

Hope United Methodist Church



December 8, 2024

We Can't Go Alone

Reverend Jeff Rainwater



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024
10:00 A.M. WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRELUDE

*Thy Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We
and Children's Carols of Northern Europe
Gloria / Iris "Declamation"*

Walter Ehret

Michael Bedford
Cheryl Saborsky, CAGO, organist

WELCOME AND INVITATION INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Benedict-Bickford Family

L: In a world that is lonely,

P: we will save a seat for you.

L: In a world that is anxious,

P: we will light candles against the gloom.

L: In a world that is weary,

P: we will sing songs of joy and truth.

L: I am not alone.

P: We are not alone.

L: For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

P: Light the candles! Sing with joy!

We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

Adapted from A Sanctified Art resource

***OPENING HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234

SCRIPTURE READING

Ruth 1

Rev. Haeil Park

MESSAGE

We Can't Go Alone

Rev. Jeff Rainwater

OFFERTORY

You're Not Alone

Meredith Andrews
Anne Rowland

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH 94

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Adapted from Discipleship Ministries

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

UMH 211

An Angel Visits Mary	Ayla Edet
An Angel Visits Joseph	Charlie Rinner
Mary and Joseph Go to Bethlehem	Emily Chapman
Mary and Joseph Arrive in Bethlehem	Emily Chapman
Baby Jesus is Born	Emily Chapman
The Angels Visit the Shepherds	Rose Marshall
The Shepherds Go to Bethlehem	Eliza Logan
The Shepherds Return Home	Elise Motz
The Animals in the Manger	Nora Andersen
King Herod and the Kings	Elan Edet
The Kings visit Baby Jesus	Clara Meerdink

Mary Clara Meerdink	Joseph Elan Edet	Innkeeper Rose Marshall	King Herod Charlie Rinner
Gold Angels Emily Chapman Eliza Logan	Silver Angels Nora Andersen Caroline Motz	Silver Angels Jenna Look Elise Motz Poppy Rinner	Silver Angels Iris Marshall Julia Motz
Animals			
Lilly Collins Kaya Fox	Alden Edet Sage Fox	Archie Fox Harley Look	Dakota Fox Sarah Look
Shepherds			
Paul Edwards	Noah Shull	Wesley Shull	Ben Smith
Kings			
Liam Andersen Oliver Hamilton	Ayla Edet	Claire Edwards	Levi Hamilton

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CLOSING HYMN** *To Be Known* tune *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

***BENEDICTION**

***MUSICAL BENEDICTION** *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* UMH 204

POSTLUDE *Postlude on "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"* Robert Hobby
Cheryl Saborsky, CAGO, organist

December 15 - Chancel Choir Cantata - *Morning Star* by Joseph M. Martin

WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING



December 15 - 3rd Sunday of Advent
DO THE GOOD THAT IS YOURS TO DO

Chancel Choir Cantata
Morning Star by Joseph M. Martin



December 22 - 4th Sunday of Advent
HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK



December 24 - Christmas Eve
LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME

Services with Carols & Candles
3 pm - Wiggle Friendly Service
with Red Sea

live streamed - childcare provided

5 pm - Choral Quartet
& String Quartet
childcare provided

7 pm - Chancel Choir, Bells,
& String Quartet

live streamed

childcare not available, children of all ages are welcome
in the Sanctuary

11 pm - Meditative Service
with Communion



December 29 - Sunday After Christmas
DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH



January 5 - Epiphany
THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT
Communion

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year rushes in. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving—and yet, we feel the weight of many things coming to an end. The world as we know it spins madly on.

In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. And yet, Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. As we also move through new personal and political chapters, may these words for the beginning renew us and remind us of the ways we are called to live out our faith. No matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, let love be your beginning.



Please consider signing up to assist with our services. Ushers, Liturgist, Sound, Live Stream, Slides, and Communion Stewards are needed.

Advent Devotional

Pick up a family copy at the Narthex Welcome Center to read, look, and sing your way through Advent. The art, reflections, poetry, and hymns to intended to give you strength, courage, and grace. May you find words for belovedness and hope and for beginning again.



