Prepare the Way of the Lord! Advent – *Parousia* - experiencing the preparation for the coming of the Christ child while knowing that God is already present in our lives. Our Advent services this year will be based on a short essay, “Seeing the Light” by Robert Finch, from *This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, Environment*, 2nd Edition.

Our Advent worship services will look at our faith through a different angle of the light. We will be looking at our faith through the angles of hope, peace, joy and love through the elements of fire, earth, water and air. Finch’s experience of the two differing views of light answered my question of how to do this. He shares that while on an evening walk in the late fall,

“I walk directly into the lowering sun, so that my vision of things is occluded, fragmented, blinded, and double-sunned by reflections in the water. It is like walking through a visual bramble, or maze, with my hand held in front of my eyes for protection. All is back-lit and glaring, so that I can get no hold on the landscape.”

He is then coming back along the walk with the light at a different angle, and he experiences the landscape as, “some kind of revelation, like an idealized form. But of what?” For him some “profound illusion” had taken place, simply by changing the angle of the light.

The emotion here is of things suddenly and unexpectedly opening up. This is the sense that I hope to capture in Advent this year. A sense of looking at things through a different angle of light, by creating a completely different angle of light in worship.

We will be using a new version of an old Advent song – O Come O Come Emmanuel, written for the United Church of Canada, *O Come, Advent*, lyrics and arrangement by Adrian Marchuk. We will be opening with darkness, bringing in the light, inviting you to worship at the table by breaking the bread, joining in song and prayer and then closing with the cup of blessing. We will come to an understanding of *Parousia* – presence – preparing for an already present God, by connecting our experience through the elements of nature.

By exploring through nature, the elements will be seen and experienced not as symbolism but rather as the very building blocks of our identity. Finch’s observation that “We are directly dependent on nature for the raw materials of our inner lives,” allowing ourselves to better understand, as Finch says, that “…our souls may be created both individually and as a species by what we experience through our senses. If this is so, then when a society increasingly lives without direct access to natural experience, does it run the risk of literally becoming soulless?”

Using the gifts of our resident fabric artists Marie Shirley-Jones and Grazia Giacomelli, we will be the recipients of a very different design of our worship space using different angles of light to lead the liturgy of bringing in the Advent light that will unveil the experience of *Parousia*... an already present God. See you in church!

Peace,

Pastor Pam
Pastor Pam’s December Schedule
Preaching Sundays Dec 5, 12, 19
Christmas Eve Dec 24 Preaching
both 5:00 and 7:00 services
Off Sunday December 26
Holiday Schedule
Off Dec 25-27
Working remotely Dec 28-30
Office Hours Tues-Thurs 10-3
In-person, Dec 1-23
via Zoom, Dec 28-30

Available for appointments
Sunday-Thursday, days and evenings
Pastoral emergency coverage available while working remotely
and for vacation days; please call the church office
RED LODGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

FRIDAY DECEMBER 24  5:00 P.M. OR 7:00 P.M.

308 S. BROADWAY AVE.

FULLY HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE

SEATING BY RESERVATION ONLY

LIMITED TO 75 PEOPLE AT EACH SERVICE

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH AT 406-446-1444

TO RESERVE YOUR SEATS WITH YOUR PREFERRED TIME

WE WILL TAKE RESERVATIONS THROUGH CHRISTMAS EVE DAY!

BOTH SERVICES WILL BE

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES WITH OUR FAVORITE
CHRISTMAS HYMNS, READINGS, CAROLS AND SPECIAL MUSIC
FEATURING SILENT NIGHT BY CANDLELIGHT

WE WILL ALSO CREATE A

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE ON-LINE SERVICE AS WELL

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING OUR SERVICES WITH
NEIGHBORS AND VISITING FAMILY AND FRIENDS!
MOMENT FROM THE MODERATOR

