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Radiance Community Church

From Our Pastors

When the calendar turns to a new year, we often find ourselves looking back and looking forward. This is a good spiritual practice – remembering how God has been present with us, acknowledging the times when we have not lived into the people God has called us to be, and giving thanks for the blessings of the year before opening ourselves to the ways God is calling us to live in a new year.

As we look back at the past year, we are so pleased by the ways Radiance Community Church has lived into our calling to nourish hearts for God, be a home to friends and strangers, and be a hub for sharing God's love. In just the last month of the year, we fed the hungry children at Keystone Community Center, collected money and prayed for our Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries through our focus on Global Missions, provided gifts for 18 children of incarcerated parents through Prison Ministry's Angel Tree, joined with Colonial Presbyterian Church to bring Christmas cheer through caroling, and sent cards and poinsettias to our own shut-ins to remind them that we love them. We lived into the process of becoming the church God wants us to be, and we are ever so much closer to being able to move to being that church as these formational processes are coming close to completion. Inside this newsletter, you will read of many exciting things coming soon for our church!

We give thanks for God's faithfulness and guidance in 2024 and are excited to see how the Spirit continues to lead us in this new year!

We leave you with these wise words from the first stanza of Minnie Louise Haskin's poem, "The Gate of the Year":

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".

May we walk together with our hands in the hand of God this year, sharing God's light along the way!

Blessings, Pastor Steve and Pastor Melissa



HEART | HOME | HUB

Radiance Giving

Giving: Thank you for your faithful support of the ministry of our church. If you wish to give an offering, you may do so by placing it in the offering plate during the service, via mail, electronically through your bank or our website, <https://bit.ly/givingrcc>

You may also donate by scanning our QR code:



If you have questions regarding the process of electronic giving, please contact the church office.

*****NOTE:** Please make all checks payable to Radiance Community Church and begin using our updated link above for your online giving. We will be moving away from our old giving platforms at the end of January.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event we have wintery weather, we follow Roanoke County Schools cancellation schedule for weekday events. For weekend events and services, please check our Facebook page or the closing information on WDBJ7 and WSLS10. You can also call the church office to hear the updated weather voice mail. Most importantly, if you feel travel is unsafe, stay home!

Radiance Updates

While we have had busy Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons, it's time to populate the next "to-do" list for Radiance Community Church (RCC). It's not some "behind-the-scenes" activity – the happenings at RCC are activities we will need all-hands-on-deck to accomplish.

The Implementation Team (IT) continues its work on organizing documents. Our Constitution is nearly complete, and you will soon be receiving news about a Church in Conference meeting to ratify that document.

One aspect of ratifying our constitution involves establishing RCC's new membership. Since Calvary Baptist and Colonial Avenue Baptist have been dissolved, RCC will be receiving commitments from those who intend to be part of this new congregation. This will be part of our meeting for ratification.

The next steps for the IT will be working on RCC's Policies and Procedures Manual (which we hope will proceed quickly). The IT is moving forward in establishing new councils whose task will be to Administration and Ministries. We are also identifying leadership to fill some "open" deacon positions.

Work continues with building updates and repairs. We are still working with our contractors on fine-tuning our sound system, monitors and live streaming. Other plans include removal of the screen over the choir-loft and the projectors hanging from the ceiling. We will also be hanging a beautiful wooden cross that once hung in the sanctuary of Calvary Baptist over the baptistry, which will be a beautiful blending of the places of worship of our former churches.

We know that many of the things we have mentioned sound like "nuts and bolts". They are, however, the things that hold us together organizationally and help us to function in a way that allows us to live Jesus into the world, outside our door and around the world.

Church in Conference

On Sunday, February 9th there will be a congregational meeting following worship. We will be reviewing our constitution. Please plan to attend.

Radiance Kids

Parents, we love having our children in worship with us. Worship bags are provided in the foyer, and there are books on the faith lending library bookshelf that you are welcome to choose from as well. After the Word for All Ages, children may go to children's church if they wish.

