

# *The Grapevine*

## *December 2023*



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*Romeo United Methodist Church*

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The GRAPEVINE is published monthly. The intention is to communicate and promote the entire program of the **Romeo United Methodist Church** to members and friends. Your articles, comments and suggestions are welcome. The editor reserves the right to edit content and space as required.

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### December Events



Ladies Advent Tea  
Friday, December 1



Living Nativity  
Saturday, December 16



Christmas  
Monday, December 25

# Pastor's Paragraphs

<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Luke 2:6-7

So much can be, and is, made of the season that is before us. It seems as if no sooner were the Halloween decorations taken down on Tillson St. they were replaced with different lights and decorations. The advertisements are flying fast and furious, the stores are eagerly hoping for the shoppers to come bursting in the doors. Even if we set aside the commercial aspect of Christmas there is still much going on. Activities, gatherings, meals, celebrations, the month of December has no shortage of any of these things.

And if we move even beyond that, to the true point of Christmas, it is still kind of a big deal, isn't it? It is the day that God in flesh came into the world. The day God said I love you all so much I am sending my only begotten Son to you. To teach you, to heal you, to comfort you, to offer you grace. That is all a pretty big deal in itself.

I think that is why as I was preparing my heart and mind for the season ahead I took some time to read the birth story told to us in Luke's Gospel. As I was reading it though the verses above caught my eye. We are all aware of Christ's humble beginnings. Of his parents struggle to even find a place to rest after their long journey. But something else stood out to me in verse 7, "And she (*Mary*) gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger..." What stood out to me in this verse is the phrasing. Jesus is referred to as 'her firstborn son', and she 'laid him in a manger'. Nowhere is God mentioned, it wasn't God's son, it was Mary's. It wasn't the Savior of the world that was laid in a manger, it was 'him', it was Mary's beautiful baby boy. God didn't make this birth story about Him, instead God asked His chosen cast of characters to play their parts.

I think this stood out to me because as I shared above, much is made of the season ahead of us, perhaps rightfully so. But to me the power, the wonder, the awe isn't in the tinsel and bows. It isn't in the lights and extravagant displays. It isn't in any of those things. It is in the humble actions of faithful men and women. Mary and Joseph to be certain, but also those who are brought into the story. The shepherds, the wise men, all those who played their part. We may not trumpet their names, or even know them, but they played their part in the story of the greatest gift that ever came into the world.

My hope is that in the midst of this Advent season we too will be able to humbly play the part God has put before us. In the continuing love story of God's love for the world let us play our part, whatever that part may be, let us do it with hope, peace, joy, and love. Let us do it as our way of recognizing that no gift will ever compare to the gift that was laid in that manger that first Christmas morning.

With a grateful and humble heart,

Pastor Devin

# DECEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

## FELLOWSHIP TIME

3<sup>rd</sup> Mary Anne DeForest and Stella Wheeler  
 10<sup>th</sup> Anna Bonanni, Becky Laseke and Jen Ricketts  
 17<sup>th</sup> Cliff and Leah Gilbert  
 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve  
 31<sup>st</sup>



## GREETERS



3<sup>rd</sup> Gayle Beitel  
 10<sup>th</sup> Guy and Julie Jones-Lau  
 17<sup>th</sup> Becky Laseke  
 24<sup>th</sup> Kathy Smith  
 31<sup>st</sup> Helen and Ken Koss

Thank you for volunteering to greet.  
 If you are unable to greet on your  
 scheduled date, please arrange for  
 a substitute.

## USHERS SCHEDULE

3<sup>rd</sup> Phil and Louchrisa Schwan  
 10<sup>th</sup> Doug and Vicky Posey  
 17<sup>th</sup> Linda Eastman and Becky Laseke  
 24<sup>th</sup> Craig and Judy Engwall  
 31<sup>st</sup> Guy and Julie-Jones Lau



## SOUND BOARD



3<sup>rd</sup> Claudia Royal  
 10<sup>th</sup> The Lamb Family  
 17<sup>th</sup> Everett Smith  
 24<sup>th</sup> 10 am Gary Kimery  
 10 pm Open  
 31<sup>st</sup> Dave Beskin

## VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Seasonal Flowers	Mary Jo Hosler	586-337-2692
College Ministry	Beth Theisen	586-242-0598
Fellowship Hour	Becky Laseke	586-337-1361
Greeters	Gayle Beitel	586-232-3388
Nursery	TBD	
Sound Board	Dave Beskin	586-872-3797
Ushers	Craig Engwall	586-504-6655
Communion	Janet Bauer	586-752-6166

## Weekly Meetings

Communion Sunday	First Sunday of each month	
Worship On-Line or In-Person	Sunday 10:00 a.m.	Sanctuary
Fellowship Time	Sunday 11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall
Youth Group Meeting	Sunday 2:00 p.m.	Youth Room
Knitting and Crochet Group	Tuesday 1:00 p.m.	
His Table Community Meal	Tuesday 5:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Santa's Workshop	Wednesday 10:00 a.m.	
UWF Book Club	Wednesday 12:30 p.m.	



## COMMUNION STEWARDS

December 3



Open for 2 positions

## RUMC December 2023 Calendar

Fri	1 <sup>st</sup>	Ladies Advent Tea	6:00 p.m.
Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Communion Sunday Youth Group	2:00 p.m.
Tue	5 <sup>th</sup>	Knitting and Crocheting Group	1:00 p.m.
Wed	6 <sup>th</sup>	Santa's Workshop Women of Faith Book Club	10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup>	Women of Faith Membership Meeting	11:00 a.m.
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Group	2:00 p.m.
Tue	12 <sup>th</sup>	Knitting and Crocheting Group	1:00 p.m.
Wed	13 <sup>th</sup>	Santa's Workshop Women of Faith Book Club	10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
Thur	14 <sup>th</sup>	Church Council Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sat	16 <sup>th</sup>	Living Nativity	5:00 p.m.
Sun	17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Play Youth Group	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.
Thur	21 <sup>st</sup>	United Methodist Men Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sun	24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve Services	7:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.
Mon	25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day Community Christmas Day Dinner	12:00 p.m.
Tue	26 <sup>th</sup>	Knitting and Crocheting Group	1:00 p.m.
Wed	27 <sup>th</sup>	Santa's Workshop Women of Faith Book Club	10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
Sun	31 <sup>st</sup>	New Year's Eve Game Evening	7:00 p.m.



### Advent Worship Series

Advent is a season that is observed in many churches. The four weeks before Christmas are set aside as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. The term advent is a version of the Latin word which means "coming."

This year we will be following a worship series titled, "The Cast of Christmas". Beginning on December 3rd we will take time to experience the anticipation of the prophets, the joyful proclamation of the angels, the journey of the shepherds and wise men to honor him, and how all of this fits in with how we prepare and celebrate Christmas.

We hope you can join us for worship each Sunday, in person or online, at 10am.

### Christmas Eve (Dec. 24th) at Romeo UMC

This year sees the 24th falling on a Sunday. After much discussion and consideration here is our plan for the day:

- 10 am - Regular Worship service - this will be a 'normal' Sunday worship as it is the 4th week of our Advent Series, "The Cast of Christmas"
- 7 pm & 10 pm - Christmas Eve Worship at Romeo UMC - These will be our traditional Christmas Eve services that will include singing by candlelight as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.

As you make your plans for this holiday season, we hope you can join us for these meaningful times of worship as we reflect on and celebrate the greatest gift ever given.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The United Women in Faith will hold a general membership meeting on Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 11 am. A buffet brunch will be offered.

The guest speaker will be a representative from Turning Point. Attendees are asked to bring a gift for Turning Point survivors. Please see the WISH LIST below (also posted on the church bulletin board) of their needs.

Following the speaker presentation, there will be a business meeting to discuss the UWF budget.

Please plan to attend, and thank you for supporting both Turning Point and United Women in Faith.

### WISH LIST



#### GIFT CARDS

Gift cards are the number one need, as they allow us to support survivor needs throughout the entire year and empower survivors to purchase the items they need.

Meijer / Walmart / Kroger / Aldi	Lowes	Visa	Target	Sam's Club / Costo
Sally's / Kelly's Beauty Supplies	Gordon Food Service	Lift / Uber	Gas Stations	

#### CLOTHING ITEMS

These items should be new in the packages or have tags please.

Women's Underpants (regular and plus sizes)	Bras (all sizes, including sports bras)	Socks (all sizes and genders)
Bathrobes (all sizes and genders)	Slippers (all sizes and genders)	Holiday Pajamas (all sizes and genders)



250 little souls will receive gifts of joy and be introduced to the Gospel of Jesus, thanks to this congregation! The record high was 235 boxes, and now the bar has been set higher. Thank you for your continued support of this mission.