JIM’S 10 RULES OF LIFE

1. SMILE
   IT ALWAYS WORKS OUT IN THE END!

2. BE KIND
   YOU HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE PEOPLE FEEL GOOD!

3. BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
   BELIEVE YOU CAN AND YOU WILL!

4. STAY STRONG
   DREAM, BELIEVE ACHIEVE!

5. DON’T GIVE UP
   IF IT DOESN’T WORK THE FIRST TIME, FIND ANOTHER WAY!

6. DON’T COMPARE
   EVERYONE’S ON A DIFFERENT JOURNEY!

7. AVOID NEGATIVITY
   AVOID NEGATIVE THOUGHTS, SITUATIONS & PEOPLE!

8. MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR PAST
   FOCUS ON BEING PRESENT & CREATING A BETTER FUTURE!

9. TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY & MIND
   ONE STRUGGLES TO SURVIVE WITHOUT THE OTHER!

10. KEEP SMILING
    BECAUSE OF YOUR SMILE, YOU MAKE LIFE MORE BEAUTIFUL!

When Diane and I married, we were still in college. Money was tight, but passions were raging! These ten rules are a composite of two posters that graced our apartment walls. These rules have guided our actions for 53 years. I have applied these rules to every leadership position I have assumed. They are tried and true and I offer them to each of you for your consideration. My time as “Moderator” is about to conclude. I came into this position with a SMILE and as I leave, I will KEEP SMILING!

JFB
A Word from the Deacons….

Thank you to all who have signed up to assist with the Coffee Hour and Greeter lists that were passed around at our Sunday services. We appreciate your willingness to make our place of worship the family friendly space that we love and share with one another.

We are planning ahead for our Advent and Christmas seasons, including the Christmas Eve Candlelight Services on Friday, December 24th. With awareness of Covid space restrictions, we are holding services at 5:00 and 7:00 PM. Each service will restrict attendance to 75 people. We request that you call the church office at 446-1444 and reserve a time for you and your family/friends. We want to be sure our congregation has first chance seating for the service time of your choice.

We look forward to sharing this holiday season with you.

Love and Peace, Your Deacons

Renee Gabrian       rrgabrian@hotmail.com
Debbie Awes         debawes51@hotmail.com
Don Kinney          dlkinney54@gmail.com
Lori Floyd          lorifloyd02@gmail.com
Helen MacKay        hmackay49@gmail.com
Sharyn McKenzie     sharyn@nemont.net
Bill Cords          billcords81@yahoo.com

Deacons:
12/ 5: Lori Floyd, Sharyn Mckenzie
12/ 12: Helen MacKay, Bill Cords
12/ 19: Debbie Awes, Renee Gabrian
12/ 24: Bill Cords, Renee Gabrain (5:00PM & 7:00PM)

Greeters:
12/ 5: Patty Schuessler
12/ 19: Libby Gardner
12/ 24: 
12/ 26: 
Along with decorating our Sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons, we can look back a century ago to when the Sanctuary was also being decorated for the season. For this month’s Shalom, we’re looking again at the December of 1923 photo of Sanctuary. The decoration was both for advent and for the formal dedication of the building as a Methodist Episcopal Church after six months of use and work. The dedication was a three day event held on December 15, 16 and 17 of 1923. The plans were reported a week in advance in The Red Lodge Pickett Journal newspaper edition of December 8, 1923 as follows:

“Dedication of the new Methodist Episcopal church the coming weekend will be the occasion for an elaborate program according to announcement made by Rev. F. C. Fulford [pastor of the Red Lodge Church]. Bishop Charles Wesley Burns of the Helena area will deliver the principal dedicatory address Sunday morning. Rev. E. C. Bartlett of Anaconda, Rev. Charles E. Cunningham of Townsend, Rev. Fred. Whitford of Forsyth, all former pastors of this church, will be present for the dedication exercises. The Midland Ministerial Association will meet here Monday morning. The services will begin with a public banquet at the church basement Saturday at six o’clock. At eight there will be services in the church. Rev. R. C. Ten Broeck, rector of the Episcopal church, will ask the invocation; Rev. G. W. Churchhill of the Congregational church will give the scripture reading. Chas. H. Draper, will extend the address of welcome as president of the Red Lodge-Montana club; Bishop Burns will respond. There will be an address by H. L. Hussong, principal of the high school, and by R. M. Porter, principal of the city schools. There will be special music by Lloyd Long, by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Logan and by the Misses Beatrice and Minnie Fulford.

“Sunday there will be morning worship at ten forty-five. Rev. E. C. Bartlett will read the invocation, Rev. Fred Whitford will give the scripture lesson. Rev. R. C. Edington, superintendent of the Yellowstone District, will read a financial report. Bishop Burns will deliver the dedicatory address. There will be special musical numbers by the choir and by Miss Harriet Herrman.

