



Rectortown Reporter

December 2021

From the Pastor

Moments of Great Joy

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

As I sit here a week before Thanksgiving writing this for the December *Rectortown Reporter*, I cannot help but think that Christmas is just 37 days away! 37 days!

Where did 2021 go? While it's true that I'm looking forward to a Thanksgiving feast; I'm really looking past Thanksgiving to Christmas! Christmas is without a doubt my favorite holiday, and there are two good reasons why: 1) all the great memories of Christmases past; and 2) the reminder of what God did for all of us everywhere by sending Jesus into the world.

I have so many great Christmas memories; but, as I reminisce I realize that things are different now. You see, America started a new tradition in 1952 that eventually became Black Friday. Black Friday—the day after Thanksgiving—officially marks the beginning of the Christmas shopping season. Black Friday grew and stores began opening earlier every year to maximize sales potential. Recently, some retailers started opening for Black Friday as early as 5 pm on Thanksgiving Day! Then in 2014, sales dipped for the first time in decades. Why the dip? Because Christmas sales now begin way before Thanksgiving Day!

It seems that rather than recognizing Christmas as the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, many in our contemporary culture simply think of it as a second birthday for themselves—only bigger and better! But it's not. The Rev. Mike Slaughter wrote *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday* to remind people everywhere that our focus should not be on what we're going to get, but rather on what we might give in response for the tremendous gift God gave us. In his book, he reminds us that "the false promise of secular consumerism" to provide "the desired object [that will] bring us fulfillment and meaning is never realized. The newness eventually wears off and we seek the next new, best thing." Can you even remember what you got for Christmas last year as you dream of what you're going to get this year?

So, as we make our Christmas plans, I—along with Rev. Slaughter—ask you to consider adding one person to your gift list—Jesus. I ask you to consider giving a little less to one another and a little more to the church, or to a missional charity of your choice. Jesus gave everything for us. Can't we give a little for him?

Grace and peace to each and every one of you!

Pastor Steve



Rectortown United Methodist Church
3049 Rectortown Road
Rectortown, VA 20140
www.rectortownumc.org

OFFICE/MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 301, Rectortown, VA 20140

Office: (540) 364-1066

Office email: secretaryRUMC@gmail.com

Pastor: Steve Weedling

Pastor's Cell: (540) 340-2569

Pastor's Email: steveweedling@vaumc.org

Newsletter Design: Laura Symanski

JOIN US

10 a.m. Sundays for In-person
or Livestream Worship at
www.rectortownumc.org

Scripture of the month

An angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled: *Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will call him, Emmanuel.* [Emmanuel means "God with us"]

(Matthew 1:20b-23, CEB)

Interfaith Hanukkah Service and Advent Activities

Community Tree / Menorah Lighting

Several years ago a Blue Spruce was planted at Rectortown United Methodist Church as a Community Tree. In addition to lights, ornaments are placed on the tree each year. These ornaments are made by family and friends of Rectortown. The tree is growing, and some of the earlier ornaments need to be replaced. On **Saturday, November 27, from 9 AM-Noon**, the community is invited to bring an ornament or create one, and place it on the Community Tree. It will be lit on at **7 PM on Sunday, November 28** along with lighting the Menorah as part of an **INTERFAITH EVENT** in conjunction with the Fauquier Jewish Congregation. Please take time to share in this community event. All are invited to attend!

Questions? Contact the RUMC Office at 540-364-1066

Advent Activities

Advent begins November 28. Traditionally we meet on the first Sunday of Advent to decorate the Sanctuary. The Trustees will place the large tree in the Sanctuary on the November 26. Members and friends are invited to gather at **4 PM, Sunday, November 28**, to enjoy a small meal, decorate, then join in the lighting at 7 PM. Please come early, stay late, enjoy the beginning of the Christmas season.

(NOTE: our Nativity scene needs refurbishing. Linda Daniels has gathered the characters, Muggie has picked up paint, brushes and other materials. If you would like to help, you can join at the church or take one or two pieces home to work on. Please contact Linda for more information.)

Larry Scheuble
Lay Leader, RUMC

Advent Activities-At-A-Glance

Fri – Nov 26

Trustees will put up the big Christmas tree in the sanctuary

Sat – Nov 27, 9am-Noon

Bring an ornament or create one, and place it on the Community Tree.

Sun – Nov 28

4pm: Help **decorate** the Sanctuary and the Christmas Tree and enjoy a small meal.

7 pm Interfaith Event: Lighting of the Hanukkah Menorah and the Christmas Tree

Sun – Dec 12, following worship service

Craft making

Fri – Dec 24, 4pm

Christmas Eve Worship Service

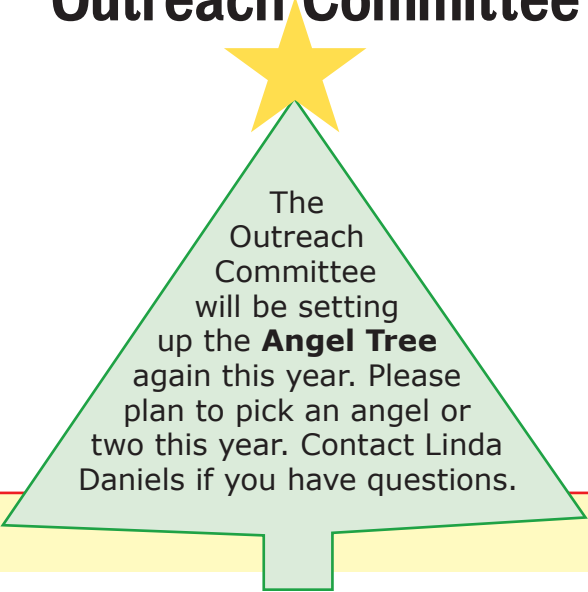
Sat – Dec 25 Christmas Day, no worship service. Enjoy the day with family and friends!

If you have any questions please contact
Pastor Steve Weedling - 540-340-2569 or
Larry Scheuble - 540-272-2162
Church Office - 540-364-1066

Poinsettias

If you would like to **purchase a poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone**, please call the Church office 540-364-1066 or email secretaryRUMC@gmail.com. Payment of \$10/ poinsettia due by Dec. 12. Let us know who it's for and who it's from.

From the Outreach Committee



The Outreach Committee will be setting up the **Angel Tree** again this year. Please plan to pick an angel or two this year. Contact Linda Daniels if you have questions.

NATIVITY SCENE PICS

Last year so many people shared photos of their favorite Nativity scenes, we'd like to do it again. If you'd like to participate, please email a photo along with a short story about it (for example, how you got it or a memory of the scene from your past). Please email Laura@NatsukoGraphicDesign.com by Dec 15.



December Birthdays

- 1 Nancy Brady
- 12 Ben "Buddy" Wegdam
- 12..... David Weedling
- 18..... Dennis Ponn
- 21.....Jeff Symanski
- 25..... Tommy Ann Kirkpatrick
- 31.....Patt Weedling

RUMC Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Thur – Dec 2 7pm Admin Council
- Wed – Dec 8 6pm Trustees
- Tues – Dec 14 10am Worship Committee
- Thur – Dec 16 7pm S/PPRC
- Sun – Dec 12 11am Christmas Craft Making**
- Fri – Dec 24 4pm Christmas Eve Service**



Our Mission Statement

Serving God through Prayer, Action, and Love through Service.

Volunteer for Food Bank

Delaplane Episcopal Church will now serve as the northern branch for the Fauquier Food Bank. They are seeking volunteers for every Wednesday and the 1st Saturday of every month beginning in Dec.