



# Columns

## Holiday Highlights:

Dec 2 3:00 PM  
UMW Christmas Tea

Dec 2 6:30 PM  
Hanging of the Greens

Dec 7 5:30 PM  
Pajama Movie Night

Dec 10 7:00 PM  
Blue Christmas

Dec 14 7:00 PM  
Youth Christmas Party

Dec 16 4:00 PM  
Christmas Concert

Dec 23 5:00 PM  
Christmas Caroling

Dec 24 4:00 PM  
Christmas Pageant Worship Service

Dec 24 8:00 PM  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

All Women are cordially invited!  
Sunday, Dec 2, 3PM  
Guest Speaker: Tia of Bethany Hall  
RCUMC Fellowship Hall

If you wish, bring a baby item, women's toiletries, Clorox wipes, detergent or tissues for the treatment center.

Christmas UMW TEA

**HANGING OF THE GREENS**  
Dec. 2nd 6:30 PM  
Share a light meal, decorate, sing carols, worship and Welcome Advent

**Pajama Movie Night**

Friday, December 7th  
5:30pm - 8:30 PM  
www.rumc.org

DINNER, COOKIES, CHRISTMAS MOVIE, AND FUN! BIRTH - 5TH GRADE REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

*Blue Christmas Service*  
Dec. 10 7:00 PM  
Raleigh Court United Methodist Church

For those who are stressed, lonely, or hurting

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5

# Merry Christmas

*St. Lucia Concert  
Festival of Light*

Tuesday, Dec. 11th  
7:30 PM

St. Andrew's Catholic Church

Swedish Supper at 6:00  
Tickets for Supper can be purchased (\$20) at St. Andrew's 540-344-9814

Choirs from multiple churches, including Raleigh Court UMC

**Christmas Concert**  
Sunday, Dec. 16 4:00 PM

Enjoy Christmas music by the children, youth, and adults of the church. This concert will feature a variety of music for the Christmas season, from traditional carols to Handel's MESSIAH.

Singing, Handbells, Piano, Organ, Harpsichord, Brass, Recorders

**Christmas Caroling**  
DECEMBER 23  
5:00 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME!  
MEET AT THE CHURCH. REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW.

CHRISTMAS EVE  
AT RALEIGH COURT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 24

4:00 PM "ALL ARE WELCOME" PAGEANT  
ALL CHILDREN PRESENT WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PAGEANT

8:00 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



## Prepare Him Room

It is that time of year again. Carols flowing around and our hearts are filled with joy! The joy of family getting together, buying and receiving gifts, and the return of pumpkin spice latte excites us (or just me...). The true joy of Christmas, however, comes from remembering that our Lord came to this world, as a baby.

Normally during the Christmas Eve service, we sing 'Joy to the World.' The song summarizes the true meaning of Christmas and how we should celebrate this season.

We are called to prepare room for our King to come into our lives.

Christmas is a time to rejoice in God's promise, who came to this world. But at the same time, it is a time for us to prepare room in our lives, so that the King can live and dwell with us.

We call this season of preparation, Advent. The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming". It also has a meaning of 'a coming of a notable person.' What happens when a notable person comes to your house? Nowadays, we don't have that many opportunities for a notable person to come into our life. Recently, the closest experience I had was my mother's visit. For a week or two before, there was extensive cleaning around our

house. It was a time for us to see how much we accumulated unnecessary things in our house.

In the same way, Advent is a time for us to look into our lives and see if we are prepared to receive the King of all Kings. It is also a time for us to reexamine if we are dedicated to following that King.

***"Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her king  
Let every heart prepare him room"  
- Joy to the World***

Our gatherings, both in our worship and fellowship, should be focused on how we can help each other in this journey of preparing room

for our King. It is a time where we pray and invite others who we have missed in our community of faith. It is a time for us to center our hearts on the true meaning of Christmas, which can quickly fade behind the celebration of the world. As we work together to prepare our hearts, we will see how God continues to use us to proclaim the Joy to this World!

Please join us in praying for all we do during this time of preparation to reach out to this world.

Please join us in the time of prayer of preparing our hearts for our King.

Join us in the celebration of the joy that enters into our lives.

In Christ,  
Rev. Seungsoo Jun

**Pastor Seungsoo Jun**  
pastor@rcumc.org  
(540) 556-1188

**Sue McCoy**  
Lay Leader  
Sue@rcumc.org

**Watch our services when you cannot attend!**

**Go to [www.rcumc.org](http://www.rcumc.org) and click "Watch Online."**

Check out our Facebook page! (Sunday services are posted each week on our website.)

