

# *Red Bank United Methodist Church*

## **The Witness**

### ***The Season is Upon Us***

*“The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.”*

*--Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Some of us may know that the Advent season focuses on expectation and think that it serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas. This is part of the story, but there is more to Advent.

Advent symbolizes our present situation as the Church in these “last days (see Acts 2:17 and Hebrews 1:2), as we wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate His eternal kingdom. We, the Church, are in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God's past grace-filled actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on that basis, they called for God to once again act for them. In the same way, we the Church, during Advent, look back upon Christ's coming into our world in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when He returns. In light of this, the Advent hymn “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*” represents our cry during the Advent season:

*“O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appears.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”*

While Israel would have sung this song in expectation of Christ's first coming, we now sing the song in commemoration of that first coming and in expectation of the second coming in the future.

While it is difficult to keep all this in mind in the midst of holiday celebrations, shopping, lights and decorations Advent is meant to be a season when we reflect on the violence and evil in the world which causes us to cry out to God to make things right—to put death's darkness to flight. Our exile in the present makes us look forward to our future Exodus. And our own sinfulness and need for grace lead us to pray for the Holy Spirit to renew God's work in conforming us into the image of Christ.

And so, while Advent is certainly a time of celebration and anticipation of Christ's birth, it is more than that. It is only in the shadow of Advent that the miracle of Christmas can be fully understood and appreciated, and it is only in the light of Christmas that the Christian life makes any sense. We are living in the in-between time: the time of the fulfilled promise of Christ's first coming and the yet-to-be-fulfilled promise of His second coming. The promise for Israel and the promise for the Church is Jesus Christ; He has come and He will come again. This is what Advent is about.

Come Lord Jesus, Come—Pastor Ken



## Advent/Christmas

Sunday, November 28: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent – “Hope”

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

Lighting of Advent Wreath: Meagher Family

Thursday, December 2:

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. - Food Pantry Distribution Day

Sunday, December 5: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent – “Peace”

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

Lighting of Advent Wreath: College Group

6:00 p.m. - Hanging of the Greens Service

6:30 p.m. - Fellowship, Snacks and Activities

Sunday, December 12: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent – “Love”

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

Lighting of Advent Wreath: Hart Family

6:30 p.m. - Christmas Cantata

Thursday, December 16:

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. - Food Pantry Distribution Day

Sunday, December 19: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent – “Joy”

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

Lighting of Advent Wreath: Wilson/Smith Family

5:30 p.m. - Christmas Caroling

Friday, December 24:

5:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Communion Service





Red Bank United Methodist Church Presents

# THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

Co-hosted by Red Bank United  
Methodist Preschool



Ornament Making  
Nativity Dress Up  
Cookie Decorating  
Preschool Sing-A-Long  
Pictures With Santa

*see you there!*

December 5 | 5 PM onwards

SERVICE AT 6PM



RED BANK UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

Invites the community to a night  
of music and fellowship



# Christmas Cantata



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December 12  
6:30 p.m.

To benefit the Red Bank  
Community Food Pantry

Please bring a non-perishable  
food item  
or give to the special offering.

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service*  
*Friday, December 24, 5 p.m.*



December 26, 2021

Sunday School                      9:30

Worship                                10:30

## **Christmas Gifts For Those Experiencing Homelessness**

Each year the congregation of Red Bank United Methodist Church collects for those who are without a home during this Holiday Season. Our goal this year is to do 100 back packs with much needed items inside.

The following is a list of items that are needed this year:

Hand Warmers  
Toilet Paper  
Fast Food Gift Cards (\$5.00)  
AAA or AA Batteries  
P-38 or P-51 Can Openers  
Lighters  
Scarves  
Gloves  
Backpacks  
Socks

Additional Large Items that can be purchased if you desire:  
Tents, Sleeping Bags, Sleeping Pads, Camo Tarps.

Items are needed by Sunday, December 5.





# WELCOME CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

December  
2021

Here's a glimpse of what the children of RBUMC will be learning about this month!  
We are so excited to kick off this new curriculum and grow closer to Christ!

