

January 2024



The Messenger

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Office Hours: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm Monday - Thursday

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell

Serving Our Neighbors  Sharing Our Blessings!

Chances are you've heard the saying (or something like it), "*You don't get a second chance to make a first impression.*" It's so true. We can do so much to try and get more first-time people into our church; it's another thing entirely to keep them! When someone decides to visit Resurrection, that's exactly what we've got: One shot. One chance. One opportunity to get it right. The goal isn't just knowing how to make visitors feel welcome but to make sure they get connected and want to come back.

We've also got to stop using excuses, especially the excuse "*We don't speak Spanish*" (or Ukrainian, or Polish, or whatever other language). A Lutheran pastor in Chicago has a vibrant ministry that includes Uber drivers, bikers, and Spanish-speaking people even though he doesn't speak Spanish (and is originally from Tanzania). The people who worship with him are more concerned with how he helps them feel welcomed and not whether he speaks their language.

Unless the Holy Spirit guides me elsewhere, in 2024 I'm going to use this space to highlight areas we can focus on to make sure we're giving our best to church guests. Many of these suggestions come from an article on GrowChurch.net title "**How to Make Church Visitors Feel Welcome.**" I'll be modifying it to better suit who we are at Resurrection. Over the next year, we will look at:

- Figuring out where we are at right now
- Building a great church website
- Having a "Welcome Table"
- Pointing people in the right direction
- Giving our guest a gift
- Designing our service around new people
- Talking to Visitors
- Intentional follow-up with visitors

I believe we can get started on any of these areas today and see immediate improvements. But I can't do it by myself. It will require all of us to step out of our comfort zones so that we can help others feel comfortable (and welcome) at RLC.

-Darryl Thompson Powell

Council Meeting Minutes December 2023

Our last Council meeting was held on December 11, 2023.

Pastor Darryl read our Mission Statement and led Council in prayer.

Devotions: Scriptures; John 2:1-11, Matthew 11:19, and John 15:11-12

"Jesus let his hair down too." Jesus was no stranger to joy. He went to weddings. He shared lively meals with his friends. He drank with them. He had so much fun and acted so freely around the dinner table that the uptight religious leaders calling him a glutton and a drunkard, Jesus was joyful. But what does that mean? It means a feeling of inner gladness, delight, or rejoicing. The joy Jesus talked about and lived out isn't dependent on circumstances, but it is a lasting emotion, a deep setting assurance, a way of life that gives a different perspective. Jesus commandment is to love each other as I have loved you. If you are looking for the secret of Jesus joy, try starting there. Jesus knew what he was doing.

Village Council Meeting: Jeff and Wayne went to the Dec.4 Franklin Park Village Council Meeting. They reported It was a very short meeting. It just lasted 20 minutes. Nothing too substantial. The next Village Council meetings will be on Jan 2 and Jan 16th, 2024.

Investment committee to merge with the budget and finance. It was discussed at the finance meeting and approved. It will be now known as the Finance Committee

Pastor Darryl was blessed with a gift of \$1,000.00 from an anonymous donor. With the Pastor's discretion the money will be used for a new freezer for the food pantry. God is good.

The Council set the Annual Meeting for February 11, 2024, at 11:00 AM. Linda will send out a letter about the Annual Meeting in the middle of January.

Our next Council meeting will be January 17, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

God bless,
Jan Ramsson

What to Do for Lent?

Lent begins on February 14th! Pastor Darryl needs help in deciding which devotional materials to use for Lent. Our options are:

The Seeds of Joy (*"In the heart of fear and pain, God plants the seed of our joy."*) –bit.ly/2024seedsofjoy

Lent can be a somber season of the church year. Easter, on the other hand, is obviously joyful. Why reflect on joy during the quiet introspection of Lent instead of waiting for Easter? Because when we move beyond surface assumptions, something beautiful emerges, richer and more nuanced than sheer happiness.

Wandering Heart (*"Figuring Out Faith with Peter"*) - bit.ly/wanderingheart2024

This devotion focuses on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

Please let Pastor know by January 18th which one you would like to see this year.

Outreach Food4Life Food Pantry/Clothing Closet News

In November the Food Pantry served 100 families consisting of 192 adults and 106 children. We had 16 new guests this month. We are forever grateful to those who donate food each week. We received donations from 46 donators this month.

Our special item Sunday continues to be very successful, and we thank our members for their generosity. This month was soup Sunday. During the month of December, it will be pasta Sunday. Everyone's help in keeping our food pantry stocked is greatly appreciated. Due to the increase in the number of guests, it is getting harder to keep the shelves stocked. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. We rely on our members, friends, and neighbors to keep the food pantry running.

Thank you to our personal shoppers who are helping buy the items that are not donated.

Barb and Alan Miralgio and Walter Johnson are the shoppers. We are forever grateful for them.

Our volunteers continue to be dedicated and make our Mondays at the food pantry work. They work very hard in a short period of time to prepare all the donations that we give to our guests. Our team consists of 23 volunteers, of which 3 are part of the community but not members of Resurrection. They worked a total of 148 total hours in November. Thank you, God, for blessing us with so many people wanting to do your work.

The Food Pantry is now going into its 14th year of serving our neighbors. Thanks be to God!



Financial Summary November 2023

	October	Year to Date
Income:	\$6,120.67	\$75,790.80
Expenses:	(\$14,363.30)	(\$142,109.27)
Income Shortfall:	(\$8,242.63)	(\$66,318.47)
Loss/Gain Investments:	\$5,750.12	\$11,779.04
Total Gain/Shortfall:	(\$2,492.51)	(\$54,539.43)

November results show a gain in our investments of \$5,750.12. Envelope income was over budget by \$31.22 for the month & over budget \$6,243.175 for the year. Expenses were over budget by \$1,297.47 for the month & under budget by \$1,614.90 for the year. Our cash position as of 11/30/23 is \$160,192.76 in total cash assets, spread across our investment, Money Market, Operating Accounts and other investments. The stock market was up in November, so that was good. We moved our investment funds into a money market fund, so we will no longer have to deal with stock market fluctuation.

God Bless. Be Healthy and Safe.
Wayne Molley, Treasurer



Church Calendar

January 9	Finance Meeting	6:30 pm
January 17	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
January 28	Fellowship Hour	11:00 am
Mondays	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Wednesdays	Bible Study	2:00 pm
	Midweek Services	1:00 pm & 7:30 pm
Thursdays	AI-Anon Meetings	7:30 pm

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In an Emergency

If you have an emergency outside office hours, you may reach **Pastor Darryl at 847-616-0537.**



