

THE MESSENGER

December 2022 / January 2023



LETTERS FROM THE PASTORS

Dear Ramsey Saints,

It is a beautiful thing that we do. Because of logistics this time of year, Ramsey Church publishes a dual monthly newsletter covering both December and January. In this edition we celebrate Advent, Christmas and the New Year. We bring closure to 2022 as we celebrate Jesus's birth, and we look to a fresh new beginning for 2023. First, I want us to focus on the baby Jesus because babies are cute and we love to look at them. But that is not the main reason I want us to focus on the baby Jesus. He is cute and we do love to look at babies, but we focus on the baby Jesus because He is Emmanuel – God with us. We focus on the baby Jesus because that birth into human history changed everything for us and for the world! Focusing on the baby Jesus is a beautiful way to bring closure to a calendar year. To be reminded that the God of the universe came to be with us.

We end the year focused on the baby Jesus and then turn our attention to the new year; realizing the hope, the peace, the comfort and the joy that Jesus's birth gives to any plans we make for our future. God with us in the beauty of Christmas and in the beauty of fresh beginnings of another year of our lives. Ramsey Church, how we rejoice and stand in awe of our God who has come to be with us; never to leave us, never to forsake us, but to walk with us. No wonder we will say so often over these next few weeks, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

"The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. (John 1:9-14)

With transforming Christmas hope,

Claudia

From a Pastoral Corner,

Psalms 92 reminds us that, "It is good to praise the LORD, how good it is to sing psalms to His name... how good it is to announce His mercy in the morning and His faithfulness at night. Verse 5 says that his works are great and his thoughts are very deep.

My brothers and sisters, in this season of Advent and Christmas, as in all times, we celebrate the goodness, mercy and fidelity of the Lord! How good it is to know the God of all grace and to be witnesses of that presence that transforms and that generates life, and life in abundance! How good it is to be participants in such a great message. Think well of this! You and I called by God to announce the good news of salvation. Our generation, like the generations before us and after Jesus Christ, have been blessed not only because we are readers or hearers of salvation history, but rather because you and I have been called to be messengers of salvation history. God in his love and goodness has made known that his plan is that no one perishes, but that by believing in Jesus we enjoy eternal life. Remember!

Very soon, very soon at Ramsey, as in many other churches and around the world, we will be celebrating the season of Advent and Christmas. Once again we will be announcing that the prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus, and that Jesus is the beloved of the Father and the long-awaited Messiah. Coming soon! Ramsey will dress in many lights and colors, of celebrations that will announce such a long-awaited moment. Once again, choral voices, the sound of instruments and worship services will herald the arrival of the prince of peace. Events such as the Living Nativity and Bethlehem will take us back to those places where shepherds, wise men from the east and heavenly hosts announced the presence of the eternal God in the midst of a world busy with these tasks and daily life. How wonderful it is to announce the good news of God! How wonderful it is to be carriers of that message of grace, love and salvation! Our busy and anxious world needs to hear this message from Jesus, love made flesh. It needs to hear that God, the great and the almighty, put his tent in the midst of humanity, to dwell in our midst. Listen! God came to dwell with us! His name is Emmanuel, God with us. Thank you Lord for such an undeserved presence. Let's not stay silent! Let's announce it!

It is my wish that you enjoy a very blessed holiday and that the love of God, Great and Almighty, continues to dwell in your hearts and may our voices never cease to proclaim, Peace on earth and good will of God the Father, in Jesus, for all His creation!

His companion on the way,
Pastor, Norma Aguilar

...his name
shall be called



Wonderful
Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting
Father,
PRINCE
of Peace



Isaiah 9:6



Hello winter



ADVENT STUDY

During Advent, Ramsey Church is studying together Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born, Hope is Here by Max Lucado.

WHEN: Sundays, November 27 - December 18 9:00AM

WHERE: Church Sanctuary

Student books are available. To receive a copy, call or email the church office at 804-276-4628 / admin@ramseymemorial.org.

A donation of \$9 is appreciated but not required.



65th LIVING NATIVITY & BETHLEHEM

It's that time of year!

Ramsey will be presenting our 65th Living Nativity and Bethlehem from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 22nd (Bethlehem and nativity)

Friday, December 23rd (Bethlehem and nativity)

Saturday, December 24th (nativity only)

Make the Living Nativity part of your Christmas celebration this year and please invite others to join you! If you are interested in helping, contact Debbie Garrett (dsgarretto8@comcast.net).



BETHLEHEM

Help is appreciated to set up and take down Bethlehem. Below are the dates and activities planned. I anticipate each event will take less than 2 hours.

. December 12 – 3:30 – transform classes

. December 19 – 3:30 – stock tables in the Marketplace

. December 29 – 1:30 – inventory and pack items left in Marketplace

. December 29 – 3:30 – transform rooms back to Sunday School layout

Also, we are in need of small toys that cost under \$2 for our visitors to purchase in the Marketplace (matchbook cars, plastic animals and dinosaurs, puzzles) and gloves for adults and children. Please email Debbie Garrett at dsgarretto8@comcast.net if you can help with any of these efforts.

events

12/22

6:30-8:30pm
Live Nativity &
Bethlehem

12/23

6:30-8:30pm
Live Nativity &
Bethlehem

12/24

7:30pm
Christmas Eve Service

6:30-8:30pm
Live Nativity

12/25

10:00am Service

1/1

NO SERVICE

1/8

Communion
Sunday



Join us at 10:00am
for Pajama Sunday
(or whatever you
want to wear)!

