

Upcoming Events:

Bus for 4 PM Christmas Eve and December 29 Worship Services

There will only be one bus for the 4 pm Christmas Eve service. It will be the wheelchair bus and it can only hold 4 wheelchair passengers and 8 other passengers. The same bus will run on Sunday, December 29 for the 10 am service. Please contact Don Meyer, if you would like a ride to church for one of these services, it is first come, first serve.

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services

On Tuesday, December 24, there will be two worship services:

4 pm, Candlelight (more oriented towards families)

7 pm, Candlelight

Our handbell choir will perform at both services and the Chancel Choir will sing at the 4 pm service.

Communion will not be offered during the worship services; however, Pastor Mark will be available to offer the Eucharist after each service to anyone who would like to have communion.

Church Office Hours between Christmas and New Year's

Our church office will have limited office hours during the week of Christmas and New Year's Day. We will close at Noon on Christmas Eve day, and of course be closed on Christmas day. There will be someone in the office checking emails and phone messages throughout the rest of the week.

Carol Hardacre's Celebration of Life

Carol Hardacre passed away on November 27th. Her Celebration of Life will be held on **December 28 at 1 pm** at the Shalom United Church of Christ, 505 McMurray Street in Richland. Carol is survived by her daughter Susan Mowbray. If you would like to send a sympathy card to Susan, please call the church office to get her address.

Sunday, December 29: One Worship Service at 10 am

We will only have one Worship Service at 10 am and no Sunday School.

Hi Friends,

Tuesday night I had the wonderful experience of singing Christmas Carols with a group of us from the church for the residents of Rosetta Assisted Living. Singing carols in front of people is literally one of my least favorite Christmas traditions, BUT singing this year was a great experience. The residents of Rosetta Assisted Living each suffer from some form of dementia. As we sang, it was wonderful to see the residents eyes brighten, sing along, clap their hands and shout, "woooo hooo!" at the end of "Jingle Bells", even though it was a small gesture sharing something as simple as a song at Christmas can mean so much to those who receive and to those who give!

We are coming to the end of the Season of Advent and Christmas is right around the corner! For many of us the Holiday Season is not always a time of joy and celebration. Many of us are grieving the loss of loved ones. For some of us the Holiday Season holds difficult memories. For a variety of reasons, the Holidays can be a difficult time. Our friends at West Highlands UMC will be offering a "Longest Night" Service on Saturday December 21st at 6 pm. This service, on the longest night of the year, is a time for quiet meditative remembrance and reflection; a time to share our hurting places with God. You may bring a picture or a token that symbolizes your loss or hurt with you, and to take home at the end of the service. If this is something that would be helpful for you, or someone you know, please make a point to attend.

Don't forget our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services next Tuesday at 4 pm and 7 pm. Join us for a very special night of lights and carols on the last night of the Advent Season. The 4 pm service will be more oriented towards families with younger children while the 7 pm service will be a bit more traditional. I hope you can join us for this very special celebration on Christmas Eve!

Have a wonderful week my friends,

Pastor Mark