



The United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma

Good News

December 2023

Printed Color Copy: \$2.00 Donation

United Methodist
Church of Lake
Ronkonkoma

792 Hawkins Avenue
Lake Grove, NY 11755

631-588-5856

www.umclr.com

Church Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday
9 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Nursery School
631-467-9601

Thrift Shop
631-981-9749

Staff

Rev. Karen A. Burger,
Pastor

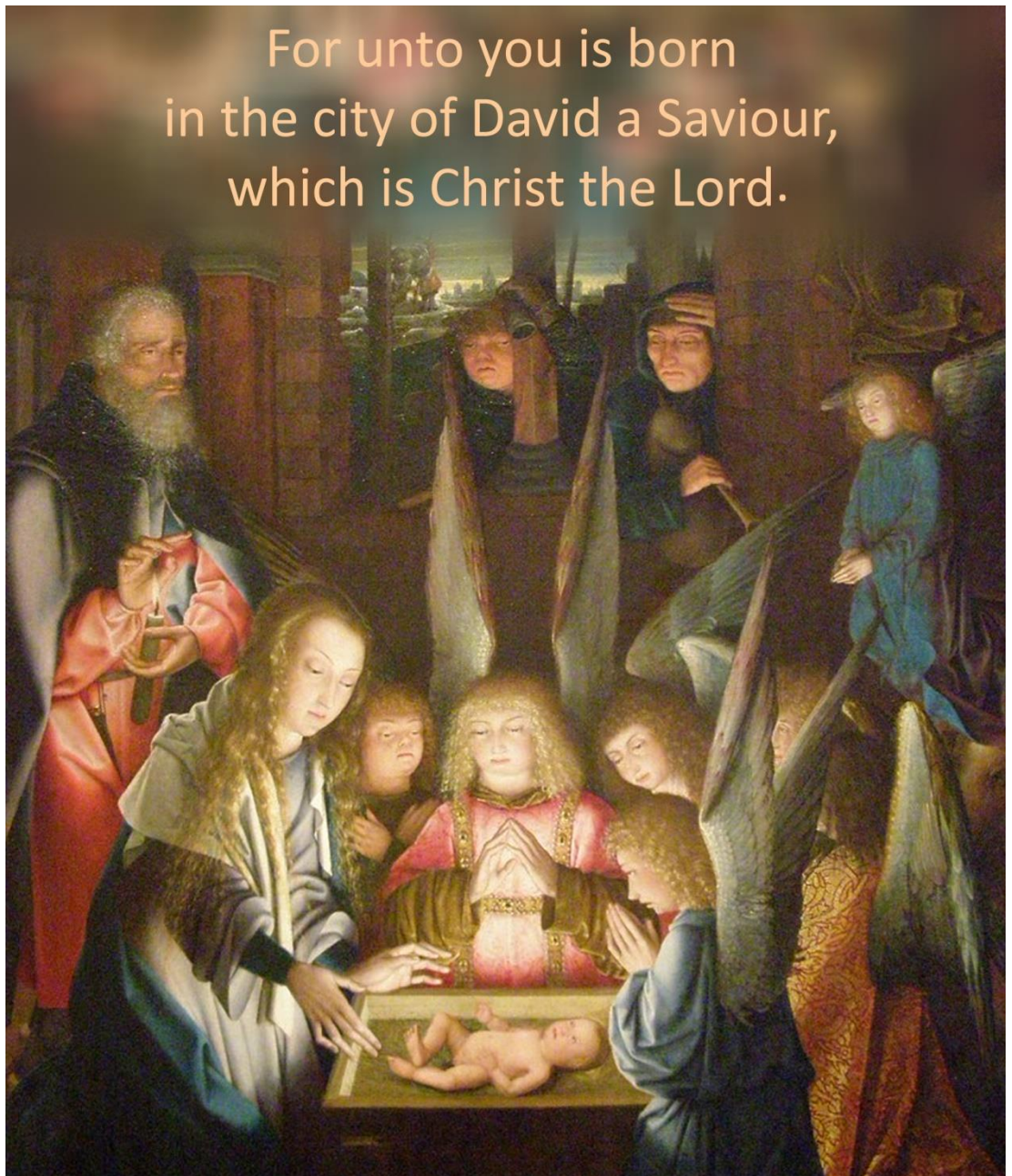
Filomena Thomas,
Nursery School Director

Abby Preziosi,
Administrative
Assistant

Dr. Rex Enderlin,
Choir Director

Heather Edwards-
Wilson,
Youth Choir Director &
Organist

For unto you is born
in the city of David a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord.



VISION STATEMENT
OF THE NY ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

The New York Annual Conference through the grace of God embodies the beloved community of hope, building up a healthy body of Christ, with heart-warmed United Methodists in mission for the transformation of the world.

MISSION STATEMENT
OF THE NY ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

We strive to share God's love by creating safe places where all are accepted and welcomed, connecting the needs of people to the presence of God, and transforming the world through Christ.

VISION STATEMENT
OF THE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
OF LAKE
RONKONKOMA

We are the church at Five Corners spreading the "Light of Christ" from ourselves to the community and the world.



