

### Ronald United Methodist Church

*Connect with God. Connect with yourself. Connect with your neighbor.  
Because communing can heal us.*

17839 Aurora Ave. North, Shoreline, WA 98133

206-542-2484 | [office@ronaldumc.org](mailto:office@ronaldumc.org) | [www.ronaldumc.org](http://www.ronaldumc.org)

Pastors: Kate Kilroy & Pat Simpson

### Welcome to the Christmas season, friends!

~ Pastor Kate

Christmas, in the mainline Protestant traditions, begins after Advent is complete. Many evangelical protestants are not familiar with this “pre-Christmas” time. Maybe that’s because it is an uncomfortable time, and so through the changes in our society’s social values some expressions of Christianity have allowed their discipleship to drift, as we forget the meaning of Advent. Advent, always the four Sundays prior to Christmas day, is a season of waiting, of anticipation. In hoping, but not yet having. Things some spiritual work and Advent helps us practice.

But what do we wait for? What do we have anticipation for?

Now more than ever, I wonder if some people feel like hoping itself is futile. Even foolish. They want to be “realistic” instead of hopeful as a way to protect themselves from wave after wave of disappointment. Understandably, people don’t want to raise their expectations and then feel silly for their optimism. Or worse, if they hope for the best that might make them feel unprepared, because they were too busy, hoping instead of preparing for the current reality. I’m a worrier like that: practicing for 4 full weeks what it is to hope may sound ludicrous.

Yet, isn’t that so much of the story of Christmas? Isn’t it just ludicrous that God would come to their beloved creation not as the fierce, powerful Ruler surrounded by a mighty procession, but instead as a fragile baby born to a small woman from a small lineage in a small town. Ludicrous.

Sometimes we hope for the power-move. We hope for the strong, fierce leader. We hope for the undeniable certainty of pre-packaged security and certainty. We hope for rescue from that disappointment once and for all. Yet, God chooses to come as a dependent. Showing us that God doesn’t intend to operate without human cooperation. And it also requires time. Jesus doesn’t just arrive ready for showing us how to live. Nope. First he needs to be swaddled, to have tiffs with his siblings, and to help in Joseph’s shop.

That seems so simple. So small. So ludicrous! We want a leader! A miracle! Not this slow-growing, eventual messiah!

So our hope in awaiting the birth of a promised messiah is not only mystical — as God, Divine and full of splendor, chooses to be born and dwell among us. It is also practical — God chose to exist within the world in so many ordinary ways. The messiah Jesus isn’t the miracle-in-an-instant flash, but the miracle of gradual nurturing and self-actualization. Some of us miss the very arrival we are aching for because the miracle starts so small, like a baby in a manger, and is different than we expect. We want to dismiss it as not enough, or too small, or too ordinary.

The miracle of Jesus Christ being brought into the world had been long awaited, and even after arriving, there was a continued wait until his public ministry launched when he was probably in his thirties. That was slow work! It involved a lot of waiting and hoping. And waiting is so very challenging.

During Advent we practice waiting for our hopes to be realized. Despite how ludicrous it may seem, when hope arrives, even when it’s small, it can be nourished into miracles! And that is worth waiting for.

Following Advent, on Christmas morning, we celebrate the birth of Jesus again. We celebrate that we wait no longer for connection. We celebrate that God is not distant. We celebrate Jesus, because God can no longer be thought of as somewhere else — but in contrast, God is right here.

With us.

May you choose to wait with eager expectations for creation even when hope seems ludicrous!



**December Birthdays**

**December 1**

- ◆ Natalia Cuanan

**December 5**

- ◆ Rolly del Rosario

**December 9**

- ◆ Chita Jesalva

**December 12**

- ◆ Arnold Ayungac

**December 13**

- ◆ Virginia Oconer

**December 21**

- ◆ Marilyn Reid

**December 23**

- ◆ Arlene Anderson

**December 24**

- ◆ Garran Hume

**December 25**

- ◆ Rufina Macalanda

**December 28**

- ◆ Calvin Hume

- ◆ Corky Mayberry

**Birthday & Anniversary Donations!**

We have a tradition of donating to the church during your birthday and/or anniversary month for the number of years your are celebrating.

- ◆ Audrey DePano

These donations will all go to support our Emergency Fund.

**December Anniversaries**

**December 3**

Fe & Ramon Roque

**December 7**

Rowena & Gino Lopez

**December 20**

Pining & Ben Reyes

**Donations to RUMC**

A feature in our *Ronald Review* is to list the names of those who gave gifts in memory, honor, or thanksgiving along with the honoree or the event.

- ◆ Shallum & Marvin Legaspi in honor of Marilyn & Dennis Reid’s anniversary

These gifts go into the Memorial Fund/Capital Campaign, and are used to purchase items to enhance our worship, facilitate our fellowship, and further our mission.

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**2024 Board News — get to know our new Church Board Co-Chairs**

Hello RUMC! My name is Gina del Rosario, and I am happy to be on the board, partnering with Tom Harris as co-chair.

I have been a member of Ronald United Methodist Church since 1995. I have grown up in this church as a youth and now, along with my partner, we are raising our two kids in the same space where I began my faith journey. Outside of church, my career is in photo and video production where I turn ideas into a creative reality!

I hope that my leadership and the collaboration of the board and our church may offer a supportive and transformative space for our community to grow. I am committed to communicating our vision of inclusivity and I’m thrilled for our neighborhood to see all the ways that they are loved and welcomed at Ronald United.

Hey there, RUMC!

If we have not already been properly introduced, my name is Tom Harris, and I am very excited to have been elected Co-Chair of the church board, serving in the role alongside Gina del Rosario.