New Years Day

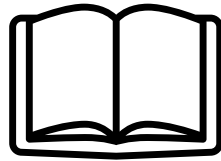
There will be no in
person or
livestream. service.
Pastor Claudia will
share a meditation
online.



UMCOR UPDATE

On November 10th, there were 30 volunteers gathered at the Virginia Conference Center to load all the collected cleaning kits for transportation to Mission Control --- UMCOR Supply Depot in Mechanicsburg, Pa. We had two volunteers from Ramsey to help with the loading --- they were Beverly Rugani and Mary Warman. Ramsey was able to do 25 buckets from all the donations given by our members and we had two members take the buckets to the Conference Building --- they were Phyllis Woodfin and Beverly Rugani.

Virginia Conference gave 3,725 buckets, estimated value of \$297,300, as well as donations of \$42,737.99 given. Well done faithful servants. The Cleaning Buckets will go far and wide to help those that need help recovering from all the disasters that have occurred. We thank everyone that helped in this project.



2023 CHURCH DIRECTORY

Ramsey is in the process of putting together an updated church directory for 2023. If you have an information change (phone, address, family additions, etc.) please let the office know by Friday, December 16 at noon. There is a prototype directory available in the back of the Sanctuary where you can see the current information we have for you.

Please either notate changes in the physical directory provided or email your changes to the church office at admin@ramseymemorial.org.



Ramsey Refresh 2023

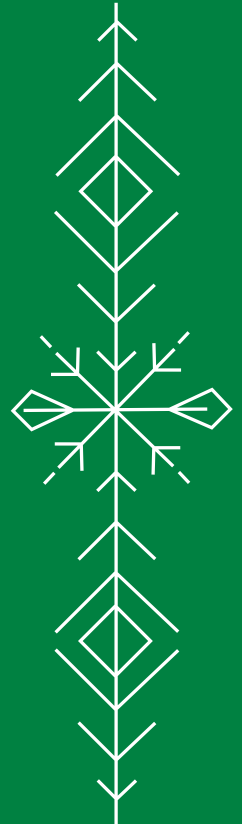
January is a traditional time for "cleaning out" and removing old unused items to begin the new year. There are several items on the horizon for a refresh. More to come on that later as plans are set. This project has been active for the past 18

months with many participants in various areas. What I love is, others are beginning to identify areas within our beautiful building that could use some attention! In one day, three people mentioned areas that could use some love!! I am so glad to have sparked an interest in this project. If you have a specific area where you would like to help, please let me know.

Joan McGowan/804-513-8540

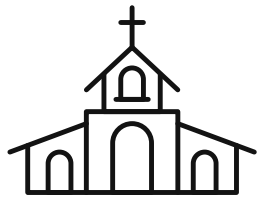


Christmas Day will be Pajama Sunday at Ramsey. Wear pajamas and slippers, a 3-piece suit, or whatever!



GIVING QR CODE

Scan the QR code above to be directed to our online giving resource!



A Message from Ramsey Leadership

At the November meeting, the Administrative Council unanimously decided, at this time, not to consider a vote on disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church.

Because of the current conflict within The United Methodist Church around issues of human sexuality, a local church has a limited right, under the provisions (§ 2553), to disaffiliate from the denomination for reasons of conscience regarding a change in the requirements and provisions of the Book of Discipline related to the practice of homosexuality or the ordination or marriage of self-avowed practicing homosexuals as resolved and adopted by the 2019 General Conference, or the actions or inactions of its annual conference related to these issues which follow.

Disaffiliation from the UMC is allowed, but only if these requirements are met by December 31, 2023:

- a decision to disaffiliate by a two-thirds majority of the professing members present at a church conference (not charge conference);
 - the payment in full of two years of that congregation's apportionment commitment as set by the conference;
 - the payment in full of the congregation's pro-rata share of the conference's pension liability, based on a formula approved by the annual conference.
- satisfy all other debts, loans, and liabilities, or assign and transfer them to its new entity, prior to disaffiliation.

If any member of Ramsey UMC has questions or wants to discuss this further, please contact Will Flynn, Council Chair at wflynn@franklinstreet.com, or Craig Lane at Craig@laneandhamner.com.

For more information:

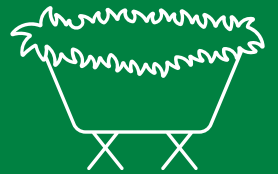
<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/church-court-clarifies-disaffiliation-rules>
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-should-united-methodist-congregations-know-about-disaffiliation>

Thank You

The family of Lucille Bean would like to thank everyone for your cards, calls and prayers during her illness and passing.

She loved Ramsey and watched the live-stream service every Sunday. She will be missed, but your love and concern for us has been a blessing.