Dear Members and Friends of UMC of Lake Ronkonkoma,

The month of December means night falls earlier, but when you join us at UMC of Lake Ronkonkoma, there is a Light shining in the darkness that no darkness can overcome. That is the Light of Jesus Christ, the Savior! Christ is the unchanging in the midst of a changing world. We gather to give God glory and to let that Light shine brightly in our hearts! The Light will shine through in our very special month of Advent and Christmas music; children, youth, adults lifting their voices, instrumentalists, bell and flute concerts, a musical Christmas pageant, and Christmas Carol Service, with special Christmas music and poems this year. Not to mention Christmas Eve with its extra special music and candle lighting! Isn't it wonderful to know that the Love and Light of Christ is always available to us, not only in this special season, but throughout the year to come?

I remember how much Ron and I enjoyed the Christmas season at UMC of Lake Ronkonkoma last year. I know that this year will be no different. There are so many beautiful traditions here. As we gathered after Thanksgiving for the Christmas Sale, there was an opportunity to greet neighbors and friends and catch up with them, as they browsed and shopped the merchandise. It was a chance to greet the vendors who support us and wish them a blessed holiday season and a Merry Christmas. It was a time for reconnection. Maybe your smile and warm greeting blessed someone and encouraged them.

As we move through the Advent season, remember that we are celebrating God's great gift to us: the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. We celebrate God's coming among us in the form of His Son Jesus and how that has made a difference in lives around the world, including ours. I pray that this season will be inspiring to each of us in some way. Let us pray for the spirit of Christmas to be in all of our hearts as we worship and serve God together!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Karen Burger

Lections

November 5
All Saints Sunday

Josh 3:7-17
Ps 107:1-7, 33-37
(UMH 830)
1 Thess 2:9-13
Matt 23:1-12

November 12
24th Sunday after Pentecost

Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25
Ps 78:1-7(UMH 799)
1 Thess 4:13-18
Matt 25:1-13

November 19
25th Sunday after Pentecost

Judg 4:1-7
Ps 123 or PS 76
(UMH 797)
1 Thess 5:1-11
Matt 25:14-30

November 26
Christ the King

Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24
PS 100 (UMH 821)
Eph 1:15-23
Matt 25:31-46

Virtual Prayer Meeting

Every
Wednesday
8:00 AM

Please email the Pastor at
revburger51@gmail.com
for the link



Come join us as we discuss the Upper Room reading for that Wednesday, and continue our prayers for those who are in need. This is a wonderful way to focus on your communication with God and become closer to members of your church family, as they share their thoughts, praises, petitions, prayers and faith.



The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma



COAT DRIVE

November 5 - December 17

Please place coats in the bin in Hertlin Hall

**Sponsored by:
The Missions Committee**

Ongoing Missions:

The Food Pantry is open on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month (except holidays) from 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Support Groups:

Narcotics Anonymous
Mondays - 7:00 pm
Thursdays - 7:30 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tuesdays - 6:30 &
8:30 p.m.
Fridays - 8:00 p.m.

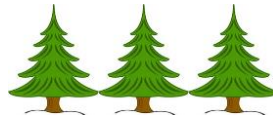
Please call our church office at 631-588-5856 for further information.



Food Pantry Open Tuesday

December 5 & 19, 2023

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM



Food Pantry Donations Needed

Boxed Milk	Paper Towels
Juice	Facial Tissues
Canned Fruit	Toilet Paper
Breakfast Cereal	Tooth Paste
Soup	Toothbrushes
Canned Tuna	Shampoo
Tomato Sauce	
Spaghetti	
Macaroni & Cheese	
Peanut Butter & Jelly	
Mayonnaise	

Supermarket Gift Cards

Martha's Place

Thrift Shop

631-981-9749

Hours:

Mondays
10 am - 2 pm

Tuesdays
10 am - 2 pm

Fridays
10 am - 2 pm

Saturdays
10 am - 2 pm

Martha's Place Thrift Shop

Merry Christmas

We hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. Many thanks to all those who came out for our Christmas Festival and Breakfast with Santa! We are now looking forward to a wonderful Christmas season celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. At your Thrift Shop, we now have a large assortment of Christmas merchandise, winter clothing, housewares, jewelry, and keepsakes for gift-giving. Just a reminder: we will not be taking donations from Friday, December 1st until Monday, January 1st. We will be closed Saturday December 24 and will reopen Tuesday, January 2nd. Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

In God's service,

Marilee Drisgula and all volunteers



Martha's Place

Winter Clothing
Housewares
Jewelry - Keepsakes
&

Christmas Merchandise



Open

Monday - Tuesday - Friday - Saturday
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

V
E
T
E
R
A
N
S



Flag Placement

November 4, 2023



The United Methodist Church Of lake Ronkonkoma



Veteran's Luncheon

November 12, 2023



The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma



The UMM Sauerbraten dinner was a grand success. Much preparation was done with great comradery, good humor and many, many hands which made it a complete pleasure. We also want to thank the youth of our church who came to help and serve; a good time was had by all.

Our October breakfast was a bagel feast with different cream cheeses provided by Glenn Sturm, we enjoyed our November breakfast which was cooked by Bill Otto and, we're looking forward to our Christmas Dinner later this month.

Dennis Subbiondo
President UMM



U

M

M

A poster for a Christmas Dinner event. The background is a dark green pine branch border. On the left is a stylized green Christmas tree with a red star on top. On the right is the UMM logo (United Methodist Men) with a red flame-like shape. Below the logo, the text reads: "Christmas Dinner" in green, "December 11, 2023" in grey, "6:30 PM" in grey, "Uncle Joe's" in red, and "2854 Middle Country Road, Lake Grove" in red.

