



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 24

- **10:00am, Combined Service** - In the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to worship in one combined service on this 4th Sunday of Advent.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

- **3:00pm, Contemporary Candlelight Service** - Live-streamed and in-person in Beacon Hall. Rev. Daniel F. Bogre is preaching. Live-streamers, please have your candle(s) ready to light at home.
- **5:00pm, Family Service** - In the sanctuary. The Christmas story told through the eyes of the children.
- **8:00pm, Traditional Candlelight Service** - In the sanctuary. Rev. Daniel F. Bogre is preaching.
- **11:00pm, Traditional Candlelight Service** - In the sanctuary. Fuller Sounds Handbell Choir playing; Rev. Daniel F. Bogre is preaching.

GIFTS OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES OLYMPIC BRASS - "Silver Bells"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 - 3:00 PM

Continuing a Christmas tradition, the *Olympic Brass* returns to our series for their "*Silver Bells*" holiday concert. This ever-popular ensemble, including RRUMC's own Amanda Bekeny, will combine their talents with organist Jeff Acker in a festive concert you don't want to miss. It's a treat for the entire family. No admission cost, but a free will offering will be taken. ***So please save the date and invite your friends!***



BLUE CHRISTMAS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

The holiday season is often a time filled with joy and celebration. However, for many, it can also be a time of profound sadness and longing, especially for those who carry the weight of loss in their hearts.

Recognizing this, Rocky

River United Methodist Church is honored to extend to you an invitation to our Blue Christmas Service.

Please join us on Monday, December 18, at 5:00pm in the Chapel, where we will gather for a gentle and contemplative service facilitated by Lay Minister Lynn Gorton and Pastor Lisa Thomas, with help from MaryElin Halek. Members of our worship team will also be there providing beautiful and meditative music to bring solace and peace to our hearts.

After the service, we invite you to the parlor, where light refreshments will be provided. This will offer an opportunity for quiet reflection and a chance to find solace in the company of others who understand.

At RRUMC, we understand that healing takes time, which is why we will be offering grief support starting early next year, a resource to provide comfort and understanding in your time of need.

We sincerely hope that you will join us for this special service, where we can come together as a community, offering each other comfort and understanding during this holiday season. You are not alone, and your presence will be a gift to us all.

Peace and Blessings this holiday season!



REFLECTIONS ...

by Rev. Daniel F. Bogre

Dear Friends and Family of RRUMC,

Happy Thanksgiving and merry Christmas. It is already that time of year. By the time you receive this issue of the Circuit Rider, we will already be into the Advent Bible study sign-ups, decorating the church for Advent, and getting ready to start lighting the Advent wreath in all of our Sunday morning services as well as on Saturday mornings at Story Church, our Cleveland campus.

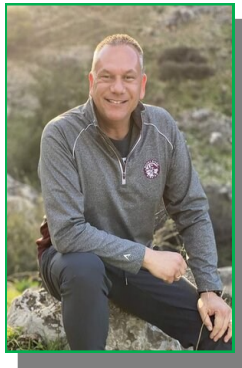
This Advent we will be using Susan Robb's book, *"The Angels of Christmas - Hearing God's Voice in Advent."* The book is described this way on the back cover, "The Angels of Christmas explores the angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds in the four-week Advent experience. In this study, the reader will explore the visits and dive deep into the history of the angel Gabriel and the other angels in the Bible. The messages of the angels hold meaning for listeners both then and now."

Please come and join one of the studies. Pastor Paul and I will also be preaching each week of Advent based on that week's chapter of the book along with the Scriptures that it uses for its foundation. We have focused before on Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the wisemen, but this will be the first time we dig deep into the words of the angels. What did they mean in the days of Jesus' birth and what do they mean to us now?

Maybe you have been away from church for a while. Maybe COVID got you out of the habit of regularly coming to church to see what God has to say to you each and every Sunday. You have been missed. Use Advent as the opportunity, the reason, and the rekindling of your faith as you approach the stable in Bethlehem this Advent season. We already know that Jesus is a part of your story. He always has been and he always will be. Will you come to be part of his birth story this Christmas season? Come back to church this Advent. The greatest gift you will ever receive is waiting for you this Christmas. It's a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Will you be there?

