

RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

First Sunday of Advent

**All who are able, please stand*

Gathering Music & Lighting of Candles

Centering Silence & Prayer

Prelude

Words of Welcome

This is the day that our God has made... let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*Call to Worship & Advent Candle Lighting ***We light God's candle of hope***

*Opening Song "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" #160 verses 1 & 2

Sharing God's Peace

Preparing our Hearts

Reading "Drawing Near: A Blessing to Begin Advent" *Jan Richardson*

Chancel Choir Anthem "Who Would Send a Baby?" *Beall*

Blessed to be a Blessing *Kathryn Murray*

A Time of Offering, Dedication & Announcements

God is good ***all the time***...and all the time...***God is good!***

Offertory "Draw the Circle Wide" *Gordon Light*

***Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.***

Children's Time

Star Child, earth Child, go-between of God. Love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod: This year, this year let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Bible Bits & Scripture Isaiah 2:1-5 Matthew 24:32-44

Sermon "Begendings"

Silent Reflection

Song of Response

"You are the Light" *Tom Fetke. 2x*

***You are the Light we see. You are the truth we know.
You are the Life we live. You are the Hope.
You are the Joy. You are the Song we sing.***

A Time of Prayer

God in your grace... hear our prayers

*The Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*Closing Song

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" #160 verses 3 & 4

*Benediction

*Congregational Response

"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" *Godspell*



WELCOME!

VISITORS We are blessed to worship with you today. Thank you for the gift of your presence. We invite you to fill out a "welcome card" and place it in the offering plate during the service.

CHILDREN AT RIVERSIDE We joyfully welcome children at Riverside. Those age 5+ are invited to join Ruby Betzing and Delia Skakel for Sunday School after the Children's Time. Those birth-age 4 are invited to the nursery, located downstairs inside the Fireside Room and available 10:15 am until noon.

TODAY, THIS WEEK & COMING SOON AT RIVERSIDE

- **Today in the Riverview Room:** All are welcome for coffee, connection and "Greening of the Church" activities after service.
- **Tuesday:** Bible study at Down Manor from 10:30-11:30. All are welcome.
 - Interfaith Circles of Solace in the Ruth Wells Room, 5-6 p.m.
 - Art Circle-Snowflake Meditations in the Riverview Room, 6:30 – 7:30 PM.
- **Wednesday:** Contemplative Prayer Group meets from 4–5 PM in the Ruth Wells Room.
- **Giving Campaign "Blessed to Be a Blessing"** If you're unable to turn in your pledge today, please do so in the coming week. Thank you for your generous giving!

Rev. Vicky Stifter | Minister
Ruby Betzing & Delia Skakel Youth Volunteers | Kristen Daly | Nursery Care Provider
Diana Beterbide | Piano & Organ and Chancel Choir Director
Karen Roof & Sandy Spellecy | Diaconate Team
The Diem Family | Lighting of the Advent Candle
Anna Diem | Reader
Thomas Hackett | Audio-Visual & Sound System
Donna McCoy & Pam Riedl | Hospitality



Welcome to Riverside Community Church.

United Church of Christ

We are blessed by your presence.

Bienvenidos a la iglesia Riverside. Su presencia es una bendición para nosotros.

We are . . .

. . . a vibrant, Spirit-filled community of people who seek to follow in the ways of Jesus: loving our neighbors, doing justice and sharing the extravagant welcome of God with the whole of creation.

. . . an “*Open and Affirming*” congregation—affirming the full inclusion of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons (LGBTQ+) in the church’s life and ministry.

. . . an “*Immigrant Welcoming*” congregation—called by our faith to stand together with our undocumented and documented immigrant brothers & sisters and their families.

We seek to honor and protect the gifts of God’s creation--divesting our financial resources from the fossil fuel industry, reinvesting in renewable energy and striving to reduce our use of fossil fuels.

Riverside’s youth ministry team supports: Sunday School, teen groups, and Our Whole Lives (OWL)--a comprehensive human sexuality program. *Contact Youth Leader Katie Cook at 541.980.0505 or katie@riversideucc.com.*

Our Justice and Witness & Immigrant Welcoming teams promote engagement with the Warming Shelter, FISH Food Bank, Somos Uno, Columbia Gorge Climate Action Network. *Contact Heather Nielsen at 541.400.0478 or heather@healthyconnectionsshr.com*

Our "Cheers" team offers care, comfort and meals to those with health, aging issues, new parenthood or other transitions. *Contact Pastor Vicky if you have a need: 541.386.1412 / pastor@riverssideucc.com*

More ways to connect, learn and feed the spirits of those of all ages: Men’s Discussion Group, monthly book group, adult education classes and a Tuesday Bible study & reflection group. *Contact office@riversideucc.com or call 541.386.1412 for more information.*

Keep up on what’s happening! Sign up for our weekly online newsletter, The Current, by contacting editor Kathy Watson, kathy@watsonx2.com. Or visit our Facebook page: Riverside Community Church, UCC

On the Web: Riverside’s web site, www.riversideucc.com, includes: a calendar of all events, the most recent Current newsletters, a way to give electronically, and everything about the life of our congregation.

Riverside is one of more than 5,000 communities of faith that make up the “**United Church of Christ**” (UCC). The UCC has been on the cutting edge of justice movements in the U.S. since its work to abolish slavery in the 1800’s. For more information about the United Church of Christ visit <http://www.ucc.org>



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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, November 27, 2022

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