Radiance Youth

On Sunday, February 23, our youth will help to lead worship. Following worship, we will have a potato/salad bar lunch and dessert auction. All proceeds from the auction will help to send our children and youth to missions camp this summer. There will be a sign up list in the foyer beginning February 1. Please let us know if you are coming, so we can prepare plenty of food. Also, if you would like to make a dessert for the auction, please make two of the same dessert, as one will be sold as samples.



Dear church family,

Thank you so much for all of your prayers, cards and well-wishes during this most difficult time. With all surgeries over, things are hopefully over the hill. We love and miss you all and looking forward to seeing you soon!

Bob and Sally Crawford

Sound/Video Volunteers

Looking for a place to serve? With the installation of our new sound and video equipment, we are in need of volunteers to help during our Sunday worship time. Volunteers will be on a rotating basis and serve as a backup to our existing team. Please let the church office know if you are willing to serve in this capacity. We will be arranging a training session in the next few weeks. Thank you!

Featured Dates

Sunday, Jan 26th

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 AM
Worship	10:30 AM
Youth Penny Race & Dinner	5:00 PM

Monday, Jan 27th

Implementation Team Meeting	5:30 PM
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Wednesday, Jan 29th

Spiritual Formation Class	12:00 PM
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Sunday, Feb 2nd

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 AM
Worship and Communion	10:30 AM
Blessing Box Dedication	11:30 AM
Youth Dinner & Discipleship	5:00 PM

Wednesday, Feb 5th

Spiritual Formation Class	12:00 PM
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Thursday, Feb 6th

Young Adult Bible Study	6:00 PM
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Sunday, Feb 9th

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 AM
Worship	10:30 AM
Church In Conference	11:30 AM
Young Adult Bible Study	6:00 PM

Monday, Feb 10th

Evelyn Townsend Circle	12:00 PM
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Wednesday, Feb 12th

Spiritual Formation Class	12:00 PM
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Sunday, Feb 16th

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 AM
Worship	10:30 AM
Deacons Meeting	2:00 PM
Youth Dinner & Discipleship	5:00 PM

Wednesday, Feb 19th

Spiritual Formation Class	12:00 PM
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Sunday, Feb 23rd

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:30 AM
Worship - Youth Sunday	10:30 AM
Youth Potato Bar & Auction	11:30 AM

Wednesday, Feb 26th

Spiritual Formation Class	12:00 PM
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Mission Opportunities

● **Thank You: Angel Tree Christmas Mission** for children of incarcerated parents was a success! I would like to thank everyone who helped to make that happen. It was definitely a church wide effort. Thank you to other committee members, Glenda Pollard and MJ Fanning, who made calls to caregivers and helped reach all the deadlines, to Melissa and Karen for the Black Friday shopping. Thank you to everyone who assisted in every way, from donating money and wrapping paper, to wrapping gifts, and delivery to families. The caregivers were so grateful to have gifts for the children at Christmas, especially for the needed items like coats. It could not have happened without the support of the Radiance church family.

Susan Snyder

● **Book and Magazine Collection:** The Evelyn Townsend Circle is collecting books (both paperback and hardback) and magazines for the Roanoke City Jail library and for TAP. Please place your donations in the appropriate box in the foyer.

● **Soup for Seniors:** In the month of January, we are collecting food for the Local Office on Aging's Soup for Seniors canned food drive. The most needed items are soup, peanut butter, canned meats, canned fruits and vegetables, crackers, oatmeal, and Ensure (or Boost). Donations can be placed in boxes in the foyer. Please have all donations in the foyer by Sunday, February 2nd.

● **Keystone Community Center Weekend Food Bags:** During the school year, we provide weekend food bags for 14 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. Sign up in the foyer to provide food bags for a week - even better, do it with a group of friends!

Opportunities for Bible Study

- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** is a great way to connect with God and with our church family! We have classes for all ages each week from 9:30-10:15.
- **Midweek Spiritual Formation Group**, led by Rev. Steven Harris, meets at noon on Wednesdays in person and on Zoom. <https://bit.ly/rcccbiblestudy>. We are currently studying Ephesians.
- **First Thursdays Young Adult Dinner & Bible Study.** Young adults (18-30) are invited to join us at 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month for dinner and Bible study, hosted by Pastor Melissa & Ric.