Merry Christmas,

Rev. Daniel F. Bogre



YEAR-END PLANNING: QCDS AND STOCK TRANSFERS to support your annual pledge or the endowment fund



by Lisa P. Sierk, Philanthropic Advisor, Director of Endowment Ministries

As you plan for your year-end charitable contributions, please keep in mind that there are several options for you to make a difference and help further the ministries of Rocky River United Methodist Church (RRUMC).

If you are 70 ½ or older, a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA is a way you can help continue the work of the Church. An IRA holder aged 70 ½ or over can transfer up to \$100,000 a year to a qualified charity or organization such as RRUMC. Normally, IRA distributions are taxable when received. However, with a QCD, the distribution is tax-free provided it is paid directly to the charity or qualifying organization. Additionally, QCDs count toward an IRA owner's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year if the owner is at least 72 years old.

If you are interested in helping to further the mission of RRUMC through a QCD, contact your IRA plan administrator to make the transfer from your IRA directly to RRUMC. The amount transferred will not be taxable to you. Likewise, you cannot take a charitable tax deduction for the QCD.

Another great way to make a difference while also potentially enjoying tax benefits is by donating appreciated stock to RRUMC. By donating appreciated stock that has been held for at least one year to RRUMC, you may be eligible for an income tax deduction based on the fair market value of the stock donated if you itemize deductions on Schedule A. Even if you do not itemize, by transferring the appreciated stock directly to RRUMC, you can avoid the capital gains taxes that would apply if you sold the shares. RRUMC does not have to pay capital gains tax on the gifted stock, so both you and RRUMC benefit from your generosity.

Questions? Contact Lisa Sierk at LSierk@RRUMC.org or 216.926.1702.

TOY SUNDAY! BLANKET SUNDAY! SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3!



In order to better serve our communities, this year we are excited to be bringing together collections for two incredible purposes in one day.

In prior years, the timing of Toy Sunday allowed us to plan for and provide toys in time for Christmas, however, Blanket Sunday was late January and distribution of blankets came after the cold weather was upon us.

This year, we will accept donations for both Toy Sunday and Blanket Sunday on December 3 at



RRUMC. The toys and blankets will be delivered to organizations which serve disadvantaged and underserved people in our immediate area. Some of the organizations are City

Mission, May Dugan, West Side Community House, and our Twice Blessed Free Store.

We are really excited to implement this new approach, and hope that it also serves each of you as another goal is to reduce stress and multiple trips to the store during this already chaotic time of year.



Last year we were able to collect and distribute 288 toys and books, and 88 blankets. We are looking forward to continue the generosity of this church in helping to meet people in the midst of their story.

WEST SHORE CHORALE CONCERT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

The West Shore Chorale is performing at RRUMC on Sunday, December 3, at 7:30pm. The title of the performance is *"Joyful Voices, Jubilant Sounds!"* The ticket price is \$20 for all attendees except for students who are free. Tickets may be purchased at the door or through our website: <https://www.westshorechorale.org/performances/next-performance/>.



2024 FLOWER CALENDAR

Honor someone, celebrate an event, or remember deceased loved ones by signing up to provide altar flowers on a first-come, first-served basis on the calendar outside the Church Office.



Sign up, order flowers from the florist of your choice, then let the Church Office know how you would like the announcement to read in the bulletin. After worship, take your flowers home or leave them for others to enjoy. Questions? Contact Sheri Swartz at SSwartz@rrumc.org or 440.331.7676 ext. 228.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES (POINSETTIAS)



ORDERS DUE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

We offer opportunities for you to remember or honor family and friends at Christmas. Complete and mail or bring this form to the **Church Office** by **Sunday, December 3**, with your check made out to "RRUMC." The remembrance list will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins. **Plants cost \$10 each.** If you have any questions call the Church Office at 440.331.7676.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE PRESENTED BY:

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Number of plants being ordered: _____ x \$10 = \$ _____

Donation to Church Flower Fund: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

We will not be delivering poinsettias to the homebound this year, so please take your poinsettias home after the 11:00pm Christmas Eve Service. You can also pick them up on Wednesday-Friday of the week after Christmas.

