

Advent

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love



Sunday, December 21, 2025

Join us in person at Riverbend United Church on Sunday, December 21st at 10:30 a.m. or [click here](#) to see our live-streamed service.

Message from Riverbend United Church

December 19, 2025

Dear friends:

The Solstice. The turn-around time. The shortest day of the year. It's also the fourth Sunday of Advent. It's the day we hear a bit of Joseph's part in the Christmas Story, a part we don't read on Christmas Eve. You can read it below. It has Joseph being turned by an angel, and it reminds us that in Jesus—Emmanuel—God is with us.

We may not have angels visit us, but we, too, are invited to turn toward the light of love as we come to the Solstice one more time.

It goes like this:

Matthew 1: 18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Peace,

Valerie

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. — Flame Free service with Choir and Handbells (no individual candles)

6:30 p.m. — Candlelight service with Choir and [John Tessier](#), soloist (with individual candles)

8:00 p.m. — Candlelight service with Communion (with individual candles)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please click here for this week's [Order of Service](#)
- You can find this week's Announcements [here](#)
- For the Winter Edition of our Quarterly Newsletter, The Front Pew, click [here](#)