**To receive the "Columns" by email or to sign up for our email newsletter "The Weekly Good News", just send a note to us at [rcumc@rcumc.org](mailto:rcumc@rcumc.org)**

Prayer requests can be shared directly with our Prayer Ministry Team by emailing to [prayers@rcumc.org](mailto:prayers@rcumc.org).

The church office is open  
Mon - Fri 9am - 2pm.



Download our app!  
Scan this QR code



# Mission Corner

(below) This group raked leaves for members of the congregation.

(bottom) This group packed relief buckets for flood disaster relief, pack food pantry bags for RCUMC Open Table and pack snacks for needy elementary students through Congregations in Action.



(below) This group painted at Trinity UMC in the Kids Soar area.

(bottom) This group performed deep cleaning on the Family Promise building in Salem.

**On Saturday, November 10,** five groups of volunteers met at Raleigh Court UMC at 8 am for a light breakfast with worship and a prayer send-off at 8:30 am and then a morning of service. Each group had an assignment.



Each group was well represented with 15 to 20 persons helping in each. Each group finished before our end time of noon. Feedback from all groups was positive. The Family Promise deep-clean group purchased a new vacuum cleaner for that ministry. The pack a snack



group wants more opportunities to serve. The Kids Soar painting team saw how impressive the ministry is. The leaf-rakers had a great time and can't wait for the next project. As a result of the great turnout and feedback of those who participated, in the future we plan to offer quarterly opportunities for service.



*Fracking Hearing-* A small passionate group of people met at the Newport-Mt. Olivet UMC to discuss issues related to the construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline in our area. The Mountain Valley Watch representative also spoke at the meeting and shared the work that volunteers are doing.





**Celebrate Recovery**  
Meets every Wednesday at 5:30 PM with a free meal following



**Celebrate Recovery for Women**  
A CHRIST-CENTERED RECOVERY PROGRAM

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT BETTY CAMPBELL AT 529-4629



THERE ARE

2 types of people:

THOSE IN RECOVERY & THOSE WHO NEED TO BE!



**Celebrate Recovery**

Meets every Wednesday at 5:30 PM with free meal following



Want to know more about ministries for mission?

Contact Mark Moyer for more information! [Markm@rcumc.org](mailto:Markm@rcumc.org)

# DECEMBER



Would you like to volunteer for something, but aren't sure how? Just ask Terri!([terriu@rcumc.org](mailto:terriu@rcumc.org)) She will connect you with the right people to show you the ropes!

*Thank you!*

	December 2	December 9	December 16	December 23	December 30
Acolyte	Luke Barrette Evan Gross	Julia Vaughan Katherine Vaughan	Ella Harig Keira Realmuto	Titus Counihan Meredith McG	Woojin Jun Ben Realmuto
Altar Flowers	Chris Landon	Steph Dickenson	Cindy Hayth	Sharon Poff Emily Butler	Susan Loveman
Children	n/a	Seungsoo Jun	George Dickenson	Sarah Pero	
Facility	Doug Moore	Greg Huffman	Ken Arritt	Tim McConchie	Mark Seiler
Finance	Steve Gross	Carla Taylor	Mark Seiler	Rob Vaughan	Julie Wheeler
Nursery	Kristen Budd Bonnie Clark Veronica C Matt Horne	Sidney Handy Brian Handy Julie Realmuto Keira Realmuto	Rachel Downing Ellen McGimsey Meredith McG Janice Phillips	Emma Batty Hazel Keller Andrea O'Keef Paul O'Keef	Kathy Arritt George Dickenson Kelly Silva Patsy Wingfield
Healthcare Worship		Allison Sadler	Cindy Hayth	Allison Sadler	Rachel Downing
Liturgist	John Pero	Janice Phillips	David Tanner	Caroline McGimsey	Larry Dickenson
Transport	Danny Gee Bill Taylor	Judy Gearing	Louise Miller Mat Talbot		
Ushers	Kathy Arritt Ken Arritt Carl Cress Dennie Denison John Richardson Steve Gross	Stew Hubbell Daphne Huffman Greg Huffman Shannon Miller Steve Smith David Tanner	Kathy Arritt Ken Arritt Dennie Denison Sherrie Denison Bonnie Dickerson Shelby Dickerson	Vivianne Harris Jim Nicholas Tim McConchie Debbie Reid Robert Reid David Tanner	Rick Bowyer Teresa Bowyer David Davis Mark Seiler Whitney Smith Brad Stephens

Do you receive our Weekly Good News on Thursdays and Pastor's E-note on Saturdays?  
If not, check you spam mailbox. Also add [rcumc@rcumc.org](mailto:rcumc@rcumc.org) and [pastor@rcumc.org](mailto:pastor@rcumc.org) to your contact list.  
#getconnected #rcumc #email



**LOOKING FOR A FEW SMILING DRIVERS**  
TO BRING MORE FRIENDS TO JOIN US!

Talk to Judy Thornton for details or to add your name to the driver rotation schedule.

