

DECEMBER 24, 2011




Resurrection
Metropolitan Community Church

We Gather

From many places
we gather here.
This is a high point
of our week. We
see our friends.
We make new
friends. And we
spend time with
The Friend -- the
loving Christ who
meets us where
we are, as we are.
In this Sanctuary
we worship, and
through worship
the courage within
us is kindled to
inspire courageous
living beyond this
place.

Prelude / Preludio

Natasha Holmes

Breath of Heaven

by Amy Grant

Our Community Gathers / Nuestra Comunidad Se Reúne

Rev. Janice Ladd

Announcements / Anuncios

Mark Eggleston

+ Exchange of Peace / Saludo de Paz

Rev. Janice Ladd

+ Processional Hymn / Himno de Entrada

Joyful Joyful

Joyful, Joyful
Lord, we adore Thee
God of glory
Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee
Hail Thee as the sun above

Melt the clouds of sin, sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Drive it away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us
Fill us with the light of day
Light of day!

O Holy Night

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining.
Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was born;
O night, O Holy Night, O night divine!
O night, O Holy Night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory ever more proclaim!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

+ Invocation / Invocacion

Rev. Terri Steed

+ Please rise in body or spirit.

+ **Gifts for the Journey: Litany for Advent Candle** Joy Jolley & Brandon Jolley-Samples

One: God of Promise, you make your way from deep darkness within us, through dark nightfall about us ...

All: Rejoice in the good news, rejoice with hope and love for all the people!

One: Light of the World, you make our way wherever we may be, through every wandering you guide us ...

All: Glory to God in the highest, rejoice with peace and love for all the people!

One: Born of a Girl-Child, Son of the Most High, Shepherd of Shepherds, Savior ...
Messiah ... Lord ...

**All: Our Promise, Our Peace, Our Hope, and Our Joy:
God-With-Us, Emmanuel!**

One: Let us who are learning to walk in the Light of the World,
celebrate the gift of CHRIST!

Anthem / Himno

One Child

Mass Choir

+ **The Ancient Word / Lectura Bíblica**

Vickey Gibbs

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: A reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke

All: Glory to you, Oh God.

One:

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.

Advent

The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ in his Second Advent.

Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of people as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. That acknowledgment provides the basis for holy living arising from a profound sense that we live "between the times" and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us.

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, anticipation, preparation, and of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by Israelite enslaved in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world, and yet who have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard the cries of oppressed and brought deliverance!

It is that hope, however faint at times, and that God, however distant God sometimes seems, which brings to the world the anticipation of Jesus who will come and reign with truth, justice and righteousness over all creation. It is that hope that once anticipated, and now anticipates anew, the reign of an Anointed One who will bring peace and justice and righteousness to the world.

Gloria / La Gloria

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Sermon / Sermón

Rev. Janice Ladd

The Gift: Surprise!

We Offer Ourselves / Ofrenda

Dr. Jackie Marshall
Claire Sebesta

Offertory / Ofertorio

Cassandra White

**We
Receive**

All congregations in MCC practice an open communion. You do not need to be a member of this church or any church to come to the table and receive communion.

During Communion you will be offered bread and cup with a brief blessing.

We use grape juice for the cup so that all may participate. Gluten-free wafers are available from the communion server on the far right. Simply say, "Gluten free."

Todas las congregaciones de ICM (Iglesias de las Comunidades Metropolitana) practican una comunión abierta. Creemos en el amor de Dios incondicional para todas las personas.

Si deseas tomar la comunión en español, por favor dirígete hacia al ministro de comunión localizado hacia la izquierda y pídele, "En español, por favor."

Ave Maria

Communion / Comunión

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini
Rev. Michael Diaz

Communion Songs / Cantos de Comunión

Draw me close

Draw me close to You
Never let me go
I lay it all down again
To hear You say that I'm Your friend

You are my desire
No one else will do
'Cause nothing else could take Your place
To feel the warmth of Your embrace
Help me find the way
Bring me back to You

You're all I want
You're all I've ever needed
You're all I want
Help me know You are near

God of Wonders

Lord of all creation, of water, earth and sky,
The heavens are Your tabernacle; glory to the Lord on high.

