

# SEE

Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks with compassion on the world.



*Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?  
For we saw his star when it rose and  
have come to worship him.*

*Matthew 2:2 (CEB)*

*“As I reflect on this text, it reminds me that Christ is the guiding star that continues to illuminate our path no matter where we are. Rest assured Christ is everywhere, and we can worship him in any and every setting that we are called to. We are constantly seeking out Jesus in our daily work only to be reminded that he is right there beside us, carrying and sustaining us through the work we are doing.”*



## How does a weary world rejoice?

Seasons Greetings, Members & Friends of First Church,

The holiday season is often one that pushes us to our limits: gift shopping, travel arrangements, gatherings with family and friends, meal preparations, traditions, and much, much more. Ironically, the Season of Advent is a time for us to slow down, wait, and look forward with anticipation. Yes, in the stores it is already Christmas, but in the Church we journey together through Advent, waiting for the birth of the Christ Child.

Our theme for Advent this year is “How Does a Weary World Rejoice?,” a reference to the Christmas carol “O Holy Night.” Through this series, we will pay careful attention to the fullness of the human experience told in the narrative in Luke’s Gospel: isolation, fear, disbelief, as well as connection, trust, and joy. I sense that this theme will resonate with many of us as we consider the troubling headlines in the news and reflect on our own lived experiences, which can be more challenging during the holiday season. Is there room for joy with so much on our hearts and minds?

There will be many opportunities at First Church to ponder on this thematic question through our Sunday worship, in our prayer time, individual reflection, and special gatherings. This would be a good time to invite friends, family, and neighbors to join us and to be part of this journey towards Christmas Day.

It is my hope that, through these age-old stories, we might find comfort, encouragement, and even joy as we prepare our hearts to receive the Joy to the World – Jesus Christ.

With hope, peace, joy, and love,  
Pastor Angel





How does a weary world rejoice?

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2023**

**Advent I ~ We Acknowledge Our Weariness**

*Sunday, 12/03, 10:15 a.m.*

**Advent II ~ We Find Joy in Connection**

*Sunday, 12/10, 10:15 a.m.*

**Las Posadas Community Celebration**

*Saturday, 12/16, 3:30 p.m.*

**Advent III ~ We Allow Ourselves to be Amazed**

*Sunday, 12/17, 10:15 a.m.*

**Longest Night Service for the Weary**

*Thursday, 12/21, 6:30 p.m.*

**Advent IV ~ We Sing Stories of Hope**

*Sunday, 12/24, 10:15 a.m.*

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**

*Sunday, 12/24, 7:30 p.m.*



**All Are Welcome!**  
109 Washington Blvd.  
Roseville, CA 95678  
[www.firstumcroseville.org](http://www.firstumcroseville.org)

# Las Posadas

Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.



Las Posadas (The Inns) is a religious festival celebrated in Mexico, some Latin American countries, and some parts of the United States between December 16 and 24 (symbolizing Mary's 9-month pregnancy). Las Posadas commemorates the journey that Mary and Joseph made from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to the baby Jesus. When they were unable to find lodging at an inn in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph had to seek shelter in a stable where



the Christ Child was born.

Experience First Church's second annual Las Posadas on Saturday, December 16, 2023. Please arrive by 3:30 p.m. to check-in at the Welcome Center. The procession, accompanied by a Mariachi Band, will start at 4:30 p.m. We will walk with Mary and Joseph, and angels and shepherds as we journey from First Church to Weber Park, The Gathering Inn, the Main Street Apartments in historical downtown Roseville, and First Church's Centennial Garden. (If you have trouble walking, please contact Dave Sechrist (925-596-1726) for transportation.) Upon return to the church, we will enjoy a party with the Kindness Tree, tamales, special pinatas, and a visit by Santa Claus, aka Papa Noel! Covid-19 and flu vaccines will be available. Overflow parking is available at the Amtrak Parking Lot across the street from the church. (If it happens to rain, we will have an indoor Las Posadas experience.)



Please join us for this special Advent celebration that pays homage to Jesus's birth, but also helps us live into our vision of living into the gospel message of love, hope, joy, and peace to our neighborhood Roseville community.

Dennis Bull



*3 C's Invite You to Join Us!*



3 Cs (aka Creative Christian Crafters) will not be meeting in December. In January we will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the Craft Room at 10 AM. Sherel Harris will be leading us in "learning to crochet". ALL are welcome, ALL materials will be provided. Even if you know how to crochet you are welcome to come, learn a new stitch or help the beginners. Please call Ruth Ann at 916-727-1774 to make a reservation  
Have a Joyous Noel!



**UWF Meeting Days Change in January**  
At our last meeting it was decided to change our meeting days from the 10th of each month to the second Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon. We invite all women to join us. Our first meeting however will be on January 10, 2024 which just happens to be the second Wednesday in January. We hope you will come

**May Peace and Love be your Christmas Blessing & All Year Through!**  
UWF Executive Board Members  
Nancy William, Shelly Newton, Karen Kelly, Nancy Bray



### Loomis Basin Christmas Baskets—AGAPE Men’s Group

Change is a premise of life. As a result, one must be flexible and resilient. Putting this into practice, the Agape Men’s Group will not meet on December 9, 2023. On that date members are encouraged to participate in the Loomis Basin Christmas Baskets program. (All members of First Church are invited to help fill food baskets from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Loomis First United Methodist Church, 6414 Brace Road, Loomis. In 2022 over 350 baskets were filled and distributed. Any questions please contact Dennis Bull at 630-781-6110. So as the holiday season approaches and the New Year dawns, we anxiously await for the January 2024 burning question. Merry Christmas and see you in the New Year! Dennis Bull