## Looking for knitters and crocheters!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to add to our group.

We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 10 AM in the church library. In Nov and Dec we will only meet on the 2nd Thursday.

For more information or questions, please contact Becky Gee at 989-6581 or email her at [dwgrdg@cox.net](mailto:dwgrdg@cox.net)



## Beginner's Yoga

All are welcome to attend the Beginner's Yoga Class on Tuesday evenings at 5:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Extra yoga mats and props are available. Advanced notice of attendance is not necessary.

The rate is \$10.00 per class or a class card may be purchased for a discounted rate of \$36.00 for four classes (to be used within two months).

**Gift certificates are available.**

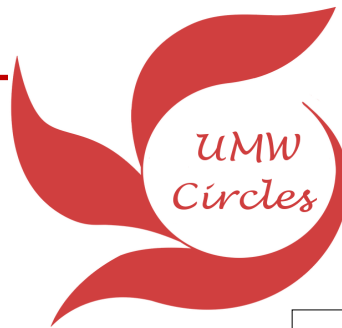
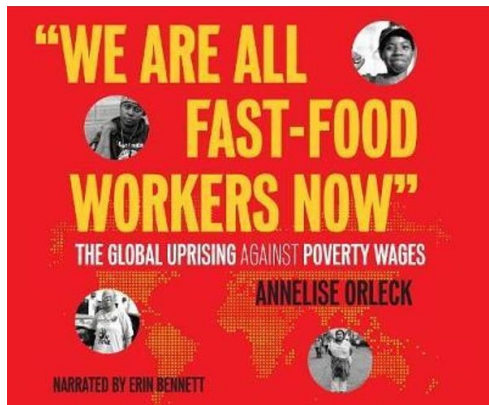
For more information, call Rebecca Talbot, Certified Integral Yoga Instructor, (540) 342-0545 or join the Facebook Group, Roanoke Hatha Yoga.



## UMW Reading Program

One of the UMW initiatives this year is economic inequality. This book addresses that concern through interviews with a variety of

employees in various service jobs both in the U.S. and abroad. A living wage is critical to any family's welfare. Activists outline their resistance as well as demonstrate a glimmer of hope in this process. Read this book from the 2019 UMW shelf to become more informed. Be sure to check it out of the church library.



## United Methodist Women

### Frances Allen Circle

The Frances Allen Circle will be going to a Christmas Breakfast/Brunch Tuesday, Dec. 4 at I-Hop in Salem-Lakeside. All are welcome to come with us. We are collecting new Stamped Christmas Cards for the Roanoke Prison Ministry. We will meet at RCUMC at 9am to carpool. For more information or questions call or email Bonnie Dickerson 540-309-0141 or [s3b4dkrsn@verizon.net](mailto:s3b4dkrsn@verizon.net)

## Sunday Evening Fellowship

Sunday Evening Fellowship met in the church library at 6:30 PM on November 11, 2018. The lesson was centered around our annual Thank Offering which is given in response to God's abundance and grace in each of our lives. The funds collected are used in our organization's total program of mission and advocacy for women and children in the United States and around the world. Part of our lesson was reading about a woman's HIV program in Nairobi, Kenya, Operation Hope, that receives funds from this Thank Offering. This program's purpose is to develop economic skills that enable the women to support themselves and their families.

The annual UMW Christmas Tea which will be on Sunday, December 2 at 3 PM in the church fellowship hall was discussed. The speaker will be Tia Graham from Bethany Hall which is one of the recipients of funds from our fall pecan sale. ALL women are invited to this event. Sunday Evening Fellowship will also host the December Hermitage Birthday Celebration on Monday, December 10 at 3 PM. Debra LeBrun will present a bell solo concert for the residents.

We hope each Raleigh Court participant consider joining our organization. Contact Janice Phillips at 725-1358.

