

Our Journey Together

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. ~ Romans 15:13



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Joyful Giving	2
Financial Update	2
Ushers & Greeters	2
B'Days & Anniv.	2
December Calendar	3
Christmas	4
Bible Readings	5
At home in our hearts	6

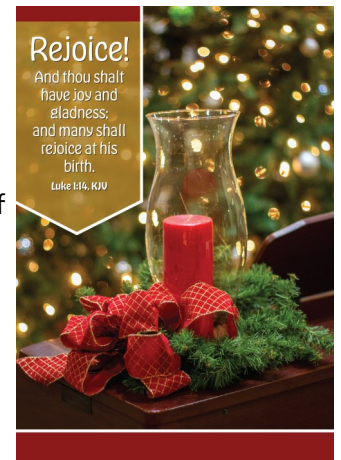
What a year it has been! I never could have predicted all that 2022 would bring. But here, as we begin the new church year with Advent, and as the world looks to begin a new year come January, I cannot help but reflect on the year that was, and look to the year to come. Both parts are important—looking back AND looking forward. If I only dwelt in the memories of this past year I would get mired down with all of the fear and uncertainty that dominated a large portion of the year. But, when I allow myself to look forward, I can do so with hope and joy at what is to come.

I say this, not only for me personally, as I look forward to ending my treatments and being able to regain a sense of normalcy in my life, but also for us as a church. As a church body, this past year was one of service and sacrifice. We put some things on hold while we hosted the high school after the fire at the school. And while we were more than happy to be able to be a safe haven for the school, it did mean that much of our mid-week opportunities had to pause for a while, or move to other locations, like our ladies group did. But, as we look forward, we do so with hope, that there will not be another horrific incident that requires our help in that way, but also, that we will be able to reinstate discipleship opportunities for all of us to grow and deepen our faith.

Each week in worship as we light the Advent candles and reflect on their meaning—hope, love, joy, and peace I pray that God shows us a way to bring these things to one another and to our community. And so, I look forward with hope that we may be agents of hope, those who share love freely and generously, that we may be filled (and fill others) with joy, and that we would truly be peace-makers.

This Advent season and beyond, I challenge you to live out the attributes of the Advent candles. Find ways to be a person of hope, love, joy and peace in all you do and say.

Blessed Advent to you all!
Pastor Teresa



Content Due

Do you have items you would like included in next month's newsletter? If so, please have them into the church office no later than Dec 21.

Gifts of Money Shared

Many gifts of money were shared last month. Our Hunters Breakfast money of \$1435.75 was given to Rapid City Open Heart UMC to help with damages and losses of a burglary at their church.



Our Spare Change Money of \$500 was given to the Rustler Angel Fund.. The free will offering totaling \$575 from the Festival of Music was given to Hands of Hope.

Thank you to everyone for your generous gifts.

Financial Update from Administrative Council

Financial Update as of November 30, 2022:

2022 General Fund Income Year to Date: \$189,536.91
 2022 General Fund Expenses Year to Date: \$158,270.61
 General Fund Difference: \$31,266.30



Ushers & Greeters



IMPLEMENTATION OF AN USHER & GREETER SCHEDULE

Beginning in January, we will be reinstating a schedule for Ushers and Greeters. Members will be assigned a month in which to serve. If there is a month (or 2) in which you would prefer to be scheduled, or in which you know you are not available, please contact the church office to let us know. Once the schedule is put out, if you cannot be in church when it is your turn to serve, you will need to find someone to fill in for you. This is a vital piece of hospitality on Sunday mornings, and we must be ready and willing to serve one another.

Birthdays:

Dec 1 Jordan Speirs
 Dec 2 Gerry Hunter
 Dec 4 Diane Moncur
 Dec 06 Jordyn Deuter
 Dec 8 Spencer Fernholz
 Dec 9 Heath Smith
 Dec 19 Sandie Aymar
 Dec 19 Arlette Heitzman
 Dec 19 Greg Palmer
 Dec 19 Carol Winsell
 Dec 20 Cassadee Deuter

Dec 21 Mary Shaw

Dec 23 Danielle Grogan

Dec 24 Ginger Van Zee

Dec 27 Dana Ruhnke

Dec 30 Janice Wilbur

Dec 31 Sandy(Sam)Greenough

Dec 31 Janice Moncur

Anniversaries:

Dec 1 Larry & Carolyn Hall
 Dec 10 Gary & Bobbi Larson
 Dec 11 Maxon & Linda Conkey
 Dec 15 Merle & Glenda
 Dec 16 Fred & Bev Hubbard
 Dec 19 Dana & Tania Ruhnke
 Dec 26 Bryan & Mary Breitling
 Dec 30 Heath & Hillary Smith



December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Leadership Team 5:00pm 	7	8	9	10
11	12 Meals on Wheels Deliveries this week. 	13 United Women in Faith Ranch Café 1:30pm 	14 CARRILLING Youth Group Caroling 	15	16	17
18 	19 ↑	20	21 NO UMW/F Work Day 	22	23 ↓ 	24 
25 No In Person Worship On Line Worship Only	26 	27	28	29 FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA Food Truck Noon-1pm	30	31



HELP NEEDED WITH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We are looking for Advent Candle Readers, Scripture Readers, and folks to do Special Music for our Christmas Eve Worship. Can you help? Please let Andrea or Pastor Teresa know.



CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

The Sunday School children and the JR/SR Hi Youth Group will have their Christmas Programs during our normal worship service on December 18th. Please join us as the little children lead us.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Our Christmas Eve Worship will take place on Dec 24th at 5pm. Bring your friends and family as we celebrate the birth of Emmanuel—God WITH us in this service of carols, candlelight, and Communion.



CHRISTMAS DAY

There will be no in-person worship at the church on Christmas morning, so that all may enjoy the holiday with family. The Dakotas Conference will be putting together an on-line worship service that will be available on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/@millerumc or on our Facebook page. I pray that you and your family will worship together.



Bible Quiz

Complete this Bible verse: "The (1)____ (2)____ in the (3)____, and the (3)____ has not overcome it."

- A. (1) Word; (2) speaks; (3) silence
- B. (1) light; (2) shines; (3) darkness
- C. (1) kingdom of God; (2) reigns; (3) world
- D. (1) Spirit of God; (2) shines; (3) world
- E. None of the above

Answer: See John 1:5.



Read the Bible in a Year Reading Plan for December

Day	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalms & Proverbs
1	Daniel 7-8:14	1 John 2:12-27	Psalms 136:13-26
2	Daniel 8:15-9:19	1 John 2:28-3:10	Proverbs 29:10-18
3	Daniel 9:20-11:1	1 John 3:11-4:6	Psalms 137:1-9
4	Daniel 11:2-35	1 John 4:7-21	Psalms 138:1-8
5	Daniel 11:36-Daniel 12	1 John 5:1-21	Psalms 139:1-10
6	Haggai 1-2:23	2 John 1:1-13	Proverbs 29:19-27
7	Zechariah 1 -Zechariah 4	3 John 1:1-14	Psalms 139:11-16
8	Zechariah 5 - Zechariah 8	Jude 1:1-25	Psalms 139:17-24
9	Zechariah 9 - Zechariah 11	Revelation 1	Psalms 140:1-5
10	Zechariah 12 - Zechariah 14	Revelation 2:1-17	Proverbs 30:1-10
11	Esther 1 - 2:18	Revelation 2:18 - 3:1-6	Psalms 140:6-13
12	Esther 2:19 - Esther 5	Revelation 3:7-22	Psalms 141:1-10
13	Esther 6, - Esther 8	Revelation 4	Psalms 142:1-11
14	Esther 9, Esther 10	Revelation 5	Proverbs 30:11-23
15	Malachi 1 – 2:16	Revelation 6	Psalms 143:1-12
16	Malachi 2:17 - Malachi 4	Revelation 7	Psalms 144:1-8
17	Ezra 1 -2:67	Revelation 8 -9:12	Psalms 144:9-15
18	Ezra 2:68 - 4:1-5	Revelation 9:13-ch. 10	Proverbs 30:24-33
19	Ezra 4:6 - Ezra 5	Revelation 11	Psalms 145:1-7
20	Ezra 6 -7:10	Revelation 12 - 13:1	Psalms 145:8-13
21	Ezra 7:11- 8:14	Revelation 13:1-18	Psalms 145:13-21
22	Ezra 8:15- 9:15	Revelation 14:1-13	Proverbs 31:1-9
23	Ezra 10	Revelation 14:14- ch. 15	Psalms 146:1-10
24	Nehemiah 1, Nehemiah 2	Revelation 16	Psalms 147:1-11
25	Nehemiah 3, Nehemiah 4	Revelation 17	Psalms 147:12-20
26	Nehemiah 5 - 7:3	Revelation 18:1-17	Proverbs 31:10-20
27	Nehemiah 7:4 - Nehemiah 8	Revelation 18:17-19:10	Psalms 148:1-6
28	Nehemiah 9:1-37	Revelation 19:11-21	Psalms 148:7-14
29	Nehemiah 9:38 - 11:21	Revelation 20	Psalms 149:1-9
30	Nehemiah 11:22 - 12:47	Revelation 21	Proverbs 31:21-31
31	Nehemiah 13	Revelation 22	Psalms 150:1-56

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At Home in Our Hearts

"All hearts come home for Christmas," according to popular sentiment. But what if your heart (and/or home) is hurting or troubled? Does this season have room for people who are struggling? Does the holiday still have meaning?

Yes, God's word tells us. In fact, that's why God sent Jesus, the Word, from his heavenly home to make "his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). As fully human, Jesus experienced loneliness and betrayal, loss and physical pain. He was rejected by loved ones, angered by corruption, and abandoned to die. But as fully God, Jesus provides answers, healing and hope. Through his resurrection (which first required an earthly birth), Jesus offers salvation to all who believe in him.

As we await the heavenly home that God's Son is now preparing, we can welcome him and his comforting promises, even into our hurting hearts.

