

I'll Be  
Home  
for  
Christmas



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Jennifer Semivan

Pastor's Welcome

Hymn #196

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

\*UMH

Invitation to Mission

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The McKinnon Family

Time of Prayer

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Musical Offering

*Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*

Sam Garrett

Doxology #95

UMH

Scripture

Mark 1: 1-8

\*\*CEB

The Matsumoto Family

Message

So This is Christmas?

Jeff Nelson

Closing Song

*Bring Him Home*

Laci Basel

Benediction

\* United Methodist Hymnal

\*\* Common English Bible

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Advent is here!**

Our theme is, "I'll be Home for Christmas." Together we will bring the reality of Christ into our homes. [Click here to view our schedule](#) of offerings and events. Please find ways to connect with us during this season.

## **Live Nativity**

**December 20 & 24, 4:00-6:00 pm**

Come see the nativity scene come to life on the church lawn. This is a wonderful chance to safely gather with our church family and witness the joy of the season. Masks and social distancing are required.

## **The Longest Night Online Worship**

**December 21, 7:00 pm, via Zoom**

Join us for our Longest Night online worship meant to help us embrace the silence of the moment on the longest night of the year. [Click here to sign up](#) to attend the service.

## **December Missions Collection**

We are excited to invite you into our congregation-wide Christmas collection of winter hats, gloves, and hand warmers for our lunch program and our partner at the NOAH Project, one of Detroit's frontline ministries with people experiencing homelessness. You can drop these items off on Monday through Friday 10 am - 3 pm at the church, at the Live Nativity on December 20, or you can make a donation to the "Hats, Gloves, and Hand Warmers" fund.

# Advent by Candlelight

**Monday, December 7 at 7:00 pm via Zoom**

Ladies, it may be virtual, but we will still come together for prayers, songs, and inspirational stories as we prepare for Christmas. Our theme this year is "Hard Candy Christmas." In this unprecedented year, we will recognize the hard days but find the sweetness of coming together in community at Christmas. It is a zoom event.

We'll come together as a large group for the program then break up into small groups or virtual tables. Don't miss the chance to kick off your Advent celebrations.

If you would like to sign up to be a host (hosting a small breakout group) or attend, or if you have any questions, contact Pastor Myra at [MMoreland@rofum.org](mailto:MMoreland@rofum.org)

## RECENT PRAYER CONCERNS

**Prayers for our church family:** Jeff & Linda Jones; Easton Brinning; Jayden Bryant; Marianne Peck; Jayden Bryant; Ginny Borts; Todd Menig; Joyce Hollingsworth; Lee & Shirley Gnegy; Judy Chambers; Carol Hardt; Ed Cline; Joyce Burton; John Wagster; Jordan Altman; Diane Sexton; Laurie Foss; Marian Kremer; Inge Wichers; Betty Lawson; Marilyn McCreedy; Pam Ortner; George Bard; Jan Carlson; Karen Porter; Nancy Lorenz; Cathy Baker; Linda Jones; Kim Frentz; Diana Shornak; Krista Conyers; Dave & Sue Minch; Marilyn Hocking; James Respecki; Kevin Lasky; Lee Hoffmann; Joe Waisanen Jr; Crystal Clark; The Riggs Family

**Prayers for our extended family:** John McClure; Mary Sleeman; Joe & Dionne Chzanowski; Kelly & Charley Connolly; Cheryl Castellani; Lorraine Murdoch; Paul Edward; Richard Gifford; Susan Inch; Cheryl & Jimmy Clark; Anthonne Tracy; Sheila & Marty Boyer; Pam Payne; Mary Jo Cady; Teresa Baker; Mike Pilon; Kathy Kearns; Effie Lambros; Lorraine Bowden; Joal Brown; Tim Bell; Laurie Harris Wiener; Essential workers and health care providers fighting COVID-19; Margaret O'Donnell; Don & Ann Anderson

**Senior Spotlight:** Shirley Olsen

**Sympathy** to Bill & Faye Bond for the death of Bill's sister, Mary Jean Tilden, November 26.

For the complete Prayer List, please contact our  
Pastoral Care Team at [prayers@rofum.org](mailto:prayers@rofum.org).

# NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Advent. We are on the journey towards Christmas.

One of the traditions of my childhood that always helped me get excited about the season was the Advent Calendar. The Advent Calendar gave us a daily countdown to Christmas morning and the ritual tearing open of the presents under the tree. I remember a couple of different Advent Calendars that we used. One was a Christmas tree banner and each morning we hung a felt ornament on the tree, leaving the star for last. Another was one I am pretty sure my mother made, I think she found the pattern in her Better Homes and Gardens catalog. This calendar was a big, cute, felt-cut face of Santa. Every morning we would velcro a cotton ball to his beard so by Christmas morning it was a fluffy white miracle. And I remember the store-bought ones that had a piece of chocolate behind each little door or the ones from Sunday School that each day had a scripture or a scene from the nativity. The best thing about the Advent Calendar is that it gave us a daily ritual to do while we waited for Christmas.

Advent is all about waiting. We are waiting for Christ to come and bring along a whole new world. Advent is as real as it has ever been for me. We are waiting for the world to be healed. We are waiting for our schools to open. We are waiting to see our family and friends. We are waiting to be back together in our church for worship, fellowship, and service. And this year, a lot of our Advent waiting will be done at home.

So like the Advent Calendar of my youth, I am looking for something I can do each day to mark the time, to make the waiting meaningful, and to be best prepared for when Christ and the new world, (right now it just feels like we are just waiting for a more 'normal' world) to emerge. For me, it is my morning time. During Advent, I have been getting up a half-hour earlier. I light a candle. I pray in silence. I make a short list of the things for which I am grateful. I read a few lines of scripture and write down a few thoughts. I end my time by praying for you, for us, for our world. It usually takes a half-hour. It's not fancy. But it, like the Advent Calendar, helps me wait.

Here are a couple of things we can do together as a church to help us wait for Christmas and wait for our world to open back up.



## **Christmas Cards:**

I think we can all agree that getting a personal piece of mail is especially meaningful right now. We would like everyone connected to our church to receive a personal card from another member of our church. We have groups of ten labels ready to go. If we had 30 people willing to take ten labels and mail a card every person connected to our community would get a personal greeting. It is ok if you don't know the person; just tell them you are from the same church and that you can't wait to see them when this all finally ends. Email Bridget at [bnelson@rofum.org](mailto:bnelson@rofum.org) if you would be willing to send some cards.

## **Stay Warm:**

The second thing we can do while we wait is to collect hats, gloves, and hand warmers for our friends and neighbors who are experiencing homelessness this winter. Our friend Amy Brown at the NOAH Project said that this is her biggest need to help her guests survive the winter. As always, we will keep some of those items here to share with our bag lunch program. You can drop off your donations at the church Monday through Friday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm or during the Live Nativity on December 20th. If you would like to make a donation to the Hats, Gloves, and Handwarmers fund at [rofum.org/giving](http://rofum.org/giving), we would be happy to do the shopping for you.

We can be active in our waiting and we can be connected while we are apart.

Welcome to Advent. I am glad that we can wait together.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Jeff