



Back to the Basics: Show the Way



This Advent we will look to the characters of the Christmas story to help "show the way." These characters both guide us to Bethlehem and the Christ Child, but each of them also reveals something that "shows the way" of discipleship - how we follow the Christ Child. Not only with Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds guide us to the manger, but they will show us a pattern for life that honors, perseveres, endures, and adores the God revealed in Jesus.

December 7:
Gabriel Shows the Way
Luke 1:26-38

December 14:
Mary Shows the Way
Isaiah 35:1-10
& Luke 1:39-56

December 21:
Joseph Shows the Way
Isaiah 7:10-16
& Matthew 1:18-25

**December 24
Christmas Eve:**
Shepherds Show the Way
Luke 2:1-20

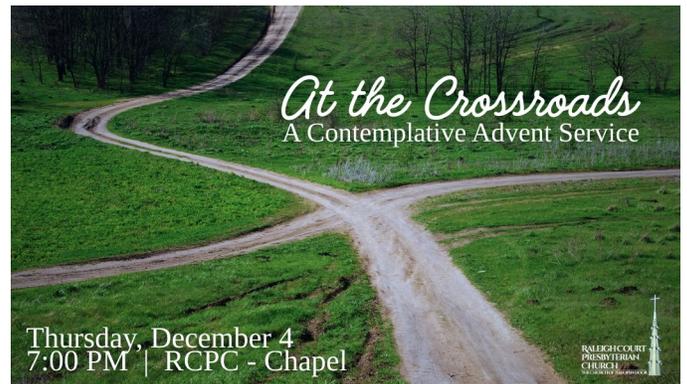
December 28:
How the Church Tells Time
Psalm 104:14-24
& Leviticus 23:1-3

God Alive Christmas Musical

Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30 PM
RCPC Sanctuary

The God Alive Choir presents "Light of the World" by Mark Patterson, a Christmas musical telling the nativity story with carols from around the world. Note: Fellowship Dinner will be at 5:30 PM that day.

"At the Crossroads: A Contemplative Pathway in Advent"



Thursday, December 4 at 7:00 PM
RCPC Chapel

During this worship service of prayer, scripture, song, and anointing with oil, we'll meet ancestors in our faith, Zechariah and Elizabeth at a crossroads in their life. They carry the pains of age, the death of their hopes, and yet receive a promise that is enlivening and terrifying. It takes Zechariah's breath away. Like them, we carry our griefs and hopes, our longings and stresses. Join us for this service for a chance to be still before the Lord, to hear the song of angels, to learn again to trust the One who gives us life.

Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, December 24
5:00 PM - Christmas Eve
Led by Children & Youth - Sanctuary
10:30 PM - Prelude Music in the Sanctuary
11:00 PM - Christmas Eve
Candlelight & Communion - Sanctuary

Sunday, December 28

One service at 11:00 AM - Sanctuary & Livestream
Nursery and Children's Worship available

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Sunday School Classes - December

Full class descriptions available online at rcpres.org/adult-education

Exploring Christian Theology - Room 101

Led by Mike Lockaby

Join Mike Lockaby and others as they dig into the past to explore biblical and theological themes.

Intergenerational Sunday School: *Advent Creation*

Led by Leigh Sackett

November 30 - December 21 - Fellowship Hall

Parents and children, come join us as we make some memorable Advent gifts for our loved ones and those neighbors we are called to love out in our community.

The Seekers - Room 201

November 30 - January 11 (no class on 12/28):
Advent in Plain Sight

At Christmas, God came into our ordinary world in the form of a child, and still today, God is at work through the ordinary stuff of life, if we train our eyes to see. In this daily devotional for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, Jill J. Duffield draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that appear in the biblical narratives of messianic prophesy and incarnation - objects we encounter in our own lives. Through objects such as gates, trees, cloth, light, and water, readers will find new meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' coming. By connecting everyday objects with biblical texts, Advent in Plain Sight prompts readers to see the near kingdom of heaven on earth and ponder what that divine proximity enables and asks them to do and be. Each daily devotional features a Scripture reading, prayer, and reflection, reminding Christians that God still dwells among us, even in the most ordinary places.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

God Alive Christmas Musical

Rehearsals

Wednesdays December 3, 10, & 17 at 4:00 PM

Performance

Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30 PM
(Dinner at 5:30 PM)

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Progressive Dinner

Sunday, December 14

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

We'll gather at Beth & Bob Snead's house for appetizers, walk to Becky & Harry Rhodes for our main course, and finish with dessert and pick up at Paula & Tom Mitchell's home. Festive attire and good walking shoes are encouraged! Looking forward to our holiday celebration!

