December 2026

Radiance Community Church

From the Manger

It's time! In just a few short days, the season of Advent - my favorite season of the church year - will arrive. Advent is not just a time of beginnings, but also a time of reflection, expectation, and hope. We celebrate that Christ came as an infant, that Christ is always coming into the world and our lives, even now, and that Christ will come again. We remember why Christ came by reflecting on what is broken in us and our world and recognizing that God became flesh and dwelt among us to restore the world to wholeness. Henri Nouwen writes "The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."

This year, our Advent theme is "From the Manger." Our focus will be on Luke's telling of Jesus' birth, which reminds us that Jesus, the Bread of Life, found his first bed in a feeding trough in a town whose name means "House of Bread." From his very birth and throughout his life, Jesus' ministry to feed the hungry is evident in the gospels. And that universal experience of hunger is for more than our basic need for nourishment. Jesus also feeds our needs for peace, freedom, and salvation. Each week, we will see how hope, peace, joy, and love grow because of Jesus.

My prayer is that each of us will find our way to the manger this season, asking Christ to fill us with what we most need so that we can then share the good news that Christ has come with a world that is hungry. As the Advent hymn we will be learning, *From the Manger*, reminds us:

Mary's baby closely held, wrapped up in sweet expectancy
Now the Messiah is unveiled, embodied for the world to see.
So all creation can be fed; love will be found in the breaking of bread.
From the manger love grows; He will be God with Us.
From the manger love grows; Bread of Life, Jesus.



Blessings,
Pastor Melissa

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP SCHEDULE

December 6

- **Candlelighter:** Allistair Seay
- **Chimes:** Violet Pruitt
- **Greeters:** Debbie Foutz, Neal Kinsey
- **Jr. Greeter:** Iona Seay
- **Scripture Reader**: Ellen Scott
- **Offertory Prayer**: Joyce Waugh
- **Children's Worship Host:** Kathy Kinsey
- **Offering:** Jenna Dillon, Kathy Kinsey, Alyssa Viele, Brennon Viele
- **Communion Prep**: Donna Kester, Joyce Short
- **Communion**: Donna Kester, Paul Howell, Joyce Short, Glenda Pollard, Gordon Williams

December 13

- **Candlelighter:** Cason Krawchison
- **Chimes:** Easton Krawchison
- **Greeters:** Lisa Baker, Nancy Vest
- **Jr. Greeter:** Cason Krawchison
- **Scripture Reader**: Brennon Viele
- **Offertory Prayer**: Donna Kester
- **Children's Worship Host:** Donna Kester
- **Offering:** Gerri Mills, Ric Scott, Mark Smith, Gordon Williams

December 20

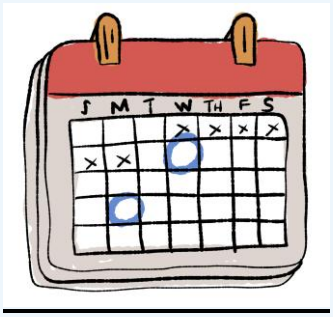
- **Candlelighter:** Violet Pruitt
- **Chimes:** Iona Seay
- **Greeters:** Mary Shirley, Gordon Williams
- **Jr. Greeter:** Violet Pruitt
- **Scripture Reader**: Cason Krawchison
- **Offertory Prayer**: Nancy Burgess
- **Children's Worship Leader:** Glenda Pollard
- **Offering:** Becky Beard, Nancy Vest, Cason Krawchison, Easton Krawchison

