

ROSELLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

making

CONNECTIONS

PRAYER • FAITH • NEIGHBORS • ACTION • SERVING • TRUST • LOVE

Roselle UMC

206 S RUSH ST
ROSELLE, IL 60172
630-529-1309
www.roselleumc.org

**REGULAR OFFICE HOURS
IN-PERSON**

Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Virtual Office Hours
Remote**

Monday and Wednesday
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Friday 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM

**RoselleUMC Community
Food Pantry hours**
Saturday 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Rev. Hyo Sun Oh

Senior Pastor
pastor@roselleumc.org
630-529-1309 - Ext. 6

Christine Wachna

Office Administrator
office@roselleumc.org

Vicki Johnson

Director,
RoselleUMC Community
Food Pantry
vicki.johnson@roselleumcpantry.org

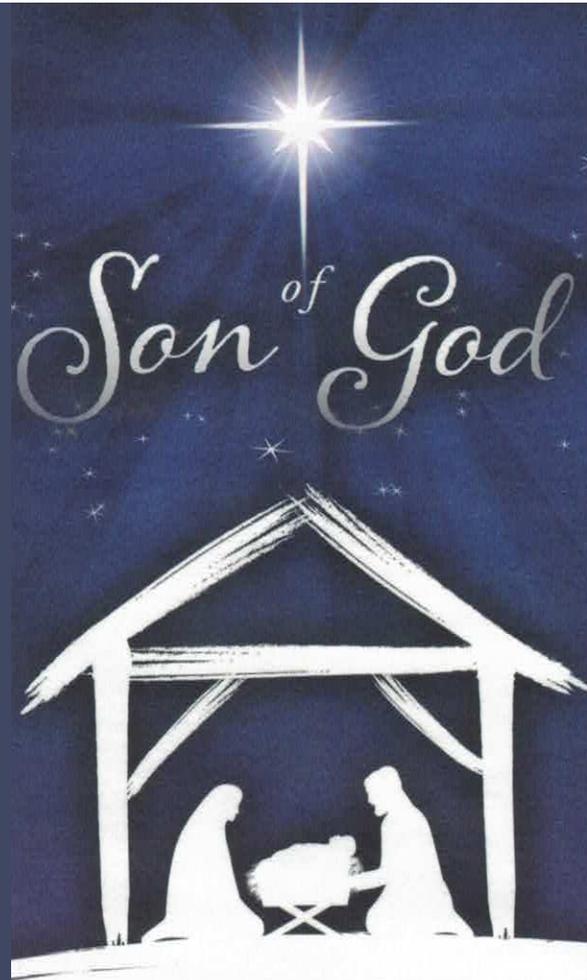
Prayer Requests

To submit or receive prayer
requests sign up at
office@roselleumc.org

Giving/Pledges/Donations
Chris Dawson
giving@roselleumc.org

E-News

Roselle UMC e-news is
published every week.
Call office to sign up



Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanu-el" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Christmas greetings to you! The Advent season is a time when we are reminded of the coming of Jesus Christ, our Lord and get ready for Jesus' return. However, since we are living in-between time, here and now, we feel tired of waiting due to not knowing when, tend to forget the meaning of the season, and easily get caught up with all kinds of hustle and bustle that the culture of today's world has created for Christmas. Moreover, what has happened in the world such terrorist attacks, deadly shootings in schools and streets, violence in the city of Chicago, the Syrian refugee crisis, and divisions based on our views and experiences, and our reactions to all kinds of the uncertainty, rob away our Advent spirit of peace, hope, love, and joy.

No wonder the Christmas message beyond the time and space of 2000 years of church history has been "Do not fear." Fear. Fear is the greatest threat to us today; more than the violence itself because it drives us to forget who we are, to see people in need as the enemy, and to betray ourselves of our Christian values. It is true that many of our actions and decisions seem driven by fear, a lack of confidence in our belief, and an overwhelming sense of anxiety. With this reason, the Christmas message, "Do not fear" is never more needed than today.