LYDIA CIRCLE CHRISTMAS POTLUCK & ORNAMENT SALE INFORMATION



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Join Lydia Circle on Thursday, December 14, at 12:00pm, for a salad potluck lunch. The program is making blessing bags for the Twice Blessed Free Store. Place settings and beverages will be provided. Questions? Contact MaryElin at 440.773.6569.

United Methodist Women has Christmas ornaments for sale again this year. Beautiful gold ornament of the church. They are \$10.00 each or two for \$15.00. We also have stationery with a picture of the church on it for \$5. Both are available in the Church Office. Please pay with exact change or a check made out to "Rocky River UMW".



UPWARD SPORTS

**LAST DAY TO REGISTER -
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15.
COACH/REFEREE TRAINING
- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

Upward Season: RRUMC is excited to be starting the 2024 Upward season. Upward is a sports ministry offering basketball and cheerleading to youth in Kindergarten (age 5) through 6th grade. The **last day to register is December 15**, and can be done online at <https://www.rumc.org/upward>. Teams practice one day per week and play a game on Saturdays. Practices will start January 8 and the games will run every Saturday beginning January 20 and ending March 9, with a celebration party following the season (date TBD). Scholarships are available.

Information about opportunities to volunteer will be available at <https://www.rumc.org/upward>. Volunteers of all ages are welcome and appreciated.

Upward Coach/Referee

Training: All Upward coaches and referees, please mark your calendars for mandatory training on **Thursday, November 30, from 6:30-8:30pm in the café**. If you're interested in potentially being a referee, please sign up on the church's Upward page (<https://www.rumc.org/upward>) using the volunteer link.

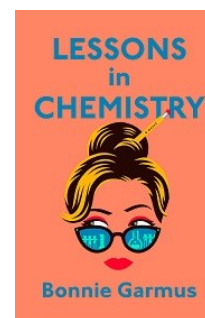
Please direct questions to Vanessa Wagner at upwardrumc@yahoo.com.



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10,
10:00AM**

Join us on Sunday, December 10, at the 10:00am Sanctuary Service for our annual Christmas Cantata, "The Four Old English Carols," by Gustav Holst, performed by the RRUMC Chancel Choir.



BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Join us on Thursday, December 14, at 10:00am at the church as we discuss "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. Questions? List of future books? Contact Bruce Biggin at brbiggin@netscape.net or

216.544.5980. Always happy to see new faces, and regular attendance is not required.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

Attention caregivers, if you are caring for a loved one and would like to meet with others from our church family in a similar role, please join our support group led by Marcia Hesselgrave and Leann Hofelich. Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 18, at 6:00pm. Light refreshments will be served. Questions? Contact Lynn Gorton, FCHP, at LGorton@rumc.org.



LGBTQA+ SUPPORT GROUP

**THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 28**

LGBTQA+ Support Group is a ministry of the Rocky River UMC which provides a safe space for members of the LGBTQA+ community and their friends and family to share their joys and concerns in a safe and confidential space. Meetings are held monthly on the 4th Thursday (usually) alternating every month on Zoom or in-person. On Thursday, December 28, at 7:00pm, **we'll meet on Zoom**. Questions or to receive the Zoom link? Please contact Mark Brandt at brandt486@gmail.com or Rev. Laurie Bruce at labruce83@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

by **Quinn Bennett** at QBennett@rrumc.org

This fall has been a very busy one for the children's ministry at RRUMC. We have been keeping busy serving our community and enjoying fellowship.

What better way to say thank you than to show you what we have been doing (see photos). In September, we started our year off making 75 cups of hot cocoa in mugs for the TBFS. We filled bags with homemade cocoa and topped them off with marshmallows and a peppermint stick. We got a little dirty with this one but it was just part of the experience.