Poinsettia Orders

In Honor or In Memory of loved ones will be collected at the Narthex Welcome Table until Monday, December 16

Ways to Give This Christmas - Collections begin today

Ministry Design Advent Collection

to support families facing homelessness at Tamarac Family Shelter

Requested items:

- ◆ larger sized diapers (5 or 6)
- ◆ Pull-Ups (any size)
- ◆ wipes
- ◆ \$10 - King Soopers, Shell or Visa gift cards for gas



Items will be collected in the Memorial Garden Narthex and ends Christmas Eve

Hope United Women in Faith Mitten Tree

Items needed for migrant families in the area:

- ◆ winter hat
- ◆ blankets
- ◆ scarves
- ◆ mittens
- ◆ gloves
- ◆ diapers
- ◆ baby items



Items will be collected by the Hope Narthex entrance and ends December 30

Youth Gingerbread Build

\$1 donation per vote to support Habitat for Humanity

Use the QR code or vote at the church today and December 15.

"Builders Choice Award" will be announced on the 19th. Prizes awarded for most votes in each category!



ADVENT PHOTO-A-DAY CHALLENGE

This Advent, we invite you to share the good news of this season through a photo-a-day challenge. For each day of Advent, we invite you to take a photo inspired by the word of the day. Share your daily photos on social media – Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest -- along with the words that inspired them. Please be sure to include two hashtags: #hopechangeslives and #sanctifiedart. Finally, if you feel bold, invite your friends and followers to join you in this activity, either in general or by tagging particular people in your posts.

DEC.1 BEGIN	DEC.2 BLESS	DEC.3 COURAGE	DEC.4 POSSIBILITY	DEC.5 REMEMBER
DEC.6 MARVEL	DEC.7 GO	DEC.8 TOGETHER	DEC.9 EMBRACE	DEC.10 JOURNEY
DEC.11 PEACEMAKER	DEC.12 CONNECTION	DEC.13 ENOUGH	DEC.14 GOODNESS	DEC.15 WORTHY
DEC.16 REPAIR	DEC.17 MAGNIFY	DEC.18 MERCY	DEC.19 DREAM	DEC.20 HOPE
DEC.21 RISK	DEC.22 GRACE	DEC.23 JOY	DEC.24 Love	DEC.25 AMAZEMENT

Hope United Women in Faith Bake & Craft Sale

Sundays - today and December 15 - Fellowship Hall

beginning at 9:00 a.m. to before Worship and after until 12:30 p.m.



We have been working since July and will have many baked and craft items for sale.

New this year, place an order for homemade Ice Cream Pies to pick up on sale dates. Made with Oreo cookie crusts in a variety of flavors. Please preorder at the Doughnut Table before the sale. We can't wait to see everyone there!



Santa Shop

Saturday, December 14
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



Our Santa Shop allows children to shop for Christmas presents in a safe environment and have surprises under the tree for family.

Sign up to Shop - Children must be signed up in order to shop, so please check Hope Happenings for the sign up link or use this QR code.

Sign up to Volunteer - We need adult and youth volunteers to help wrap presents and youth to be personal shoppers with the kids. A sign up link is posted in Hope Happenings or use the QR code.



If you have any questions, please contact Kate at kate.stapleton@hope-umc.org.



Denver Interfaith Messiah Sing-Along

with orchestra and soloists

Friday, December 20, 2024 - Hope Sanctuary - 7:00 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the Christmas season through the music of Handel's *Messiah*. Come listen, sing-along, or join the interfaith choir that will support the singers. Please stay afterward for some Christmas cookies and fellowship. Donations of \$10/person or \$30/family can be made online or at the event. Proceeds will benefit the Village Resource Center. For more information, visit denvermessiahsing.org.



If you have an **Individual Retirement Account (IRA)** and are age seventy (or getting close), you should know about a way you can give to your local church that will strengthen the church's ministry and produce tax savings for you! Here are some important facts you should know.

1. Individual Retirement Accounts Have Come of Age (Middle-Age).

IRAs have been around since 1974, though in the beginning, they were only for folks who didn't have any other pension coverage. A bill in 1981 made all workers and their spouses eligible for these accounts. That's a solid forty-plus years that people have been putting money away without having to pay federal taxes on it. (That part is important.)

