



December 2024

TO KNOW GOD AND LIVE LIKE JESUS.

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The Sound of Silence?

This Fall, I walked through the front doors of Lowe's to explore the Halloween decorations with my son and husband. As I braced myself for gobs of gobs and skeletons sky-high towering over the tools, I was not prepared for the presence of Christmas decorations in mass quantity towering higher, broader, and deeper than the Halloween décor. It wasn't even Halloween yet and the holly jolly was already overtaking the store!



Rev. Lacey
Wheeler

We prepare our decorations, seemingly sooner and sooner, for Christmas. We are ready to put up the lights and the merry and bright even before the pumpkins are gone from our front porches. Some advocate for the Christmas tree to go up before Thanksgiving! I am not organized

enough for this kind of prep!

I wonder, as we prepare our homes, our Christmas sweaters, our trees and décor, are we also preparing our hearts for the coming birth of Christ? Do we take just as seriously this season of waiting as we do the season of mass décor?

In our American culture, we go from Halloween, seemingly skipping Thanksgiving; directly into Christmas. Did you know there is a season before Christmas? A season that actually prepares us for the birth of Christ? This season is called Advent, the four weeks before Christmas. Advent comes from a Latin word, "adventus", meaning "coming" or "arrival". This season is meant as an active anticipation for the new birth that is to come, an opportunity for us to find spiritual renewal and anticipation, and to prepare our hearts and minds for Christ.

What might it look like to create some space this Advent Season to hear from God through Advent? What might it look like to create some space to be renewed in a Sound of Silence this season?

I have recently been reflecting on the song The Sound of Silence by Simon and Garfunkel:

*Hello darkness, my old friend
I've come to talk to you again
Because a vision softly creeping
left its seeds while I was sleeping
And the vision that was planted in my brain
Still remains
Within the sound of silence.*

As the nights get darker and longer, I wonder if we might find visions of God's incredible presence in the sound of silence this Advent season. In the loudness, and brightness of the decorations, the to-do lists, the presents, all the things, may we find space to experience God and allow God to prepare our hearts for the coming Christ this season.

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THE SOUND OF SILENCE CONTINUED....

Will you begin preparing this Advent Season with us as we dig into four areas where the sound of God's voice broke the sound of silence in the sound of an angel's voice? This Advent season we will explore the following angels and scripture:

December 1st we will explore hope, as we will look at the angel Gabriel and Zechariah through Luke 1:5-25, and celebrate the presence of Christ in Holy Communion.

December 8th we will explore peace as we look at the angel Gabriel who spoke to Mary in Luke 1:26-38 through the incredible music of the Rocket Ringers and scripture.

December 15th we will explore joy, as we look at the angel of the Lord who spoke to Joseph in Matthew 1:18-25, and will enjoy the beautiful instrument of the handpan by Handpan Dan, a potluck right after service, our Children's Christmas Program and Gingerbread Bash!

December 21st we will gather for a Blue Christmas service at 6:30 PM as a way of making space for grief, loss, disappointment, and all of the difficult emotions that surround the holiday season.

December 22nd we will explore love, and we will look at the angels and the shepherds in Luke 2:1-14 and follow the Christmas story in an incredible Cantata by our Vocal Choir.

December 24th we will receive the birth of Jesus Christ through music and scripture reading for our Candlelight service. Through this incredibly moving service, we will come together in the retelling of this story and light our candles in the warmth of Silent Night.

As we journey through Advent, let us embrace this season with a heart full of hope, peace, joy, and love. May we prepare to celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus' birth and anticipate Jesus' glorious return, and may we find The Sound of Silence among the loudness of this season in which to welcome the Christ child yet again. Blessings to you and your family this Advent season.

Rev- Lacey Wheeler

TIME TO SAY FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

Hey Friends,

It has been an absolute privilege to be part of the RHUMC community and working with a team of individuals whose dedication, creativity, and unwavering support have been the driving force behind Christ's accomplishments. I have felt inspired by so many of you that I have become friends with in the church, your passion for Christ, and the giving to others. I've had endless amounts of love and encouragement throughout my time here. I was given the opportunity to stewardship God's resources for the accomplishment of the work in ministry. That is really something wonderful to be added to my life accomplishments! Gosh, I will miss you all and thank you for being a blessing in my life.

Yours in Faith,

-Blair Beard



Look what's happening around the church...



United
Women
in Faith



The Board has voted to initiate a Capital Expenditure Plan. This is an outline of assets the church owns and an estimate of the expected life of these items and when they may need to be replaced. The Leadership Board will work with the Maintenance Team to update the list yearly and then utilize this list in building the yearly church budget. If you would like to see a copy of this plan, you may ask for one in the church office. Board Members worked together to complete the Consideration of Pastor Appointment form that is due to our district superintendent yearly. We have recommended for Pastor Lacey to continue as our pastor at RHUMC. The Board wanted to share with you a comparison of the pledges turned in for 2024 versus 2025. You can find the coming year's budget in the Charge Conference Booklet. If you were unable to attend the Charge Conference that was held on November 16, you can ask in the office to get your own copy of the booklet. It includes many useful reports that our church turns in to the district superintendent and to our district.

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|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Pledges | 2024 | 2025 |
| General Fund: | \$148,800 | /\$137,800 |
| Building Fund: | \$29,800 | /\$28,100 |

The next scheduled meeting will be held on December 10 at 7:00 PM.

Words cannot express how thankful the UWFaith are for the support and help we received for this year's Holiday Shop. The UWFaith are truly blessed by having so many individuals willing to help us with the Holiday Shop. We raised over \$3,000 to support our mission of women, youth, and children. We were also able to purchase a needed vacuum for the Wee Rockets. For those of you that were not able to visit the Fabric/Craft supplies area, we will be offering another event in the January/February timeframe. Our next general meeting, December 11 at 6:30pm, is our Christmas Covered Dish when we will have the installation of our officers and Randi Williams with the program. The Rebecca/Ruth Circle will be meeting December 19 at 10:00am in the Parlor.