UMM
UNITED METHODIST MEN

Christmas Dinner
December 11, 2023
6:30 PM
Uncle Joe's
2854 Middle Country Road, Lake Grove

H
A
P
P
Y

B
I
R
T
H
D
A
Y

These names are offered each month. It is an opportunity to extend to our friends and loved ones the love of Christ on these special days, and to express our thanks for the gift of their presence in our midst.

If you would like to be on our birthday list, please call the church office at (631) 588-5856 and we will gladly add your name.

- 2 Regina Eger**
- 4 Eleanor Subbiondo**
- 8 Eileen Torraca**
- 9 Zephyr Edwards-Wilson**
- 11 Sofia Pearl**
- 18 Kathy Smith**
- 18 Christine Pfeil**
- 18 Samuel Tom**
- 25 Paul Eger**
- 25 Soon Bowes**



Christmas Handbell Concert

Saturday,

December 2, 2023

1:00 PM

A donation of \$15.00 p.p. will help support
The United Methodist Church of Lake Ronkonkoma

@longislandresound

www.longislandresound.com * longislandresound@gmail.com * 631 223-8655

U
W
I
F



The poster features a large, colorful starburst logo on the left, a decorated Christmas tree in the center, and text on the right. The text includes the organization's name, the event title, the date, and contact information. There are also several smaller starburst icons scattered around the text.

United
Women
in Faith

Christmas Dinner

Monday
December 11, 2023

For more information call the Church Office at:
(631) 588-5856

- Dec. 9 - Cookie Walk fundraiser - PLEASE help by baking cookies!
- Dec. 11 - Christmas Gathering !! At the church 7:00 p.m.
Please bring a wrapped gift (joke gift, Knick knack from the Thrift Shop or white elephant type gift). We will play BINGO and use those for prizes. (We will have a sign up for food)
- Jan. and Feb. -- no meetings planned at this time.....

SPRING RETREAT WILL BE APRIL 26, 27, 28!!!!

Please turn in a \$75 deposit now to save your spot for a weekend on Shelter Island - Camp Quinipet.

Thanks,

Tessa Tom and Barb C.



E D U C A T I O N

Joyous Christmas Greetings from the Education Work Area,

We are in the busy holiday season. Let us all celebrate the birth of Jesus by participating in the many special activities the church will offer. There are many activities for families to enjoy together.

We are proud of our children and youth who were a part of our Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service that took place in our sanctuary this year. Thank you to Heather Edwards-Wilson for preparing the children to participate with the blended Chancel Choir. Thank you to Rex Enderlin for arranging for the music that included youth in the string orchestra and our children's choir. The multi-generation celebration was a true inspiration.

We are looking forward to seeing the Sunday School and Children's Choir present the annual Christmas Pageant on December 17 during our church service. This annual tradition is a joy to behold.

Let us share the wonder of the birth of Jesus together through all of the wonderful events in our church. Let us include the love of Jesus in all we do this season.

A blessed Christmas to all.

Sue Preddice
Education Chair



Please notify the church office of any telephone number, address or email address changes so that we may update our files.

L
I
T
T
L
E

O
N
E
S



Sing! Dance!
Pray! Play!



Friday
December 8, 2023
6:15 PM



Little Angels Music Class

Parents, grandparents, siblings, and our little angels will enjoy making music and sharing God's message in a laid-back, supportive, loving community once each month. After class we hang out and share a snack (bringing a snack to share is optional). Our first class of the '23-'24 school year is October 6th. Text Heather for info on future classes. There is no fee and no commitment. Come once, come every time, or come when you can!

Taught by Heather- certified music teacher, organist at UMCLR and mom of 4.

Text 631-807-3156 for more info.



J
O
I
N
U
S



Cookie Walk
Saturday, December 9, 2023
2:00 PM
Sponsored By
The United Methodist Women

We need people to bake cookies and to help with the sale!
Sign up in Hertlin Hall. We will also be selling cookies on
Sunday, the 10th!



Christmas Carol Service
Sunday, December 10, 2023
9:30 AM
To sponsor a visiting musician **\$125.00**
Call the Church Office at: (631) 588-5856



The Long Island Flute Club
presents
“Silvery Sounds of the Season”



*A recital of seasonal favorites, performed by the
Long Island Flute Club Holiday Flute Choir*

Saturday, December 9, 2023
3:00 pm

*United Methodist Church
of Lake Ronkonkoma*
792 Hawkins Avenue, Lake Grove

Freewill contribution to benefit ALS

G
O
O
D

N
E
W
S



We will go to BLD's on December 15th at 5:00 PM before game night at 7:00. If you are coming to dinner, tell Diane June (631-585-1481) so she can make reservations. Come and have a good time with our parishioners.



G
O
O
D

E
A
T
S



UMM in the Kitchen

November 4, 2023



The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma



Sauerbraten Dinner

November 4, 2023



The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma

R N N O T E S



HANDWASHING



The holiday season is a time for family, friends, and love. Since we were all on lockdown because of Covid, this year will reunite many families.

As we all recognize, there are many opinions on vaccinations. Some understand that vaccinations can reduce the severity of seasonal Flue or Covid. Others remain doubtful.

The one approach we all should use is Hand Washing. This can significantly reduce the chance of catching or transmitting disease.

Simple Steps:

1. Always choose soap and water (the water can be any temperature).
2. Rub all parts of hand vigorously for at least 20 seconds and rinse well.
3. Hand Sanitizers are not as effective and cannot address all germs but, when soap and water is not available, use hand sanitizers until you can “Wash Your Hands!”