Christmas will be here soon, and we have two events you won't want to miss. First, the **Living Nativity** will be a not miss event on Saturday, December 16 at 6:00 pm. The experience will include a camel, sheep, goats, cattle, miniature donkeys, and llamas. It will be a unique experience for the community and our church family. We will have a Christmas craft for guests to take home and an invitation to attend many events at church in 2024. Feel free to bring neighbors and family members.

Secondly, on Sunday, December 17 the children and youth will present the **Christmas play** during the service. The focus of the play will be who the real super hero is in the world.

### Help for Steve and Nancy Domke

As many of you are aware, in the near future Steve Domke will be receiving a kidney transplant from his wife Nancy. Any transplant procedure has an extensive recovery time and with both Steve and Nancy being a part it adds additional challenges to their recovery. One of the needs is going to be drivers to take Steve to the hospital in Royal Oak from their home in Almont. In the weeks following the procedure he will have to make regular trips to the hospital for checkups and to make sure everything is going as desired.

This is where the help of our Church family comes in. Many of these appointments will be scheduled, but there may also be times that someone is needed to drive on short notice. We would like to create a text message group that consists of people who would be willing to help when they can. It is not a commitment to any set days or times at this point, but a way for us to communicate when there is a time that a driver(s) is needed. When a needed day/time is identified it will be sent out to the group with the hope that someone will be available to help.

If you are interested or willing to be included in such a group, please let either the Pastor or the office know. We will want to make sure that we have a correct cell phone number on record for you so that we can communicate those needs when they arise.

I know you will join me in continuing to keep the Domke's in our prayers as they prepare for their procedures.

Blessings,  
Pastor Devin



### POINSETTIA ORDERS

The cost for each plant in a six-inch pot is \$9.00. Please make checks payable to Romeo United Methodist Church. Orders must be placed by December 3.

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Placed by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Placed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***Please pick up poinsettias following the Christmas Eve services. Thank you.***



**LEONARD**  
*United  
Methodist  
Church*  
— EST. 1858 —



**Leading worship for December at Leonard UMC:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Glenn Quick  
10<sup>th</sup> Namoi Stasak  
17<sup>th</sup> Mary Lou Kleeman  
31<sup>st</sup> Glenn Quick



**Community Christmas  
Day Dinner**  
**Monday, December 25 at  
Noon**



Look for the sign-up to come and eat, help with the meal, or supply things for the meal.

Any questions, contact Sandy Edwards.



Dec. 21

### Financial Snapshot of the Operating Fund as of 10/31/23

	<u>Actual</u>
Income	\$282,609
Expenses	<u>\$279,920</u>
Surplus	<b>\$2,689</b>

Unpaid Apportionments as of 10/31/2023: \$5,058.

### Romeo UMC needs your Financial Support!



### Rummage Sale News

A BIG thank you to Barry and Joyce Benham, Nita Glover, Nancy Domke, Jenny Teller, Kathy Callow, and Sherlynn Back for hanging out in the church basement and helping to sort and merchandise all the many treasures you donated to the rummage sale! And thanks for all your donations! Many memories were made, the sale was a huge success, and we had a whole lot of fun! Blessing to you all!

Most sincerely,

Judy Engwall



### TENATIVE FAMILY MINISTRY EVENTS FOR 2024



January 14, Sunday 3:00-5:00  
Square Dance followed by meal

February 24, Saturday 5:00-7:30  
Chili Cook Off and Talent Show  
Lenten Study – details to follow

April 20, Saturday 6:00-8:00  
Square Dance

May 19, Sunday 1:00-3:00  
Family bowling/Pizza

June 9, Sunday 2:00  
Mini Golf

July 19-28  
Simpson Park Camp Meetings  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Pizza and camp worship meeting together

August 24, Saturday 6:00-8:00  
Square Dance

September  
Apple Picking

October  
Hayride and bonfire

November 10, Sunday 3:00-5:00  
Square Dance followed by meal

December  
Secret Santas  
Living Nativity

Wednesday, December 25  
Community Christmas Dinner

Tuesday, December 31 7:00-9:00  
New Year's Eve Game Night

Watch for more details to come





## December Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> Don Adkin  
Michael Wiers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Janet Bauer  
3<sup>rd</sup> Pat Morgan  
4<sup>th</sup> Diane Hodgins  
David Lee  
5<sup>th</sup> Barry Benham