“The [Sunday] evening service will begin at eight o’clock. Rev. Charles E. Cunningham will render the invocation; there will be a scripture reading by Rev. E. C. Bartlett. Former pastors will reminisce on the church of yesterday. There will be special music by the choir and vocal solos by Abram Maryott and by Mrs. L. H. Tooley. Rev. Fred Whitford will pronounce the benediction.

“[On Monday] Members of the Midland Ministerial Association will hold their Annual Meeting. Members of the Church will hold a business meeting at the church in the afternoon and there will be services again at eight o’clock that evening. Urgent invitation has been issued by the Methodists to the people of this community to attend the various sessions.”
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Advent word search

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Y E M M A N U E L K U D N P G
N N U N S M G N L P V Y S M Q G
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F O I I I L R D S F H V M J K
J D T T T G T D U N Z W O A O E
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F S F V J V Y E G N I T I A W
L O V E C I O J E R O M O N S

Christian Education

Minutes from Council meetings are available on the website’s
Red Lodge Community Church Youth Chorale
October 2021 - April 2022

Starting Wednesday, October 13, The Red Lodge Community Church is offering a Youth Chorale for area students in grades 1-5. This opportunity is free for all participants, though registration is required.

**When:** Wednesday nights from October 13 - December 15 for fall semester
   Wednesday nights from February 2 - April 13 for spring semester
**Time:** 6:45 - 7:30 pm
**Where:** Red Lodge Community Church at 308 Broadway S, Red Lodge
**For:** All area students in grades 1-5

The goal of the RLCC Youth Chorale is to provide a musical, creative, emotional, and social outlet in an encouraging, supportive, and learning environment. Through singing, movement, and musical games young musicians will learn a variety of styles and genres of music and will learn fundamental musicianship skills.

Please contact Pastor Pam Peterson or Lynell Kruckeberg, Youth Chorale Director at the Red Lodge Community Church for further information.

Red Lodge Community Church
308 Broadway Ave. S
Red Lodge Montana
406-446-1444

Pastor Pam Peterson
pastorpampeterson@gmail.com

Lynell Kruckeberg, Youth Chorale Director
lynell.kruckeberg@yahoo.com
Mail Chimp Mailings

Have you been missing your Monday Memo and Weekly Wrangler that are sent out through Mail Chimp? If so, you may have been accidentally unsubscribed from the email list. If you’d like you re-subscribe, you can do so by clicking this link. You can also email

Enjoying the Directory?

We hope you are all enjoying the new church directory! We have had some folks who experienced issues accessing, downloading, and/or printing the directory. If you’re one of those and you haven’t emailed or called in for some help yet, please do. For those of you who still need to get your photos in, or if you need to update your information, you can send an email directly or you can use the directory form on the website. If you have questions or issues email or call Janet at the church office. Enjoy!

*If you had recently received a copy of the Directory via mail or stopping by please take a quick look to see if a few pages are missing. It’s been brought to our attention that a misprint occur on a few request. Call, email or stop by and Janet will be happy to reprint you a new copy. Thank you for your understanding!*

A Note from the Office:

* Please check with calendar for church usages
* Council & Committee Minutes are available for review in the church office.
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<td>9:30am Zoom Prayer</td>
<td>3:30 Girl Scout Meeting</td>
<td>Jim Young</td>
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<td>3:00 4H meeting</td>
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<td>3:30 Girl Scout Meeting</td>
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<td>1:30pm Stewardship &amp; Outreach</td>
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<td>New Year’s Eve</td>
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Our Mission Statement

The Red Lodge Community Church, UCC welcomes all people to worship, fellowship and to study God’s word. We seek to be servants of our Lord in the care of all people.”

How to Reach
RED LODGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. with Sunday School
(Website pre-recorded services continue to be available)

Church Phone: (406) 446-1444
Church Address: 308 S. Broadway
P.O. Box 786, Red Lodge, MT 59068
www.redlodgecommunitychurch.com

Email: rlccassistant@gmail.com or rlcccedirector@gmail.com

Office Hours: M-F 10am-3pm & and by appointment
Pastor: Pamela J. Peterson
Office Hours: by appointment only
Cell: (406) 426-8715
Email: pastorpampeterson@gmail.com