

The Beacon

Sunrise Presbyterian Church

December 2021 Newsletter



Christmas Season Events and Worship Services

Sunday, November 28th

1st Sunday of Advent ~ Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 5th

2nd Sunday of Advent ~ Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 11th

Live Nativity: performances at 5:00, 5:30, 6:00 and 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 12th

3rd Sunday of Advent ~ Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 19th

4th Sunday of Advent ~ Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

Friday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. (in the Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 26th

Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.



How Long, O Lord?

This plea is repeated a number of times (fifteen by my count) in the psalms alone! Asking God, *how long* we must wait has deep Biblical roots, and the answer might surprise us. Instead of a direct response to a particular situation, the Biblical answer to *how long* focuses on how we choose to live our faith in the present.

We have entered the season of Advent. It is by definition a season of *waiting* and anticipation! At this time each year, we are reminded that waiting is a faith-practice. Yet, this year feels different. I looked back at my December 2020 article and recognized the newness of celebrating Christmas in the midst of a pandemic. It is now a year later, and we are still dealing with the implications of the pandemic.

The weight of waiting can be very heavy. The physical distancing that began so suddenly in March 2020, and changed everything we knew about church, has been much slower in returning to what is familiar around Sunrise. Fellowship and in-person events have resumed, but people are understandably cautious. Looking to the Biblical witness, I believe we are experiencing the beginning of a new chapter for our faith-lives.

The transformation we are experiencing is hard. Not being easily able to be with each other in-persons hurts our strong sense of community and belonging. It creates a distance that we have to find new ways of overcoming. The Bible teaches us that when our faith is challenged there are lessons to be learned. What we learn and then what we do becomes our witness to God's faithfulness in uncertain times.

I am not at all certain what the celebration of Christmas and the remainder of this year will look like. The challenges are steep. What was initially a sense of this being a brief, pandemic pause no longer looks to be brief or simply a pause. The life of the church has changed in ways we are only beginning to realize.

I do believe that the good news of the coming of Christ into the world is the hope for the world. When times look bleak, God provides. Think about how the birth of Jesus has transformed the world! The Apostle Paul preached the *Good News* that there is nothing that can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Please look carefully through this issue of *The Beacon*. There is an emphasis on the timeless celebrations of Christmas. Rather than focusing on the things we are not able to do this year, let's make those things we can do really matter! Each Sunday, there is special music. This is why we consolidated the Early Service with the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service during the Christmas season. The *Live Nativity* is on Saturday, December 11th! It is our annual gift to the community and a wonderful event! The Christmas Eve Services will again be in the sanctuary this year.

I look forward to seeing you for as many of these events as you are comfortable attending.

God bless and Merry Christmas!





live nativity

with cookies, hot chocolate
& take home crafts for kids

Saturday, December 11th 5-7pm

Invite your friends and family and join us for this special traditional Sunrise Church (free event) telling the story of Our Savior's birth featuring live animals. This year, we will also have prepackaged cookies, hot cocoa & take home crafts for children available outside. Performances are at 5:00, 5:30, 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you there!



Calling all bakers to bring in cookies for the Live Nativity on Saturday, December 11th. Cookies may be dropped off at the church on Friday December 10th between 8 am and 12:30 pm or on Saturday afternoon. Thank You!

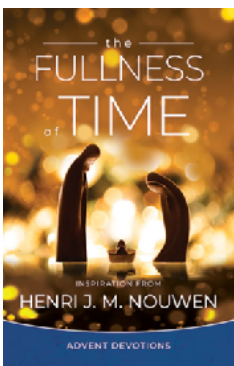


Calling ALL Volunteers

Volunteers are invited to participate in the Live Nativity on Saturday, December 11th! You may participate in all or some of the presentations. We also need volunteers to hand out craft bags, hot cocoa & cookies, and help with parking. Please contact the church office at sunrisepresbyterian3222@gmail.com or 843.883.3888 if you are able to help.



Advent Devotionals are available in the Narthex.



Rich, warm and encouraging reflections invite readers to pray each day and encounter Emmanuel, God-with-us. Each devotion begins with a Scripture verse, followed by the words of beloved theological master Henri Nouwen and a reflection from contemporary writer and retreat leader Amy Ekeh. A prayer closes each daily reflection, leading readers to experience a fullness of faith in Christ Jesus.

If you would like us to mail you an Advent devotional, please contact the church office at sunrisepresbyterian3222@gmail.com or 843.883.3888.



Gifts and 2022 calendars for the Angel Tree for East Cooper Meals on Wheels are due Sunday, December 5th. To ensure the gifts are distributed to the appropriate recipient, each gift should be placed in a gift bag with the angel tag attached to the bag. Please either return it to the "drop off" bin anytime outside the Fellowship Hall doors or in the Fellowship Hall by the tree on Sunday. Thank you all so much for your generous donations! Your gifts will help bring a smile and warmth to one of the nearly 300 recipients this Christmas.

