

# THE BEACON

Sunrise Presbyterian Church

December 2024 Newsletter

SUNRISE CHURCH



LIVE  
*nativity*

**SATURDAY, DEC. 7**

**5-7 PM, PERFORMANCES EVERY HALF HOUR**

**REFRESHMENTS, CRAFTS, & LIVE ANIMALS**

*free & open to the public*

*Advent/Christmas 2024*

*Beloved in Christ,  
May our savior pay us a sacred visit this season!  
May the **hope** of God lift your spirits!  
May the **love** of God be a guest in your home!  
May the **joy** of Christ fill your heart!  
May the **peace** of Christ be with you!*

On Sunday, we light the first candle of the Advent Wreath. At the same time, the children will be lighting the first candle on their Advent Wreath upstairs in the Family Chapel. Each candle that we light marks our journey closer to Christmas Eve and the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.

I came across a wonderful description of the Advent Wreath: *The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God and the everlasting life we find in Christ.*

On Sunday, we begin this journey by lighting a candle that represents *hope*. The other candles represent *love, joy, and peace*. Traditionally, the fourth candle is known as the *peace* candle. During the evening services of Christmas Eve, we light the *Christ Candle* in the center of the wreath.

The *peace* candle reminds us that the *Peace of Christ* is a gift from God. In this season of waiting and watching, we long for the fulfillment of this promise. In the stillness of Christmas Eve, may we fully receive God's gift of peace, taking it to heart, and showing Christ's peaceful presence in all that we say, do, and think.

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On Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> we present our annual *Live Nativity*. It is the retelling of the Christmas story in sights and sounds! Scriptures are read, Christmas carols sung, and the Christmas pageant reenacted. It is *live* with people and animals.

This year's *Live Nativity* is designed for the entire family to participate. We have costumes for all sizes from pre-school to adults. It is an opportunity to create a family memory!

I was raised in a household that cherished family memories. So when my son, Kurt, was four months old and *recruited* to be the baby Jesus in the Christmas pageant, I was asked to play one of the wise men. The old videotape of that pageant remains a family favorite.

You are invited to create your own family memory of being part of a Christmas pageant! There is no rehearsal, just arrive to be fitted for a costume on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The first presentation will be at 5:00 p.m. If you are participating in the first presentation, plan to arrive at 4:15. Costumes are in the sanctuary. There are four presentations at 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, and 6:30 p.m. Come and be part of bringing the amazing *Christmas Story* to life again and sharing it with each other!

God bless and Merry Christmas!



# Christmas Season Events



## Worship Services

- Sunday, December 1st:**      **1st Sunday of Advent**  
10 AM Worship Service  
10 AM Family Service
- Saturday, December 7th:**      **Live Nativity and Bethlehem Village**  
presentations at 5, 5:30, 6, and 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 8th:**      **2nd Sunday of Advent**  
10 AM Worship Service with handbells  
10 AM Family Service
- Sunday, December 15th:**      **3rd Sunday of Advent**  
10 AM Worship Service featuring harpist Holly Avesian  
10 AM Family Service
- Sunday, December 22nd:**      **4th Sunday of Advent**  
10 AM Worship Service  
10 AM Family Service
- Tuesday, December 24th:**      **Christmas Eve**  
4 PM Family Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary  
7 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service featuring trumpet duet - Sanctuary
- Sunday, December 29th:**      10 AM Single Service

*Live Nativity and Bethlehem Village* planning and preparation is underway! Live animals and our congregation will present the “Live Nativity” and Bethlehem Village featuring crafts, bread & pottery making, coin stamping & refreshments. The event will be Saturday, December 7th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. with showtimes at 5:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. **There is a volunteer signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall and Narthex.**

*Elementary-age children are especially invited to participate in the Live Nativity* beginning at 5pm. All ages are welcome to participate! You may take part in all or some of the presentations. No rehearsal necessary. Costumes will be in the Sanctuary.