Love, Craig & Beth Lane & Sherry & Bill Price



For a child is
born to us, a son
is given to us.
The government
will rest on his
shoulders. And
he will be called:
Wonderful
Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting
Father, Prince of
Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Happy New Year

For I know the
plans I have for
you," says the
Lord. "They are
plans for good
and not for
disaster, to give
you a future and
a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

CACHET BROWN	DECEMBER 3
MILTON BONILLA	DECEMBER 5
MARIA AHLES MULCAHEY	DECEMBER 10
LOIS CRAFTON	DECEMBER 14
JANE CUMMINGS	DECEMBER 14
DARLENE SWEAT	DECEMBER 14
KATIE SMITH	DECEMBER 16
McKENZIE JUMP	DECEMBER 17
CRAIG LANE	DECEMBER 17
RODNEY TAYLOR	DECEMBER 17
CHANTE JACOBS	DECEMBER 18
SUE NEWMAN	DECEMBER 19
HAZEL STEWART	DECEMBER 19
JIMMIE EARLY	DECEMBER 25
SHERRY FOX	DECEMBER 25
GABRIEL AGUILAR	DECEMBER 27

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

FREDERICK & TAMMY HELLER	DECEMBER 17
JIMMIE & PEGGY EARLY	DECEMBER 19

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

JOHN HALL	JANUARY 1
ANN HALLINAN	JANUARY 1
ANGEL VEGA	JANUARY 2
JOYCE WALSH	JANUARY 12
NANCY HOOVER	JANUARY 14
MARY BRAME	JANUARY 16
JUNE BRYANT	JANUARY 20
LAURA McHALE	JANUARY 20
BETH LANE	JANUARY 21
JANET SHEEK	JANUARY 22
OSWALDO AGUILAR	JANUARY 24
SALLY WHEAT	JANUARY 25
SCOTT CUMMINGS	JANUARY 26
ARIANA VELASQUEZ	JANUARY 26
LAURA COLEMAN	JANUARY 28
MARGARET GRANT	JANUARY 28
MATTHEW MEADOWS	JANUARY 28
MIRIAM FERRER	JANUARY 29
EMANUEL MENEDEZ	JANUARY 31





December 2022

December 2022													
December 2022							January 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				
THURSDAY							FRIDAY						
WEDNESDAY							SATURDAY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY							
Nov 27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2	3							
				8:00am Care-a-Van (CLC)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	9:00am District UWF Advent Service (Sanctuary)							
				11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	12:00pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC)							
				5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105)	6:00pm James River Home								
				6:00pm James River Home									
4	5	6	7	8	9	10							
10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	8:00am Care-a-Van (CLC)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	9:00am DePaul Christmas Party (CLC)							
10:30am Escuela Biblica	9:30am TND Cluster Group (Sanctuary)	1:00pm Commonwealth Christian School (CLC)	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)								
11:00am Ignite (CLC)	10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)	4:00pm Cap City (CLC)	7:00pm YABS (Together rm.) (ZOOM)	5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105)	12:00pm 55+ (Fellowship Hall)	12:00pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC)							
12:30pm Servicio de Adoración (Sanctuary)	6:00pm James River Home			6:00pm James River Home	4:00pm Cap City (CLC)	3:00pm Ignite Christmas Party (lower)							
11	12	13	14	15	16	17							
10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)													
10:30am Escuela Biblica	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	8:00am Care-a-Van (CLC)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	12:00pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC)							
11:00am Ignite (CLC)	10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)	1:00pm Commonwealth Christian School (CLC)	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)								
12:30pm Servicio de Adoración (Sanctuary)	6:00pm James River Home	4:00pm Cap City (CLC)	2:00pm Nina Woodfin Circle (Rm 105)	5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105)	4:00pm Cap City (CLC)								
18	19	20	21	22	23	24							
10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Bethlehem Setup (education wing)	6:30pm	Living Nativity (Fellowship Hall)								
10:30am Escuela Biblica	10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)	1:00pm Commonwealth Christian School (CLC)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	6:30pm Live Bethlehem (Education Wing)	8:30pm	5:30pm Servicio de Nochebuena (Sanctuary)							
11:00am Ignite (CLC)	6:00pm James River Home	4:00pm Cap City (CLC)	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	8:00am Care-a-Van (CLC)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	7:30pm Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)							
12:30pm Servicio de Adoración	School (CLC)			11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)								
				5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105)	4:00pm Cap City (CLC)								
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
Living Nativity (Fellowship Hg. 3:00pm)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Bethlehem Setup (education wing)	8:00am Care-a-Van (CLC)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	12:00pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC)							
10:00am Worship Service	10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)	1:00pm Commonwealth Christian School (CLC)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)								
10:30am Escuela Biblica	6:00pm James River Home	4:00pm Cap City (CLC)	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105)	4:00pm Cap City (CLC)								
11:00am Ignite (CLC)	School (CLC)												
12:30pm Servicio de Adoración													

January 2023

January 2023							February 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28				

Ramsey Church	1	11/30/2022 10:44 AM
---------------	---	---------------------