For a remote option, please contact the church at sunrisepresbyterian3222@gmail.com or 843.883.3888 if you would like to participate. We will be happy to give you a gift request to purchase which you can then drop off in the bin outside the Fellowship Hall doors. We will also be collecting 2022 calendars. Thank you so much for your continued support of Meals on Wheels by remembering the 300+ Meals on Wheels recipients this Christmas!



*thank
you*

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE 2021 CHRISTMAS AT SEA PROJECT WHICH IS IN RESPONSE TO THE SEAFARERS WHO WILL CALL AT CHARLESTON THIS DECEMBER! A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO BUTCH HERNANSKEY FOR PICKING UP AND DROPPING OFF BOXES AT THE PORT.



Contribution Deadline

The end of 2021 is drawing near. Please remember that your year-end checks must be dated and post marked (if you mail your contribution) by December 31, 2021 in order to be considered a contribution for the 2021 year. I will be closing the books early in January and mailing your contribution statements soon after. If you have any questions, please call the church office on any Monday or email me at: financesunrisepc@gmail.com

~ Bob Ingram



December 19th ~ Christmas Joy



By supporting the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, the Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Thanks in part to support from this Offering, church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God's charge to love one another as Christ commanded.



Thank you for your generous contributions to the Remembrance Garden...

- Andrea and Larry Allen in memory of Dick Blanchard
- Roberta, Rene & Dan, Rick & Laura, and Grands in memory of Dick Blanchard



Poinsettia and Music Dedication order forms are in the Narthex. Deadline for ordering is December 12th.

confirmation Class Photos!



During the family service, the angels for the angel tree benefiting recipients of Meals on Wheels were decorated.



Sundays in



Sunday, December 5th

Beethoven - Sonata in D major - Opus 10 no 3

This is Beethoven's 7th piano sonata and has 4 movements. It was composed during his "early period" in the year 1798. Compositions from the "early" period show the influence of Mozart and Haydn. This sonata has a tragic slow movement that is one of the greatest slow movements from Beethoven's entire output.



Sunday, December 12th

Sunrise Handbell Choir will ring "O Come, All Ye Faithful"



Sunday, December 19th

Guest violinist Sanjana Gangaraju - Sanjana studies violin with Lisa Deakins - Her playing will inspire our advent worship!

Sanjana is 12 years old. She was born in New Haven, Connecticut. She currently goes to Laing Middle School. Sanjana is an avid music and dance lover. She started pursuing violin from the age of 7 at Deakins Suzuki Strings under the guidance of Ms. Lisa Deakins. She likes to fiddle with tunes in her free time and challenges her limits with different styles of music. She also has been learning an Indian classical dance form called Bharatanatyam since the age of 5. Interest in music and dance runs in Sanjana's family. Her mother (who comes from a family with a love of arts) is a trained Indian classical dancer and singer. They both perform on multiple occasions as well, further nudging Sanjana's interest. Apart from music and dance. Sanjana also loves soccer and futsal. She plays left back on a 2009 Surf Soccer Club team.



Christmas Eve (4 & 7 pm services) ~ December 24th

Harpist Holly Avesian - Holly shared these words: "I am a lifelong musician and have a special place in my heart for church music. It is my way of worshipping, giving back to the body of Christ. I especially feel a connection to the Presbyterian church having been a longtime Presbyterian in Washington DC."

Advent Sermon Series

Advent is a time of waiting and preparing. In our day-to-day lives we prepare for Christmas by decorating our homes and buying gifts for family and friends, but Advent is about something much more important . . . and sometimes overlooked. The preparation of Advent doesn't require credit cards and Amazon accounts, it requires the ability to focus on and appreciate God's decision to truly be with us.

The Bible shows us God's love through the relationships of people. This year, we will be highlighting how people from the time that Jesus was born experienced God's presence. Each week, we will look at two people close to the birth of Jesus and the coming of our Lord.