**Calling all bakers to bring in cookies for the Live Nativity on Saturday, December 7th. Cookies may be dropped off at the church on Friday, December 6th between 8 am and 12:30 pm or on Saturday afternoon. Thank you!**



## *Sunrise Columbarium and Memorial Garden*

“Good tidings of great joy!” Luke 2:10. During Advent and Christmas we celebrate the birth of Christ, and we share joy with family and friends. This Christmas season we are also celebrating because the columbarium has been ordered and plans for the columbarium and garden continue to move forward!

As you spend time with your family during the holidays, you may want to have a conversation about the Columbarium and Memorial Garden. Pre-construction opportunities including special pricing and the Pre-Construction Agreement will be available for a few more months as we prepare to move into the Construction Phase of the project.

Each Sunday in December, members of the Columbarium Committee will be in the fellowship hall after worship to provide information about the columbarium garden. More information is available on the church website at [www.oursunrise.org](http://www.oursunrise.org) under Resources, at the church office, or by contacting Ida Havelka, Columbarium Committee Chair, at [ihavelka@comcast.net](mailto:ihavelka@comcast.net), 843- 412-1884.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the columbarium garden, and Christmas blessings to all!


# December at Sunrise




**Growing Faith's** next meeting will be on December 15th at 9 am in the upstairs classroom. Any older elementary & middle school students (4th - 8th grade) are invited to join us! ~ Reece




**The Adult Sunday School** class will continue with its Bible study that connects the many familiar stories and people of the Bible. The class meets weekly in the Church Library at 9:00 a.m. There is a Zoom option. ~ Vance




**High School Youth Group** (9th-12th grade) meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm in the church library. Our evening includes a meet & greet, devotional time, dinner and fun activities such as a beach bonfires, a night at the fair, community service projects and many other fun activities. Come join us and feel free to bring a friend...or two. If there are any questions, feel free to contact Victor Apat at [vapat6604@gmail.com](mailto:vapat6604@gmail.com) or 843-442-1177.




**Middle School Youth Group** (6th-8th grade) meets Sundays at 10:30 am and will also meet December 1st and 15th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at Sunrise Church for a group devotional worship, games, and time hanging out with friends while we provide dinner! If you have any questions, please reach out to Breezy at [breezy@oursunrise.org](mailto:breezy@oursunrise.org) (843) 860-9581.



**The Women's Morning Bible Study** will meet Tuesday, December 3rd at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Library. After we meet those of us who are able to do so usually regroup for lunch at a nearby restaurant. If you have any questions or if you would like to be added to our mailing list, please call Patsy Hindman at (843) 906-8653.



**The Women's Evening Bible Study** will continue their study December 17th at 5:30 pm using *Journaling the Psalms: A Guide for Reflection and Prayer* by Paula Gooder. New participants are always welcome.



**Cents-Ability** is collected the 2nd Sunday of each month. Thanks to you, donations have been made to Neighbors Together, East Cooper Meals on Wheels, and East Cooper Community Outreach. Please continue to give at least two cents per person per meal in the bowl in the Narthex. This simple act is an expression of thanksgiving for what we have received.



**MEN'S  
BREAKFAST**  
*Sunrise Church*

Start off your Tuesdays with the **Jerry Dillon Men's Prayer Breakfast** at 7:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Start the day off right with great food, fellowship, and a devotion.

# Christmas

# Sunday, December 8th

# 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.



## Contribution Deadline & 2025 Pledges

The end of 2024 is drawing near. Please remember that your year-end checks must be dated and post marked (if you mail your contribution) by December 31, 2024 in order to be considered a contribution for the 2024 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 or email me at: [financesunrisepc@gmail.com](mailto:financesunrisepc@gmail.com).

Don't forget to send in your 2025 pledge cards! This information helps the church set the financial budget for 2025.