When to wash: Always!

1. After coughing or blowing your nose.
2. Before making or eating food.
3. After playing with animals.
4. After using the toilet.

If in doubt, please wash!

I wish our church community a blessed, happy and healthy Christmas.

Helen

Church Leaders

Soon Bowes



I was born and raised in Kimje South Korea, a place which is well-known for its Cuisine, agriculture and hospitality. My parents had 7 children, were Buddhist and well-respected in the community. My parents were very generous and humble people and taught us not to turn your back on those who ask for help and to share what you have.

In November 1974, I was introduced to Keith at a friend's surprise birthday party. We fell in love at first sight. Keith was so handsome and serving in the U.S. Army. We married in August 1975 against my father's wishes. Keith and I left Korea in February 1976 without telling my parents as it would have been exceedingly difficult to say goodbye.

We lived with Keith's parents for a year and they embraced me as their daughter. In 1977 we moved to Ronkonkoma with our infant daughter Jennifer as Keith was hired by the FAA as an air traffic controller at NY Center. Our son Robert was born in October of 1979. In 1981 I began attending dental technology school and started working as a dental tech in 1984.

In 1980, based on urging of a friend, we had our children baptized at the UMC by Rev. Stuart Baker and for 20 years never returned. In 1987, I joined the "Shepherd Group" at the Korean UMC Commack where I found that there were many Korean ladies with broken marriages and I became a role model, friend and helped them with legal issues.

In 1989, my second oldest sister's family immigrated to the USA and we became partners in a dry-cleaning store so that they would have a way to make money. Things became difficult as I now had to help at the dry cleaners, work full time in a dental lab, take care of my own family, and lead the Shepherd group. Meanwhile, Pastor Han at Commack UMC asked if I would teach Sunday School. At first I said "NO," but she said that all I had to do was follow instructions. So, I agreed. I started reading the Bible and praying for God's help. Later, I was baptized and accepted Jesus Christ as my savior at age 39. What an Amazing God!

In July 1997, my world came tumbling down when my doctor told me I had breast cancer. Needing God's help and assurance, I humbly knelt and prayed for his blessing. One night while praying, I asked the question: "Lord, how long do I have to help those who depend on me?" Then I heard a small voice saying, "As long as I love you." With tears pouring out of me, a healing fire moved from the top of my head through my spine. I then heard, in a clear voice, "take Keith's hand and lead him to church." "Which church Lord," I asked. Then suddenly, the white church at the Five Corners, where my children were baptized came into my heart. That night I shared with Keith my experience and begged him to go with me to the white church.

As the apostle Paul said in Romans 8, "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose". That Sunday, Pastor Thody's sermon was titled "The Prodigal Son." What an amazing grace! We have been going to this church and serving ever since. I have been cancer free for 27 years. Praise God, Hallelujah!

"You did not choose me, but I chose you that you should go and be fruitful."

"This is my command, that you love one another."

I honestly believe that God places our siblings, spouse, children, friends, neighbors and those needing help in our lives as a way of molding us to serve him. Thanks be to God.

T
H
A
N
K
S



Pre-Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service
November 21, 2023



The United Methodist Church Of lake Ronkonkoma

thankful
grateful
blessed

A big thank you to the Port Jefferson Elks Club for their very generous donation of food baskets and gift cards for Thanksgiving! Because of them, we were able to help an additional twelve families.

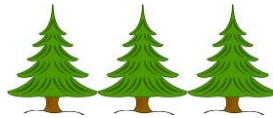
S
P
E
C
I
A
L
T
I
M
E
S



Christmas Festival November 24-25, 2023



UMCLR



Breakfast With Santa November 25, 2023



The United Methodist Church Of Lake Ronkonkoma

Q

U

I

Z

T

I

M

E

New Advent Quiz

1. What does the word Advent (from the Latin adventus) mean?

- a. Before Christmas
- b. Arrival or coming
- c. To go on an adventure

2. Like the 40 days of Lent, Advent is a fixed number of days before Christmas.

- a. True
- b. False

3. Which of these Advent hymns was written by Charles Wesley?

- a. "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
- b. "Come, O Come, Emmanuel."
- c. "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

4. According to tradition, approximately how far did Mary travel to visit Elizabeth?

- a. 10 miles
- b. 40 miles
- c. 50 miles
- d. 100 miles

5. Why are the Advent candles arranged in the shape of a circle?

- a. They make a wreath, and wreaths are Christmassy.
- b. It is the easiest way to see all four candles.
- c. Circles symbolize eternity.

6. What is a Jesse Tree?

- a. The tree decorated with Chrismons
- b. A representation of Jesus' family tree
- c. A tree planted by Jessie

7. On the 3rd Sunday in Advent, churches light a pink candle in the Advent wreath. Why?

- a. Pink (or rose) is a color of joy.
- b. It represents the positive outlook we have in Christ.
- c. The rose color symbolizes Jesus' childhood.