November 28th ~ Elizabeth & Zechariah

December 5th ~ Mary & Gabriel

December 12th ~ Mary & Elizabeth

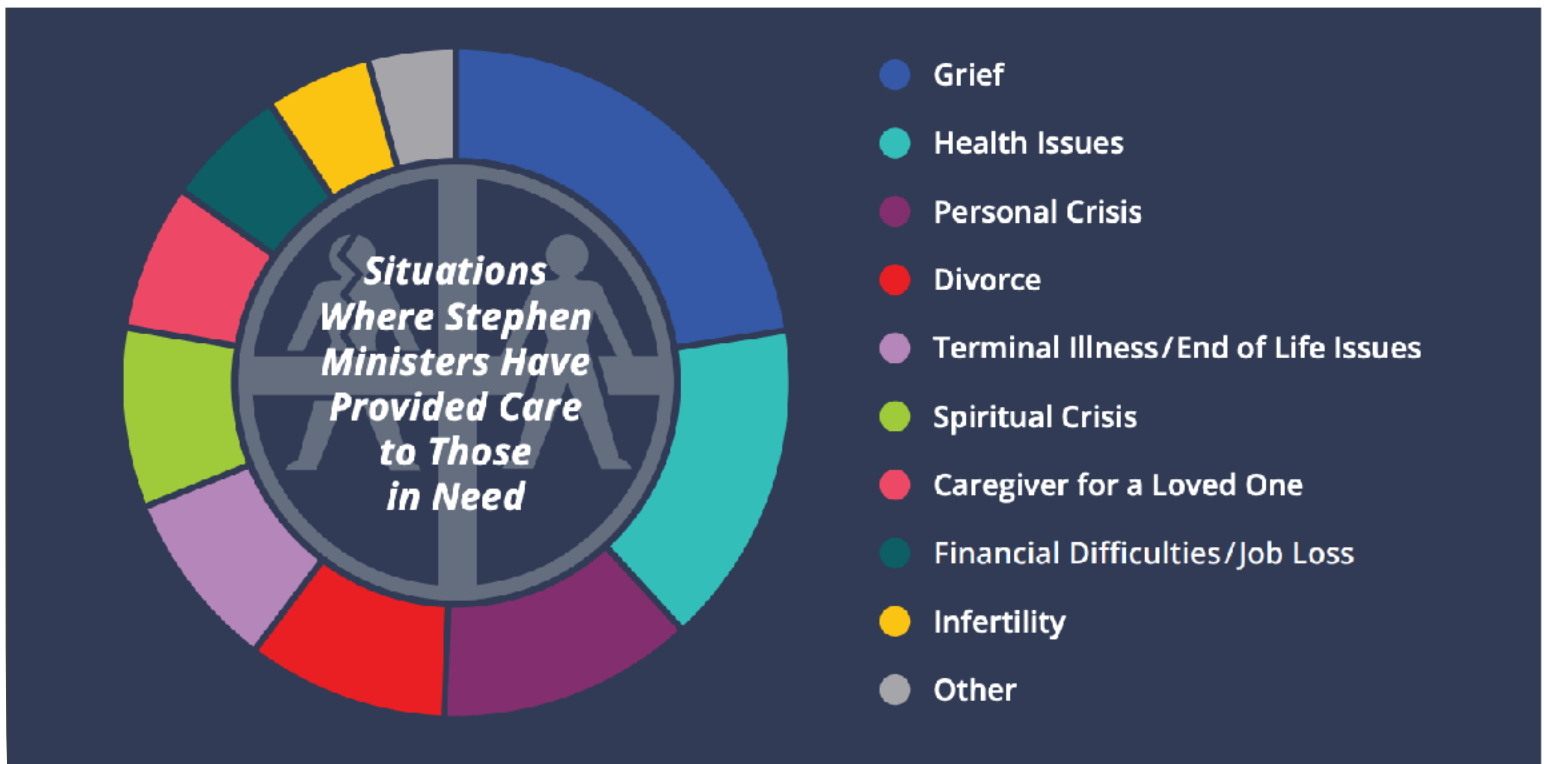
December 19th ~ Mary & Joseph

December 26th ~ Anna & Simeon



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Care Receivers Share How Their Stephen Ministers Made a Difference



continued...

After the death of my mom, **I needed someone who would listen**—even to the same stories over and over—and who wouldn't be afraid to say her name or bring up her memory. That's who my Stephen Minister was, and I don't know how I would have gotten through it without her.

Molly ●

My Stephen Minister listens—really listens. **He doesn't judge me or tell me what to do but walks side by side with me.** I never realized how helpful and healing that can be. With his care and support, I'm making it through.

Brian ●

I'm blessed with an amazing Stephen Minister. She's been genuinely attentive and caring ever since she came alongside me. She's kind of fearless in that way—**she'll just be there without trying to fix me** or talk me out of my feelings as I struggle with what's happening.

Nancy ●

My Stephen Minister's weekly visits became an anchor in my life—something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. **She was a steady reminder of God's presence,** helping me know I was never alone.

Heather ●

When someone you love is terminally ill, people often pull back because they're scared and don't know what to say. But **my Stephen Minister stood with me through it all**—listening, talking, and helping me on the journey. It was so reassuring to know he was by my side.