As we enter into a season of Advent and Christmas, Jesus reminds us that He is the Lord of history and He will bring in time all things to a good end in Luke 24:21-36. "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 'People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place,

stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near," For such a time as this, what we need to do is to stand together in courage and compassion and treat all persons with the love of God as brothers, sisters, and children of God. For examples, when people are afraid for fear, we can remind each other to stand up and raise our heads, for our redemption has already drawn near in Jesus. When we are too afraid to admit to our country those seeking a safe home for fear that they may be terrorists, we can remind each other to stand up and raise our heads, for our redemption has already drawn near in Jesus who himself was a refugee as a child. When the violence of our city streets push us to abandon civil rights and protections for all people regardless of their race or ethnicity, we can remind each other to stand up and raise our heads, for our redemption has already drawn near in Jesus. When we are tired of dealing with conflicts and challenges, when we focus on inward-focused vision and mission, when our finance is poor, when our church building facilities are decaying, when Sunday worship attendance is decreasing, when we are considered unnecessary by the community, when we find inability to attract new visitors, when we sense we are aging, when we feel the absence of vision for future and for hope, and when we begin to grow afraid because of illnesses, death of loved ones, family issues, and all the above reasons and beyond, let us bid each other again and again to stand up tall and raise our heads, for our redemption draws near. These are the Advent call and hope of the church.

Dear members of Roselle UMC, with this good news that our God fulfills His promise through Jesus Christ with the power of the Holy Spirit, let us we stand up and raise our heads and offer ourselves wholly to God just as Mary, a mother of Jesus did through our worship, spiritual discipline, service, and generous gifts to the least, the lost, and the last in this season of giving and hope.

Please come join our Advent Small Group Studies:

- *Making Room by Ed Robb* - Sunday mornings 9:00 AM - Church Library - Led by Susan DalPorto
- *The Angels of Christmas* by Susan Robb - Monday mornings 10:00 AM - Church Library - Led by Mike McKee
- *The Journey* by Adam Hamilton - Wednesday mornings 10:00 AM - Zoom and Church Library - Led by Pastor Oh

Special Christmas Services and Events:

- Christmas Concert - Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 PM - Church Sanctuary
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Saturday, December 24th at 4:00 PM - Church Sanctuary
- Christmas Day Service of Scripture Lessons and Carols - Sunday, December 25th at 10:30 AM - Church Sanctuary

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
With the promise and hope of Christmas,
Pastor Hyo Sun Oh

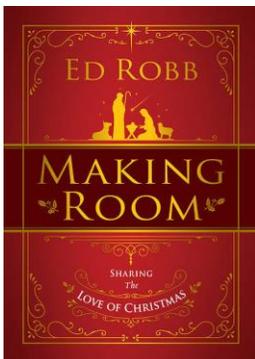
small group studies

Deepening Your Walk with God this Advent Season

Advent is a special time to reflect upon the presence and blessing of God in our lives.

You are warmly invited to be part of a four-week Bible Study this Advent season. Joining a small group will deepen your spiritual journey and give you the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of others.

We offer three different options for you - select a topic, or a time that works for you.



Sunday Morning Bible Study - In Person

9:00 AM - Church Library

November 27 to December 17

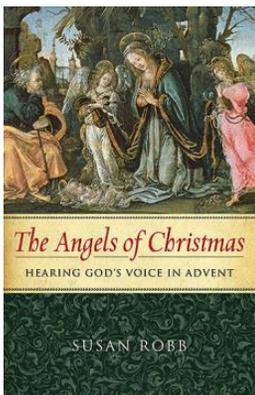
Making Room by Ed Robb

Led by Susan Dal Porto

How do we regard others? How do we make room for the stranger?

For most of church history, practicing hospitality was central to Christian identity.

Welcoming strangers historically has been a rich, life-giving practice. This study explores the warmth of welcome at Christmas following interactions with the Holy Family, the shepherds, and the magi. The story of Christ's birth encourages us to widen our borders and increase our sense of community - and make room for others.