As we got into October, with the amazing help of the church, we were able to pack 100 bags of food for the NEOCH (North East Ohio Coalition for the Homeless). Thanks to RRUMC's support, NEOCH was able to make a considerable difference in the lives of our fellow sisters and brothers on the streets. Thank you for always supporting us in our adventures in servanthood. [Editor's note: photos of this event were included in the November 2023 Circuit Rider.]

Tables and Treats was a huge success as around 600 people came through our doors that night. We had 37 tables, an all-time high, decorated and ready for the trick or treaters that came. The Polston Family won Best Table with their Harry Potter themed table. Our runner up, also Harry Potter themed, was created by Kaiya Mayich, Brynn Bennett, and Rachel and Emily Harry. Third Place was a tie between the Frindt (pirate theme) and Loyd (dinosaurs theme) families. It was exciting and thrilling to watch people laugh and dance the night away. We had so many people come through the doors of our church. We hope next year you will join us as it was just a blast for everyone involved.



Tables and Treats



Tables and Treats

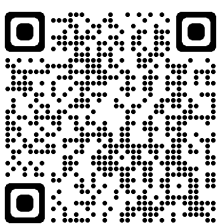


We re-enforced our amazing attitudes of servanthood as we took a whole Sunday to write to two servicemen in boot camp. One was our own Alex Lenhart.

The fall has been a busy time of year, and we will finish out our fall service opportunities on November 19 with another TBFS mission of making tie-blankets



writing letters



Mission Possible, Sunday, December 10, 4:00pm. Donations Needed.

In December, we will once again work to help the NEOCH by assembling packages filled with space blankets, hats, gloves, socks, and of course a Christmas treat. Once again, we would love your help. Go to https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/l/3CPDI55UDFG3V/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2 or just use your phone and follow the QR code to see our wish list. With your help, I know that this church will once again do its part in bringing Christ to those outside of our doors. You are also invited to help with the packing on Sunday, December 10, at 4:00pm.

Thank you for always supporting the Children's Ministry at RRUMC. Without your help, a lot of this would not even be possible. We hope you appreciate the joy-filled faces that each of you helped to inspire.

GREETINGS FROM TWICE BLESSED FREE STORE AND STORY CHURCH

As we find ourselves immersed in the magical spirit of this holiday season, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible journey we have shared throughout this past year. Looking back on the last 11 months, I am overwhelmed by the wonderful memories we have created here at TBFS and Story Church!

We started the year off with a spring in our step, organizing our annual Easter Egg Hunt that brought smiles to the faces of so many children. The awesome energy of our first ever block party echoed through the streets this past summer, as we helped foster a sense of unity and togetherness in our neighborhood. The backpack giveaway was a resounding success, equipping students with the tools they need to thrive in their education. And the on-going updates to our beautiful building have been a testament to our unwavering commitment to serving the community and creating a nurturing space for all.

Now, as we prepare to celebrate the most joyous occasion of the year, our hearts are brimming with excitement for our upcoming Christmas Party! This event will be filled with wonder and awe as Santa Claus joins us to spread Christmas cheer. The joy of giving will come alive as we present each child with a Christmas gift. Our overwhelming gratitude goes to Leann Hofelich and the wonderful people at Dollar Tree for donating over 500 small toys for this occasion!! We are truly blessed by their loving kindness.

Friends, as we look ahead to the new year, we are filled with hope and enthusiasm. We are excited and eager to continue our journey of helping people meet Christ in the midst of their story here at our second campus, Story Church.

Wishing all of you a Christmas filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories! May the peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding be with you always this holiday season!

With heartfelt thanks and warm wishes,
Lisa Thomas, Director, Twice Blessed Free Store



Link-Up Bike Ministry

In 2023 we donated over **200** bicycles to guests at Story Church, neighbors around the shop, and more! Thanks for your continued support!

The Link-Up Bike Ministry continues to serve people in need of dependable transportation and two-wheel enjoyment. We'd love to have you join our team of volunteer mechanics (no previous experience necessary). Additionally, we're always in need of used bicycles and parts to keep our inventory flowing. If you're able, we also appreciate any financial support to help stock our shelves with needed parts. Email Matt or Don at linkupbikeministry@gmail.com.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The Church and Church Office will be closed for the Christmas holiday, December 25-26 and for the New Year's Holiday, January 1. Several staff members will be taking time off during the holiday season so please call ahead before stopping by the church. Offerings received after the close of business (4:00pm) on December 29 will be recorded as 2024 giving. May God's blessings be with you during the Advent season and throughout the new year!