Youth Fundraisers

Thank you to everyone who supported our Youth Fellowship Dinner fundraiser! We raised \$1,100.40!!

Save the date of our next fundraiser:

Parents Night Out

Friday, January 9

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Suggested donation of \$50 per family, \$30 for one child.
Thanks for your generous support for our youth!



Our Youth canvassed over 1000 houses in Raleigh Court reminding our neighbors that Jesus asked of us to love our neighbors. We were overwhelmed to see all the donations come in a week later to support the ministry of The Least of These that works with the homeless within our city. Eleven vehicles worth of supplies were delivered!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music in Raleigh Court - December Schedule

Roanoke Valley Choral Society Holiday Concert

Monday, December 1 at 7:00 PM - Sanctuary

In the fall of 2024, Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church became the rehearsal and concert host site for the Roanoke Valley Choral Society. We are thrilled to feature their programming in our Music in Raleigh Court Series and look forward to many years of musical partnership together!



RCPC Christmas Concert

"Star of Bethlehem, Lead Us to Peace"

Sunday, December 21 at 7:00 PM - Sanctuary

Join us for our annual Christmas Concert presented by the Sanctuary Choir, orchestra, and organ. This year's concert, titled "Star of Bethlehem, Lead Us to Peace," invites us to journey to the City of David and see the baby born in a humble cattle stall - our Prince of Peace. Out in the chaos of our world, power rules. Where Christ meets us in grace and truth, peace rules.

Montreat Worship & Music Conference

RCPC will again be taking a group of children, youth, and adults to the Presbyterian Association of Musicians' Worship and Music Conference at Montreat Conference Center in NC. We will be attending Week 1 (June 21-27, 2026) and have options for adult conference housing and home rental housing. This conference is open to any adults along with children and youth who participate in the God Alive and Youth Choirs of RCPC. For information and registration details, please join us in the chapel following the 11:00 AM worship service on Sunday, December 7 for a brief informational meeting.

A Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 28 at 11:00 AM

"Keeping Time": Singing through the Church Year

On Sunday, December 28, the first Sunday after Christmas, we will gather for one service of lessons and carols at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary. As we continue our Christmas celebrations and look to the new calendar year, we will journey together through the liturgical calendar and learn about and reflect on the seasons of the church year. The service will include scripture readings, poetry, hymns, and of course Christmas carols!

MISSION & FELLOWSHIP

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Fred Davis
Shea Foster

4 Christopher Bowes
Milee Hoffman
Pikea Saint

6 Jennifer Bryant

7 Joe Kennedy

8 Matt Arnold

10 John Luke

Carignan

Jimmy Ward

13 Jack Spyhalski

14 Christie Akers
Connie Chandler

Diane Lawson

16 Kris Merritt

18 Kai Davis

Barbara Nesmith

Julie Satterwhite

19 Josh Epling-

DeFalco

21 Cheryl Gilliland

Jessica Sweet

22 Lydia Goad

Michael Hertz

23 Bob Atkinson
Cathy Guilfoyle

Bill Nance

26 Heather Flora

Linda Wickert

27 Debra Abbott

Martha Gibbs

29 Bob Snead

30 Janet Nash

Edward Staley

Special Birthday Wishes:

12/14: Connie Chandler
91st Birthday

Fellowship Dinners

Join us for dinner on Wednesday nights at 6:15 PM from October 1 to the end of April. Check the bulletin and This Week @ RCPC each week for the menu. The food and the fellowship around the table are worth it each week. Please RSVP by noon on the Tuesday before.

The Fellowship Committee is always looking for people willing to help with Fellowship Dinner. Sign up to set up, serve food, or take leftovers on Thursday morning by contacting Kathy Sebolt at ksebolt@rvgs.k12.va.us or using the Sign Up in the This Week @ RCPC.

