



Food Bank Needs

- Canned milk
- Canned pumpkin
- Pancake mix
- Toilet paper

Please place donations in the grocery cart in the foyer. Thank you!

Celebrations

Birthdays

- 12/7 Faye Sanford
- 12/8 Susanna Fleming
- 12/11 Bill Fulton
- 12/11 Neil Lockwood
- 12/12 Al Burgan
- 12/16 Khloe Stewart
- 12/17 Dawn Ratcliff
- 12/23 Joseph Snowden
- 12/24 Faith Graham
- 12/27 Jim Thompson
- 1/2 Sally Slind
- 1/3 Gwen Wakeman
- 1/4 Betty Thunder

Anniversaries

- 12/17 Bob and Betty Thunder
- 12/22 Bob and Joyce Allen

Waiting for a Promise

The season of Advent is upon us. There are special words that belong in this season. Some are part of our liturgy; others are personal.

Advent asks us to consider if we are ready and prepared to welcome “God with us.” In the stories in the Bible, the prophets, Mary, Joseph, the Israelites, the shepherds and wise men all hear commands from God as well as His promise that if we hear and respond, we are not alone. Lighting the Advent candles allows us to remember those scriptures and the special words as we look forward to Christmas Day.

HOPE. “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” *Isaiah 29:11*



Hope involves faith, trust, belief and expectation of a promise and in dreams of a fulfillment. We all have hopes and dreams in both our personal and spiritual lives. The Israelites hoped for the Messiah, that God and the prophets repeatedly promised them. We hope that the Messiah, Jesus, will continue to be our loving Savior and look forward to celebrating his birth each year.

PEACE. “Look! ... one who brings good tidings, who proclaims peace.” *Nahum 1:15*; “By the tender mercies of our God, the dawn on high will break upon us to give light ... to guide our feet in the way of peace.” *Luke 1:78-79*

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m.

Adult and Youth
Classes

10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time

11 a.m.

Worship Service

Christmas Eve Service Details

The Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be 5 p.m. on Dec. 24. If you would like to come and cannot drive at night, please call Roberta Hansen, and she will help arrange for someone from Redeemer to pick you up and bring you home. A sign-up sheet for this purpose also is located in the church lobby. Note: We will have a full service on Christmas Eve, so we will NOT have a service on Sunday, Christmas Day. Please enjoy your time with family and friends.

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“By the tender mercies of our God, the dawn on high will break upon us to give light ... to guide our feet in the way of peace.” *Luke 1:78-79*

Jesus is called the King of Kings and the Price of Peace. John the Baptist, who paved the way for Jesus, reminds the Israelites and us that the way of peace is the way of righteousness and forgiveness.

Joy. “But let all who take refuge in You rejoice, let them ever sing for joy ... so that those who love Your name may exult in You.” *Psalm 5:11*; “Although you have not seen Him, you love Him, and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy.” *1 Peter 1:8*

To know, hear and see God and His son, Jesus, is a cause for joy and celebration for all of us. The Kingdom of God in the form of the promised Messiah was great cause for rejoicing for the Israelites. Joy saturates the Advent season—and our lives.

Love. “But the steadfast love of the Lord is everlasting to everlasting.” *Psalm 103:17*; “...those who love me will be loved by my Father, and you in me and I in you.” *John 14:21*

Jesus was born to wrap the world’s sorrow in a blanket of love. We trust God’s plan for this and, in doing so, our trust decreases our fear and heals our lives. The Israelites hoped the Messiah would be the great king who would save the Jews and their land. He was more than that: His life and death offer forgiveness and everlasting love to all who believe in Him and accept Him into their lives.

BIRTH OF THE SAVIOR. “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 the Messiah, the Lord.” *Luke 2:10-11*

Christmas Day is our celebration of the birth of Jesus. This was a monumental occurrence that had far-reaching effects on the world and on millions and millions of people throughout the centuries. Advent is our preparation for this celebration.

Other words come to mind with Advent and Christ’s birth — among them, faith, patience, perseverance and unshakable belief. They all have the foundation of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. May this season of Advent be special to all of you.

■ Christmas Blessings, Roberta Hansen, Lay Leader



Prime Timers' Celebration

Prime Timers will meet for a Christmas party at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the home of Carol Moser. Please bring a salad to share. The rest of the food, drink and dessert will be provided by Carol. Hope to see you! If you need directions, please call Carol at (360) 297-5101. Note: We will have special entertainment by some Indianola neighbors.

Community Dinner News

RUMC and Faith Episcopal will provide the Community Dinner food this month. The dinner, to be held Dec. 30 at Bayside Church beginning at 5 p.m., will be an old-fashioned ham meal with scalloped potatoes. Watch for the sign-up sheet in service.

Ad Council Notes

The Nov. 20 Administrative Council meeting had a full agenda. Follow-up issues from the October Charge conference included: planning for updating background checks, doing a local church audit for 2016 and planning for 2017 election of officers. Ideally, the Council would like to have planned rotations for council positions, so we have more depth of experience and give more people the opportunity to serve.

It was discussed that our Internet service has been less than acceptable lately. It was decided to have Comcast come out and examine our setup to make sure we are getting optimal speed and reliability.

A recent inspection of our fire sprinkler service resulted in recommendations for repairs which will be done in the near future. Pastor Andrew presented information about the Methodist Foundation which holds one of our mortgages. If possible, we would like to retire this mortgage so we are left with just the mortgage held by the Board of Congregational Development.

Redeemer's sponsorship of the November Chamber of Commerce luncheon was well received. The Council authorized Redeemer's Chamber membership for another year. Plans to record sermons and update the directory continue to be ongoing. We will also be looking into obtaining an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for the building.

■ Susan Hougham, Ad Council Chair

Magical Strings Performs to Packed House



The Magical Strings concert on Nov. 27 at RUMC was one of the best ever performed by the group at the church, according to many concert-goers. The concert raised close to \$550 for the WEB program, which is almost three-fourths of the money needed for the program. Thank you on behalf of the Community Connections Team to all who helped set up, serve and clean up and to Tim Norris for his excellent audio help.

(Photo: Milton Wolf during the dress up parade, which is always a part of the Magical Strings concert experience.)

Advent Facts

The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in Advent, are used with one larger white candle in the middle as the “Christ” candle. Other churches prefer three purple or blue candles with one candle being rose or pink to represent joy. The Advent wreath began in the time of the Protestant reformer Martin Luther. (Info courtesy of www.umc.org).



9900 Shorty Campbell Road
Kingston, WA 98370
www.redeemer-umc.org

Office: (360) 297-4847

*Sharing God's Love
And Forgiveness
With North Kitsap*

Book Club Notes



Book Club met on Nov. 16 to discuss *A Sudden Light* by Garth Stein. The book, which is set in Seattle, brought up many issues — among them, family, loyalty, family dysfunction, conservation and environmental damage. The new book is *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery. It is nonfiction and written by a naturalist. It is very engaging. Please sign out a book to read if interested. We meet next time at 10 a.m. on Dec. 21.

■ **Happy Reading, Roberta Hansen**



Holiday Bazaar. Redeemer's Bazaar, Nov. 18 and 19, featured outside vendors and a variety of crafts. This balcony shot of vendor tables in the sanctuary was captured by Judith Ryan.

*BLESSINGS TO YOU AND YOURS FOR A
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!*