(Chorus)

*God of Wonders beyond our galaxy, You are holy, holy;
The universe declares Your majesty. You are holy, holy;
Lord of heaven and earth, Lord of heaven and earth.
Early in the Morning I will celebrate the light.
When I stumble in the darkness, I will call Your name by night.*

(Chorus)

Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth.
Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth.
Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth. repeat chorus

(Chorus)

Shout to the lord

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord,
there is none like You;
All of my days I want to praise
the wonders of Your mighty love.
My Comfort, my Shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath, all that I am,
never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord,
all the Earth, let us sing;
Power and majesty, praises we sing!
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
at the sound of Your name.
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand;
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You!

+ **Prayer of Thanksgiving / Acción de Gracias**

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, loves pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, alleluia
to our king; Christ, the Savior, is born,
Christ, the Savior, is born.

+ **Benediction / Bendición**

Rev. Janice Ladd

Postlude

Joel Hammett

We Sing

We sing as a
body during the
distribution of the
elements. If you
do not wish to sing,
please be in an
attitude of prayer for
those who wish to
meditate during this
time.

God, open us to your
living presence
through your life at
this table.

Receive the living
sacrifice of our
awakened life.

Prayer

If you are in need
of prayer support,
you can find prayer
partners available
during our time of
communion or after
worship in the right
wing of the Sanctuary.

Embody

We want to encourage
you to engage your
spiritual life beyond
worship on Sunday.

Executive Team

Rev. Elder Lillie Brock

Consulting Pastor
RevLillie@ResurrectionMCC.org (x101)

Rev. Janice Ladd

Executive Pastor
RevJanice@ResurrectionMCC.org (x104)

Rev. Michael Diaz

Director of Connections
RevMichael@ResurrectionMCC.org (x105)

Mark Eggleston

Director of Outreach
Mark@ResurrectionMCC.org (x106)

Joy Jolley

Director of Operations
Joy@ResurrectionMCC.org (x102)

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Director of Life Development
RevKristen@ResurrectionMCC.org (x107)

Professional Stipend & Volunteers

Eli'jah Carroll

Creative Arts
Elijah@ResurrectionMCC.org

Rev. Pat Farnan

Volunteer Clergy
RevPat@ResurrectionMCC.org

Joel Hammett

Organist & Accompanist

Natasha Holmes

Artist-in-Residence
Natasha@ResurrectionMCC.org (x109)

Reed Hoke

Sanctuary Choir Director
Reed@ResurrectionMCC.org

Christy Irvin

Gospel Ensemble Pianist

Rev. Mona Lopez

Volunteer Clergy
RevMona@ResurrectionMCC.org

Debbie Mansfield

Nursery Coordinator
Nursery@ResurrectionMCC.org

Sara Navarro

Graphic Design
Sara@ResurrectionMCC.org (x112)

Joel Palomares

Youth Ministries Program Coordinator
Youth@ResurrectionMCC.org

Rev. Terri Steed

Worship Coordinator
RevTerri@ResurrectionMCC.org

Rose Wall

HeavenSound Handbells Director

Cassandra White

Gospel Ensemble Director
Cassandra@ResurrectionMCC.org

Jose I. Zuniga

Facilities Technician

Worship | Sunday, 9 & 11 am
Children & Youth Worship | Sunday, 11 am
Nursery | Sunday, 9 & 11 am

Resurrection MCC

2025 West 11th St, Houston, Texas 77008
Phone 713-861-9149 / Fax 713-861-2520
www.ResurrectionMCC.org

Welcome!

If you are attending Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church for the first time, we are glad to have you here! We invite you to join us each week as we worship God and learn more about Christian living in an inclusive way. All are welcome.

Make sure to visit the Concierge Desk, located in our Welcome Area, to receive a gift from us. You will find friendly volunteer hosts waiting to greet you.

Worship Services

Resurrection MCC is proud to offer a variety in our worship services. Our two Sunday services, at 9 & 11 am, are identical in form, however they contain different elements from diverse religious traditions each week.

A Special Welcome to First-Time Families!

Our nursery staff would love to meet you and your infants & children aged one month through three years! The nursery is located to the right of the Sanctuary entrance and is open during both the 9 & 11 am services.

Children and youth aged 4 - 17 years are invited to join our Youth Ministries Program during the 11 am service in the Activities Building (located across the breezeway from our main parking lot). Sign-in begins at 10:45 am. All children must be registered and signed-in to attend. Parents are welcome to join the children for Communion at Noon in the Activities Building. Snack & sign-outs begin at 12:15 pm.

About Us...