December Menus

December 3: Lasagna, Italian Green Beans, Fresh Garlic Bread, Fruit Cake, Vegetable Lasagna

December 10: Pork BBQ on a Bun, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Chips, Fruit/Jello, Mushroom BBQ

December 17 (at 5:30 PM): Chicken Alfredo over Fettuccine, Steamed Broccoli, Fresh Garlic Bread, Marble Cake, Mixed Roasted Veggies in Cashew Sauce

Earth Care Committee: Plastic Recycling



URBAN REBLOK'D

We are expanding our recycling efforts by connecting with Urban Reblok'd to collect many more types of items. Urban Reblok'd will have a step van in the church parking lot from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM on the following Wednesday, December 17. You are welcome to bring any of the following: styrofoam, any hard plastic (numbered 1 thru 7, and unnumbered), plastic film (that we have already been collecting), E-waste (electronics). Please encourage your friends to also be part of this community project.



God Alive Choir performing during worship on Sunday, November 16.



Raleigh Court Ringers, Alleluia Ringers, & Genesis Ringers performed in the Grandin Road Children's Parade on Saturday, November 22.



MISSION

Alternative Giving: November 30-December 14

Here's Your Alternative Gift Guide:

Unsure what gift to get for someone for Christmas? Have no fear! Your Alternative Gift Guide is HERE! No gift here will be unwanted or go to waste. All gifts go to support our mission partners and the people who receive their services. Might we be led by our love of Christ to participate in alternative gift giving this Christmas.

*** NEW in 2025: Post Pandemic, our mission partners are no longer able to accept donations of stuffed animals. ***

LUCY ADDISON MIDDLE SCHOOL ANGEL TREE

Perfect for anyone with a soft spot for children, education, or if you want to teach a young child about giving a gift to someone else in need.



You can pick a tag off of the **Lucy Addison Middle School Angel Tree** in the Gathering Area to support a student and their family. The tag has suggestions for clothing sizes and general requests. You do NOT have to get every item on the tag. Total gift amount suggested to be around \$50. All gifts will need to be brought in by **Sunday, December 14**. We request that all items go in one gift bag with the original tag stapled or taped to the outside of the bag.

SUDANESE/SOUTH SUDANESE MISSION GROUP

Perfect for someone who is always making others feel welcome or for someone who cares about refugees and immigrants and wants to make a tangible difference to those who have made a new home in our Roanoke community.

You can support families holiday celebrations through the **Sudanese/South Sudanese Mission Group** by giving a \$50 gift card (Walmart, Kroger, Food Lion, or Aldi). Or by writing a check to RCPC with the memo line Alternative Giving – Sudanese Mission. You can drop gift cards off in the basket by **Sunday, December 14**.

WEST END CENTER SOCKS & UNDERWEAR COLLECTION

Perfect to honor that parent or grandparent who thought every holiday was the right holiday to give you socks and underwear.



West End Center
FOR YOUTH

You can participate in the **West End Center collection of socks and underwear** aiding in each child at the West End Center receiving a full outfit with the efforts of other local churches. Sign up to give using the link found in This Week @ RCPC. You'll sign up to provide a specific size of socks and underwear for a specific student. Please label the items you drop off so we know which student they are for. Drop off the Socks and

Underwear in the appropriate box in the Gathering Area by **Sunday, December 14**.

RCPC MISSION PARTNERS

You can give a gift by **donating to our mission partners in honor of a loved one**. Stop by the tree in the Gathering Area, or use the Link in the This Week @ RCPC. Whether by physical form or an online sign up, let us know the gift you wish to give to support mission partners (Family Promise, House of Bread, RAM, Hunger Mission Team, Haiti Mission Group, Presbyterian Community Center, Rescue Mission, Care Portal, and West End Center) in honor of your loved one. Submit your gift online or submit the form and payment via check or cash to the church office to the attention of Julie Satterwhite. Whichever way you donate to our mission partners in honor of a loved one, **the Deacons will collect the submitted information to mail a card of thanksgiving to your loved ones. All Forms must be submitted by Wednesday, December 17.**

The below gift price points are examples of how to help our mission partners, but gifts of all sizes are helpful.

- *Perfect for the one always cooking for others:*
 - \$20 funds the flour for one bake day at **House of Bread**
 - \$100 equals 20 bags packed for a hungry kid through the **Hunger Mission Team**
 - \$85 covers an average food order at **Presbyterian Community Center**
- *Perfect for an educator in your life:*
 - \$150 pays for 404 meals served in a single day at **St. Timothee's School in Larivoire, Haiti**
 - \$35 pays for a family's tuition for one week at the **West End Center**
- *Perfect for the ever-gracious host:*
 - \$25 supports an overnight stay through the **Rescue Mission**
- *Perfect for someone who always gives you a "lift" (whether it's emotional or physical!)*
 - \$56 will provide a monthly bus pass for one adult at **Family Promise**
- *Perfect for someone who is always looking out to help other families:*
 - \$40 covers diapers and wipes for a financially struggling Mom through **Care Portal**
- *Perfect for that go-to person who is always ready to help:*
 - \$40 supports one week of services for a client at **RAM** which helps individuals get back on their feet in a number of ways through case management, rent, utility support, and meals.



