU WILL NEED:

- A smartphone, tablet -- or a friend/family member with a smartphone or tablet
- A well-lit area
- A stable space to prop your device when recording, or a steady hand on a friend/family member
- 2 candles:
 - Any candle that is lit, out of sight, and to your left
 - A taper candle, or a Christmas Eve candle
- To brush/comb your hair
- To be fully dressed
- A smile!

RECORDING YOURSELF:

Using an iPhone:

Go to your camera

1. **Slide your camera options to 'video'**
2. To record yourself, rather than what is in front of you, go to the circle of arrows on the bottom right
3. Prop the phone up in a stable position so that we can see your upper body and face!
4. Press the red circle on the bottom to begin recording -- **don't worry about mistakes or empty time** -- we can edit that out
5. Follow video directions below

Using an iPad:

1. Go to your camera
2. **Tap 'video'**
3. Tap the camera icon with the arrows in it, next to the red circle. **This will turn your camera on you, rather than what's in front of you.**
4. Tap the red circle on the side to begin recording - **don't worry about mistakes or empty time** - we can edit that out
5. Follow video directions below

Using an Android:

1. Go to camera
2. Slide to right to use video option
3. Tap middle circle to start recording when ready
4. Record your video
5. Tap middle circle again to stop recording when finished
6. Go into Gallery app
7. Open Gallery; choose the video
8. **Choose share (looks like a sideways "V") to share it**
9. Choose email option; send to rumcmusic2009@gmail.com

RECORDING WITH OTHER PEOPLE? Follow the same directions as above, EXCEPT for turning the camera on yourself -- your friend/family member can take the recording!

VIDEO DIRECTIONS:

1. Light the unseen candle to your left
2. To make this work, we need you to go in a left-to-right direction
3. Hold your taper/Christmas Eve candle in front of you
4. When recording starts, wait a few seconds
5. Turn to your left and light your Christmas candle from the unseen candle on your left
6. Bring your Christmas candle in front of you and hold for 3 seconds
7. Look into camera -- smile or say something - a greeting, Merry Christmas, etc
8. Turn to your right, holding your Christmas candle upright, and act as if you are passing your light to someone on your right
9. Stop recording
10. **With any device, you can see your video and do over if you'd like**
11. Please keep in mind: **it's very easy to edit out mistakes, giggling, etc.** Just wait a few seconds before starting over
12. **When you're satisfied with your video, it's time to send it to us!**

TO SEND VIDEO:

1. Open the video on your device
2. If using an iPhone or iPad:
 - a. **Go to the square with the arrow coming out of it to 'share'**
 - b. **Tap the 'mail' option**
 - c. Type in our email address: rumcmusic2009@gmail.com
 - d. Tap the arrow at the top right to send



Need Help with your video??
Check out Geoff's instructions at:
<https://youtu.be/9DJrXiGymNk>

THANK YOU!

2020 Gift Fund for Our Talented RUMC Staff

With the Christmas season right around the corner, its time to send a big thank you to our very talented staff for all of their hard work during an incredibly challenging year (Pastor Cheol, Karen Stearns, Linda Shivers, Janice Klingman and Stan Culy)



Please join me and consider making a Christmas gift contribution for our staff this year. Send your donation to the Church office with a note that it's toward the 2020 Christmas staff gift fund. Thanks so much!

Geoff Gerow, SPRC Chair

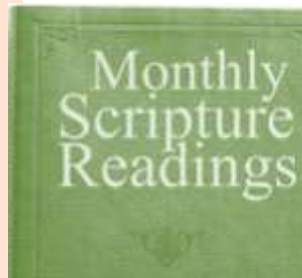


BIRTHDAYS

Amy Conyers	December 2	Heather McPeck	December 15
Serena Travers	December 2	Leah Corne	December 28
George Klingman	December 4	Roger LaChance	December 29
Jadalyse St. John	December 7	Carol Aronson	December 30
Anna Gerow	December 8	Bobby Williams	December 31
Donna Badstuebner	December 13		
Stan Culy	December 14		



December 6
 Isaiah 40:1-11
 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
 2 Peter 3:8-15a
 Mark 1:1-8
 December 13
 Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 Psalms 126
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 John 1:6-8, 19-28
 December 20
 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16;
 Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27
 Luke 1:26-38
 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
 Matthew 25:14-30



December 24
 Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 98; Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-20
 December 25
 Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98
 Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14
 December 27
 Isaiah 61:10-62:3
 Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7
 Luke 2:22-40
 December 31
 Ecclesiastes 3:1-13;
 Psalm 8; Revelations 21:1-6a
 Matthew 25:31-46



Our Church Family

Phyllis King (Covid)
Joanne Stenger—Covid
Sara Stenger—Covid
Ann Chisenhall
Marie Pierce
Ray Clark

Other Concerns:

- Lorraine White, and family, on the death of her sister, Barbara
- Mary Surette, surgery (granddaughter of Janice & George Klingman)
- Diane Lajoie on the death of her Dad
- Family of Rosalie Rixham, sister of Dana Robertson
- Cassity Kerstetter (niece of Dave Saunders—beginning Boot Camp)
- **Peter McCarthy (Wayne Badstuebner's nephew)**
- Dr. Belinda Forbes, hurricanes in Nicaragua
- Ray Benner, medical issues (brother of Janice Klingman)
- Bob Hornbecker
- Family of Pete Carlin
- Carol Macri—Medical Concern
- Ruth Roberts—continued healing from knee surgery
- Paula Herlihy and her parents, Ed and Rosemary Ostafi
- Rev. Herbert Chisenhall—**Steve's Dad/Recovery from stroke**
- Emily Rushton, Don Corne, Chelsea Whitney, Glen Stambo, Alyssa Walters, Craig Stearns, Scott Gay, Al Laflamme Nancy Beimler, Margaret Wilkie and all medical professionals and healthcare workers affected by the virus.
- **Lorna (Emily Rushton's aunt) cancer**
- Teachers and Students
- Those who are lonely

In Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Limited Mobility

Shirley Edwards—Brookdale SW
Janet McKercher—White Oaks
Norine Veal—Woodlake
Phyllis King—Vernon Manor
June Latkofsky
Esther Harris
Irene Surette

Those in Christian Service

Dr. Belinda Forbes
Accion Medica Christiana,
Managua, Nicaragua
Pastor Kristin White,
Green Street UMC,
Augusta, ME





Rockville United Methodist Church
 142 Grove Street
 Rockville Vernon, CT 06066

RETURN SERVICE
 REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

US POSTAGE PAID
 VERNON, CT
 PERMIT NO. 112

Dated Material—Please Deliver Promptly

	<p>Rockville United Methodist Church</p> <p>Services also provided on YouTube and Facebook. (If you would like to receive a link, please call the church office.)</p> <p>Office Hours 10am-2pm Tuesday-Friday</p>	
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Our Mission Statement

Rockville United Methodist Church is a people seeking to be faithful to God; by reaching out to all, inviting each to a relationship with God, nurturing each in the love of Jesus Christ and sending everyone back into the world to minister in God's name.



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Rev. SeokCheol Shin, Pastor
 Karen Stearns, Music Director
 Linda Shivers, Director of Christian Education
 Rev. Stan Culy (Retired)
 Dr. Belinda Forbes, Missionary to Nicaragua