

Redland Community United Methodist Church
 Tel: 305-247-5407; Email: rcumc@redlandcommunityumc.com
 Website: Redlandcommunityumc.org
 Follow us on Facebook.
 Location: 18700 SW 248th Street Homestead, FL 33031

December 1, 2024

OUR VISION STATEMENT:

*We will be Christ's presence in our community,
 building relationships*

OUR BIBLICAL PURPOSE:

"To be a faithful community of devoted servants who will share Christ's love and example."

- MUSIC: Felicia Fina.
- LAY LEADER: Phil Formel.
- GREETERS: Charles Alderson, Dottie Wakulich, Santiago Garcia
- LITURGISTS: Jan Burlison, Tom Settle, Yanira Bonilla
- USHERS: Charles Alderson, Robert Kelly, Tom Settle,
Dottie Wakulich, Jim Rumohr
- ACOLYTES: Chloe Junco, Jim Rumohr

Bishop: Rev. Tom Berlin
 District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Simon Osunlana
 Pastor: Nelson Bonilla

For emergency pastoral care or needs please contact: *if you would like prayer, a visit, to receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion or baptism, information on joining the church or other needs.*

Pastor Nelson Bonilla – Phone: 386-631-6193 email: nelson.bonilla@flumc.org
 Regular Office Hours – Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am-1pm or by appointment or the following members: Santiago Garcia, Administrative Council Chair, 305-608-1184

BUDGET AND OPERATING COSTS:

2024 Annual Church Budget:	\$
Weekly Operating Expenses/ Funds Needed:	\$1,786.00
Last Week's Offerings:	\$

Redland Community United Methodist Church

December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent



REDLAND COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

Hanging of The Greens Service

Liturgist: Jan Burlison

WELCOME GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES)

PRELUDE (acolyte brings light into the gathering place) **Felicia Fina, Pianist**

Opening Hymn #234 “O come, all Ye Faithful”

Opening Prayer (PASTOR)

Our Father, We bring You our gratitude for every token of Your love, for all the ways You have heaped blessings upon us during the years that have gone. And we do pray, Lord Jesus, that as we begin this four-week journey of expectation and hope, we may do it in a manner well pleasing to you. May all we do and say, every tribute of our hearts, bring honor to your name, that we, your people, may remember Your birth and feel Your presence among us even yet. May the loving kindness of this Advent Season and the true Spirit of Christmas remain with us now and forever. In the name of Jesus, who came to save His people from their sins, even in that lovely name we pray. Amen.

LEADER: *The Meaning of the Service*

As we begin the Christian Year, we also celebrate the Holy Season known as Advent. It is a time when we prepare ourselves for the coming of our Messiah. Advent means "Coming." We celebrate these days of Advent in expectation and preparation for Christ's arrival.

During this season we proclaim the revelation of God's love as expressed in Christ's birth in a humble stable, His sacrificial death on the cross, and his victorious resurrection! It also points to the hope of Christ's coming again as the King of kings and Lord of Lords. Advent makes innkeepers out of all of us, asking each of us to make room for the arrival of Christ The King. Let us, today, prepare Him room in our hearts, our lives, our homes, and our church!

Hymn # 204 “Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

PASTOR: *The candles in Advent Wreath*

The lighting of candles has been a part of religious worship for centuries. The Hebrews burned candles for eight days as part of their Feast of Lights. Light has been used by many religious groups to symbolize truth, while the darkness of night has been the universal symbol for evil. Since Jesus was called “the light of the world” in the New Testament, the lighting of candles has become an important part of our Christian worship. Some early Christian leaders stated that the wax of altar candles represented the body of Christ, while the wick symbolized his soul, and the flame portrayed his divine nature. Candles made from pure beeswax were used to signify Mary, since this wax comes from virgin bees. This has resulted in the practice of some churches to burn only beeswax candles upon the altar or communion table.

When Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the temple, Simeon referred to the Christ child as “a light to lighten the Gentiles.” From this statement, church leaders have used candles to symbolize the light of Christ shining throughout a broken world.

FAMILY:

Reader One: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

Congregation: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.

Reader Two: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

PASTOR: *Wreaths*

Have you ever wondered why we talk about the “hanging of the greens?” Or why an evergreen is called an evergreen? And why Christmas greens are traditionally used to emphasize the nativity? Green represents renewal, new life, freshness, and rebirth. Plants such as pine, fir, holly, ivy, and mistletoe are called evergreens because they do not die; through the seasons of the year, they remain ever green. Ever alive. It is no wonder then that we deck our sanctuary and halls with evergreens during this Advent season. Advent is the season of preparation for the ever-coming Christ, God’s gift to us of renewal and transformation.

Because the needles of the pine and fir trees appear not to die each season, the ancients saw them as signs of things that last forever. Isaiah tells us that there will be no end to the reign of the Messiah. Therefore, we hand this wreath of evergreens shaped in a circle, which in itself has no end, to signify that the kingdom of God, to which Christ so eloquently testified, is also without end, and is realized wherever truth, justice, and peace prevail.

LEADER:

People of God, we place these wreaths at the entrance of the church now that we are at the doorway to a New Christian year on this first Sunday of Advent. Let us mark the entrance to the church building and our hearts and minds as portals for Christ to enter.

All: Come, Lord Jesus! Come, Lord Jesus!

Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the Ruler of glory may come in.

All: Who is the Ruler of glory?

Leader: The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!

All: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors! That the Ruler of glory may come in.

Leader: Who is this Ruler of glory?

All: The Lord of hosts, the Lord is the Ruler of glory!

