

Events & Announcements



Beer (or your preferred beverage) & Carols

Tuesday, December 19, 4:00 p.m. (Formula Brewing)

We're meeting up with the congregations of Spirit of Peace UCC, Our Savior Lutheran, and Community Church of Issaquah for some Christmas merriment and socializing! Dress warmly and come sing your hearts out with friends from neighboring churches!



Christmas Eve Offering: Help Build Hope

Last year, you built all the walls for 2 homes in one day, **let's make it a habit!**

100% of our Christmas Eve offering this year will go to lumber and supplies for our Help Build Hope Project: a gathering of our community to build walls for Habitat for Humanity in one day! Last year, 150+ came to build 70 walls! You are making a real difference for people. Plan to give generously this Christmas Eve!

Christmas Eve at Faith Church

Sunday, December 24 (Sanctuary)

We will have **one morning worship service at 9 am (in-person and online) on December 24**. Then, plan on joining us for one of our 3 Christmas Eve services:

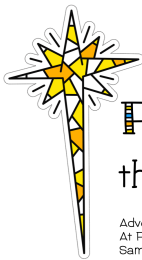
- 5:30 pm with Children's Pageant
- 7:30 pm with Choir (available online)
- 11:00 pm with Choir

Candlelight and Communion at all services.

Stump the Pastor

Sunday, December 31, 9:00 & 10:30 am (Sanctuary)

Got a burning question? Ask away! On Dec. 31st. Pastor Ric will attempt to answer your questions. Nothing is off-limits (but stuff about religion, God, Bible, etc. would be appreciated!). Email questions to ric@faithunited.org

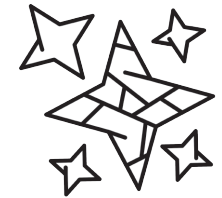


Filling in
the Story

Advent and Christmas 2023
At Faith Church
Sammamish, WA



faithunited.org | hello@faithunited.org | 425-392-0123



Filling in
the Story

Advent & Christmas at Faith Church

December 17th, 2023

Creating a community where people connect with Christ and Partner with God in making things right.

Gather Our Hearts

Welcome & Introduction

Rev. Ric Shewell

*Advent Candle Lighting † Naegeli-Brooks Family/Malmgren Family

*Opening Prayer Naegeli-Brooks Family/Malmgren Family

*We have love †

*Angels We Have Heard on High (UMH #238) †

Music Team

*What a Beautiful Name It Is (Fielding, Ligert) †

Music Team

Today's Music Team: Emily Cowgill, Dan McLachlan, Deb Graf, Greg Rolette, Brian Bauman, Steve Hennings, and Chase Hanson

* Indicates to stand in body or spirit.

† Words will be on the screen.

Form Our Desires

Prayers of the People †	Rev. Ric Shewell
The Lord's Prayer †	
<i>What a Beautiful Name It Is (Fielding, Ligert)</i> †	Music Team
Children's Moment (2nd service)	Abby Kleinknecht Morse
<i>After Children's Time, children in 5th grade and younger are invited to a lesson and activity with Abby in the choir room, returning after the sermon.</i>	
Introduction to Offering	Rev. Ric Shewell
<i>Sing We Now of Christmas (UMH #237)</i> †	Music Team
* <i>Doxology (to the tune of "What Child Is This")</i> †	Music Team
*Prayer of Thanksgiving †	Melissa Bortnick/Lynda Smith

Inspire Our Minds

Matthew 1:18-25 †	Congregation
“Raising the Stakes with Joseph”	Rev. Ric Shewell

Move us to Love

Celebration of Holy Communion	Rev. Ric Shewell
The Great Thanksgiving Prayer †	
Instructions for Sharing the Sacrament	
<i>How Many Kings (Martel, Germain)</i> †	Music Team
Announcements	Rev. Ric Shewell
*Benediction	Rev. Ric Shewell
* <i>Take to the World (Webb, Tate)</i> †	Music Team

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Message Notes

Marriage for love is kind of a new thing.

Joseph thought if Mary was not engaged to him, then she would avoid the _____ verdict.

In 2nd temple Judaism, society functioned by knowing which children belonged to which household. Adultery laws were about keeping family records straight.

Raising the stakes: this is not just any _____.

When stakes are raised, the idea of “heroic” is challenged. Here the idea of _____ is challenged.

Because of Joseph:

The Savior was raised in a home where a woman's story was believed, The Savior knew what it means to be adopted and rescued, The Savior experienced boundary breaking love.

Next Steps:

Devotion: Read Matthew 1 & Luke 1-2 this week. Familiarize yourself with the story. Look for surprises.

Connection: What changes in your life if “righteousness” is redefined as “love”?

Action: God is still making new families. To whom is God calling you to reach out?

