Richland Center United Methodist Church A Community of Faith

3rd Sunday in Advent: Joy – December 14, 2025



The mission of the RC-UMC, as a community of faith, is to share the Gospel and to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

*This mark invites those who are able to please stand.

If you have a prayer concern or a joy to share, please write it on the buff-colored paper found in the pew and place in the offering plate. Thank you.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, be present with us this morning. May your Holy Spirit blow through us, bringing your joy and peace in our hearts. In this season, we remember your unexpected appearance among us in the birth of a child. We long to know you more. May our worship be pleasing to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN O Come Little Children RC-UMC Choir

A MOMENT FOR STILLNESS AND PRESENCE

Today is the Third Sunday in Advent, a time to celebrate with joy because of our hope in Christ. The scripture reading for this Sunday is 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24, where Paul reminds us:

"Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. Do not scoff at prophecies, but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. Stay away from every kind of evil.

Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful."

This is the Word of God, for the people of God. **Amen.** [Light two purple candles and the pink candle (joy candle) on the wreath]

*HYMN What Child Is This? 219

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

As the days darken and the winter winds blow, come to us, Promised One, in our time of waiting. Keep the vision of your salvation before our eyes, where the blind receive their sight, the lame are made to walk, and the lowly are lifted up. Shine the light or your healing love into the darkness of our land, that all may see your glory and know that salvation is at hand. Live in and through us during this Advent season, that we might be messengers of your grace and instruments of your peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

A TIME TO GREET ONE ANOTHER

As Christ Jesus has shared his peace with us, let us share that same peace with one another.

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you. Congregation: And also with you.

Let us offer signs of peace and love with one another

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"The Meaning of Christmas Traditions: A Children's Sermon"

HYMN Star-Child (Faith We Sing)

2095

OUR OFFERING TO THE LORD

As people of God, let us offer the fruit of our labors and ourselves for God's work in the world.

*DOXOLOGY 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord God, you have shown us your glory: in your holy word, in the blessings of our daily lives, and in the promise of your eternal kingdom. You share your glory with us, giving us the power to live in holiness and godliness. Your loving patience gives us hope as we await the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ. In gratitude and thanks, we offer you our hearts, our lives, and all that we have. Use these gifts, we pray, to prepare your way of salvation. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:47-55 (NIV)

MESSAGE Pastor Grace Cho

HYMN Mary Did You Know? RC-UMC Choir

*BENEDICTION

We go now in peace. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen!**

Hymn Leaders: David Brock, Connie Frye,

Rosanne Knower, Kathy Schwinefus

Liturgist: Connie Dunn

Organist/Pianist: Jennifer Hall Scripture Reader: Dianne Monson

Sound System: Paul Knower

Coffee Hour Next Week: Jim Brock & Kathy Schwinefus

Upcoming Worship Servers:

Scripture Readers:

Dec. 21st Jim Brock

Dec. 28th Kathy Schwinefus

Jan. 04th Connie Frye

Jan. 11th Bonnie Richardson

Liturgist:

Kathy Schwinefus

Beth Huebner

Connie Dunn

Bonnie Richardson

Prayer: O God, in the middle of our waiting, sing your joy into our hearts. Give us the strength to laugh again, to hope again, to sing again – even when tears still fall. We trust that joy is coming. In Christ, our Joy and our light, we pray. Amen.

This Week's Events:

- Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. 14 **Sunday school Christmas Program**
- 15 Ad Council Mtg: 4:00 p.m. – Library
- 18 Seeker's Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. - Library

Upcoming Events:

- Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Sunday school: 10:45 a.m.
- 24 Newsletter deadline: Noon Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Merry Christmas - The office will be closed



TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR HOSPITALITY HOST Many thanks to our High School students for hosting coffee hour today.



Richland Center United Methodist Church

Pastor: Grace Cho Pastor's Cell Phone: 404-502-3544 Pastor's Email: gracecho0503@gmail.com

> RC-UMC Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

RC-UMC Office: 608-647-3203

RC-UMC Email: trinityumc@mwt.net RC-UMC Website: www.rc.umc.org

Or: https://rc-umc.org

Administrative Assistant: Joan Wheeler Treasurer/Financial Secretary: Monica Eernisse Custodian: Desiree Beik



December Birthdays December Anniversaries Ryan Pluemer 12/17 Fuzz & Nancy McCauley 12/18 Amelia Shannon

12/31

12/31

12/19

12/30

Ben Otto 12/20 Barb Borton Oakley Schneider 12/20 12/22 Jerod McCollum Nicholas Bastian 12/24 Sally McCollum 12/24 Tammy Fritz 12/25 12/26 Paul Turgasen Carrie Richardson 12/29 Tom Richardson 12/29 12/31 Aiden Ewing 12/31 Destiny Shannon James Steinmetz 12/31

Lee Steinmetz

Dennis Tracy

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