December 27- Breakfast Church

- **Greeters:** Bobbie Hawkins, Gerri Mills
- **Jr. Greeter:** Easton Krawchison

Featured Dates

Wednesday, Dec. 2	
Midweek Spiritual Formation	**12:00 PM**
Friday, Dec. 4	
Youth Christmas Party	**6:00 PM**
Sunday, Dec. 6	
Sunday Morning Bible Study	**9:30 AM**
Choir Practice	**11:30 AM**
Children's St. Nicholas Party	**11:30 AM**
Youth Angel Tree Shopping	**5:00 PM**
Wednesday, Dec. 9	
Midweek Spiritual Formation	**12:00 PM**
Saturday, Dec. 12	
Councils & Deacons Christmas Party	**4:00 PM**
Sunday, Dec. 13	
Sunday Morning Bible Study	**9:30 AM**
Worship	**10:30 AM**
Choir Practice	**11:30 AM**
Youth Dinner & Discipleship	**5:00 PM**
Monday, Dec. 14	
Evelyn Townsend Circle Meeting	**12:00 PM**
Wednesday, Dec. 16	
Midweek Spiritual Formation	**12:00 PM**
Thursday, Dec. 17	
Young Adult Christmas Party	**6:00 PM**
Sunday, Dec. 20	
Sunday Morning Bible Study	**9:30 AM**
Worship	**10:30 AM**
Sunday, Dec. 24	
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	**5:30 PM**
Sunday, Dec. 27	
Lessons & Carols Breakfast Church	**10:00AM**



pray for one another

- Those who are homebound or in retirement/nursing homes: Jim Bryant, Mary Durrer, Betty Heptinstall, Buddy Hawkins, Nadine Minnix, Louise Parris, Betty Payne, Becky Peyton, Jack Pilcher, Alice Scogin, Vilas Secrist, Anna Mae Smith, Joe St. Clair
- Those with cancer including Betty Hall, Dalton Burgess, Penny Long (Bob Crawford's sister), Mary Seithalil (friend of Lisa Baker), David Wyatt (friend of the Kinseys)
- Jordan Martin's mother, recovering from an illness
- The family & friends of Betty Hall, in her passing
- Kathleen Lordan, friend of Joyce Waugh, recovering from surgery after cancer

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Faith Formation Opportunities

• **Sunday Morning Bible Study, 9:30-10:15 am:** During Advent, our Sunday morning Bible study will focus on some passages that we may not typically associate with Advent, yet each one carries the season's great themes of hope, peace, joy, and love woven throughout the larger narrative of our faith. From a psalmist's cry for guidance to John the Baptist's honest doubts in prison, from Zephaniah's surprising vision of rejoicing to the desolation of Psalm 80, to Joseph's quiet courage in welcoming Emmanuel, these lessons remind us that the good news of redemption reaches us in every circumstance. We also have classes for our children and youth, so there is something for your whole family.

• **Midweek Spiritual Formation**, **Wednesdays at noon**: During Advent, Rev. Steven Harris is leading us in a journey through the Gospel narratives surrounding Jesus's coming and his promised return. We'll hear Jesus speak of his second coming, encounter John the Baptist preparing the way, follow the first disciples as they answer the call, and wonder alongside Mary and Elizabeth at the announcement of new life. Join us in person or by Zoom: bit.ly/radiancebiblestudy.

• **Faith Lending Library:** The bookshelf in the foyer has been filled with Advent and Christmas books for all ages. Feel free to borrow books to inspire, entertain, and guide you this season.

Radiance Kids:

• **Children Leading Worship**: We believe that children are a vital part of the body of Christ - not just the church of the future, but the church now. During Advent, our children will begin leading worship in some new ways, including ringing the bell to begin worship, lighting candles, reading scripture, greeting and handing out bulletins, collecting the offering, and praying. We are excited to see our children use their gifts as they serve the church!

• **Saint Nicholas Party,** December 6, 11:45 am-1:30 pm. December 6 is Saint Nicholas Day, a day to celebrate the generosity and love that Nicholas embodied. Our children (and their grown-ups) are invited to join us following worship for lunch, a story about Saint Nicholas, games, and a special craft. We'll be leaving our shoes out to see if Saint Nicholas comes by! Please let Pastor Melissa know by November 29 if your family will be attending.

Radiance Youth

During Advent, our youth will have special times of worship, fun, and service that help us focus on Christ's coming:

• **Dinner and Advent Worship,** Sunday, November 29, 5-7 pm**:** Come for a time of fellowship around the table, followed by creative prayer stations that will help us prepare our hearts for Christmas.

• **Christmas Party at Ric and Melissa's house,** Friday, December 4, 6-10 pm**:** Let's celebrate the joy of the season with food, fun, and friends! Bring a favorite Christmas treat - appetizer or dessert - to share and don't forget your wrapped gift (cost of $10 or less, please) for the gift exchange. Gifts can be funny or nice. Friends are welcome!

