

The Connection

In This Issue

To call all people to a vibrant life of faith in Christ

God is Here With Us!

This is the clear message of Advent: God is not “out there... somewhere...over the rainbow,” disconnected from people. God is now here and God is with us, showing up in the middle of this Advent moment in surprising ways. God is with us in the same way God was with the shepherd boy named David who took a stand against a giant with five smooth stones. God is with us in the same way that God was with Moses, a man with a speech impediment, and sends him to deliver a bold statement to Pharaoh, and equips him to lead a whole nation against all odds. God is with us in the same way that God was with the guy named Thomas, who is comfortable enough in his own skin to be honest with Jesus about his doubts. God is with us in the same way that God was with Jonah, who ran away from God’s grip and call on his life. God is with us in the same way that God was with Miriam, who will forever be remembered as a gossip. God is with us in the same way that God was with Martha, who will forever be remembered as a worrier. God is with us in the same way that God was with Noah, whose drinking got in the way of making responsible decisions. God is with us in the same way that God was with Hosea—a man who desperately loved his wife even while she was sleeping with half the town. God was with Solomon, who some thought was too rich; God was with Abraham, who some thought was too old. God was with Lazarus, who was not just mostly dead, but really dead. God was with Mary, who many thought was too lazy. God was with Peter, who most of the time was too hot-tempered. God was with Amos, who some thought was too inexperienced. God was with Elijah, who just got too burnt out. God was with Paul, who at first was too murderous. And God is with us in the same way that God was with a young teen, Mary, who would carry the Savior in her womb.

God was with them all. God is now here—God is with us! That’s the clear message of Advent. It’s the clear message of hope and promise. God is now here—God is with us! So here we are, just days from the celebration of Christmas, the birth of Christ. It is the celebration of God who is now here; God is with us. Let’s celebrate together that God is with us right in the middle of where we are, who we are, and whose we are. God is now here. God is with us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



Worship with us this Christmas Eve

December 24 Christmas Worship Celebrations

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|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 10:00 am | Scriptures and Carols |
| 3:00 pm | Family Candlelight |
| 4:30 pm | Family Candlelight |
| 10:00 pm | Jazz Candlelight |

Expense Reimbursement Reminder

Ministry leaders are reminded to turn in expenses from 2017 by completing a reimbursement form. Receipts should be included with your reimbursement request and submitted to Jen in the office by December 28.

MLT Update

Greetings! The Mission Leadership Team (MLT) met this week for their monthly meeting. Agenda topics covered are as follows:

- Preparation for the annual meeting.
- Finance Committee update to our current Fundraising, Benevolence, and Money Handling procedures, as well as updates to the 2018 Budget.
- 2 positions will be open on the MLT as terms expire – vote will happen at annual meeting.
- Pastor Paul is quickly approaching his 1 year at Resurrection

November Financial Picture

Thank you for your generosity as we put our resources to work in the kingdom of God.

Income	\$51,169	YTD Income	\$563,894
Expenses	\$45,204	YTD Expenses	\$571,111

The MLT would like to extend Merry Christmas greetings to you and thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the church. MLT looks forward to serving and growing in a *vibrant life of faith in Christ* in 2018.

Written by: Julie Tighe, MLT Vice President



Upcoming Events: (for more, visit Resurrection's [website](#))

Limited Office Hours, December 26, 27 and 28, 9-1pm
ReCharge Ministry Conference, January 6
Living Room resumes, Mondays mid-January