Blessing Box

To address hunger needs in our community, Radiance Community Church is finally ready to activate a Blessing Box Ministry. A Blessing Box is just that: a simply wooden box, that is never locked. The "box" is located on the east side of the church adjacent to the parking lot and will contain canned and shelf stable food for anyone who is hungry.

On Sunday, February 2, after worship, we will gather around the Blessing Box to dedicate the "box" for ministry to the community.

During the month of February, we will be collecting shelf stable food items to help stock and restock the "Box." You may pick up a list of suggested items in the foyer or contact the church office.





Kroger Community Rewards

We are happy to announce that Radiance Community Church is officially registered with the Kroger Community Rewards programs!

Do you shop at Kroger? Did you know that a % of what you spend there could be going to help our church? It's a program called Kroger Community Rewards. You can link your Kroger card to our church & we receive money, quarterly, from Kroger based on how much you spend there. It doesn't cost you anything! Please consider doing this. It really helps our church financially! All you need to do is link your Kroger Plus card to our church. To do this, you have 2 options:

1. You can do it online by going to: www.krogercommunityrewards.com & following the instructions.
2. You can also call 1-800-576-4377, request Community Rewards and someone will help you register your card. You will need to know your plus card number (printed on the back of your card) or your phone number associated with your account & our organization number, which is IM112. They can also look us up by name (Radiance Community Church).

Once you are registered, just swipe your card or input the phone number linked to your card each time you shop. It's that easy! Then, every quarter they send us a check. It's a win/win!

Note: If you were previously signed up under Colonial Avenue Baptist Church, you should already be signed up as Radiance Community Church now. You can verify that by following the above options.

If you were never signed up, or were at some point signed up under Calvary Baptist Church, please follow the instructions above to sign up to support our church.

Thank you so much for your support!

Spiritual Formation

Winter/Spring Study

January 8 through June 25 2025

Four studies in the semester

1. Ephesians - January 8 through February 26
2. Lent - March 5 through April 16
3. Who is the Church - April 30 through May 21
4. How to be a Disciple - May 28 through June 18.

In the Ephesians study series we will examine the post Pauline world with this letter to the churches in western Asia Minor. What does it mean to be the church as the body with Christ as the head. How is the Christian to live in the Greco-Roman world where daily living with Christian household rules and values may be different from the population. What does it mean for today's Christian to balance the secular and religious life one must live. We will undertake how Ephesians spoke to the first century Christian and today's world.

The Lenten series we are reminded that we can hold on to hope because we are being made whole and new in Christ. That God is always present and transforming us.

The Who is the Church series the focus will be the Galatians 6 and the first two chapters of Colossians.

The How to be a Disciple series the focus will be John's gospel.

All of the Spiritual Formations series are on Wednesday at 12:00. One may join in person or by Zoom, (<https://bit.ly/rcccbiblestudy>).



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and generosity during the Christmas season! We are so blessed to have such a loving congregation!

Pastor Melissa, Pastor Steve, Pastor Steven, Bill, Karen and Debbie

Prayer Concerns

- Those who are homebound or in retirement/nursing homes: Jim Bryant, Jane Byrum, Virginia Draper, Mary Durrer, Sue Epperly, Buddy Hawkins, Evelyn Hutcherson, Janet King, Nadine Minnix, Shirley Moore, Cheryl Nicely, Betty Obenchain, Louise Parris, Betty Payne, Becky Peyton, Jack Pilcher, Evelyn Ragland, Alice Scogin, Anna Mae Smith, Joe St. Clair
- Those with cancer including Linda Dwyer, Doug Hicks (Kathy Kinsey's brother), Angela Johnson (Joyce Short's niece), Barbara Kern, Susan Chambers Lasher (friend of Mary Ellen Gearhart), Penny Long (Bob Crawford's sister), Wayne Simmons (cousin of Vilas Secrist & Linda Dwyer), Lolly Quigley (friend of Amy Grant, Dabney Ward, & Louise Conner), Posy Weddle (Michael Krawchison's uncle), Betsy White (Joyce Waugh's niece), Carolyn Young
- Our congregation, our pastors, our community, and those around the world
- Sally Crawford, at Pheasant Ridge for rehab following accident
- Pat Wilson, who has entered hospice care in his home
- Donna Kester, recovering from surgery and pneumonia
- Becky Beard, recovering from surgery
- Those affected by the wildfires in California
- Becky Beard's aunt, Carolyn Seay Harshaw
- Michael Krawchison and family, in the death of his grandfather, Colonel Wimmer
- Posy Weddle, Michael Krawchison's uncle, has been placed under hospice care