Resurrection MCC is a Christian church that follows God's call to justice for all people. We build on a rich history of social justice for, and on behalf of, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people. Since its founding in 1968, Metropolitan Community Churches have been at the vanguard of civil and human rights movements as an international advocate for vulnerable people in places where religious orthodoxy, sexism, transphobia and homophobia can result in violence and death. MCC has been on the forefront in the struggle towards marriage equality in the US and other countries worldwide and continues to be a powerful voice in the LGBTQ equality movement. MCC's ministry reaches over 43,000 members in over 250 churches in 22 countries worldwide.

Metropolitan Community Churches are on a bold mission to transform hearts, lives, and history. We are a movement that faithfully proclaims God's inclusive love for all people and proudly bears witness to the holy integration of spirituality and sexuality. Because of our faith we are called to: do justice, show kindness, and live humbly with God (Micah 6:8); explore life's questions with open hearts and minds; raise our voices in sacred defiance against exclusion, whether religious, political or systemic; reach out to those with no hope; equip new generations of remarkable, far-reaching spiritual activists.

The **MISSION** of Resurrection MCC is to demonstrate God's unconditional love to all people through Christian action.

The **VISION** of Resurrection MCC is to **ATTRACT** people into a relationship with God through radical **INCLUSION** into God's family, transform them to Christ-like **MATURITY**, and **MOBILIZE** them for their life purpose.

At Resurrection MCC, every member and friend is a minister of the church. We envision a Christian community that values diversity and is as diverse and all-encompassing as creation. Through salvation, service, study, and tithing, each member and friend will live and grow in faith and be spiritually fed. We embrace four core values:

Core Values

Inclusion

Love is our greatest moral value and resisting exclusion is a primary focus of our ministry. We want to continue to be the conduits of a faith where everyone is included in the family of God, and where all parts of our being are welcomed at God's table.

Community

Offering a safe and open community for people to worship, learn and grow in their faith is our deep desire. We are committed to equipping ourselves and each other to do the work that God has called us to do in the world.

Spiritual Transformation

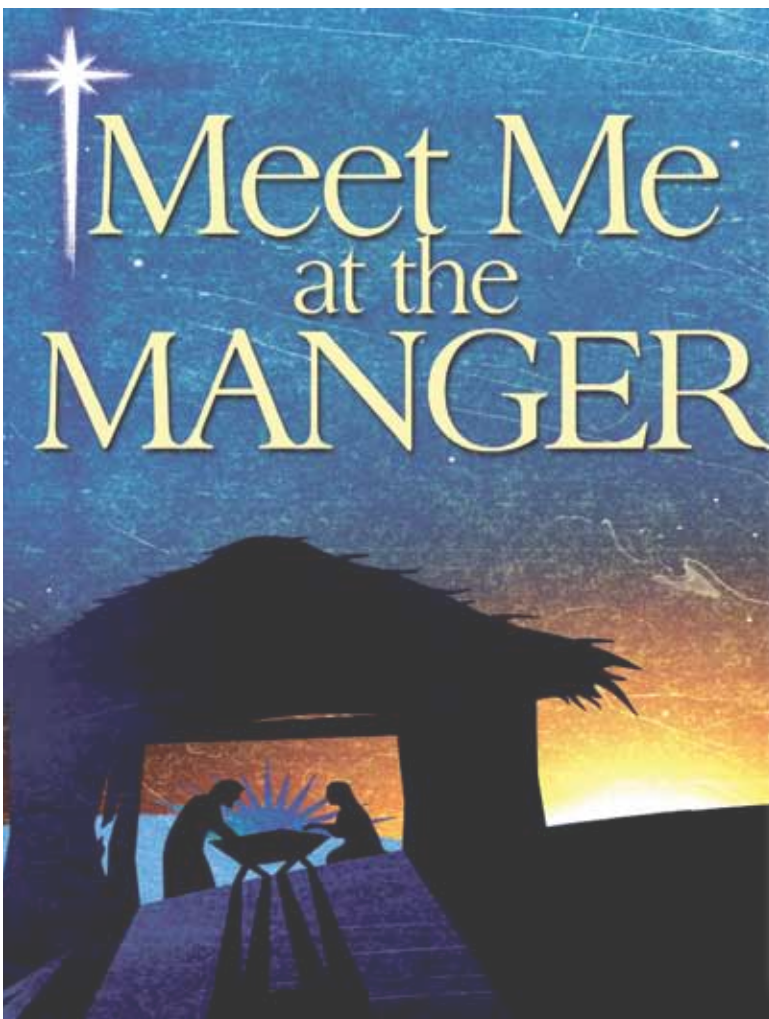
Providing a message of liberation from the oppressive religious environment of our day or to those experiencing God for the first time is what guides our ministry. We believe that when people are invited to experience God through the life and ministry of Christ, lives will be transformed.

