

December 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!

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year prepares to end, a new church year begins. Jesus' birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on with violence, destruction and death. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings. They were large and small, personal and political. Still, Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Jesus' birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike. All the while, King Herod tried to bring Jesus' story to an end before it can truly begin. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown.

During the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, we will again use devotional materials created by A *Sanctified Art*. The theme this year is "*Words for the Beginning: Advent reminders for new seasons.*" This devotional is shaped around several reminders we all need from time to time: you are a blessing; we can't go alone; do the good that is yours to do; hope is worth the risk; love knows your name; don't forget to laugh; the road isn't straight. These reminders root us in the fundamental truths of our faith. Many of them are life lessons we teach to children, lessons that adults continue to learn and relearn. They may resemble the blessings we impart to loved ones during special ceremonies like weddings or baptisms. I invite you to move through this Advent season as if you are entering a sacred new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead.

Printed devotional booklets are available. Electronic versions will be sent out to those who request them. For those of you who can, I encourage you to do the electronic version to save paper. As we have done recently, I ask that you consider donating to offset the \$144 cost of the resource (this isn't in the church's budget). Whether you can make a donation or not, I hope you will use the devotional daily. Read, look, and sing your way through the pages of this devotional. Each week offers art, reflections, poetry, and hymns to give you strength, courage, and grace. As you journey through this season, may you find words for belovedness and hope. May you find words for beginning again. For no matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, remember that love is your beginning.

-Darryl Thompson Powell (with much help from the Sanctified Art Team!)

Council Meeting Minutes 11/10/24

We opened with prayer. Devotions were spent reflecting on and discussing Pr Darryl's Messenger article from November.

Alan proposed changes to the Newsletter because it's always the same articles. He suggested that members of each committee take turns submitting articles. Committee Chairs are to take this information to their committees to work on it for January and beyond.

Ministry Structure Meeting 10/29: All Council members were in attendance and 5 members of the congregation. Full Minutes of the meeting are in the Council Packet. The plan of action for this meeting: Council is to think about what goals and objectives are important and come up with a plan for the next Ministry Structure Meeting and report back at December's Council meeting.

Annual Meeting is January 26, 2025. There are 3 Council positions to fill: replacement for Jeff Peterson's seat (2 years) and 2 3-year terms (Wayne Molley and Jeff Davis going off).

Finance Committee Report: GoFundMe Option: This was a suggestion made after the Special Finance Meeting with the congregation 11/3/24. There was discussion around the process and questions about it. Also discussed that the Food Pantry would be the recipient.

Finance Committee Report: Non-Profit Application: There was discussion at the Finance Meeting around turning RLC into a food pantry only. There is a need for someone to research the process of applying for 501-c3 status.

The next meeting is December 8, 2024. We closed by reciting our Mission Statement and the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by: Lauren Obrzut, Co Secretary

Vision & Mission

Here's a look at all the things we've been doing since May: We were out in Franklin Park at the Indoor Garage Sale. In July we hosted a Travelling Coffee Hour at Garden of Eatin'. August saw two events- A Rummage Sale and our 3rd Annual Community BBQ. In October we rode in the Fall Parade and engaged with our community at the Trick or Treat Event. And on December 10, we will host a Craft Event at Denny's for the community. Thanks be to God for giving us the energy to do God's work!

And now after busy Summer and Fall seasons and as Winter approaches, it is time to go inward, reflect, and rest. To just be. We have much to be thankful for, and we also have much to think about for our future. Ponder what this means for you: What is our (RLC's) season to do? Also consider: How much effort am I personally willing to dedicate to this work?

As we enter the time of year to wait for the coming of the Messiah, may we celebrate our successes, enjoy the fruits of our labor, and be filled with wonder over the promise of a Savior.

In Christ, Lauren

Outreach Food4Life Food Pantry/Clothing Closet News



In October the food pantry served 120 families which consisted of 255 adults and 97 children. We welcomed 13 new guests. We continue to be blessed with food, clothing and miscellaneous donations from our usual sources. God continues to send donations our way. We are very grateful to those who donated items this month. We received 53 donations from our members, companies and others in October. It is so nice to see how many guests want to pray with us before we open.

We participated in the Franklin Park Fall Fest parade. Pastor Darryl drove his car and Pastor Carla and Lindsay Vega passed out T Shirts and frisbees.

We are so grateful for our volunteers. We have 24 volunteers of which 4 are not members of Resurrection. Our volunteers gave 218 hours of their time working very hard to make this ministry successful. Everyone should feel free to stop by on a Monday morning to see how hard our volunteers work to package up donations to serve to our guests.

We are still in need of additional people to pick up donations from Costco on Sunday morning.

Thanks be to God.

Financial Summary October 2024

	October	Year to Date
Income:	\$5,847.21	\$69,348.35
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>(\$12,077.39)</u>	<u>(\$120,908.50)</u>
Income Shortfall:	(\$6,230.18)	(\$51,560.15)

October results show a gain in our investments of \$390.79. Envelope income was under budget by (\$1,612.33) for the month & under budget (\$6,570.78) for the year. Expenses were under budget by \$427.03 for the month, & under budget by \$4,135.70 for the year. Our cash position as of 10/31/24 is \$123,879.14 in total cash assets, spread across our Money Market Fund, CD, and Checking Account. Our envelope giving year to date is behind budget and hopefully we can make up for this shortfall in the last Quarter of the year. Year to date we have taken \$32,500.00 out of the Money Market fund. If this continues, we will have no more money in this fund in the next 12 months. We are looking at ways to generate more income going forward. If you are behind in your envelope giving, now is the time to catch up. If you are current on your giving, please consider increasing your giving if possible.

God Bless. Be Healthy and Safe.

Wayne Molley, Treasurer



Church Calendar

December 3	Finance Meeting	6:30 pm
December 4	Outreach Meeting	3:30 pm
December 9	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
December 10	Denny's Craft Event	5:00 – 7:00 pm
December 29	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
	Choir Rehearsal	6:00 pm
Thursdays	Al-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**.



Christmas Eve Worship Services

4:00 PM Christmas Eve service
10:30 PM Christmas Eve Concert followed
by service at 11:00 PM