### “DID YOU KNOW ....”



...while our “Keep Us Growing in 2024” pledge campaign did not reach our goals (50 pledges and \$150,000.00 pledged), we did receive more pledges (37) than last year. Our pledged amount (\$119,400.00) exceeded every pledge campaign since 2017, when there were 60 pledges offered. We have a very solid core of faithful givers who continue to give faithfully! Our Charge Conference on November 12, 2023 approved the transfer of \$60,000.00 from our endowment funds to our general operating budget. This will allow us to pay our 2023 Conference tithes and go into 2024 with a little bit of a cushion. For 2024, we will need to develop additional revenue streams to support our monthly operating expenses. One common source of additional income for many churches is rental income from a full-time tenant, typically a day-care or pre-school. Full-time tenants come with additional responsibilities as well as additional income. If you have expertise in this area we need to hear from you. We are also open to any other ideas! The Finance committee is creating a task force to address fundraising for 2024, including Ruth Ann Baker, Chris Handley, Kristi Kinzel, Kathleen Mirtoni, and Dave Sechrist. Please feel free to bring any and all ideas to us, or better yet, join us in our planning! - Dave Sechrist, Finance Chair

### HISTORICAL GLEANINGS



A “White Gifts” program is being planned by First Methodist church to be held on Monday evening, December 23, 7:30 to 8:30. Everyone attending is asked to bring a gift wrapped in white which will be laid at the foot of the tree decorated in white. These may be second-hand toys, clothing or any article suitable for boys and girls. Most of those so collected will be sent to the Fred Finch orphanage in Oakland, a Methodist supported institution. Some will be retained for local distribution. At the conclusion of the program, candy will be given to those present. A special and urgent choir practice is being called for next Tuesday evening by Mrs. P. W. Dornfeld, director, in preparation for the morning Christmas service on December 22. The Junior Epworth League will hold its first party this evening December 13, 7 o’clock at the social hall of the Methodist church. Gifts will be exchanged games played, and refreshments served. John R Bailey is the sponsor assisted by Melvin Thomas and Edith Brown. This group comprises students from the fifth, sixth and seventh grades in the public schools. Roseville Tribune Dec 13, 1940 Phoebe Astill, Historical Chair

Please continue to pray for the following people.

### For Healing & Comfort

Lockye Gladson, Kathleen, Hazel, Audrey, John, Elma Morris, Kirk Watkins, Donna Hall, Betsy and Gary Green

Please submit request for prayers to prayers@firstumcroseville.org



### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4TH SAWYER STAUFFER
- 7TH BETH AITKEN
- 10TH GARY GREEN
- REBECCA MCGUIRE
- 16TH GRACE DOWNING
- 20TH CHRIS HANDLEY
- 24TH ELLEN BULL
- 27TH RAY DAVIS
- 29TH CHASE WITHEROW
- 30TH LARRY KONCEWICZ

### Flower of the Month:



The December birth flower is the narcissus and the holly. Holly symbolizes protection, love, and hope. It is often associated with the ideas of rebirth and renewal. The paper white narcissus symbolizes renewal, purity, and new beginnings.



### Email Contact Information:

**Pastor:**  
pastor.angel@firstumcroseville.org

**Certified Lay Minister:**  
kmirtoni@firstumcroseville.org

**Administrative Assistant:**  
cwitherow@firstumcroseville.org

**Church Email:**  
firstumc@firstumcroseville.org

**Prayer Requests:**  
prayers@firstumcroseville.org

**Chimes Article Submissions:**  
chimes@firstumcroseville.org

**Office Volunteer:**  
nbray@firstumcroseville.org

Church Office Hours  
Monday— Friday 9:00 AM—12NOON



On 11/11/23 we received \$62.00 for CAV recycle cans & bottles. Thanks to all who contributed. Dave Sechrist, Finance Team Chair

**NEXT RECYCLE IS SATURDAY  
December 9, 2023  
9-11:00 AM  
Please place items in Jim Wecker’s gray pickup.**

### FIRST CHURCH ROSEVILLE TEAM LEADERS

Pastor—Angel Rivero  
 Certified Lay Minister—Kathleen Mirtoni  
 Church Council Chair—Liz Harvey  
 Lay Leaders—Kathleen Mirtoni  
 Jan Sechrist  
 Ruth Ann Baker  
 Treasurer—Chris Handley  
 Financial Secretary—Elizabeth Harvey  
 Finance Team Chair—Dave Sechrist  
 Trustees President—Thom King  
 Staff Parish Chair—Dennis Bull  
 Mission Outreach—Dennis Bull,  
 Thom King, and Paul Woicicki  
 Memorial—Susan Reining  
 Worship Team Leader—Nancy Bray  
 Congregational Care—Gail Provine  
 Music Director—John Handley  
 Communications—Kristi Kinzel  
 Lay Leadership Training—Kristi Kinzel

### Worship Attendance

Attendance in November was 226  
Average attendance was 57

### Monday Feeding Program

In November 314 meals were served to the hungry in our community.



# Many Thanks



On behalf of my daughter-in-law, I want to say thank you for all the prayers for her recovery from shingles. She is now back at work after seven weeks of being unable to do anything. Also, thanks for all the cards, calls and prayers after my recent surprise surgery, they were truly appreciated. Phoebe Astill