Social Action

Working to talk less and do more, we are committed to resisting the structures that oppress people and standing with to those who suffer under the weight of oppressive systems, being guided always by our commitment to Global Human Rights.

Experience this Season's Gifts!

Christmas Day
11 am - Worship Service



At Resurrection MCC we celebrate the gift of God's love every day, all year long.

We celebrate God's love with special joy at Christmas, blessed that long ago God put each of us "at the top of the list" and gave the most wonderful gift to us all - Jesus Christ. Each Christmas, as we gather at the manger to receive the gift of Jesus Christ anew, we come grateful. And this time, we come bringing our gifts too . . .

You're invited to join us . . . Meet Me at the Manger!

It's beautifully simple: This Christmas, as you open your hearts and make a list of your family and friends and the gifts you hope to give this Christmas, give thanks for the blessing of your loved ones and for God's provision which makes it possible for you to have gifts to bring them.

And then put Jesus on the top of the list.

In the candlelit beauty of Christmas Eve, many of us will make a special gift to the ministry of Resurrection MCC in celebration of our relationship with Jesus and his life among us. We will make an offering (beyond our regular giving) in the amount of one dollar more than the cost of the most expensive gift we have on our list. We will place it in a small gift box, and place it in a basket near the altar on Christmas Eve. For some of us, this is a way of honoring what we value most this season; for others, it's a way to say "Thank you!" or "I love you!" to God. For many of us, it is a spiritual practice, like prayer or fasting. For all of us, it is a joy and a blessing.

We hope you will join us . . . Meet Me at the Manger!

Empty gift boxes are available at all of the Sanctuary entrances.

TRANSITIONS IN THE WORSHIP ARTS DEPARTMENT



Please join me in celebrating the long tenure of ministry we have shared with Anthony White, the Accompanist for the Gospel Ensemble. Anthony has served faithfully in that role since 1998 and all of us have been blessed by his offering of his joyful and spirit-filled musical gifts. Along with the Gospel Ensemble, he has played with the HeavenSound Handbells, lifted his

voice in song with the Sanctuary Choir, and participated in multiple concerts and musicals. Anthony is grateful for the opportunity to have worked with such talented people but is in need of rest and renewal.



An up and coming artist in our midst is Christy Irvin. She has been an active participant in the Gospel Ensemble and our Praise and Worship Band and is excited to become the Accompanist for the Gospel Ensemble. Christy was raised in Needville and began playing the piano at age 5. She graduated from the University of Houston with a BS in Education and a background in

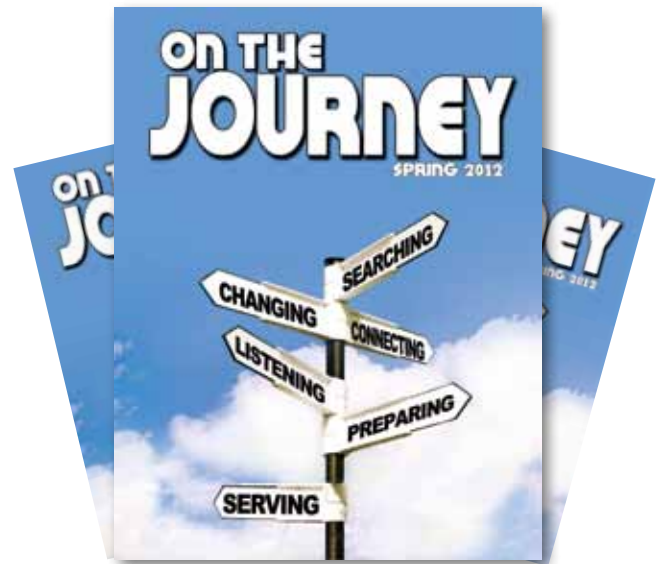
music instruction. Christy led praise and worship at First Baptist Needville, has held various positions as a church pianist, and was a vocal lead for the contemporary Christian band *Focus on Him*.



We are also very excited about adding Reed Hoke to our music team as the Director for the Sanctuary Choir! Born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Reed has a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and a Masters of Education: Curriculum and Instruction: Creative Arts in Learning. He is proud to have sung in and been on the musical leadership team

for GALA choruses in Indianapolis, Dallas, Denver, and Houston. Music education in the public schools has kept Reed busy and employed for 16 years; he currently teaches elementary music in Houston ISD. Reed and his partner, Joseph, live in their dream house in Spring Branch with their dogs, Mija, and Diego, and sometimes Joseph's mom, Olga. We anticipate a fresh movement of excellence and expectation in 2012 as he brings his passion and gifting for choral music and community service to our Sanctuary Choir.