Hope Connections has been blessed with many gifts and more to come. We received food from the Rose Hill High School Drama Club. They did Trick or Treat so Kids can Eat. Fun way for "big kids" to go out and have some fun on Halloween and also help others. We received 52 turkeys from Cargill and the Kansas Food Bank for our Thanksgiving Dinner Bags. Rose Hill Intermediate and Primary did a Hygiene and food drive and the Rose Hill Middle School also did a food and cash drive. Victory Fellowship Church also dropped off a bunch of donuts, crackers, chips and Band-Aids. All special treats for our families. Christmas Gifts and Dinner for families that have signed up will be given out on December 21st, from 5-6:30. If you know of families in need of assistance, please let us know. If you would like to sponsor a family you can contact us as well.

The following upcoming distribution dates are: 12/2: 5PM-6:30PM; 12/4: 11AM-12:30PM; 12/16: 5PM-6:30PM, 12/18: 11AM-12:30PM. Christmas distribution will be held December 19th from 5PM-6:30PM

Birthdays: DECEMBER 1: Charlene Kuzma; **December 3:** Janet Blanc; **December 7:** Noah Zoglmann; **December 10:** Raymond Wyssman; **December 14:** Cassie Black, Dennis Webster; **December 15:** Doug Mowder; **December 16:** Dena Dassel; **December 17:** Keith Carselowey, Brent Hall; **December 20:** Mandi Heinz, Michaela Leis, Daniel Paddock, Michael Paddock; **December 22:** Greg Rinehart; **December 24:** Jessie Poston; **December 31:** Henry Fox, Ethan Nelson

Anniversaries: DECEMBER 1: Kevin & Melanie Leis; **December 6:** Brian & April Grunder; **December 11:** Matt & Charlene Kuzma; **December 13:** Kevin & Lori Webster; **December 16:** Janet Blanc; **December 28:** Evan & Cassie Black

HAPPIEST OF DAYS TO YOU. LOVE RHUMC! ❤️



WELCOMING OUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Tiffany Solorio grew up in Clovis, California and she met her husband Lito Solorio in highschool. Interesting enough, Lito baptized Tiffany when they were just 17 years old. Tiffany worked as a receptionist for several churches throughout the years. But her most important job was being a stay at home mother for 16 years with her 4 children. Her and her family moved to Kansas in 2016 and her husband became a pastor at Countryside Christian Church in Wichita. Tiffany herself has published several children's books in her spare time. In 2022, Tiffany was diagnosed with Breast Cancer, stage 3 Invasive Ductal Carcinoma with Lymphnode involvement. She underwent a double mastectomy, reconstruction, chemo, and radiation. She is a survivor! Tiffany had hoped she would have the chance to go back to work, working in a place where she knew all loved Jesus and were serving under a shared mission. She wanted her small part to be helping others to advance in God's Kingdom.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

TIFFANY SOLORIO

Administrative Assistant



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x x x x
x x x x

x x x x
x x x x
x x x x

WELCOMING OUR NEW SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE STRATEGIST

Shannon Murphy grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina and moved to Kansas when she was 16 years old. She has an Associates in Science and has been going to RHUMC off and on since she moved here. Shannon frequently volunteers in the children's ministry classrooms.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

SHANNON MURPHY

Social Media & Website Strategist



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RHUMC YOUTH TURKEY-RIFFIC!

On Thursday November 21, youth group had the opportunity to assist Hope Connections with their Thanksgiving meal handout. We processed 50 meals that included a turkey, potatoes, all sides and a dessert. It's a blessing to help others in our community and to instill a culture of giving with our youth that they can hopefully carry into adulthood. If you know anyone else in grades 6-12, will be doing the same work on December 19 for Hope Connection's Christmas handout from 4:00pm-6:30pm. - Evan Black, Youth Director



UW Faith Holiday Shop





Please keep these in your prayers: Our church; our country; our troops; people of the world; our government leaders; law enforcement officers (safety); our community; students; teachers; Americans overseas; those suffering with mental illness; Teresa Conduff (health concerns); Kathy Conley (health); Cassie Conley (health concerns); Joy Shiblom (health concerns); Greg Cox (multiple myeloma); Linda McBride (health); Lyn-Nell Clark's daughter, Teresa Schmidt (metastatic bone cancer in vertebrae); Shannon Zoglmann's father (lung cancer) mother (heart disease/failure); Ashley Mowder's father, Alex Hall (health); Joyce Webster (health); Tonie Rollins' sister, Returned); Mike Rollins (rotator cuff surgery); Joy Pearson (health); Sigrid Krkosska (health); Dave Brown (Returned Cancer), Christine McKee's father, Harry Conway (health); Chad Flower (health); Bob (Dementia); Audrey Rowles (health); Jeff Diehl (stroke); Evelyn Diehl (health); Mandy Olson's mom Julie (health); CJ Bextel's father, David Bextel (triple bypass); CJ Bextel's grandmother, Loretta Burgess (health); Crystal Carron (lung cancer/ surgery); Alex Kruger (health); Greg Rinehart (surgery/renal cell carcinoma); Tom McKee (knee surgery); Melanie Leis (breast cancer);

Lev Troll (acute lymphoblastic leukemia); Sharon Meyer (cancer); Kendra Tharp's father Bill (hospice care), Larry Dutton's grandson Marshall Dutton (car accident); Nursing home/rehab residents.

Please notify the church office when your request can be taken off the list. Thank you!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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