• **Angel Tree Shopping,** Sunday, December 6, 5-7 pm: We're shopping for gifts for families from TAP's Domestic Violence Services. Bring money for a fast-food dinner.

• **Dinner and Discipleship**, Sunday, December 13, 5-7 pm: This will be our last youth gathering of 2027, so come for dinner, Christmas games, and a Christmas Bible study!

Advent and Christmas Worship

• **Advent Devotion Books:** Pick up your “From the Manger” Advent devotional booklet from the table in the foyer. There are both regular and large print versions, so take the one that works best for you! Also, we have a special version for our children’s families (these are the ones with white covers). Feel free to share with your friends and neighbors, as well, and invite them to join you at our Advent and Christmas events!

• **Hanging of the Green:** On November 29, the first Sunday of Advent, our worship service will focus on the meaning of each of the elements we add to our sanctuary during this season. This is a hands-on, participatory service; we will be completing the “greening” of our sacred space as we worship.

• **Christmas Eve Worship**, December 24, 5:30 pm: We will celebrate the birth of Jesus with scripture, carols, and candlelight.

• **Breakfast Church,** December 27, 10 am: There are 12 days of Christmas, and we want to celebrate them all! You are invited to wear a Christmas sweater to worship to help us keep the spirit of Christmas going! We’ll gather for a potluck breakfast in the fellowship hall and then worship around the table as we sing carols and celebrate Christmas together.

Missions Opportunities This Month

• **Angel Tree Christmas for TAP Domestic Violence Services:** This year, we will be providing gifts for 15 children and teenagers who are connected with TAP's domestic violence services. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the gifts, please use the envelopes available on the table in the foyer and place your donation in the offering plate. If you wish, you may make your donation in memory or honor of a loved one (there is a space to note this on the envelopes). Those names will be included in the bulletin the Sunday before Christmas. As a thank you gift for your donation, our youth have created special ornaments, so please take one from the small tree in the foyer after making your donation. Our youth will be shopping for the gifts on Sunday, Dec. 6, from 5-7 p.m. You are welcome to join us!

• **Keystone Community Center Weekend Food Bags**: During the school year, we provide weekend food bags for 13 children at Keystone Community Center (a couple of options for breakfast, some snacks, fruit, and proteins for lunches and dinners, juice and milk boxes). We package the food in grocery bags and deliver them to Keystone by Wednesday each week. The cost for the food is usually around $100. **We have one week that still needs a volunteer in December.**

• **Blessing Box:** Our little food pantry has continued to be well used by our community. As you shop, please pick up a little extra to share with our neighbors. We are especially in need of proteins, rice, cereal, pancake syrup, fruit and vegetables and spaghetti and sauce.

Deacons and Councils Christmas Party, Saturday, December 12, 4-6 pm, hosted by Pastor Melissa and Ric. If you would like to carpool (parking is limited), please meet at the church at 3:45 pm.

The **Evelyn Townsend Missions Circle** invites all women of the church to a potluck lunch on Monday**,** December 14 at 12:00 pm at the home of Ellen Scott.

Young Adult Party, December 17, 6 pm: Our young adults are invited to join us at Pastor Melissa & Ric's house for yummy food, Christmas games, and catching up. Wear your festive Christmas sweater (or pajamas, if you'd prefer).

Christmas Cards for Shut-ins: If you are sending Christmas cards this year, we’d love for you to include our shut-in members! You can find a list with their addresses on the table in the foyer. Thanks for helping us let them know they are remembered this Christmas.



Radiance Community Church

4165 Colonial Ave.
Roanoke, VA 24018
540-774-2084

Our Church Staff:

Rev. Melissa Scott
Pastor

Rev. Steven Harris
Minister in Residence

Karen Viele
Church Administrator

Bill Lininger
Music Director

Happy Birthday!

Kaitlyn Dillon	**December 01**
Camryn Durrer	**December 01**
Patsy Waters	**December 03**
Linda Murray	**December 12**
Nancy Burgess	**December 13**
John Pilcher	**December 15**
Jennifer Minnix	**December 15**
Cindy Poff	**December 20**
Ray Wolfe	**December 23**
Brennon Viele	**December 31**
Alyssa Viele	**December 31**