YOUTH MINISTRIES

by *Steven Young* at SYoung@rrumc.org

Crossroads Youth Schedule for December

3	Crossroads 7:00-8:30pm	24	No Crossroads
10	Crossroads 7:00-8:30pm	31	No Crossroads
17	Christmas Party 7:00-9:00pm		

Youth Christmas Party SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17



Calling all youth from 6th to 12th grade! You are invited to join us for a festive celebration on December 17th from 7pm to 9pm. We will have food and games, and we will also do a white elephant gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift that is no more than 10 dollars and appropriate for anyone. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and have a good time. Don't miss it!



NEW GROUPS STARTING IN JANUARY

Empty Nest Euchre Group - Provides support and opportunity to venture into new friendships within the context of regular **Euchre** nights held at RRUMC. For those

who do not know how to play Euchre, instruction will be provided. Both singles and couples are welcome. We will meet every other week starting Wednesday, January 10, from 7:00-9:00pm. Please direct questions to Nina Milenius at milenius@cox.net. More information will be included in the January Circuit Rider.

Cooking Study Group - Will meet on Monday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm starting on January 8. Look for more details in the bulletins and the January Circuit Rider. Contact Janice Perry at jbperry04@gmail.com with questions.

2024 MARY ANNE & RICHARD CAVICCHI CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SEMINAR



SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024, 4:00-7:30PM

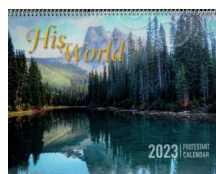


The presenter/facilitator is Rev. Joy Fenton-Jones, Pastor of First Christian Church, Cuyahoga Falls. Rev. Fenton-Jones will be using Robert Linthicum's book **"Transforming Power: Biblical Strategies for Making a Difference in Your Community"** to introduce attendees to specific steps and actions that empower people of faith to stand up to injustice in a responsible manner to move toward God's intended best for

communities and the world. Attendees will do relational meetings in pairs and participate in group discussion sharing. Meal provided. Attendees may come in-person or join on Zoom. No cost to attend. Questions? Contact cavicchichristianed@gmail.com.

2024 ZEIS-MCGREEVEY CALENDARS

Pick up a 2024 calendar on the information table by the pastors' offices, in the Church Office, by the Chapel, and in the Gathering Area. When this Circuit Rider went out, we did not yet have the calendars, but they should arrive soon.



December Anniversaries

(50 or more years and those in five-year increments)

12/19	Louise & Howard Hoehn	64
12/21	Jeane & John Allen	55
12/22	Linda & Chuck Roberts	61
12/25	Elaine & John Miller	58

December Birthdays

(90 years or more)

12/13	Howard Hoehn	91
12/16	Barbara Gurney	94
12/18	William Chitty	91
12/21	Arlene Polen	90
12/25	Jean Stell	98

In Sympathy

Gail & Paul Fussner, in the passing away of her mother, Lois Jellison, on October 15.

Family & friends of Anne Esarove who passed away on November 12.

New Members

Please welcome Barbara Clayton, Heather Englander, Dave Goerlich, David Ragone, Lorraine Riebel, Jeanette Rothacker, Amy Thorne, Jason Thorne, and Vanessa Wagner who were received into membership on October 22 at the 10:00am Sanctuary Service. Also, welcome Quinn Bennett, Shane Peterson, Megan Stemple, and Cathy Tasse who were received into membership at the 8:30am Chapel Service on October 29.

Thank You

Thank you notes were received from World Vision, thanking us for our gift (VBS children's donations and congregational donations) and from the UMC's Board of Global Ministries for our congregation's support of Belinda Forbes, missionary.