8. Do you know how the Advent calendar began?

- a. Chalk lines were drawn on the door to mark the days.
- b. Religious families hung pictures on the wall, one for each day.
- c. A candle was lit for each of the 24 days in December.
- d. All of the above

9. What is the meaning of the Hebrew word "Emmanuel"?

- a. Mighty king
- b. Christ child
- c. God with us

1:b, 2:b, 3:a, 4:d, 5:c, 6:b, 7:a, 8:a, 9:c

F I R S T



Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! 2 As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! 3 For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. 4 Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. 5 You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? 6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. 7 No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. 8 Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

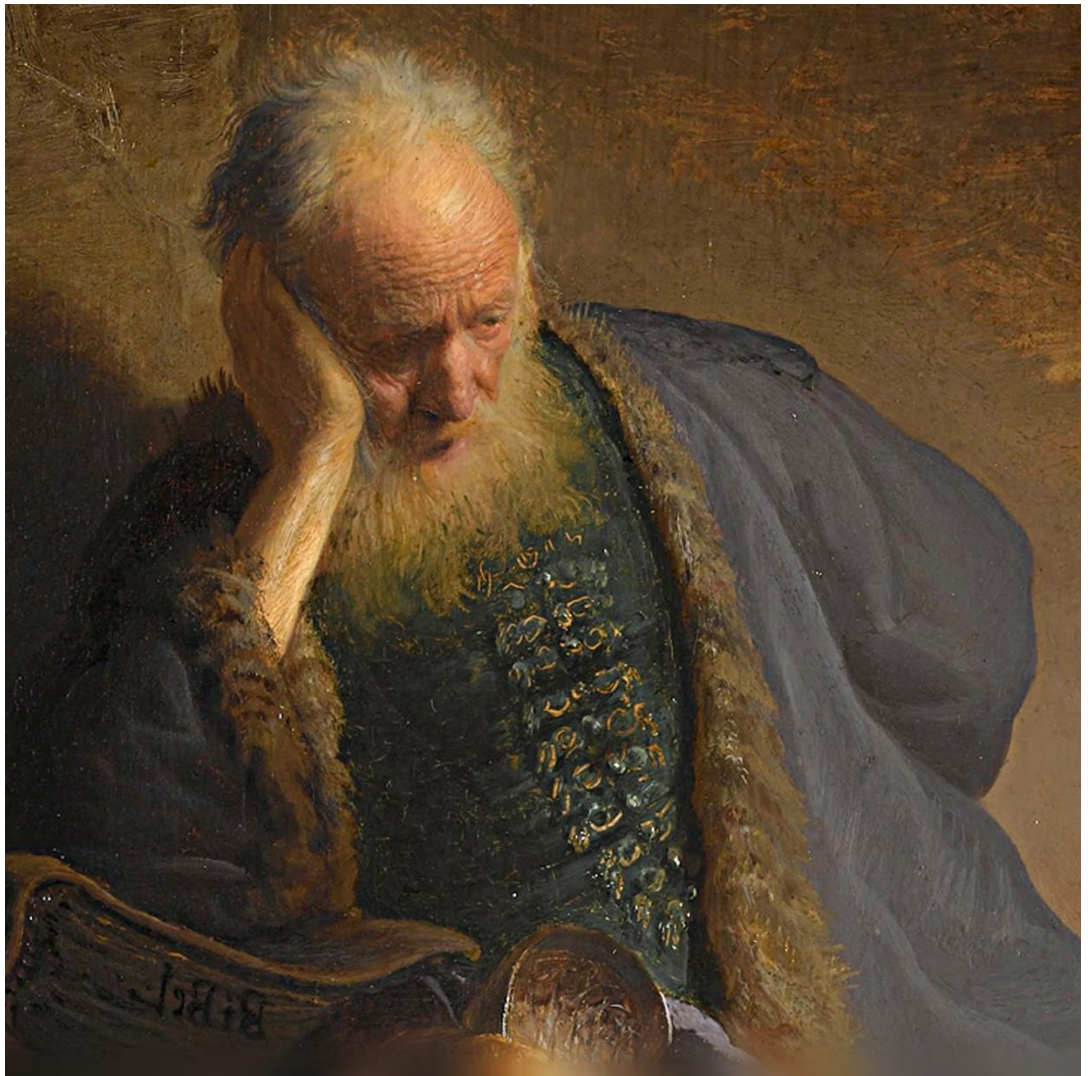
Isaiah 64: 1-9

SUNDAY



24 “But in those days, following that distress, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; 25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ 26 “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. 28 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 29 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. 35 “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

SECOND



40 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD]; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. 7 The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." 9 You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" 10 See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. 11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young