Be sure to catch up with Anthony and let him know how his ministry has blessed your life and extend a big welcome to our newest music ministers, Christy Irvin and Reed Hoke!



Available
TODAY
at All Sanctuary Entrances



KWANZAA

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 28

7 PM | SANCTUARY

Kwanzaa is an African-American celebration with focus on the traditional African values of family, community responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement. Kwanzaa is a cultural celebration and not a political statement. Despite some misconceptions, it is not a substitute for Christmas. It is simply a time of reaffirming African-American people, their ancestors and culture. The word Kwanzaa, means "first fruits of the harvest" in the African language Kiswahili.

Facebook.com/ResurrectionMCC
Kwanzaa@ResurrectionMCC.org



NEW YEARS DAY WORSHIP

SUNDAY

JANUARY 1

11 AM

SANCTUARY

Join us for this special worship service as we look forward to 2012 and give thanks for the many blessings we have received from God.



Un-Deck the HALLS

Christmas Clean-Up

SUNDAY

JANUARY 1

12:30 - 4:30 PM

SANCTUARY

Join us for lunch, fellowship, and fun as we put away our Christmas decorations and prepare the Sanctuary for the next season, Epiphany.

RSVP on Facebook.com/ResurrectionMCC so that there will be plenty of food available for all who want to come out and help. Eli'jah@ResurrectionMCC.org



EXPLORING YOUR SPIRITUAL LOCATION

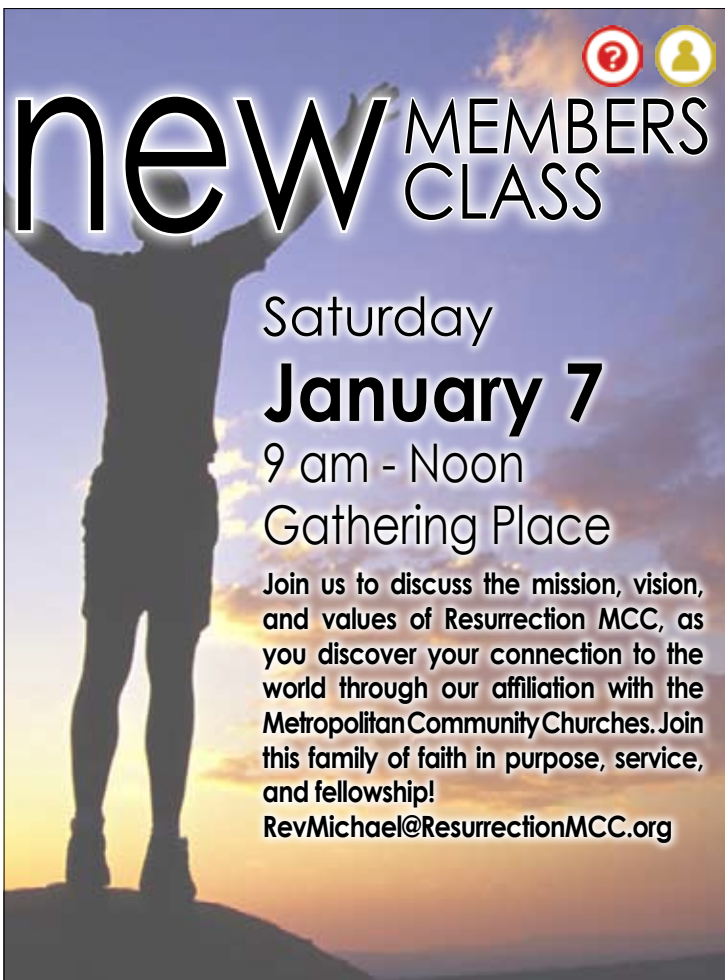
WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 4, 11, 18, 25

7 - 8:30 PM | GATHERING PLACE

Asking yourself "Where am I, in this moment, in my spiritual life?" is the beginning of a journey that asks you to pay attention to what your inner world is telling you, what your body is trying to say, and what your spirit longs to speak. During this 4-week course, we will be guided in the practice of paying attention to ourselves in these ways. As we explore our spiritual location at this moment in our lives through reflective activities and interactive exercises, we will deepen our personal awareness and connection to others on the spiritual journey.