DECEMBER  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL FUN NIGHTS**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST  
5:30-7:30PM  
*Let's celebrate together!*

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH  
5:30-7:30PM

**DEVOTIONAL, DINNER, GAMES + MORE**  
BOTH EVENTS AT SUNRISE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 3222 MIDDLE STREET



Poinsettia and Music Dedication order forms are in the Narthex and will be in the December 1st bulletin. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 15th. Dedications will be in the Narthex on Sunday, December 22nd and in the December 24th Christmas Eve service bulletins.



## Thank you for your generous contribution to the Remembrance Garden...

- In memory of Dick Blanchard, Betty Imsande, Ernest Thomas, Bill Dawson, and Tim Kane given by Roberta Blanchard and René Severns



Angel Tree gifts are due back to the church by **Sunday, December 1st**. Thank you all so much for your generosity!

the  
Angel Tree 



Advent Devotionals are available for families and adults in the Narthex. You can also find family Advent devotionals on the bookshelf outside the Family Chapel.



"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." -Isaiah 9:6

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
to you



We'll miss you, Reece!





# December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>8:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>9am - Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>10am - Family Service</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>10:40am - Middle School Youth</p> <p>5:30pm - Middle School Youth</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am - Veritas</p> <p>2:45pm - Music Lessons</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6:45pm - Seaside Singers</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>10am - Women's Morning Bible</p> <p>7pm - High School Youth Group</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10am - AA Meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9am - Veritas</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6:15pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5pm - Live Nativity &amp; Bethlehem</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Cenit-Ability</p> <p>8:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>9am - Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>10am - Family Service</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>10:40am - Middle School Youth</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9am - Veritas</p> <p>2:45pm - Music Lessons</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>7pm - High School Youth Group</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am - AA Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9am - Veritas</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6:15pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>9am - Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>9am - Growing Faith - Family</p> <p>10am - Family Service</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>10:40am - Middle School Youth</p> <p>2pm - Cub Scouts (Fellowship)</p> <p>5:30pm - Middle School</p>	<p>16</p> <p>2:45pm - Music Lessons</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>5:30pm - Women's Evening Bible</p> <p>7pm - High School Youth Group</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10am - AA Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6:15pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>9am - Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>10am - Family Service</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>10:40am - Middle School Youth</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30am - Men's Breakfast</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>10am - AA Meeting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:45am - Choir Practice</p> <p>9am - Adult Sunday School</p> <p>9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>10am - Family Service</p> <p>10am - Worship Service</p> <p>10:40am - Middle School Youth</p>	<p>30</p> <p>2:45pm - Music Lessons</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:30am - Men's Breakfast</p> <p>7pm - High School Youth Group</p>	<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> <p>10am - AA Meeting</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:30pm - Agape Do Karate</p> <p>6:15pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall</p> <p>4pm - Rehearsal Dinner -</p>	<p>4</p> <p>4:30pm - Jeffrey Smith Reception</p>



# December Birthdays

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Shawna Tully     | 15 Kristen Champagne     |
| 1 Hannah Floyd     | 15 Karen Pinson          |
| 2 Heather Heckart  | 15 Lily Evans            |
| 3 Bob Smith        | 15 Kizer Nettles         |
| 3 Nancy Guss       | 15 Mae Elizabeth Nettles |
| 3 Annalise Hipps   | 17 Alan Henderson        |
| 4 Ed Weathers      | 17 Susi Hasapis          |
| 6 Jack Heidenreich | 17 Genevieve McKee       |
| 6 Linda Parker     | 18 Marty Belk            |
| 6 Bonnie Lee       | 19 Teagan Hinton         |
| 9 Gail Jackson     | 22 Bruce Hainley         |
| 10 Marty Wisse     | 22 Owen Kimker           |
| 12 Kathy Clark     | 27 Carol Bulwinkle       |
| 12 Liz Nimmich     | 29 Judy Collins          |
| 12 Corinna Borden  | 30 Mimi O'Brien          |
| 14 Jacob Long      | 31 Hannah Fowler         |
| 14 Regan Walters   | 31 Eric White            |

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

Phone: (843) 883-3888  
[www.oursunrise.org](http://www.oursunrise.org)

## *Sunrise Staff*

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