Worship Leadership Schedule

January 26

- **Greeters:** Bobbie Hawkins, Vicki Wray
- **Scripture Reader:** N/A
- **Offertory Prayer:** Joyce Waugh
- **Children's Worship Leader:** Nancy Vest
- **Offering:** Janice Deyerle, Ric Scott, Brennon Viele, Bob Crawford
- **Deacon Counters:** Janice Deyerle, Mary Shirley
- **Communion:** Janice Deyerle, Kathy Kinsey, Neal Kinsey, Mary Harris, Paul Howell

February 2

- **Greeters:** Neal Kinsey, Penny Horsley
- **Scripture Reader:** Ray Templin
- **Offertory Prayer:** Susan Snyder
- **Children's Worship Leader:** Mary Harris
- **Offering:** Mark Smith, Nancy Vest, Vicki Wray, Michael Krawchison
- **Deacon Counters:** Susan Snyder, Ray Templin

February 9

- **Greeters:** Lisa Baker, Nancy Vest
- **Scripture Reader:** Susan Snyder
- **Offertory Prayer:** Ray Templin
- **Children's Worship Leader:** Glenda Pollard
- **Offering:** Kathy Kinsey, Alyssa Viele, Joyce Short, Ric Scott
- **Deacon Counters:** Ray Templin, Mary Shirley

February 16

- **Greeters:** Mary Shirley, Gordon Williams
- **Scripture Reader:** Janice Deyerle
- **Offertory Prayer:** Nancy Burgess
- **Children's Worship Leader:** Nancy Vest
- **Offering:** Ric Scott, Brennon Viele, Bob Crawford, Mark Smith
- **Deacon Counters:** Janice Deyerle, Nancy Burgess

February 23

- **Greeters:** Bobbie Hawkins, Vicki Wray
- **Scripture Reader:** Ric Scott
- **Offertory Prayer:** Kathy Kinsey
- **Children's Worship Leader:** M. J. Fanning
- **Offering:** Gerri Mills, Jenna Dillon, Becky Beard, Alyssa Viele
- **Deacon Counters:** Glenda Pollard, Kathy Kinsey



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Our Church Staff:

Rev. Melissa Scott
Pastor
Dr. Steven Pollard
Pastor
Rev. Steven Harris
Minister in Residence
Debbie Foutz
Church Administrator
Karen Viele
Church Administrator
Bill Lininger
Music Director



January

1/09 - Esther Crosier
1/05 - Donna Kester
1/14 - Mickey Cratch
1/15 - Paula Dull
1/15 - Alice Scogin
1/15 - Patty Templin
1/17 - Jane Byrum
1/17 - Rebecca Pruitt
1/22 - Nichole Howell
1/23 - Carolyn Rader
1/24 - Mary Shirley
1/28 - Ginny Smith

February

2/02 - Sue Epperly
2/02 - Nicholas Mort
2/03 - Debbie Foutz
2/03 - Susan Snyder
2/04 - Carol Hall
2/06 - Kathy Kinsey
2/07 - Betty Heptinstall
2/09 - Evelyn Lewis
2/11 - Ric Scott
2/12 - Anna Mae Smith
2/15 - Evelyn Ragland
2/15 - Kaitlyn Jenkins
2/17 - Evelyn Hutcherson
2/25 - Eddie Eades
2/28 - Janice Deyerle (2/29)