**CHRISTIAN
STRESS
MANAGEMENT**
LYNN GORTON

CHRISTIAN STRESS MANAGEMENT

by Lynn Gorton, CLM, Faith Community Health Professional

Last month, we spoke of anxiety that often comes in the season of autumn due to the physical lack of sunlight and continued stressors placed on our bodies. This month, we approach this topic by recognizing some of the symptoms of stress and anxiety and the acknowledgement of leaning toward the healing power of the Lord.

This doesn't take away our need for medical help from professional counselors or medications from our doctors. What it can do is help us to pour some much-needed dependency back on God and allow us to find a biblical response to stress in conjunction with traditional medicine.

Most often we are people who sweat the small stuff, and this can be difficult as it will dictate our stress responses. Our physical body takes over and symptoms begin to develop:

- Crying spells or bursts of anger.
- Over-eating or under-eating.
- Losing interest in daily activities.
- Increase in physical distress symptoms such as headaches or stomach pains.
- Fatigue.
- Feeling guilty, helpless, or hopeless.
- Avoiding family and friends.

The most stressful season in life comes at a moment when we realize we can't do it all. We become reminded of our human finiteness and fallibility. Instead of becoming panicked and filled with anxiety, perhaps we can breathe in a deep sigh of relief. **Recognize that we are unable to do it all and that we don't have to...**we are not enough, **but Christ is!** If the Creator of the universe loves us enough to die and take away all our sins, then He cares about the pressures of life that bear down on us daily. We can lean into the knowledge of the deep and providing calm that Christ has for each of us...one problem at a time.

Beginning to mediate the stress in our lives requires taking a good look at ourselves. If you count yourself in the 70 percent of stressed out, tired, irritable Americans, take a few minutes to ask yourself these questions:

- What are the primary sources of my stress?
- How often do I pray about the factors in my life causing me stress?
- Do I trust God with my work, finances, health, relationships, and future?
- What effects does my stress have on my loved ones?

After carefully answering these questions... go to the Good Book. Scripture gives us reference to go to God...pour out yourself, like a drink offering on His altar, and you will find His peace and perfect rest.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." - Matthew 11:28-30

We cannot understand why we are allowed to carry so much stress. Yet, when we trust in the Lord, we will be guided through the trials of the journey.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths." - Proverbs 3:5-6

*Dear Father, thank you for who you are in my life. For as many stars as there are in the sky is your deep and unfailing love for me. This season of the year can be so challenging. I bring to you my troubles and hurts, my joys and thanksgivings, along with my stress and anxiety about what may happen tomorrow. You have promised to never leave nor forsake me. You are the shining light on which I rely. Allow me to find Scripture verses on which to stand. Cover me with the shelter of your wings as my refuge and strength. Help me surrender what holds me back to stand up in the face of uncertainties and anxiety. Make your presence known as I move ahead. Thank you for always listening to my prayers. In your mighty name, amen.

For more information, please contact Lynn Gorton CLM, FCHP LGorton@rrumc.org.

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

by Aaryn Holland & Margery Wanosik, Co-Directors, rumns@gmail.com



Good Morning Rocky River United Methodist Congregation,

The Nursery School has been a busy place the past few months. October brings the excitement of Halloween for the children, and this year was no different. Pumpkin crafts, Wacky Wednesday, and trick or treating through the church, filled our days and before we knew it, November was right around the corner.

The school uses a scaffolding approach to introducing the letters to the students. The Pre3's class introduces the children each week to the next letter and does simple age-appropriate activities to enhance their learning. The 3's classes go a little bit further and begin to practice writing out the letters each week. PreK does all of these lessons too, but a bit more in-depth as well as teach the sound of each letter. Learning through play is an important layer of our school. Each day brings different joys and challenges. The teachers must adjust, pivot, and change on a minute's notice to meet the needs of each child and each situation.

November is a fast month, as there are several days when we do not meet. Thanksgiving and gratitude fill our days. We look forward to our fruit feast and say a blessing to thank God for our teachers, classmates, and our families. We then turn the corner quickly and Christmas thoughts and plans begin to fill our heads. Christmas is such a magical time; especially from the child's point of view. There is such wonder and excitement. Our school feels this, embraces this, and tries to enhance the season with many books, art projects, and activities that the students partake in at each grade level. RRUMNS hopes your season of Christmas is filled with hope and joy. Be kind to one another and let a child bring a little Christmas joy into your life.



