

Richland Center United Methodist Church
A Community of Faith
4th Sunday of Advent: Love – December 21, 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 down on the buff-colored paper in the pew and place in the offering plate. Thank you.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, this morning we pray for the faith of Joseph and Mary. In the middle of making their own plans they recognized Your voice when an angel appeared in their dream. Not only did they recognize You but they let go of their plans and obeyed Yours. You are still speaking. We are still planning. We pause in silence, taking a break from our own plans to consent to Your plans, to create space and a readiness within us for Your voice and presence. Continue to give us grace to prepare a way for You in our hearts, our community and our world; through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR STILLNESS AND PRESENCE

HYMN *Angels from the Realm of Glory* 220

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES *Sunday School*

Psalms 18:24-28

²⁴ The LORD rewarded me for doing right.

He has seen my innocence.

²⁵ To the faithful you show yourself faithful;
to those with integrity you show integrity.

²⁶ To the pure you show yourself pure,
but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.

²⁷ You rescue the humble,
but you humiliate the proud.

²⁸ You light a lamp for me.

The LORD, my God, lights up my darkness.

[Light the outer four candles of the Advent wreath]

***HYMN** *Sing We Now of Christmas (vs1-4)* 237

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

God with us, Emmanuel, as we draw near to you, Lord, we focus on our attention to your presence among us. Loving God, we have gathered here as the body of Christ, to worship you. We offer our prayers and sing our praises. As we consider the love, care, and faith of Mary and Joseph, strengthen our faith. Like Joseph and Mary, may we trust in your abiding love and power. Prepare us to receive your gift of grace and peace. As we prepare our hearts and home for Christmas, be our peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Beth Huebner*

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

OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS *All Sing*

May the Lord, our great creator, bless you this day; give you peace and hope and courage along your way. May you stay within God's keeping in your waking, in your sleeping, in your joy, and in your weeping, God be with you.

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER 895

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**

Loving God, as we remember how Mary and Joseph accepted the responsibility You gave them—a calling that changed their lives—help us to reflect on the call You place on our lives today. Give us courage to say “yes” to Your calling. Receive the gifts we bring—and transform them for the good of Your people. May our very lives be good gifts to You. We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING **Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Living Word of God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit as your Word is proclaimed. Give us humble and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

MESSAGE *Pastor Grace Cho*

***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 Knowler, Kathy Schweinefus
Liturgist: Kathy Schweinefus
Organist/Pianist: Jennifer Hall
Scripture Reader: Jim Brock
Sound System: Paul Knowler
Coffee Hour Next Week: Kathy Bastian

Upcoming Worship Servers:
Scripture Readers:
 Dec. 28th Kathy Schweinefus
 Jan. 04th Connie Frye
 Jan. 11th Bonnie Richardson
 Jan. 18th Russ Shannon
Liturgist:
 Beth Huebner
 Connie Dunn
 Bonnie Richardson
 Russ Shannon

Prayer: God of Love, as we light the fourth candle, fill our hearts with your deep, daring, divine love. Let it cast out fear. Let it find flesh in our words, our choices, our care. Come, Lord Jesus. Dwell among us again. Amen.

This Week's Events:
 21 **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
Upcoming Events:
 28 Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday school: 10:45 a.m.
 01 Happy New Year 2026
 The office will be closed.



TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR HOSPITALITY
 HOST
 Many thanks to Jim Brock and Kathy
 Schweinefus 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 (Twining) Beik