14<sup>th</sup> Gabe Makhoulf  
15<sup>th</sup> Mary Anne DeForest  
17<sup>th</sup> Marty Moore  
18<sup>th</sup> Becky Laseke  
23<sup>rd</sup> Virginia Power  
24<sup>th</sup> Nathan Bartholomew  
25<sup>th</sup> Jessica Raccosta



### December Needs:

Coffee	Pasta/Rice Sides
Jelly	Egg Noodles
Pancake Syrup	Graham Crackers
Sloppy Joe Sauce	Ketchup
Cheez-Its	SnackPack Choc. Pudding
Canned Mixed Vegetables	Pull-Ups 2T, 3T, 4T
Canned Beets	Bladder Control Pads
Canned Spinach	Shaving Cream, Women's
Vegetable Soup	Shampoo
Canned Pasta Sauce	Kleenex

Just a friendly reminder that we can only accept foods that haven't expired and they must have the expiration date printed on them (otherwise they have to be discarded).

Please no glass bottles or jars.

Please bring your donations to Samaritan House, 62324 Van Dyke (between 28 & 29 Mile Roads) in Washington Twp. on Tuesday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can contact Samaritan House at (586) 336-9956.

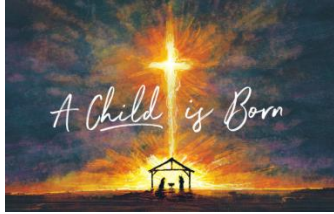


**Sharing tree** is a Samaritan House program to ensure each participating family or individual will have gifts under their tree on Christmas morning and the makings for a traditional holiday dinner.

Sharing tree tags are available. **Wrapped gifts are due back Sunday December 3.** Please place the gift tag on the OUTSIDE of the package. This tag is vital for proper gift delivery.

Thank you!

## YAHA Christmas Party



Monday, December 11, 2023  
1:00-3:00

### The Nativity Escape Room

You'll be taken back to the time of Jesus to solve the mysteries of His birth by decoding the facts...so you can SEE THE LIGHT!



Bring an appetizer or dessert to share  
Beverages and table ware will be furnished



Come have an enjoyable afternoon

JOY  
LOVE  
PEACE  
BELIEVE  
CHRISTMAS



## New Year's Eve GAME EVENING

Sunday, December 31, 2023

7:00-9:00 in Fellowship Hall



Join us for a time of game playing. We'll have some games to play (or bring a favorite of yours), or just sit around and enjoy each other's company. Bring a snack to share if you'd like. Beverages will be provided (including a non-alcoholic toast for the New Year).

## Secret Santa 2023



- Bring your gift to Church on **Dec. 3, and 10** (Adults <\$5, Children \$1) and put it on the designated table in Fellowship Hall before Church starts. After Church go to the table to find your gift.
- On Sun., **Dec. 17** bring your final gift so can have a revealing of who your Santa was during Fellowship.
- Three gifts will be exchanged.



### Romeo UMC and Leonard UMC Family of Prayer

December 2023

#### For Our Church Family:

Vi Abercrombie  
Don Adkin  
Bob Bachholzky  
Larry Back  
Elaine Roberson  
Jean Corah

Steve Domke  
Ned and Amy Grant  
Jim and Judy Larimer  
Becky Laseke  
Jim Lindsay

Sue Rhoads-Sidote  
Ted Simpson  
Beth Theisen  
Ed and Carol Verhaeghe  
Tina Weeks

#### For Our Extended Family and Friends

Brian and Shelley Rosso's nephew, Vincent Di Piazza, early stages of cancer diagnosis  
Barry and Joyce Benham's daughter-in-law's (Dena), mother and aunt  
Steve Domke's friend, Rick Kirsch

Shelley Rosso's sister, Sherri Wold, upcoming surgery  
Elaine Parr's sister-in-law's brother, Henry Shoot  
Jaclyn, sister of Diandra Khoury, entered rehab and working on sobriety

**For answered prayer updates (remove), or to add a new prayer request, please send an email to [office@romeoumc.com](mailto:office@romeoumc.com).**