Isaiah 40: 1-11

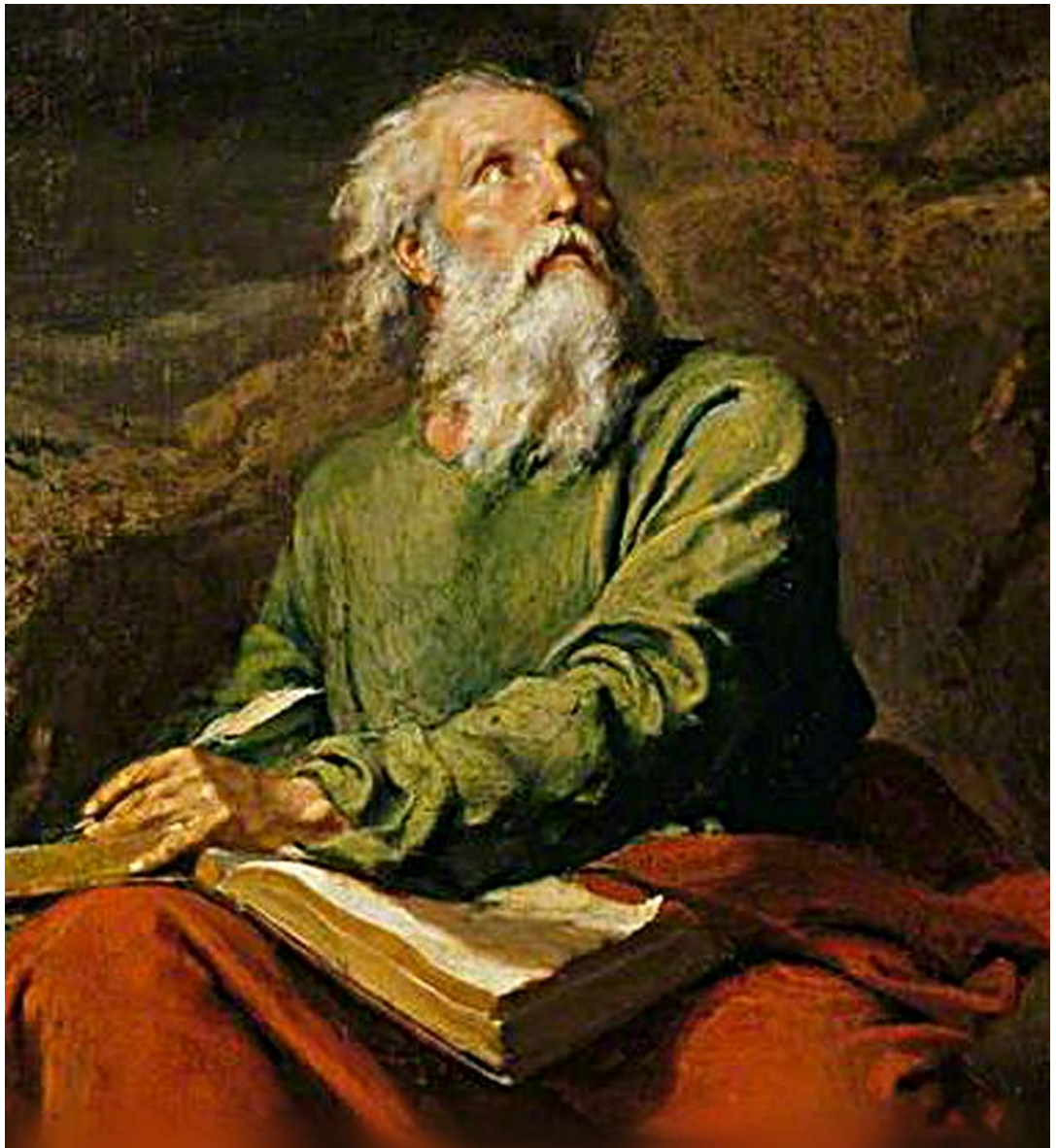
SUNDAY



1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,
2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way"—3 "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
pare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him." 4 And so John the
Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of
Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him
in the Jordan River. 6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather
belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And this was his
message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose
sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water,
but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Mark 1: 1-8

T H I R D



40 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." 9 You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" 10 See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. 11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Isaiah 61: 1-4 & 8-11

SUNDAY



6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." 21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." 22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" 24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent 25 questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. 27 He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." 28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

John 1: 6-8 & 19-28

F O U R T H



1 The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus,
2 it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see
the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

Isaiah 35: 1-2

SUNDAY



8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2: 8-20

C A N D L E 1

Candle of Hope



1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! 2 As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! 3 For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. 4 Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. 5 You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? 6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. 7 No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to [b] our sins. 8 Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord; do not remember our sins forever.

Oh, look on us, we pray,
for we are all your people.

Isaiah 64: 1-9

C A N D L E 2

Candle of Love



1. A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord— 3 and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; 4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. 6 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling[a] together; and a little child will lead them. 7 The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The infant will play near the cobra’s den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest. 9 They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11: 1-9

C A N D L E 3

Candle of Joy



1 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. 4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. 8 "For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. 9 Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed." 10 I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Isaiah 61: 1-4 & 8-11

C A N D L E 4

Candle of Peace



10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz,
11 "Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths
or in the highest heights."
12 But Ahaz said,
"I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test."
13 Then Isaiah said,
"Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience
of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?
14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:
The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him
Immanuel. 15 He will be eating curds and honey when he knows
enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, 16 for before the
boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the
land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