Weekly Prayer Focus	The Lord's Day	Monday
<p>Pray that your heart will be filled with the love of Christ Jesus during this season of Advent.</p>	<p><b>2 1 Corinthians 9-11</b>  8:30 AM First Light Worship  9:00 AM Connection Corner Coffee  9:40 AM Sunday School  9:40 PM Explore Class  11:00 AM Children's Worship  11:00 AM Traditional Worship  12:15 PM Missions Meeting  <b>3:00 PM UMW Christmas Tea</b>  5:30 PM BELLievers Rehearsal  <b>6:30 PM Hanging of the Greens</b></p>	<p><b>3 1 Corinthians 12-14</b>  6:00 PM Girl Scouts  6:15 PM Recorders  6:30 PM Boy Scouts  7:00 PM Prayer Ministry</p>
<p>Pray that God will help you keep the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of a Savior, in your mind each day.</p>	<p><b>9 Romans 8-10</b>  Family Promise Week  8:30 AM First Light Worship  9:00 AM Connection Corner Coffee  9:40 AM Sunday School  9:40 AM Explore Class  11:00 AM Traditional Worship  12:15 PM Brass Rehearsal  5:30 PM BELLievers Rehearsal  6:30 PM Youth Fellowship</p>	<p><b>10 Romans 11-13</b>  Family Promise Week  6:15 PM Recorders  6:30 PM Boy Scouts  7:00 PM Prayer Ministry  <b>7:00 PM Blue Christmas</b></p>
<p>Thank God daily for His love and grace given to each of us thru His Son, Jesus.</p>	<p><b>16 Ephesians 1-6</b>  8:30 AM First Light Worship  9:00 AM Connection Corner Coffee  9:40 AM Sunday School  11:00 AM Traditional Worship  <b>12:15 PM Youth Angel Tree Shopping</b>  <b>4:00 PM Christmas Concert</b></p>	<p><b>17 Philippians 1-4</b>  6:00 PM Girl Scouts  6:30 PM Boy Scouts  7:00 PM Prayer Ministry</p>
<p>As Christmas Eve and Christmas Day approach, ask God to help you share His love with those who need it the most.</p>	<p><b>23 Hebrews 11-13</b>  8:30 AM First Light Worship  9:00 AM Connection Corner Coffee  9:40 AM Sunday School  11:00 AM Traditional Worship  <b>5:00 PM Christmas Caroling</b></p>	<p><b>24 2 Timothy 1-4</b>  <b>4:00 PM Children's Pageant Worship Service</b>  <b>8:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</b></p>
<p>As another new year approaches, praise God for His gift of life and the gift of His Son, Jesus.</p>	<p><b>30 Revelation 12-18</b>  8:30 AM First Light Worship  9:00 AM Connection Corner Coffee  9:40 AM Sunday School  11:00 AM Traditional Worship  12:00 PM RAM House Service</p>	<p><b>31 Revelation 19-22</b></p>

	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
	<b>4</b> <i>2 Corinthians 1-4</i> <b>9:00 AM Frances Allen Circle @ IHOP</b> 5:45 PM Yoga Class 6:00 PM Finance Mtg. 8:00 PM NA Meeting	<b>5</b> <i>2 Corinthians 5-9</i> 5:30 PM Mosaic 6:45 PM JuBELLation 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<b>6</b> <i>2 Corinthians 10-13</i> 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM 1st Light Worship Team 6:30 PM Women's AA Meeting	<b>7</b> <i>Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3</i> <b>5:30 PM Parent's Night Out</b> 7:00 PM St. Lucia Rehearsal at St. Andrews 8:00 NA Meeting	<b>8</b> <i>Romans 4-7</i> 8:00 AM UMM Fellowship Breakfast
	<b>11</b> <i>Romans 14-16</i> Family Promise Week 5:30 PM Executive Council Meeting 5:45 PM Yoga Class <b>7:30 PM St. Lucia Concert at St. Andrews</b> 8:00 PM NA Meeting	<b>12</b> <i>Acts 20:4-23:35</i> Family Promise Week 5:30 PM Mosaic 6:45 PM JuBELLation 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<b>13</b> <i>Acts 24-26</i> Family Promise Week 7:00 AM Downtown Bible Study 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM 1st Light Worship Team 6:30 PM Women's AA Meeting	<b>14</b> <i>Acts 27-28</i> Family Promise Week 11:00 AM Friday Friends <b>7:00 PM Youth Christmas Party</b> 8:00 PM NA Meeting	<b>15</b> <i>Colossians 1-4, Philemon 1</i> 4:00 PM Christmas Concert Rehearsal
	<b>18</b> <i>1 Timothy 1-6</i> 5:45 PM Yoga Class 8:00 PM NA Meeting	<b>19</b> <i>Titus 1-3</i> 5:30 PM Mosaic 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<b>20</b> <i>1 Peter 1-5</i> 7:00 PM Downtown Bible Study Breakfast 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM 1st Light Worship Team 6:30 PM Women's AA Meeting	<b>21</b> <i>Hebrews 1-6</i> 8:00 PM NA Meeting	<b>22</b> <i>Hebrews 7-10</i>
	<b>25</b> <i>2 Peter 1-3, Jude 1</i> 8:00 PM NA Meeting	<b>26</b> <i>1 John 1-5</i> No MOSAIC No Rehearsals No Open Table	<b>27</b> <i>2 John 1, 3 John 1</i> 6:30 PM Womens AA 6:30 PM 1st Lt. Worship Team	<b>28</b> <i>Revelation 1-5</i> 8:00 PM NA Meeting	<b>29</b> <i>Revelation 6-11</i>