Monday Morning Bible Study - In Person

10:00 AM - Church Library

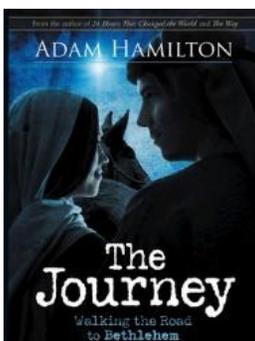
November 28 to December 19

The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent

by Susan Robb

Led by Mike McKee

In this study, we will explore the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. We will do a deep dive into the history of the angel angels in both the Old and New Testaments. We will consider four angelic appearances to discuss God's presence in history and our lives today. The messages of the angels hold meaning for listeners both then and now.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study - In Person and Zoom

10:00 AM - Church Library

November 30 to December 21

The Journey by Adam Hamilton

Led by Pastor Hyo Sun Oh

Pastor Oh will offer this mid-week study to amplify her special sermon series for Advent 2022, as renowned Pastor and Author Adam Hamilton invites us to travel with him from Nazareth to Bethlehem in order to learn about the place where Jesus lived. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road. The richness of the full story will touch your life.

Advent: The 2022 Holiday Season

Many of us already know that Advent is the anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas. That's only part of the story.

This article is adapted from Justin Holcomb, August 9, 2022

Advent is the season of reflective preparation for the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the expected return of Christ in the Second Coming.

“THE CELEBRATION OF ADVENT IS POSSIBLE ONLY TO THOSE WHO ARE TROUBLED IN SOUL, WHO KNOW THEMSELVES TO BE POOR AND IMPERFECT, AND WHO LOOK FORWARD TO SOMETHING GREATER TO COME.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“GOD OF HOPE, I LOOK TO YOU WITH AN OPEN HEART AND YEARNING SPIRIT. DURING THIS ADVENT SEASON, I WILL KEEP ALERT AND AWAKE, LISTENING FOR YOUR WORD AND KEEPING TO YOUR PRECEPTS. MY HOPE IS IN YOU.”

Matthew Kelly

“THEREFORE THE LORD HIMSELF WILL GIVE YOU A SIGN. BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL.”

Isaiah 7:14

Season of Advent

The Season of Advent lasts four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Advent 2022 will begin on Sunday November 27th and end on Saturday, December 24th.

The United Methodist Lectionary recommends these Bible readings during lent:

First Sunday of Advent, November 27th

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44



Second Sunday of Advent, December 4th

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

Third Sunday of Advent, December 11th

Isaiah 35:1-10

Luke 1:46b-55

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18th

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

Advent Readings and Advent Candles

Advent readings are themed Scripture readings for each Sunday of Advent. The four weeks of Advent are broken down into the themes:

Hope

(The Prophecy Candle)

Peace

(The Bethlehem Candle)

Joy

(The Shepherd's Candle)

Love

(The Angel's Candle)

One of the beautiful things about the Advent readings above is that they offer churches the opportunity to include both young and old in their services. The same can be true of private family devotions around the Advent wreath. By this point, you've probably realized that there are no set criteria for who should read the Advent readings in church. In some denominations, the lead pastor or

worship leader may read the Advent reading to lead the congregation in worship.

Advent Wreaths and Candles

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays, and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. Families begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and light another candle each subsequent Sunday.

The most common Advent candle tradition, however, involves four candles. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. The four candles traditionally represent hope, peace, joy, and love. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are blue or purple; the third candle is rose-colored. We place a fifth white candle in the middle and it is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth.

What Is Advent? History and Meaning

Some people may know that the Advent season focuses on expectation and think that it serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas. This is part of the story, but there's more to Advent.

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which translates to the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (John 1:29), and his first miracle at Cana (John 2:1). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger

in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas.

Advent Symbolism

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these "last days" (Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2) as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God's past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis, they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people.

In this light, the Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" perfectly represents the church's cry during the Advent season:

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL,
AND RANSOM CAPTIVE ISRAEL,
THAT MOURNS IN LONELY EXILE HERE
UNTIL THE SON OF GOD APPEARS.
REJOICE! REJOICE!
EMMANUEL SHALL COME TO THEE, O ISRAEL.

United Methodist Hymnal #211

While Israel would have sung the song in expectation of Christ's first coming, the church now sings the song in commemoration of that first coming and in expectation of the second coming in the future.