Isaiah 7: 10-16

C
H
R
I
S
T

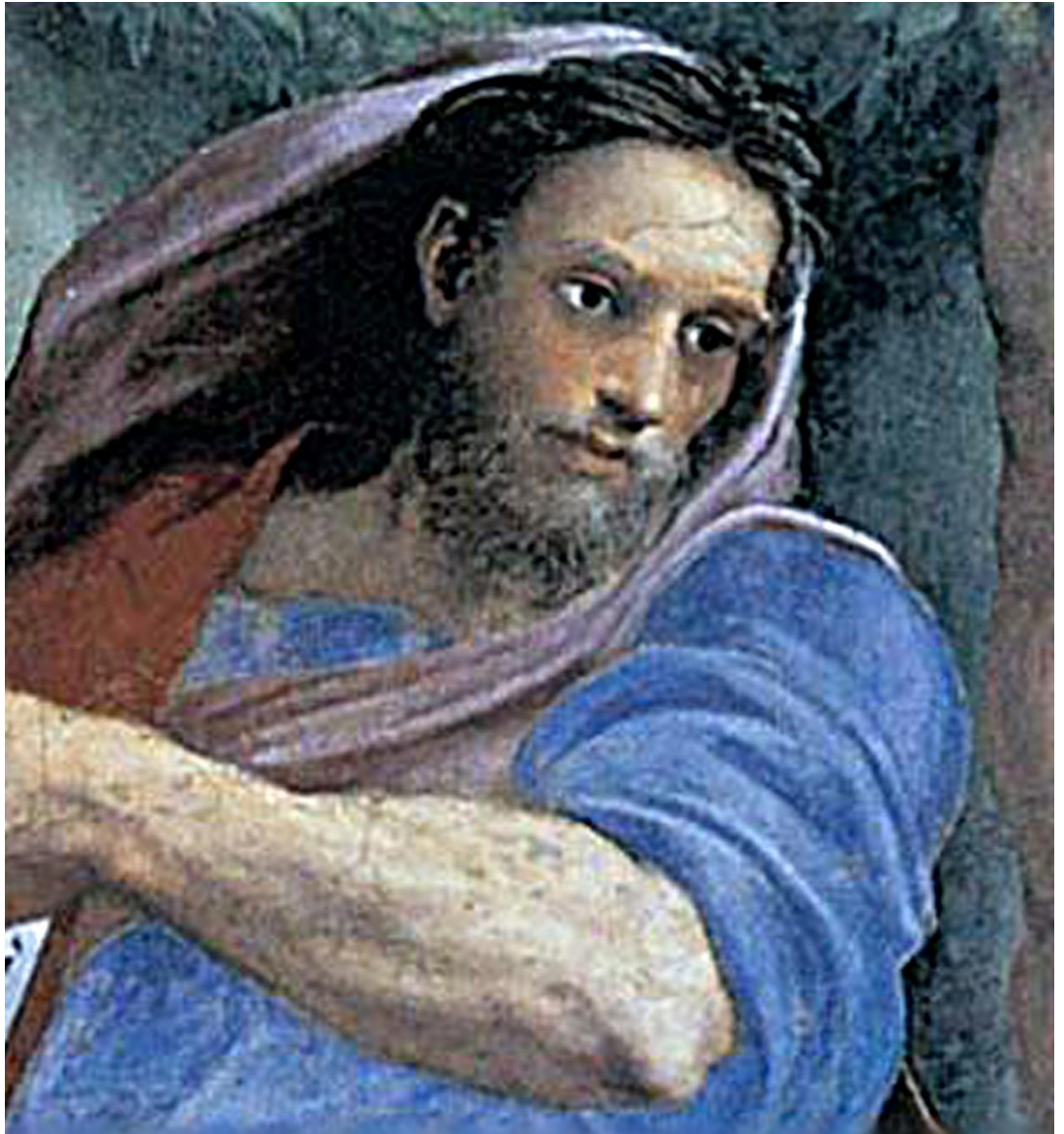
Christ Candle



8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega,"
says the Lord God,
"who is,
and who was,
and who is to come,
the Almighty."

Revelation 1: 8

C H R I S T M A S



2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. 3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. 4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. 5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9: 2-7

E V E

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2: 1-20



M
E
R
R
Y

A Christmas Message

Another year we celebrate
The birthday of our King,
Renew the ancient story told,
And old – time carols sing.

Give presents, and remember all
With cards and greetings;
And say that Santa comes again
With overloaded sleigh.

But in our actions, don't we lose
The message of God's love;
And fail to hear the music from
The Angel's song above.

As in those long-long years ago;
He comes, your life to win;
Oh, listen! Open wide your heart,
And let the Savior in.

Alice Hawkins Coleman
December 8, 1950

C
H
R
I
S
T
M
A
S



Our Crèche set-up crew



Available Now!
The Good News In Color!



**To subscribe, call the Church Office at
(631) 588-5856
or pick up your copy in Hertlin Hall**

A fee of \$2.00 per issue will be charged to pay for printing. Postage extra.

H I S T O R Y

History at UMCLR



During Christmas 1910, Pastor Leon W. Moore wrote the following poem, which he sent as a Christmas card.

At Christmastide oh be there tender true
Thy friends make glad & all thy foes forgive.
With its sweet light begin to live anew
Ungrudging and giving much receive.
May this Christmas love & Christmas cheer
Abide with you throughout the year.

Rev. Leon W. Moore
Christmas 1910

C H R I S M O N

The Chrismon Tree



Rose Young



In November 1982 congregant Rose Young led a Chrismon workshop. "A Chrismon (Christ Monogram) is an inspirational decoration solely related to the life of Christ, the Church and Bible Symbolism". Rose became interested in Chrismons while attending a study group at our church on the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Rose wrote in The Good News, "I visualized the Christmas Tree in our sanctuary shouting the message of Christ, the Bible and the Church to everyone! The Holy Spirit was very evidently at work here". Each year since then, the Chrismon Tree in our sanctuary has been a source of beauty and inspiration. What a fitting Memorial to Rose Young.

O
V
E
R

F
O
U
N
D
E
R

A portrait of Charles Wesley, an English clergyman, poet, and hymn writer. He is depicted from the chest up, wearing a dark coat and a white cravat. He has a large, powdered wig and is holding a red book in his left hand. The background is dark and indistinct.