RevKristen@ResurrectionMCC.org



new MEMBERS CLASS

Saturday

January 7

9 am - Noon

Gathering Place

Join us to discuss the mission, vision, and values of Resurrection MCC, as you discover your connection to the world through our affiliation with the Metropolitan Community Churches. Join this family of faith in purpose, service, and fellowship!

RevMichael@ResurrectionMCC.org

The Pastoral Search Committee's Congregational Covenant and Prayer

have been printed on a handy card that is available at all Sanctuary entrances. Please pick one up and keep it as a reminder of your pledge to support and pray for the committee. Specific questions about the search process can be sent to

PSC@ResurrectionMCC.org

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR T-SHIRTS \$15

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

THY HOMELESS NEIGHBOR
 THY JEWISH NEIGHBOR
 THY BLACK NEIGHBOR

THY GAY NEIGHBOR
 THY UNDOCUMENTED NEIGHBOR
 THY WHITE NEIGHBOR

THY TRANSGENDER NEIGHBOR
 THY CHRISTIAN NEIGHBOR
 THY HIV+ NEIGHBOR

THY RACIST NEIGHBOR
 THY ADDICTED NEIGHBOR
 THY ATHEIST NEIGHBOR

THY IMPRISONED NEIGHBOR
 THY DISABLED NEIGHBOR
 THY MUSLIM NEIGHBOR

WWW.RESURRECTIONMCC.ORG

AVAILABLE TODAY
 IN INSPIRATIONS
 COFFEE CAFÉ & BOOK STORE.

\$20 NEW LOVE THY NEIGHBOR SHIRTS.
 BLACK, LONG-SLEEVE T-SHIRT, CREW NECK.

¡DOMINGOS!
SERVICIO RELIGIOSO SE INTERPRETA EN ESPAÑOL
A LAS 11 AM.
 Sunday Worship now interpreted into Spanish at 11 am.

Advertise with us.
 As low as \$25 / week.
Ads@ResurrectionMCC.org

WELLNESS CENTER

2025 W. 11th Street
 LGBTQ Solutions for Living Well

Individual, family, and couples therapy available. Request MCC Rates.



Tammy S. Fountain, LPC, ATR-BC
 832-863-8221

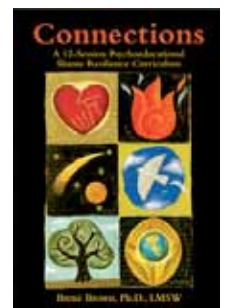
Children, Adolescents & Adults.
 Depression, Anxiety, Perfectionism,
 Trauma, Addiction, Codependency,
 Relationships.

There is hope for change, empowerment and living authentically!

Connections:
 A 12-Session Psychoeducational
 Shame-Resilience Curriculum

Call Tammy at 832-863-8221 for more information

Course developed by Brene Brown, PhD, LMSW, researcher, educator & writer. Learn to identify and overcome shame through exercises, handouts and lecture.



Beginning in August Grief & Loss Recovery Group

Wednesday nights, 5:30-6:50pm, 14 consecutive weeks
 Grieving is a natural process and the result of losing a loved one, pet, physical or mental ability, job, relationship, or aspirations. This group teaches about the stages of grieving, and allows then to transform emotionally, behaviorally & spiritually. Participants are encouraged to accept their loss, understand their process and develop skills practice throughout their lifespan.

Space is limited, MCC rate available

This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

SUNDAY **DECEMBER 25**

10:45 am Youth Ministries Program *Activities Building*
 11:00 am **Sunday Worship** *Sanctuary*

MONDAY **OFFICE CLOSED** **DECEMBER 26**

No Events Scheduled

TUESDAY **DECEMBER 27**

7:00 pm Yoga Connections *Activities Building*

WEDNESDAY **DECEMBER 28**

7:00 pm Kwanzaa *Sanctuary*

THURSDAY **DECEMBER 29**

6:00 pm Praise & Worship Rehearsal *Sanctuary*

FRIDAY **OFFICE CLOSED** **DECEMBER 30**

No Events Scheduled

SATURDAY **OFFICE CLOSED** **DECEMBER 31**

No Events Scheduled

SUNDAY **JANUARY 1**

10:45 am Youth Ministries Program *Activities Building*
 11:00 am **Sunday Worship** *Sanctuary*
 12:30 pm Un-Deck the Halls *Sanctuary*
 12:30 pm HeavenSound Handbells *Music Room*