

# *The Grapevine*

## *December 2024*

### December Events



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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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Advent Tea  
Friday, December 6



Game Afternoon  
Saturday, December 14



Movie Night  
Sunday, December 15



Living Nativity  
Saturday, December 21



Nativity Play  
Sunday, December 22



Services at 7 and 10 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 24



Christmas Day Community  
Dinner  
Wednesday, December 25



New Year's Eve Game  
Night  
Tuesday, December 31

# Pastor's Paragraphs

"HEY! UNTO YOU A CHILD IS BORN!"

Gladys Herdman (Playing the Angel of the Lord in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*)

Thanks to one of the generous gifts we received during Pastor Appreciation Month my family recently made our way to the Romeo Theater. We were all excited to see *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. The book has been a favorite of our family and is well worth the read for people of all ages. I also promise I am not going to spoil the story here so you can keep reading. However, upon listening to the audio book a few weeks ago, and then seeing the movie, I realized why they both had made such an impact on me.

We are of course approaching the Advent season. The time we set aside to prepare for Christmas. For many of us I'm sure it will include many traditions. Decorations will come out of storage. Gatherings of family and friends will be scheduled. A Christmas Pageant will happen at the Church (December 22nd if you don't have it on your calendar!) And there are probably many other traditions in your own families. I don't think any of that is necessarily a bad thing. I think it is important to enjoy those things that we look forward to in the Advent season. To attend those gatherings that bring us together and celebrate the joy of the season. But my recent viewing of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* reminded me that not everyone has those traditions that they look forward to.

For some this time of year can be difficult. It can be a reminder of things lost, things they don't have, or things they wish they did have. Let's face it, for all the good and beautiful and joyful things we have in our world the very real fact remains that there is fear, uncertainty, and difficulties for many. And on that cold night many, many years ago things weren't perfect and cozy either.

We like our Nativity stories to be pleasant and warm. We like to see Mary lovingly gazing at Jesus lying quietly in the manger while Joseph looks on. But in reality, Mary and Joseph found themselves in a difficult place. Even as they had been told they were welcoming God's son into the world they were dealing with their own uncertainties and fears. The place they found themselves was anything but pristine, it was far from what we would call an ideal place to welcome God's beloved son.

Yet it was into that uncertainty that Jesus was born. It was on that night that the angel of the Lord shouted at a quiet hillside, "HEY UNTO YOU A CHILD IS BORN!" It was in the midst of fear, uncertainty and difficulties that God made a way. Our world is still all of those things. Beautiful and difficult. Joyful and fearful. Good and evil.

This Christmas season I hope all of us can recognize that God doesn't only show up when everything is beautifully prepared and just right. God still shows up for all of his children. God shows up in the dark places as a beacon of light and hope. I hope you can experience that joy and light anew this year. I hope that you can see God at work in the darkness and you can be reminded of the hope, peace, joy, and love that is only possible because a young girl had the courage to say, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

Merry Christmas & God Bless,  
Pastor Devin

# DECEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

## FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE



- 1<sup>st</sup> Nita Glover and Mary Jo Hosler
- 8<sup>th</sup> Sandy Edwards and Linda Eastman
- 15<sup>th</sup> Becky Laseke, Marilyn and Jim Welser
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Linda Knight, Anna Bonanni, and Becky Laseke
- 29<sup>th</sup> Holiday Breakfast

## USHERS SCHEDULE



- 1<sup>st</sup> Craig and Judy Engwall
- 8<sup>th</sup> Linda Eastman and Becky Laseke
- 15<sup>th</sup> Phil and Louchrisa Schwan
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Guy and Julie Jones-Lau
- 29<sup>th</sup> Janet Bauer and Kathy Smith

## GREETERS



- 1<sup>st</sup> Tom and Kathy Callow
- 8<sup>th</sup> Mary Jo Hosler
- 15<sup>th</sup> Kids from Odyssey
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Becky Laseke
- 29<sup>th</sup> Gayle Beitel

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

## VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Seasonal Flowers	Mary Jo Hosler	586-337-2692
College Ministry	TBD	
Fellowship Hour	Becky Laseke	586-337-1361
Greeters	Gayle Beitel	248-981-3653
Nursery	TBD	
Sound Board	Dave Beskin	586-872-3797
Ushers	Craig Engwall	586-504-6655
Communion	Janet Bauer	586-752-6166

## SOUND BOARD



- 1<sup>st</sup> Rosso Family
- 8<sup>th</sup> Everett Smith
- 15<sup>th</sup> Lamb Family
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Rosso Family
- 29<sup>th</sup> Dave Beskin

## 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
Kitting 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.	
UMW Reading Group	Wednesday	12:30 p.m.	

## COMMUNION STEWARDS



### December 1

Stella Wheeler  
Mary Ann DeForest

## RUMC December 2024 Calendar

Sun	1 <sup>st</sup>	Communion Sunday	
Tue	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hooks and Needles Group	1:00 p.m.
Fri	6 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Tea	
Sun	8 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Group	2:00 p.m.
Tue	10 <sup>th</sup>	Hooks and Needles Group	1:00 p.m.
Thur	12 <sup>th</sup>	Finance Committee Meeting Church Council Meeting	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Sat	14 <sup>th</sup>	Game Day	3:00 p.m.
Sun	15 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Group Movie Night	2:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
Tue	17 <sup>th</sup>	Hooks and Needles Group	1:00 p.m.
Thur	19 <sup>th</sup>	United Methodist Men Group	7:00 p.m.
Sat	21 <sup>st</sup>	Living Nativity	
Sun	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Nativity Play	
Tue	24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve Services	7:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.
Wed	25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day Community Christmas Dinner	1:00 p.m.
Tue	31 <sup>st</sup>	New Year's Eve Game Night Following His Table	7:00 p.m.