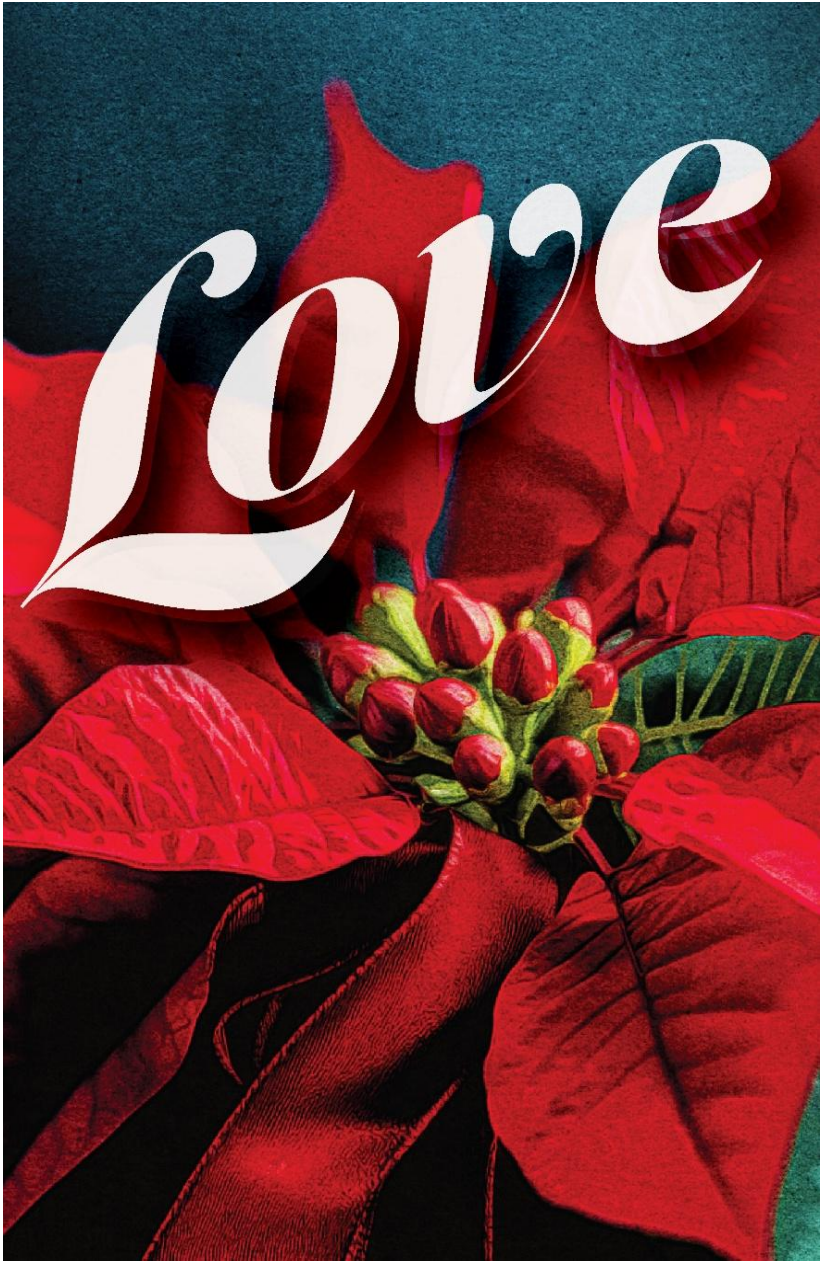


December Birthdays		December Anniversaries	
Jerod McCollum	12/22	Fuzz & Nancy McCauley	12/30
Nicholas Bastian	12/24		
Sally McCollum	12/24		
Tammy Fritz	12/25		
Paul Turgasen	12/26		
Carrie Richardson	12/29		
Tom Richardson	12/29		
Aiden Ewing	12/31		
Destiny Shannon	12/31		
James Steinmetz	12/31		
Lee Steinmetz	12/31		
Dennis Tracy	12/31		



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Please make sure to give to the Food Pantry. They are in need of our non-perishable food donations. They are in need of our non-perishable food donations.



Communion Servers for 2026

We are trying to line up Communion Servers for 2026. There is a sign-up sheet in the

Narthex for you to sign up if you would like to be Communion Server on the 1st Sunday of every month.

Pastor Grace and three more make up our servers.



Kwik Trip cards make great Christmas presents. We have two varieties to choose from. One is grocery only; the other is a gift card good for gas and groceries. Both are worth \$25.00. Please see Nancy McCauley to purchase. This is a Mission's project.



Christmas Eve Worship Times:

Willow Valley: 4:00 p.m.

Ash Creek: 5:30 p.m.

RC-UMC 7:00 p.m.

General Announcements December Mission Focus



The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the Universal Christian Church.

Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name without discrimination.

Christy Duhr, local representative for The Salvation Army, covers 9 counties. Those counties are: Adams, Crawford, Grant, Juneau, Monroe, Richland, Sauk, Vernon and Waushara.

Please consider either donating to the Salvation Army directly or thru the red Kettle campaign (you can see them at Wal Mart entrances, Kwik Trip and other local businesses). A fun way to start your Holiday season is to participate in the bell ringing fun. Friends, families, co-workers, and local business and /or churches can commit to 1 hour of bell ringing for this worthwhile fund raiser. If interested, you can call Kevin Nolan, bell ringing coordinator, at 608-475-1519 or pick up a tag from the bulletin board in the entrance to the church.

Please read the entire article on page 3 in the December ***News From The Center.***

