



Sunday, December 3, 2023

Join us for Sunday worship in person at 10:30 am or online. [Click here](#) for the live-streamed service.

This week at Riverbend United

December 1, 2023

Dear Friends:

Immanuel: God with us. That's what we're preparing for in Advent, starting this Sunday: the birth of a human being who fully embodies the divine. It couldn't come at a better time, the celebration of this birth, right in the heart of darkness.

But first, we wait. We open our hearts and we prepare. We feed time with daily devotional readings, with sacred conversation, with serving in some way. We journey, individually or together, toward the manger, the place where love is born.

I invite you to join us on this Advent journey. [Here's a link](#) to our Advent guide written by Kate Bowler, where you can read a short devotional each day. This year, we have multiple options for connecting with others of the church as we reflect on these daily readings. See them in the Announcements below.

Have a blessed Advent, and see you Sunday,

Valerie

"A lot of Christians like to remind me that heaven is my true home, which makes me want to ask them if they would like to go home first." — Kate Bowler, [Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved](#)

IN OUR PRAYERS:

- **Lona Boy and family** on the death of Amona Buleba, whom Lona raised as a daughter. Lona and her grandchildren are new to the church, and we are invited to keep them in our hearts as they grieve this loss. We will celebrate Amona's life on December 2nd at Park Memorial Funeral Home.
- **Dina Parker and family** on the death of her step-father Gene Yaremko. Gene was a kind and humble elder amongst us, attending worship quietly with Dina the last several years. We will celebrate Gene's life on Dec. 16th at Park Memorial Funeral Home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please [click here](#) for this week's Order of Service
- Click [here](#) for this week's Announcements
- Click [here](#) for the winter edition of **The Front Pew**, our quarterly newsletter.