CarePortal



December 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 12:30pm - Monday Small Group 7pm - Roanoke Valley Choral Society Concert 7pm - Men's Small Group	2 9am - Staff Meeting 9:30am - PW Coordinating Team 4pm - Small Group: Dixon 7:15pm - Raleigh Court Ringers 7:30pm - Women's Small Group	3 12:10pm - Preschool Committee 1pm - Funeral: Jo Thomason 3:15pm - Genesis Ringers 4pm - God Alive 6:15pm - Fellowship Dinner 6:45pm - Chamber Choir 7pm - Christmas Choir 7pm - Wednesday Small Group	4 10am - Hunger Mission Packing 10:30am - Kiwanis Board Meeting 10:30am - Thursday Small Group 5:30pm - Small Group: Parents of Young Children 7pm - RCNA Board Meeting 7pm - Contemplative Advent Service	5	6
7 ADVENT 9am - Worship: Chapel 10am - Sunday School 11am- Worship: Sanctuary 12:15 PM - Montreat Worship & Music Info Session 4:30pm - Alleluia Ringers 5pm - Youth Choir 6pm - Youth Group	8 12:30pm - Monday Small Group 6pm - Men's Small Group	9 9am - Staff Meeting 10:15am - Presbyterian Women 4pm - Small Group: Dixon 7:15pm - Raleigh Court Ringers 7:30pm - Women's Small Group	10 12:15pm - Preschool Staff Meeting 3:15pm - Genesis Ringers 4pm - God Alive 6:15pm - Fellowship Dinner 6:45pm - Chamber Choir 7pm - Christmas Choir 7pm - Presbyterian Women Evening Circle 7pm - Wednesday Small Group	11 10am - Hunger Mission Packing 10:30am - Thursday Small Group 5:30pm - Small Group: Parents of Young Children 5:30pm - Justice, Equity, & Belonging	12	13 12pm - Young Adult Christmas Party
14 ADVENT 9am - Worship: Chapel 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship: Sanctuary 12:15pm - Earth Care Committee 4:30pm - Alleluia Ringers 5pm - Youth Choir 6pm - Youth Group: Progressive Dinner	15 12:30pm - Monday Small Group 4pm - Personnel & Administration 5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance 6:30pm - Generosity Committee 7pm - Men's Small Group	16 9am - Staff Meeting 4pm - Small Group: Dixon 5:30pm - Endowment Board 6:30pm - Small Group: 20somethings 7:15pm - Raleigh Court Ringers 7:30pm - Women's Small Group	17 9:30am - Preschool Christmas Program 3:15pm - Genesis Ringers 4pm - God Alive 5:30pm - Fellowship Dinner 6:30pm - Christmas Musical 7:30pm - Christmas Choir Rehearsal	18 10am - Hunger Mission Packing 10:30am - Thursday Small Group 5:30pm - Small Group: Parents of Young Children	19	20

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
21 ADVENT 9am - Worship: Chapel 10am - Sunday School 11am - Worship: Sanctuary 7pm - Music at RCPC: Christmas Concert	22 2:30pm - Youth Choir 4pm - Christmas Eve Liturgist Rehearsal (Children)	23 9am - Staff Meeting 7:15pm - Raleigh Court Ringers	24 Christmas Eve 5pm - Christmas Eve Worship: Sanctuary 11pm - Christmas Eve Worship: Sanctuary	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 11am - Worship: Sanctuary	29	30	31			

WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR GROUPS

Monday-Friday at 9am
 Monday at 10am
 Monday at 7pm
 Monday at 7pm
 Tuesday & Thursday at 10:30am
 Tuesday & Thursday at 5:30pm
 Thursday at 6:30pm
 Thursday at 7pm
 Friday at 11:45am

RPCPC Preschool
 Centering Prayer at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal
 Scouts - Troop 2B
 Roanoke Valley Choral Society
 AA: Primary Purpose
 Tai Chi
 Hip Sober Chicks
 Opera Roanoke Chorus
 Al-Anon