My fiancée Clarissa and I found ourselves at Ronald in March of 2022, just two months after moving to Seattle from Texas. From the very first Sunday we attended, the congregation at Ronald made us feel right at home. Since then, we have had the pleasure of getting to know the folks here a lot better, and became members of the church this past Spring.

Being able to serve the board, and through it the church, is an amazing opportunity because I feel I get to contribute to a place and congregation that has done so much for Clarissa and me already. In my career away from church, I work in communications and have a passion for bringing people together. I hope to carry that over to RUMC and use any of the abilities I have to connect people and work towards our church's mission to become the most visible, inclusive, and difference-making church we can be.

**2024 Church Board**

- ◆ Co-chairs: Gina del Rosario-Martin, Tom Harris
- ◆ Trustees: Jason Metcalf-Lindenburger, David Lewis, Brian Henry
- ◆ Finance: Stephanie Henry, Trina McCarrell, Gretchen Holt
- ◆ SPRC: Tara Sullivan, Shay Lavarias, James Fernando
- ◆ Lay Leader: Marilyn Reid
- ◆ Lay member to Annual Conference: Reuben Roque



# Ronald updates

## Church Finance & Stewardship Updates

~ Stephanie Henry

### Online Giving Office Hours

**Sundays December 3 and December 10**  
the “library”/meeting room 113

Stephanie will be available immediately after worship to offer assistance to anyone wishing to set up their pledged giving through our online platform.

Stephanie will have a laptop with her, so just bring your financial information (*which she doesn't need or want to see, she'll just guide you through where and how to enter it on our secure website*).

You may set up your gift via checking account or credit card. An automatic gift is easy and convenient for you and reliable for the church.

**Questions**, or want assistance but not available either of those Sundays? Please reach out, she's happy to help: [stephjdhenry@gmail.com](mailto:stephjdhenry@gmail.com)

### 3 Planned Gifts that Help Now, Part 3: **Real Estate**

The final planned gift that helps now is **Real Estate**. If your assets are tied up in real estate, you can still make major gifts during your lifetime.

If you decide to give a property to the church outright, you can take a tax deduction of the current market value (rather than the amount originally paid for it).

Another type of real estate gift is a bargain sale. For a bargain sale, you sell your property to Faith Foundation Northwest for less than its current market value and take a tax deduction for the difference. Then the Foundation liquidates the property, pays the agreed-upon bargain price, and cuts a check to the church for the remaining balance.

**Questions?** Email [Finance@RonaldUMC.org](mailto:Finance@RonaldUMC.org).

Whether you give during your lifetime from your IRA, appreciated stock, or real estate, please also consider Ronald UMC in your legacy giving. Thank you.

Christmas at  
**Ronald  
united\***

“Here I am”

Sundays in December  
10:45AM

Were you taught your body is sinful?  
Were you taught your Christian identity should  
eliminate your other identities?

Jesus's own intersectional  
identity demonstrates how we  
too can embody our whole, true  
selves. Let's explore how the  
birth & life of Jesus Christ is  
healing Good News! Inviting us  
to come home to our own  
bodies.

Come. Heal.

Ronald United - 17839 Aurora North, Shoreline, WA  
Learn more: [www.ronaldumc.org](http://www.ronaldumc.org)

## Safety Officer

~ Sandra Reynolds

**Our safety booklet** will be revised soon. We expect everyone using the building to follow the procedures set out therein. These are intended to ensure the safety of our children and other vulnerable persons.

- ◆ The wearing of masks in the building is optional.
  - ◆ Hand sanitizers will continue to be provided.
- These policies may be changed as needed by agreement among pastors and the safety officer.

Persons with symptoms of any contagious illness are asked to remain at home.

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers:

As a church and people who believe in the power of prayer, let us lift up our loved ones in the joys and concerns that they are experiencing.

If you would like to have us pray for anyone, please notify us, and we will add them to next month's prayers. [Office@ronaldumc.org](mailto:Office@ronaldumc.org) or 206-542-2484



## Ronald Calendar for December 2023

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent December 3

#### December 2

- ◆ Decorate church for Advent 12—5pm

#### December 3

- *Advent Hopelink donations:*  
*bars of soap*
- ◇ Online giving help in the library
- “[Sock it to Homelessness](#)” at  
Operation Nightwatch 12:30-2:00

#### December 6

- ◆ 11:00 Martha Circle field trip to  
Swanson’s Nursery

#### December 7

- ◆ 5:30 Ronald Commons Café

#### December 8

- ◆ “A Christmas Carol”  
6:30 pizza, 7:30 live performance  
by [Off Road Shakespeare](#)

#### December 9

- ◆ 10:00 Caring Crafts, Gathering Room

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent December 17

#### December 17

- *Advent Hopelink donations:*  
*paper towels*
- ◆ Christmas Card donations due

#### December 21

- ◆ 5:30 Ronald Commons Café  
last dinner for 2023.  
*Next dinner Jan 11 \*in-person\*.*  
We need 2024 volunteers:  
[signup.com/go/XBZkOzO](https://signup.com/go/XBZkOzO)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent December 10

#### December 10

- Coat drive
- *Advent Hopelink donations:*  
*feminine products*
- ◇ Online giving help in the library

#### December 14

- ◆ *Poinsettia donations &*  
*dedications due*
- ◆ 5:30 Ronald Commons Café

#### December 16

- ◆ 2:15 decorate sanctuary  
with poinsettias

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent December 24

#### December 24

- ◆ worship at 10:45 and 7:00
- *Advent Hopelink Donations:*  
*toilet paper*
- ◆ pick up your poinsettias  
after the 7pm worship

#### December 25

- ◆ virtual sermon on our YouTube  
[www.youtube.com/@RonaldUMC](https://www.youtube.com/@RonaldUMC)