## Living Nativity



**Saturday  
December 21  
6:00 p.m.**

Join us for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Living Nativity on the Church lawn. We will again have live animals for you to interact with and feed. There will be crafts and snacks available as well.

## Help Needed

Cookies are needed (let Sandy Edwards know if you can contribute).



## Community Christmas Day Dinner Wednesday, December 25 at Noon



Sign-up to come and eat, help with the meal, or supply things for the meal. Any questions, contact Sandy Edwards.





# Advent Tea

December 6

6:00 p.m.

*The sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up to host a table or join a table. The hostess will let you know what you can bring.*



## **Christmas with the Chosen: Holy Night**

**December 15 4:30 p.m.**

Join us for an evening to watch the story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the events that surrounded Holy Night.

Includes several musical performances of favorite Christmas songs.

Run time is about 90 minutes.



## **christmas eve SERVICES**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.**

Join us for a celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. This is always a special time to worship, sing, pray and be reminded of the "good news of great joy that will be for all the people."



## **December Birthdays**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Don Adkin Michael Weirs
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
8 <sup>th</sup>	James Biggs
15 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Ann DeForest
17 <sup>th</sup>	Marty Moore
18 <sup>th</sup>	Becky Laseke
25 <sup>th</sup>	Jessica Raccosta

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*Wishing you a life of joy. May your love story never have an end.*

*Doug and Vickie Posey, December 4 - 42 Years*

*Guy and Julie Jones-Lau, December 28 - 33 Years*



### **Nativity Play**

December 22 during Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Our students and youth will be joined by the Angel Choir to tell the story of the first Christmas.

Join us for this special chance to tell the story again as well as sing some of those favorite Christmas Hymns.



### **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 8.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>, each evening, read one chapter of The Book of Luke in the Bible. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve, you will have read the whole account of Jesus' life and wake up on Christmas Morning knowing Who and Why we celebrate Christmas!

Amen!



**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 still available. **Wrapped gifts are due back Sunday December 8.** Please place the gift tag on the OUTSIDE of the package. This tag is vital for proper gift delivery.

Thank you!

## New Year's Eve GAME EVENING Tuesday, December 31, 2024 7:00-9:00 in Fellowship Hall



Join us for a time of game playing. We'll have some games to play (bring a favorite of yours), or just sit around and enjoy each other's company. Join us for the His Table meal at 5:15 p.m. or come at 7:00 p.m. for the games.

Bring a snack to share if you'd like. Beverages will be provided. We will toast the New Year with a ball drop and non-alcoholic sparkling grape juice around 9:00 p.m.

# Secret Santa2024



## Directions

- Bring your gift to Church on **Dec. 1, and 8** (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. 15** bring your final gift so we can have a revealing of who your Santa was during Fellowship.
- Three gifts will be exchanged



## Did you know –

John Wesley was a prolific writer, but he never published a Christmas sermon. If you search for Christmas sermons by John Wesley, you won't find any. John Wesley's Methodist movement began in England during the 200 years of Puritans and Christmas suppression. As a result, there is no evidence they celebrated Christmas other than with a special worship service.

Some speculate the Methodist preachers may have chosen to begin the founding conference of The Methodist Episcopal Church on Christmas Eve 1784 because they were all available. Methodists would later refer to that gathering as the Christmas Conference.

It wasn't until the mid-1800s that Christmas had a resurgence in England. It was not until 1870 that Christmas became a national holiday in the U.S. (*umc.org*)

## Financial Snapshot of the Operating Fund as of 10/31/24

	<u>Actual</u>
Income	\$244,428
Expenses	<u>\$289,078</u>

Deficit (\$ 17,200)

2024 Apportionments unpaid as of 10/31/24:  
**\$2,207**

The Finance Committee meets monthly and keeps an eye on the income and expenses. If you have any questions, you can contact Pastor Devin or Tom Callow, Finance Chair.

Thank you for your continued support of RUMC.

## Game Afternoon

Saturday, December 14

3:00 - 5:00



Join us for a time of game or card 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 if you would like to.





#### December Needs:

Coffee	Pasta/Rice Sides
Egg Noodles	Taco Kits
Sloppy Joe Sauce	Baked Beans
Vegetable Soup	Shampoo
Diced Tomatoes	Paper Towel

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.



## Romeo UMC Family of Prayer

December 2024

### For Our Church Family:

Vi Abercrombie  
Bob Bachholzky  
Beth Theisen

Sue Rhoads-Sidote  
Ted Simpson  
Ardith Becker

Elaine Roberson  
Jean Corah

### For Our Extended Family and Friends

Kay Nicholson's nephew, Brett, is responding well to treatment for depression and alcoholism, prayers he will stay on this path

Steve Domke's friend, Rick Kirsch

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).**

Announcing for  
**Romeo United Methodist Church**  
280 N. Main Street  
Romeo, MI 48065

Devin Smith, Pastor  
pastor@romeoumc.com  
Church Office: 586- 752-9132

***Looking Up,  
Reaching Out and Caring Within***



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**Romeo United Methodist Church**

280 N. Main, Romeo, Michigan 48065

*Devin Smith – Pastor*

**Worship 10 A.M. Service**

**Fellowship Time after Service**

Nursery care provided

Service broadcast live on YouTube

[romeoumc.com](http://romeoumc.com)