

Shepherds

Trey Dreher

Jacob Evers

Brandon Jolley-Samples

Jordan Marshall

Timia Richardson

Will Niven

Charlie Sportell

Mary

Diona Evers

Joseph

Dylan Evers

Angel

Shaval Long

Sheep

Ava Adams-Marsh

Olivia Adams-Marsh

Gavin Berrospe

Alexxis Fleming-Hiller

Hailey Fleming-Hiller

Samuel Fountain

Cooper Ladd

Kennedy Ladd

Nicholas McMasters Czarnick

Malaki Robinson



Welcome / Bienvenida

Rev. Janice Ladd

+ **Welcome Song / Canción de Bienvenida**

+ **Exchange of Peace / Saludo de Paz**

Rev. Janice Ladd

+ **Welcome Song Reprise**

+ **Opening 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!

Gifts for the Musical: Christ Candle

Joy Jolley

Children's Musical / Musical de los niños

Children's Choir

Shepherd, Sheep, and a Savior

On a hill just outside of Bethlehem, shepherds were tending their sheep at night. They didn't get much company out in the fields. People had been passing through for several days, on their way to Bethlehem as the census was underway, but they hardly spoke at all as they walked by. Nobody really wanted to talk to the shepherds. That is, nobody except an angel! They may have been at the bottom of the social ladder in Bethlehem, but God chose shepherds to be the first ones to see the Savior! This is their story - what they heard and what they saw on that marvelous night when God came to dwell with us.

We Offer Ourselves / Ofrenda

Dr. Jackie Marshall
Claire Sebesta

Offertory / Ofertorio

Christy Irvin

Communion / Comunion

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

Communion Songs / Cantos de Comunion

**Draw me Close to You
Shout to the lord**

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

Rev. Kristen Klein-Cechettini

+ **Benediction / Bendición**

Rev. Janice Ladd

+ **Benediction Response / Bendición de respuesta**

Go Tell it on the Mountain

+ Please rise in body or spirit.

Executive Team

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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

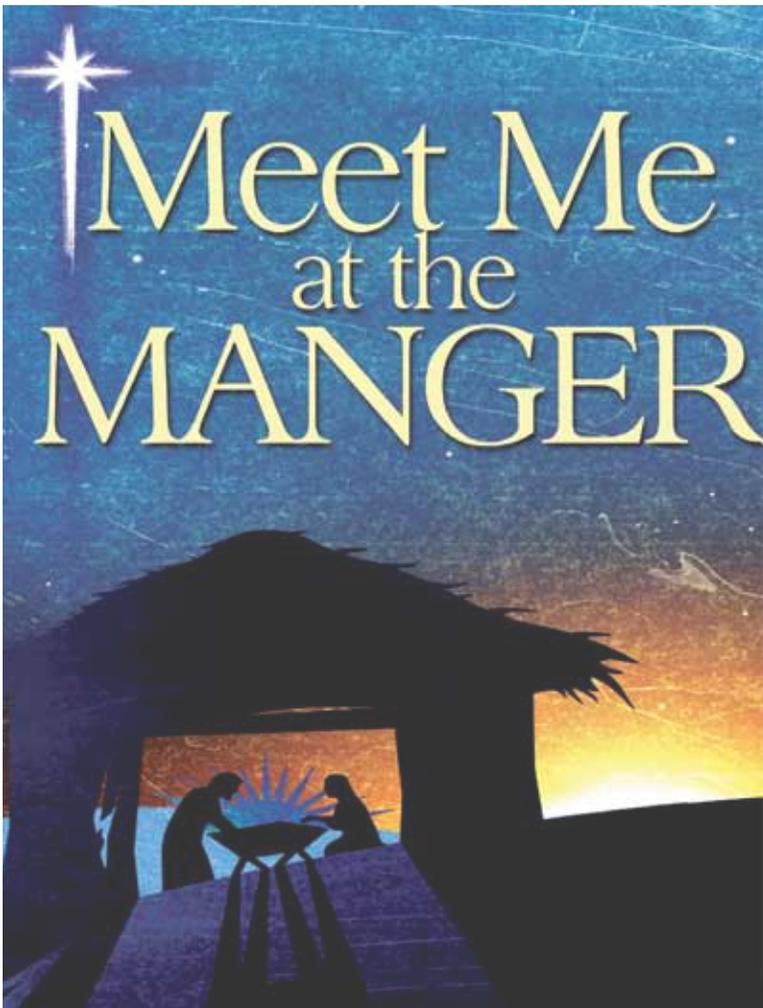
Providing a message of liberation from the oppressive religious environment of our day or to those experiencing God for the first time is what guides our ministry. We believe that when people are invited to experience God through the life and ministry of Christ, lives will be transformed.