Advent Liturgy and Practice

To balance the two elements of remembrance and anticipation, the first two Sundays in Advent look forward to Christ's second coming, and the last two Sundays look backward to remember Christ's first coming. Over the course of the four weeks, Scripture readings move from passages about Christ's return in judgment to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Mes-

(Continued on next page)

Author Biography: Justin Holcomb is an Episcopal priest and teaches theology at Reformed Theological Seminary and Knox Theological Seminary. Justin wrote *On the Grace of God* and co-authored with his wife Lindsey *Rid of My Disgrace* and *Save Me from Violence*. He is also the editor of *Christian Theologies of Scripture*. You can find him on Facebook, Twitter, and JustinHolcomb.com.

siah to New Testament passages about the announcements of Christ's arrival by John the Baptist and the Angels.

While it is challenging to keep in mind amid holiday celebrations, shopping, lights and decorations, and joyful carols, Advent is intended to be a season of fasting, much like Lent, and there are a variety of ways that this time of mourning works itself out in the season. Reflection on the violence and evil in the world causes us to cry out to God to make things right—to put death's dark shadows to flight. Our exile in the present makes us look forward to our future Exodus. And our own sinfulness and need for grace lead us to pray for the Holy Spirit to renew his work in conforming us into the image of Christ.

One description of Advent is spiritually beautiful: “When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: ‘He must increase, but I must decrease.’”

Advent and Christian Life

While Advent is certainly a time of celebration and anticipation of Christ's birth, it is more than that. It is only in the shadow of Advent that the miracle of Christmas can be fully understood and appreciated, and it is only in the light of Christmas that the Christian life makes any sense.

It is between the fulfilled promise of Christ's first coming and the yet-to-be-fulfilled promise of his second coming that Karl Barth penned these words: “Unfulfilled and fulfilled promise are related to each other, as are dawn and sunrise. Both promise and in fact the same promise. If anywhere at all, then it is precisely in the light of the coming of Christ that faith has become Advent faith, the expectation of future revelation. But faith knows for whom and for what it is waiting. It is fulfilled faith because it lays hold on the fulfilled promise.”

The promise for Israel and the church is Jesus Christ; The Lord has come to earth and will arrive again. This is the essence of Advent.

Connections Deadlines:

January/February 2023 issue
deadline for articles: **Monday, Dec. 26**

March/April 2023 issue
deadline for articles: **Monday, Feb. 13**

Advent Prayer

Prayer is a beautiful way to help cut away from distractions of the season and open your heart to prepare for the joy and hope of Christ's birth. Following is a prayer to use during the season to focus your heart and mind on the birth of Jesus Christ.

Come to the Manger of My Heart

*This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.
Fill me with Your presence from the very start.
As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,
Remind me of the gift You gave when
You sent Your Son from Heaven.
The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever.
You came as a baby born in a manger.
Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,
Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.
Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,
When He left the riches of Heaven and
wrapped Himself in rags of earth.
Immanuel, God with us,
Your presence came that night.
And angels announced,
“Into your darkness, God brings His Light.”
“Do not be afraid,” they said,
to shepherds in the field.
Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.
Make me like those shepherd boys,
obedient to Your call.
Setting distractions and worries aside,
to You I surrender them all.
Surround me with Your presence,
Lord, I long to hear Your voice.
Clear my mind of countless concerns
and all the holiday noise.
Slow me down this Christmas,
let me not be in a rush.
In the midst of parties and planning,
I want to feel Your hush.
This Christmas, Jesus,
come to the manger of my heart.
Invade my soul like Bethlehem,
bringing peace to every part.
Dwell within and around me,
as I unwrap Your presence each day.
Keep me close to You, Lord.
It is in Your wonderful Name I pray.*

Renee Swope, “The Manger of My Heart”
from Proverbs 31 Ministries

Financially Speaking ...

Have you ever wondered how many people are currently paid to keep Roselle UMC running? The answer might surprise you. To begin with, we need a Pastor to preach a sermon on Sundays and provide pastoral care throughout the week. Each week we touch the lives of 100 to 150 people through in-person and online worship. To make this happen, we pay 6 people each week, not including the Pastor. Built in the 1950s, our church building and parsonage provide a place to worship, study, and serve others, plus a place for the pastor to live. We pay 4 different companies to maintain our two buildings. Finally, we need administrative support to prepare the materials for Sunday worship, prepare and distribute communications both electronically and via US Mail, coordinate the use of rooms, order supplies, the list goes on. Our administrative support is provided by one staff member and one contracted IT company. That's a total of 13 people or companies who are paid to keep our current organizational structure running for a total annual cost of \$170,043 as detailed below:

Full time pastor salary package	= \$74,896
Worship salaries (4 music positions, 1 videographer, 1 nursery attendant)	= \$33,627
Custodian, security, grounds, and parking (4 contracted companies)	= \$27,920
Office and IT pay (1 staff, 1 contracted company)	= \$33,600

Have you ever thought about the costs of maintaining two buildings that were built in the 1950s? Perhaps your own house is of the same age so you might be familiar with the costs for the parsonage but have no clue about the church building. In total, we pay \$61,312 annually for the parsonage and church building utilities, insurance, and maintenance.

Utilities	= \$37,252
Insurance and Maintenance	= \$24,060

How about our ministries, mission outreach and cost of supplies like paper? Any idea what we spend there? The answer is \$45,491.

Connectional Ministry Apportionment	= \$20,199
Ministries, Mission Outreach, Supplies	= \$25,292

When you add everything up, it will cost \$276,846 in 2023 to keep Roselle UMC running with our current structure.

Now that you know what it costs to keep our doors open, have you ever wondered if we are at risk of closing those doors? The short answer is "Not Yet but Some-

thing Must Change." Based on current giving trends, we anticipate a \$33,000 shortfall next year and if something doesn't change, that shortfall will grow in future years.

Have you ever looked around the church and thought about things changing over time? Here's a quick history lesson:

The size of our congregation is decreasing while the average age of our participants is increasing. Currently, 79 families actively participate in our worship and ministries.

Our church building started as the sanctuary wing. The building expanded twice with two additional wings to accommodate our growth.

Our organizational structure grew as our ministry teams expanded. Additional paid staff and contractors were hired to support our needs.

Our budget expanded to cover the costs of the larger building and growing organizational structure.

As our congregation decreased in size, our building has remained unchanged and minimal changes have been made to our ministries and organizational structure.

As our congregation decreased in size, total giving to the operating fund has decreased while the costs increased.

Total received last year	= \$244,201
Total received 5 years ago	= \$317,581
Total received 10 years ago	= \$374,057

- **What happens if we cannot increase giving to cover the shortfall?**
- **Do we need to downsize our church building?**
- **Do we need to decrease our Connectional Ministry support?**
- **Do we need to eliminate some staff and contractors?**
- **Do we need to look for a part-time Pastor?**

We currently have 16 families giving \$4,000 or more a year to our operating fund. Please make a pledge to join this reliable group of givers. If you cannot make a commitment to give at this level, then please make a pledge to increase your giving. Pledge cards are available at the usher's table or you can submit your pledge online by going to the Giving tab on our website at RoselleUMC.org. We will continue to accept pledges for 2023. YOUR pledge will make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support.

Our future is in your hands.

Mission and Outreach



These mission projects are linked to scripture. Jesus' blessings during his Sermon on the Mount as recounted in Matthew 5, known as the beatitudes. The projects and ministries described in Mission Links are matched with one or more beatitudes that allow the church to 'advance' the cause of Christ and work for the public good. The projects are organized to allow local churches to make a commitment to support local, regional, and international mission projects. When giving to Mission Links, you can fill in the amount on your giving envelope, or you can write a separate check and write 'Mission Links' on the memo line of the check.

Thanks to all who purchased Thanksgiving meals for our food pantry clients. Our goal was to purchase 50 meals, and we actually received donations that allowed us to pay for 58 meals, greatly exceeding our goal. Thank you!

In December we will provide Christmas gifts to children whose parents are clients in the Roselle UMC Food Pantry. All of the gift requests from the children have been chosen already. Again, thanks. If you are providing a gift, please remember to return the wrapped gift with the numbered ornament to the church by Sunday, December 4.

Our December mission giving will be the "Pastor's Appeal". Pastor Oh has dedicated this year's appeal to providing support to the asylum seekers who are being delivered to the Chicago area. The Northern Illinois Conference of United Methodist Church is actively providing support both financially and through items of clothing and basic essentials needed for survival as we head into the winter months. Pastor Oh will be providing specific information about Roselle UMC's response to this crisis.



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