Charles Wesley

Charles **W**esley;
English clergyman, poet, and
hymn writer who, with his
elder brother John, started
the Methodist movement
within the Church of England
was born December 18, 1707,
Epworth, Lincolnshire, England.
Charles, the youngest and third
surviving son of Samuel and
Susanna Wesley, published
more than 4,500 hymns.
Among Wesley's best-known are
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,"
"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing,"
"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today,"
"Soldiers of Christ, Arise,"
"Rejoice, the Lord Is King," and
"Jesu, Lover of My Soul."
Charles died in London on
March 29, 1788

J
O
I
N
U
S

December Schedule

December 3rd

9:30 AM

First Sunday of Advent
Communion Sunday

December 10th

9:30 AM

Second Sunday of Advent
Cantata

December 17th

9:30 AM

Third Sunday of Advent
Children's Christmas Pageant

December 24th

Christmas Eve Day Service

9:30 AM

Christmas Eve Family Service

7:30 PM

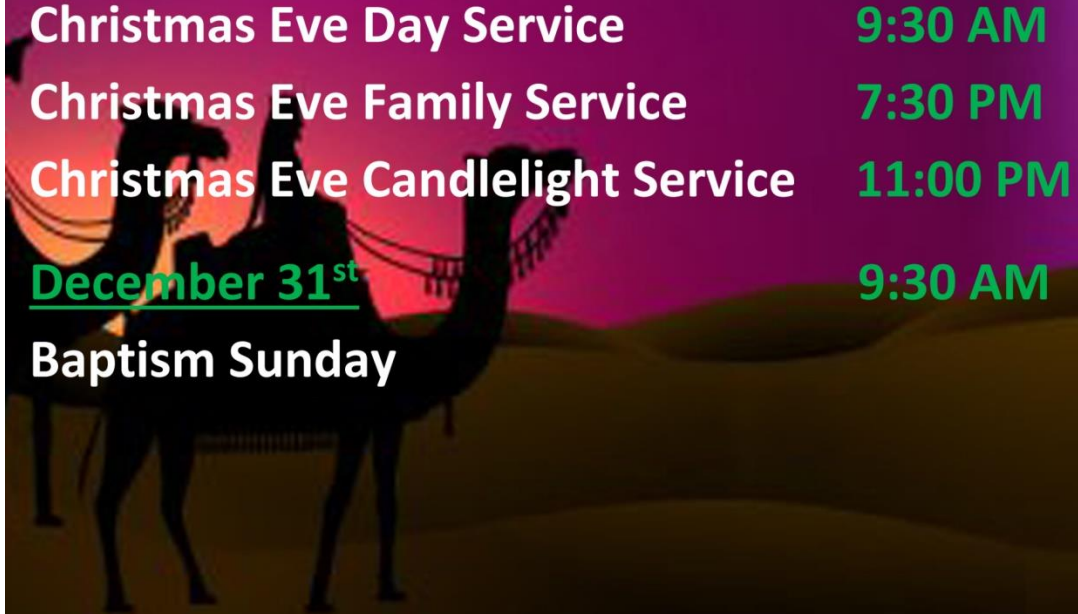
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

11:00 PM

December 31st

9:30 AM

Baptism Sunday



CHRISTMAS POINTSETTIA ORDER FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY



Name: _____

Telephone # _____

In Memory of _____

from _____

In Memory of _____

from _____

In Honor of _____

from _____

In Honor of _____

from _____

Poinsettias ordered _____ at \$13.00 each = \$ _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Envelope # _____

Make checks payable to United Methodist Church. (On memo line put Flower Fund.) Place in offering plate or send to the church office by the deadline of December 10, 2023. If you have any questions, contact the Church Office at 631-588-5856.



Find us
on the web

@

www.umclr.com



Church Office	(631) 588-5856	Board of Trustees	Keith Bowes
Church FAX	(631) 588-0753	Endowment	Sharon Millard
Nursery School	(631) 467-9601	Memorials	Janet Baumann
Martha's Place Thrift Shop	(631) 981-9749	Finance	William Otto
Parsonage	(631) 585-4968	Financial Secretaries	Angelique Sinclair
Church Email	abby@umclir.com		Bernice Waleski
Church Website	umclir.com		Warren Ferry
Resident Bishop	Rev. Thomas Bickerton	Stewardship	(Needed)
		Worship	(Needed)
District Superintendent	Rev. Julia Yeon-Hee Yim	Lay Servant Coordinator	(Needed)
Pastor	Rev. Karen A. Burger	Education	Sue Preddice
CHURCH STAFF:		Sunday School Superintendent	Sharon Corvaia
Administrative Assistant	Abby Preziosi	Youth Coordinator	Wendy Duffy
Nursery School Director	Filomena Thomas	Missions, Evangelism & Nurture	Soon Bowes
Chancel Choir Director	Rex Enderlin	Martha's Place Thrift Shop	Marilee Drisgula
Organist	Heather Edwards-Wilson	UMM Representative	Dennis Subbiondo
Children's Choir Director	Heather Edwards-Wilson	UWF Representative	Barbara Colucci
		Church Historian	Walter Schroeder
		Comm. & Tech.	Andrew Sinclair
		Disaster Prep. & Response	Warren Ferry
Church Council	Sue Campbell		
Staff Parish Pastor Relations	Liza Wright		
Lay Leader	Marilee Drisgula		
	Angelique Sinclair		
Lay Members to Conference	Michael Zukowski		

The United Methodist Church
of Lake Ronkonkoma
792 Hawkins Avenue
Lake Grove, NY 11755