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



Meet Me at the MANGER

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

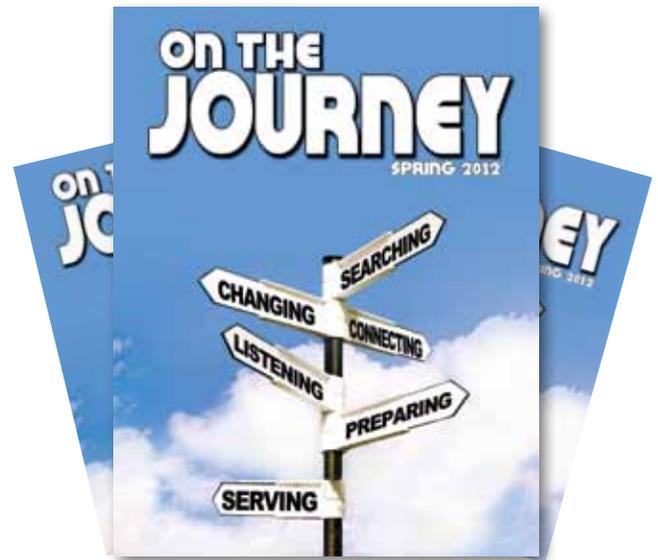
music instruction. Christy led praise and worship at First Baptist Needville, has held various positions as a church pianist, and was a vocal lead for the contemporary Christian band *Focus on Him*.