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DATED MATERIALS - PLEASE RUSH
Mailed November 21, 2023

Ministry

Daniel F. Bogre, Senior Pastor
Paul A. Bennett, Associate Pastor
Sheri B. Swartz, Director of Church Ministries
Quinn E. Bennett, Director of Children's Ministries
Lisa P. Sierk, Director of Endowment Ministries
Steven M. Young, Director of Youth Ministries
Lisa Thomas, Twice Blessed Free Store Director
Lynn K. Gorton, Faith Community Health Professional
Vanessa Wagner, Sports Ministry Coordinator

Music Ministry

Jeffrey A. Acker, Organist
Matthew Dolan, Director of Music
Carmen G. Massaro, and Lynn Young, Handbell Choirs
Robert W. Kimmel, Harbor Worship Leader

Mission Ministry

Dr. Belinda Forbes, Managua, Nicaragua

Deadline for January Circuit Rider:
Wednesday, December 6, 2023

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE STORY!

SAVE THESE LATE NOVEMBER & DECEMBER DATES

Nov. 26 & Dec. 3, 10, 17 - Advent Study (Sunday - Wilson)
Nov. 26 & Dec. 3 (rehearse), Dec. 10 (play) - Joyful Sounds Handbell Choir
Nov. 27 & Dec. 4, 11, 18 - Advent Study (at the Normandy)
Nov. 27 & Dec. 4, 11, 18 - Advent Study (Monday - Lutz)*
Nov. 28 & Dec. 5, 12, 19 - Advent Study (Tuesday - Gorton)
Nov. 29 & Dec. 5, 12, 19 - Advent Study (Wednesday morning - Reece) & (Wednesday evening - Bogre)
Nov. 28 - RiverMen
Nov. 30 - LGBTQA+ Support Group
Nov. 30 - Upward Referee/Coach Training
Dec. 2, 9, 16 - TBFS Open
Dec. 3 - Blanket and Toy Sunday, Communion Sunday
Dec. 3, 10, 17, 31 - Open Gym Basketball
Dec. 3 - West Shore Chorale Concert
Dec. 3, 10, 17 - Confirmation Class
Dec. 3, 10, 17 (party) - Crossroads Youth
Dec. 3, 10, 17 - Disciple IV Bible Study
Dec. 3, 10, 17 (practice); Dec 24 evening (play) - Fuller Sounds Handbell Choir
Dec. 4, 11, 18 - Women's Fellowship Group*
Dec. 4, 11, 18 - Disciple I Bible Study
Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26 - Men's Prayer Group
Dec. 6, 13, 20 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 - Thursday Morning Breakfast Group

Dec. 7, 14 - Genesis to Revelation Bible Study
Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 - Harbor Worship Rehearsal
Dec. 10 - Christmas Cantata
Dec. 10 - Mission Possible
Dec. 14 - Book Club
Dec. 14 - Lydia Circle UMW Christmas Potluck
Dec. 14 - Shawl Ministry
Dec. 16 - Story Church Christmas Kid's Party
Dec. 17 - Gifts of Music: Olympic Brass
Dec. 17 - Crossroads Youth Christmas Party
Dec. 18 - Caregiver Support Group
Dec. 18 - Blue Christmas Service
Dec. 24 - 10am only - 4th Sunday of Advent service
Dec. 24 - 3pm, 5pm, 8pm, 11pm - Christmas Eve Services
Dec 28 - LGBTQA+ Support Group*

**virtual meeting via Zoom or other platform*

SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- 8:30am - Chapel Service
- 10:00am - Sanctuary Service
- 11:30am - Harbor Service in Beacon Hall, also livestreamed at www.rrumc.org

OFFICE INFORMATION

Office hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm. The Church Office will be closed on Nov. 23 & 24, Dec 25 & 26, and Jan. 1 and TBFS closed on Nov. 25 and Dec. 23 & 30 for various holidays.