# December 2018



# Feast of St. Lucia

15th Annual Ecumenical Concert & Festival of Light  
Featuring Choirs from multiple churches, including Raleigh Court UMC



Tuesday  
December 11  
7:30 PM

St. Andrew's Catholic Church, 631 N. Jefferson St., Roanoke  
Free Admission to concert, Reserve your 'Swedish Supper at 6:00 tickets (\$20.00 each) by calling the St. Andrew's Parish Office- 540-344-9814

**Make a Christmas Gift to the Chancel Choir**

Our Chancel Choir has received the honor of being invited to sing in a concert at Carnegie Hall with composer Mark Hayes on December 2, 2019! This is exciting news for our choir and our church!! We have 18 singers who plan on participating. You can show your appreciation for our wonderful choir by supporting our trip with a donation. We want to make sure that all of our members who want to attend are able to do so. You can either make a check payable to the church or donate online. Write in the memo line Carnegie Hall Trip. When donating online select "Music Program" for the Fund.

**For more Information and to Support our fundraising efforts for this trip to please visit [www.rcumc.org/chancel-choir](http://www.rcumc.org/chancel-choir)**



# NEXT GENERATION AT RCUMC

## 2018 RCUMC NEXT GEN December Events

### G.L.O.W MINISTRY

#### Christmas Concert

December 16th, 2018 @ 4:00 PM  
Join us for the Christmas Concert and start the Christmas Celebration!

#### Christmas Caroling

December 23rd, 2018 @ 5:00 PM  
We will have team visiting nursing homes and members to sing carols and share the love.

### KIDS G.L.O.W MINISTRY

#### Pajama Movie Night

December 7th, 2018 @ 5:30 PM  
Children will have a pajama movie night watching the movie STAR, while the parents can do Christmas shopping or enjoy a date night.

### Christmas Children's Pageant

December 24th, 2018 @ 4:00 PM  
Join us to remember the story of Christmas from the perspective of our children.

### YOUTH G.L.O.W

#### Youth Christmas Party

December 14th, 2018 @ 7:00 PM  
We will meet at the Bongrazio's for the Youth G.L.O.W Christmas Party. Come and join us to celebrate the presence of each other.

#### Angel Tree Shopping

December 16th, 2018 @ 12:15pm  
We will go out to Valley View to purchase Christmas gifts for our Angel Tree children! Followed by a lunch fellowship.

#### R.A.M House Service

December 30th, 2018 @ 11:30 AM



**Pajama Movie Night**  
Friday, December 7th  
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM



*A Program of Prison Fellowship*

December's Love Offering will be dedicated to sharing the love for our community



**Wreath Sale** Fall 2018  
**Youth Fundraiser**  
Coming on November 18th, 2018

**\$25 WITH A BOW**  
**\$20 WITHOUT**



continue to pray  
**FOR THE NEXT GEN**

We need your prayers and support reaching out to the Next Gen. Pray that we can connect and prepare our Next Gen to serve this world. Also, pray for us as we go through a transition of leadership.



**44 HOUSEHOLDS ENROLLED**  
New Code: TF920

Current Studies

# Sundays!

LEARN WITH US AT 9:40 AM WEEKLY

Angelus Chapel - **God's World and God's People** is the focus of our small group meeting in the Angelus Chapel

**Room 102** - Our Women's Bible Study is studying "**Anxious for Nothing**" by Max Lucado

**Room 105** - "**Why?**" by Adam Hamilton

**Room 307** - "**Crash Test Dummies: Surprising Lessons from the Book of Judges**" by Talbot Davis

**Room 304** - "**Because of Bethlehem**" by Max Lucado

Each of these studies are open to all! Please join one that interests you!