2. You Can't Take It With You or Leave Your Money There Forever.

The understanding was that those folks could access that money without a penalty as early as when they turned fifty-nine and a half, but when they reached seventy and a half, they were required to start taking at least a minimum amount out each year—"required minimum distributions" or RMDs. In response to the coronavirus pandemic, the age for these RMDs was gradually raised: now it is seventy-three. Since participants didn't pay tax on the money when they put it in their IRAs, they are required to pay tax on it when money comes out. RMDs can push some people into a higher tax bracket. That can be avoided...

3. Give It to the Church; Avoid Paying the Taxes.

In 2006, pension protection legislation allowed for tax-free use of RMDs for charitable contributions, saving the tax that people would have had to pay when they took this money out of their IRA accounts. These are called "qualified charitable distributions" or QCDs. Here's an important distinction: these are NOT tax deductions. They do not provide a charitable deduction regardless of whether you itemize deductions. The tax benefit is the ability to exclude the donated distribution from taxable income! Here's an example: If you were planning to give \$1000 per month to your church, you don't qualify for more than the standard deduction amount, and you are at the 12% tax bracket—giving that amount from your IRA (as a QCD) will save you \$1,440 in taxes! If you are in the 22% tax bracket, the savings will be \$2,640!

4. From Ira to "My UMC"—Never In My Pocket!

With a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), a check goes directly from your IRA to your church or the charity you select. Many people who are facing RMDs that will have tax implications could pay all their annual tithe or offering at one time, hopefully early in the year, through their QCD and never have to show it as income.

5. You Don't Have to Wait For 73 to Do the QCD!

While Congress recently raised the age for RMDs to seventy-three, QCDs can happen for anyone who has reached the age of seventy and a half. Retirees who are over that age and want to continue to be generous to their local church should consider a qualified charitable distribution.

6. Most Taxpayers No Longer Get a Tax Break for Charitable Giving.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that went into effect in 2019 and 2020 included an increase in the standard deduction—it nearly doubled. That standard deduction is the threshold that your itemized deductions have to exceed to make itemizing worthwhile. It left many people better off, but with 90% of taxpayers taking the standard deduction (which does not require any evidence of charitable giving), it eliminated a tax-incentive regarding charitable donations for most of us (not to say that this is the main reason people give to the church). Inviting retirees in the seventy-plus group (who use the standard deduction) to consider using the qualifying charitable distribution may reduce or eliminate the tax that they might have to pay on RMDs. Yet many will not know of this option unless your church makes the invitation!

We encourage everyone to discuss this with a financial planner, tax consultant, or attorney—and be sure to let your family know! It could be a savings for you and a blessing to your local church!

**Hope United Methodist Church
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Greenwood Village, CO 80111

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WiFi: Hope Guest Password: Genesis01:03!

**Rev. Jeff Rainwater, Lead Pastor
Pastor.Jeff@hope-umc.org**

**Rev. Haeil Park, Associate Pastor
Pastor.Haeil@hope-umc.org**

**Larry Meerdink, Music Director
Cheryl Saborsky CAGO, Organist
Anne Rowland Red Sea Youth Band
Craig Laumann Chancel Bells
Pam Jewett Hope Treasurer
Julie Holt Assistant to the Treasurer
Anne Dingle Director of Technology
Jane Uylaki Membership Secretary**

**Kate Stapleton Dir. of Children's Ministries
Brittany Buse Childcare Coordinator
Wendy Wall Director of Communications
Allison Eckert Director of Operations
Ashley Hastedt PDO & Preschool Director
Sara Lowe PDO & Preschool Assistant Dir.
Melissa Trujillo PDO Assistant to the Dir.
Charlie Neuscheler Maintenance & Custodial**

**We would like to express our extreme gratitude to those who help,
before, after and during worship. We could not do this without you!**

Coffee

Pam & John Hermon

Ushers

Lead - Joe Martin Chris Morton

Herb Casner Dave Barber Jim Reitz

Greeters

Mary Witt & Mel Nelson

Worship Technology

Mary Jane Harmony

Dave Mahnken Chris Wiant