Sunday School - 9:30am

Worship - 10:30 am

\* Small groups for adults offered during all children's programming. We'd love to get to know you too!



### Wednesday Evening

No Programming for this month! Enjoy time with your family during this Christmas season!

### Preschool - 5th Grade

During the month of December we will take a look at the journey of 4 different people or groups who traveled to Bethlehem for the very first Christmas!

### Infant - 36 months

The children will learn songs and discover Bible truths through intentional play-by using the toys and activities they love!



### Special Events!

Dec. 5th - Hanging of the Greens- Join us at 6:00pm as we celebrate the Advent season

Dec 12th- Christmas Cantata at 6:30pm

Dec 24th- Christmas Eve Service at 5pm

Dec 26th - Sunday School Christmas Party at 9:30am

If you have any questions about our Children's Ministry or programs, feel free to reach out at [rbumkids@gmail.com](mailto:rbumkids@gmail.com)

Robin Keeling, Children's Ministry Director

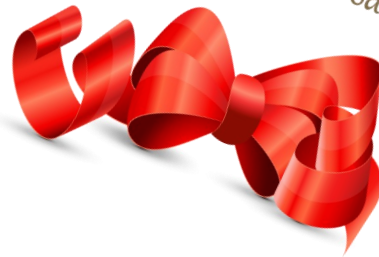


## December

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1  | Sue Ferrell                            |
| 3  | Bret Lyness                            |
| 4  | Helen Hart                             |
| 7  | Julie Smith and Shannon Stanfield      |
| 8  | Steve Barker and Jamie Harvey          |
| 9  | Caleb Pitkin                           |
| 16 | Ken Pritchard                          |
| 17 | Terra Stringfellow                     |
| 22 | Clark Calabrese                        |
| 23 | Eli Hardin                             |
| 24 | Debbi Moorehead and Carmeron Pritchard |
| 27 | Maggie Hart and Bryan Glasscock        |
| 28 | Lisa Willson                           |

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Beetle and Linda Bailey                   |
| 14 | Bryan and Wendi Meagher                   |
| 27 | Bob and Pat Radel                         |
| 31 | Steve and Wanda Markum—Susan and Jim Wulf |

*Happy Anniversary*

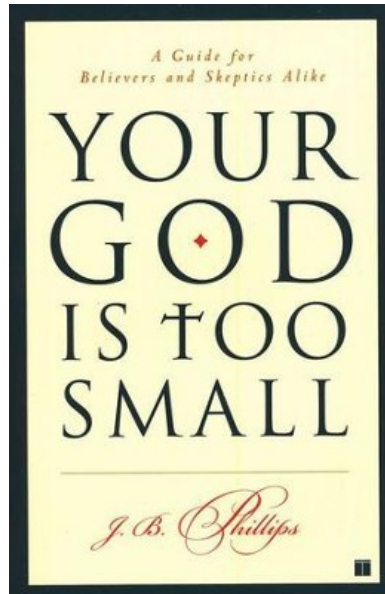


*Merry Christmas*





New Study Beginning Wednesday, January 12, 2022



This forty-year-old Christian classic and bestseller is a groundbreaking work of faith. It tackles tough topics and inspires readers to re-evaluate and connect more deeply with God in a way that is relevant to current experience and without earthly constraints.

Pastor Ken will be leading this study. The cost of the book is thirteen dollars. Please email Pastor Ken by Monday, January 3, at [pastorkensauer@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkensauer@gmail.com) if you would like him to order you a copy. This is a 12-week study which will begin with a weekly meal.

There will be a meal catered by Hannah Booth-Clem for \$7.00 per person. Reservations for the meal must be made by Monday mornings. Nursery will be provided and there will be activities for children each week.

The Christmas Card table will be set up in the nursery hallway by December 5.

Please leave the cards you want picked up by members.



Offering envelopes—  
Personalized envelopes  
will be available on the  
Christmas Card table.



If yours are not there or you want a set printed, please call the church office or send an email.

877-2881 or [rbumc85@yahoo.com](mailto:rbumc85@yahoo.com)