Andrew ●

My Stephen Minister loves me, listens to me, cares for me, prays for me, supports me, and **gives me a safe, confidential relationship** where I can totally share my heart. No matter how much I have to unload on her, she listens to whatever is going on.

Celeste ●

I needed to know that there was one person in the world who knew the good, the bad, and the ugly about me—and still cared for me. Experiencing that through my Stephen Minister was **a tangible expression of God's love.** It changed my life.

Julia ●

Stephen Ministry showed me the face of Christ. **God brought me exactly what I needed** through the care of my Stephen Minister, and that demonstrated to me how God cares for each and every one of us.

Frank ●

- **Stephen Ministry** is a lay caring ministry being used by more than 13,000 congregations worldwide to increase care and outreach to hurting people.
- Through Stephen Ministry, congregations are able to equip and empower a team of laypeople—Stephen Ministers—who provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, health issues, divorce, spiritual crisis, job loss, infertility, or other life difficulties. Since Stephen Ministry began in 1975, millions of people have received care from a Stephen Minister.
- Visit stephenministries.org to learn more about Stephen Ministry and see stories about the difference Stephen Ministers are making in people's lives.

Sunrise Church

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 am AA Meeting 4:00 pm Cheer Group - Fellowship Hall Events	2 5:30 pm Agape Do Karate 5:45 pm Choir Practice	3	4
5 Communion 9:30 am Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10:00 am Choir Practice 10:00 am Family Service/Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service 3:00 pm Girl Scouts - Fellowship Hall 5:30 pm Youth Group	6 1:30 pm Music Lessons (Upstairs) 5:30 pm Agape Do Karate	7 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 4:15 pm Lisa Deakins - Fellowship Hall	8 10:00 am AA Meeting 4:00 pm Cheer Group - Fellowship Hall Events	9 5:30 pm Agape Do Karate 5:45 pm Choir Practice	10	11 5:00 pm Live Nativity
12 Cents-Ability 9:30 am Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10:00 am Choir Practice 10:00 am Family Service/Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Gregory Guay Recital - Sanctuary	13 1:30 pm Music Lessons (Upstairs) 5:30 pm Agape Do Karate	14 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Miriam-Naomi Circle (Library) 4:15 pm Lisa Deakins - Fellowship Hall	15 10:00 am AA Meeting 4:00 pm Cheer Group - Fellowship Hall Events	16 5:30 pm Agape Do Karate 5:45 pm Choir Practice	17	18
19 9:30 am Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10:00 am Choir Practice 10:00 am Family Service/Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service	20 1:30 pm Music Lessons (Upstairs) 5:30 pm Agape Do Karate	21 7:30 am Men's Breakfast	22 10:00 am AA Meeting 4:00 pm Cheer Group - Fellowship Hall Events	23 5:30 pm Agape Do Karate 5:45 pm Choir Practice	24 Christmas Eve Day off for Christmas Day 4:00 pm Worship Service (Sanctuary) 7:00 pm Worship Service (Sanctuary)	25 Christmas Day
26 9:30 am Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10:00 am Choir Practice 10:00 am Family Service/Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service 5:30 pm Youth Group	27 1:30 pm Music Lessons (Upstairs) 5:30 pm Agape Do Karate	28 7:30 am Men's Breakfast	29 10:00 am AA Meeting 4:00 pm Cheer Group - Fellowship Hall Events	30 5:30 pm Agape Do Karate 5:45 pm Choir Practice	31 Day off for New Year's Day New Year's Eve	



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|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Shawna Tully | 15 Karen Pinson |
| 1 Hannah Floyd | 15 Tina Bostic |
| 2 Heather Heckart | 15 Kristen Champagne |
| 3 Nancy Guss | 15 Lily Evans |
| 3 Annalise Hipps | 15 Kizer Nettles |
| 4 Ed Weathers | 15 Mae Elizabeth Nettles |
| 6 Jack Heidenreich | 16 Sabrina Lavender |
| 6 Linda Parker | 17 Alan Henderson |
| 6 Bonnie Lee | 17 Susi Hasapis |
| 6 Katie Catalana | 18 Marty Belk |
| 9 Gail Jackson | 21 Carolyn Alexander |
| 10 Marty Wisse | 22 Bruce Hainley |
| 12 Kathy Clark | 22 Tim Kane |
| 12 Liz Nimmich | 22 Owen Kimker |
| 12 Corinna Borden | 27 Carol Bulwinkle |
| 14 Jacob Long | 29 Judy Collins |
| 14 Regan Walters | 30 Mimi O'Brien |
| | 31 Hannah Fowler |
| | 31 Eric White |

Church Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
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