## Weekday BIBLE STUDIES

### Downtown Bible Study Breakfast



Every other Thursday at 7 AM  
Scrambled Downtown in the Market Building - All are welcome!  
Questions? Terri 540-344-6011 x2

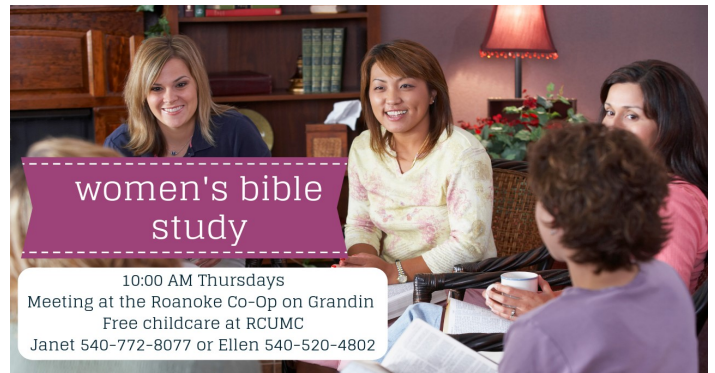


### Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study Breakfast

FAMOUS ANTHONY'S SW PLAZA

7:00 AM EVERY TUESDAY

Questions? Call Rich at 540-520-4803



### women's bible study

10:00 AM Thursdays  
Meeting at the Roanoke Co-Op on Grandin  
Free childcare at RCUMC  
Janet 540-772-8077 or Ellen 540-520-4802

### Did you know that we stock a community pantry at Raleigh Court?

- One bag includes:
  - 1 lb Spaghetti
  - 1 lb 8 oz Meat Sauce
  - 1 lb Rice
  - 1 lb Dried Beans
  - 15 oz Canned Fruit
  - 7.25 oz Mac & Cheese
  - 1 lb Peanut Butter
  - 14.5 oz Can Green Beans or Peas
  - 15.2 oz Can Corn or Cream Corn
  - 10.5 oz Chicken Noodle Soup
  - 5 oz Chunk Light Tuna

Did you know that we give out food throughout the month to anyone who comes and asks for it?  
We also have food available to the community when folks come to **Open Table**, the last Wednesday evening of each month. It is an easy way to serve if you would like to contribute. We have a set list to put in the bag for each family. You may buy one or all of the items and drop them by the office.



## December Birthdays

12/1	Charlie Lyon	12/11	Sarah McConchie
12/2	David Pero	12/13	Ann Barton
12/2	Linda Wright	12/14	Julie Barrette
12/4	Bill Gearing	12/16	Al Barton
12/4	James Shockley	12/16	David Wright
12/4	Gladys Munsey	12/17	Andrew Watts
12/5	Caraline Tackett	12/19	Betty Blades
12/6	Meredith McDowell	12/19	Emily P. Butler
12/7	Larry Dickenson	12/22	Skip Carter
12/7	Sharon Alexie	12/26	Mary Evens
12/8	Susie McMann	12/26	Dalia Downing
12/9	Teresa Bowyer	12/27	Michelle Adkins
12/10	Ella Harig	12/28	Christopher Nicholas

	Nov 4	Nov 11	Nov 18	Nov 25
8:30 AM Worship	65	42	44	45
11:00 AM Worship	153	168	143	128
TOTAL including on-line & healthcare	228	220	193	178
Giving	12,819	3511	8365	5018

Join us each Monday at 7PM in the parlor as we gather together specifically to pray. All are welcome each week.



Relationship cannot exist without conversation and communication. To have the deepest and most meaningful relationship with God, we need to spend time with Him in prayer, talking and then listening to His response. One of the ways to spend time in prayer is with the use of scripture. Try using the practice tips below during your personal prayer time.

### Praying Scripture Practice Tips

Here's how you can get started:

- Select a passage that is meaningful to you and that you feel really speaks truth into your life. A Psalm is a great place to start for this practice (e.g., if you want to pray a prayer of praise to God, try Psalm 100)
- Take a moment to ask God to bless your time in Scripture, to keep you focused, and to help you pray his Word
- Start reading through your passage slowly, meditating on each word and verse
- Pray as you go through the passage, bringing the ideas of the passage into your own conversation to God
- Use your time praying Scripture to glorify God and let him encourage your spirit

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Merry Christmas