Hymn # 217 “Away in a Manger”

PASTOR: *Lighting of the Christmas Tree*

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, the Light of the World, we light the Christmas tree. During this season of Advent, whenever you see a lighted Christmas tree, let it call to mind the One who brings light to our darkness, healing to our brokenness, and peace to all who receive him.

Blessing of the Christmas Tree – Unison

Loving God, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, whose path of justice and inclusivity lights a path for all who follow him. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ and we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

DECORATING THE CHRISTMAS TREE (*Placing A Chrismon on the Christmas Tree*)

PASTOR: *Nativity*

The original crib in which the Christ Child was laid was a manger in the stable, a sign of his humble birth. The popular Christmas crèche at churches and in homes creates a picture of Jesus in the stable crib at Bethlehem, depicting scenes described by Luke and Matthew. St. Francis of Assisi is often credited with the first manger scene about 800 years ago. For a people who could not read it was an effective visual aid in telling the story of the birth of Jesus. We have such a scene here. I invite the Congregation to arrange the wise men, shepherds, animals, angels, Mary, and Joseph. The manger in which Jesus was laid has colored our imagery of Christmas. A manger, "is a feeding-trough, crib, or open box in a stable designed to hold fodder for livestock. The manger is mentioned three times in Luke 2. Mary lays Jesus in the manger, the angels tell the shepherds that they will find the Savior by seeking the baby lying in a manger, and then the shepherds in fact find Jesus lying in a manger. Obviously, the repetitive references to the manger are indicative of its significance in Luke’s narrative. Why is this significant? Because of what the shepherds were told. They were told who this child was. This child is the savior, the Messiah, the Lord. The manger isn’t important in itself. It’s a signpost, a pointing finger, to the identity and task of the baby boy who’s lying in it. The shepherds, summoned in from the fields (like David, the shepherd boy, brought in from the fields to be anointed as king), are made privy to the news, so that Mary and Joseph, hearing it from this unexpected source, will have extra confirmation of what up until now has been their own secret. The empty manger represents us, waiting for our redemption.

Hymn # 211 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (1-4)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

(We lift up concerns & thanksgivings)

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY PRAISE:**

(Doxology) #95 (UMH)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION:

Page 12 (UMH)

LEADER: Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection for the light of God’s love is discernible everywhere.

All: We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder and set aside time to offer quiet thanks.

Leader: The good news of Advent is this: Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

All: We will welcome Christ into our hearts; We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry; We will go forth from this place in hope.

Final Hymn 196 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Benediction

**Please stand as you are able*

Please remember the Joys and Concerns in your daily prayer.

JOYS: All the laity of our church and how much they do in serving God and others. Thanks to God for answered Prayers. Our many blessings. Good doctors. Health Care Specialists. Caregivers. God’s goodness. Church friends as helpers. Time with friends and family. Gift of life. The blessing of children. Grateful for our Church leadership. Gift of the Holy Spirit. Families worship together. Each of our talents and gifts.

CONCERNS: Prayers for the family of a 9-year-old boy who lost his life in a shooting in Florida City. Traveling mercies for everyone that is traveling during Thanksgiving week. Lucy’s mom, Gladys. Prayers for the people of Cuba. Prayers for the people of Gaza. Prayers for our country. For all missionaries around the word. Continue praying for people who are struggling with mental health. For the families of all those who have lost loved ones to breast cancer. The Formel family lost a loved one. All victims and their families of tragic violent shootings. Prayers for Lucy’s son, Luis and his family. Prayers for our country, and our military service men/women. First responders. Immigrants seeking asylum. All victims of terrorism and natural disasters. Prayers for our denomination, local churches, pastors, and leaders. Those in Hospice Care, and those suffering from cancer. Prayers for single moms. Prayers for the people of Palestine and Israel. All who are grieving the loss of a loved one. For World leaders to make good decisions that lead to peace.

Healing prayers for: Oscar Castro (surgery on Dec 6). Harriet Morris. Jim’s brother, sister and brother-in-law (Terry Rumohr, Sharon, Mike). Rob’s mom, Judy. May’s brother David is having hip surgery. Gus’s sister, Theresa. Jose Fernandez. Mike, who is healing from shoulder surgery. Valentina, needing a bone marrow transplant. Jo Ann McMillan. Santiago’s health issues, and ongoing cancer treatment. Dottie. Lucy’s friend Bryan. Jan’s friend Andrea was diagnosed with cancer. Carol Horeb. Jan’s mom. Ed & Karen’s friend Pastor Greg, who is awaiting a liver transplant. Sandi Settle, continued healing.

NOTE: Pastor Nelson can be reached at (386) 631-6193

**ANNOUNCEMENTS –
Sunday, December 1, 2024**

Sunday: 9:00 am -Worship Service
Fellowship Coffee after service
Tuesday: 10:00 am -Prayer and Share in the multi-purpose room.
Friday: 11:00 am - Bible Study
5:00pm- Fellowship Dinner: First Sunday of every month

**(BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES)
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL BORN IN DECEMBER!!!!**

Fellowship Coffee after service.

Church Apportionments and Finances- Adopt an apportionment to help us meet our 2025 giving goal.

The December communion offering will be designated to Angola.

MOVIE NIGHT: To be announced.

UPPER ROOM: Daily devotional now available in the Narthex area.

PRAYERS: Join us daily at 12:00 pm with prayers for the healing of the World.

TREE OF LIFE: Leaves and other features are available to dedicate or memorialize special individuals in your life. Flyers are available in the Narthex.

AC: If you wish to donate to this project, please mark your special donations as “AC offering.”