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

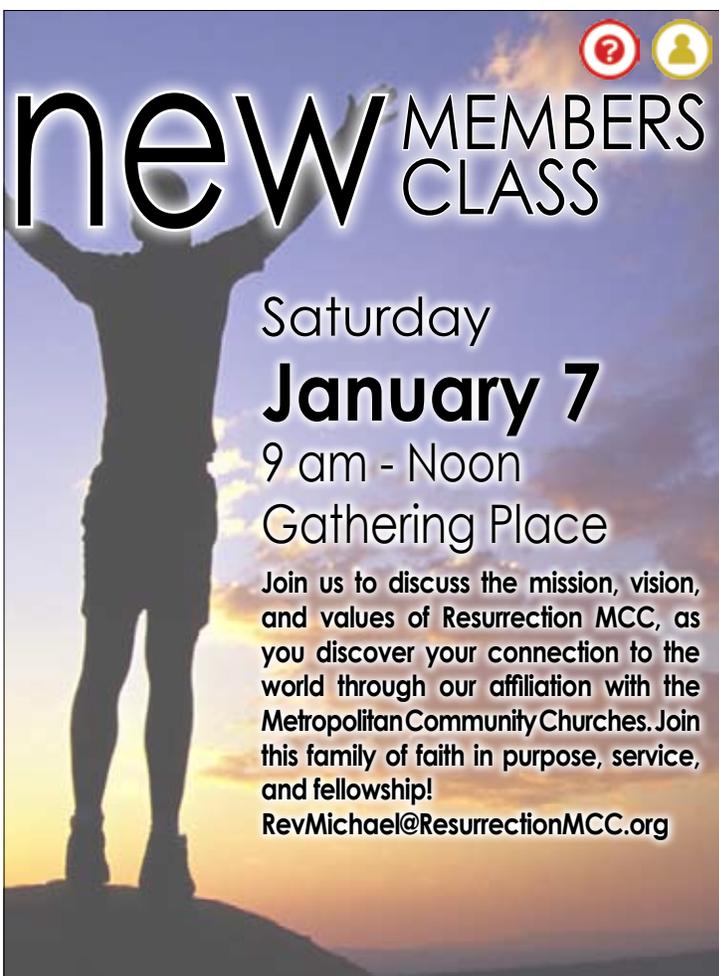
WEDNESDAY

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



VISUAL PRAYERS AFFIRMING YOUR LIFE IN 2012

SATURDAY | JANUARY 7
NOON - 6 PM | ACTIVITIES BUILDING

"A whole year of days opens before us – as yet unknown, unspoken, unseen. What joy awaits ...?" As we open into this New Year, you are invited to affirm great joy in the promise God holds for your life with the creation of Visual Prayers! By participating in a simple magazine collage process designed for young and old, artists and those decidedly creativity-resistant alike! We will vision a year of goodness and healing for our individual lives and the world we share. This is an open-ended activity, so join us anytime for an afternoon of prayerful and creative community-making in the New Year! Please bring a magazine or two and scissors. Gluesticks, poster-board, additional magazines, and light refreshments will be provided.
RevKristen@ResurrectionMCC.org



BINGO NIGHT AT BIG TEX BINGO

Friday
JANUARY 6
7:30 PM

BIG TEX BINGO
13030 VETERANS MEMORIAL DR, HOUSTON, 77014

Bring your friends and family and join Resurrection for a night of fun! Over \$5,000 is given away nightly (bingo prizes and pull tabs). Big Tex offers a full service snack bar, daily food specials, beer, margaritas and more.

Resurrection MCC and Pride Charities are two of the organizations who share in the profits from Big Tex Bingo, www.BigTexBingo.com 281-586-0700.

FOOD PANTRY

Open by Appointment:
713-861-9149 x103

Nonperishables Needed:

Canned Meats, Vegetables,
Fruit, Juice, Soup, Pasta,
Rice, Beans



Please place donations in the shopping cart located in the Welcome Area.

Board Member on Duty

Kecia Bullock and Edwin Kelly

Board Minutes Available Upon Request.

YOGA CONNECTIONS
Every Tuesday
7 - 8:30 pm | Activities Building

Please bring a mat and towel. Everyone is welcome to join us for these free sessions.

RSVP at [Facebook.com/ResurrectionMCC](https://www.facebook.com/ResurrectionMCC) or for more info email Yoga@ResurrectionMCC.org

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Consider donating flowers in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special day. Email the date and message to Sara@ResurrectionMCC.org or call 713-861-9149 x112.

Financial Report

For YTD Ended December 18, 2011

Tithes & Offerings & Capital Giving	Week Ended	YTD Total	YTD Average Attendance	YTD Average Per Person
Amount Needed	\$19,884.42	\$1,004,163.37	607	\$32.76
Amount Received	\$9,721.90	\$870,648.97	528	\$32.31
Budget Variance		(\$133,514.40)		

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

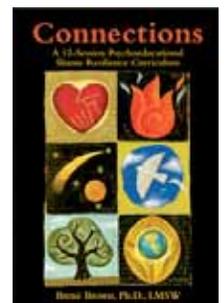
Children, Adolescents & Adults.
 Depression, Anxiety, Perfectionism,
 Trauma, Addiction, Codependency,
 Relationships.

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	<i>Activities Building</i>
11:00 am	Sunday Worship	<i>Sanctuary</i>
MONDAY		DECEMBER 26
OFFICE CLOSED		
No Events Scheduled		
TUESDAY		DECEMBER 27
7:00 pm	Yoga Connections	<i>Activities Building</i>
WEDNESDAY		DECEMBER 28
7:00 pm	Kwanzaa	<i>Sanctuary</i>
THURSDAY		DECEMBER 29
6:00 pm	Praise & Worship Rehearsal	<i>Sanctuary</i>
FRIDAY		DECEMBER 30
OFFICE CLOSED		
No Events Scheduled		
SATURDAY		DECEMBER 31
OFFICE CLOSED		
No Events Scheduled		
SUNDAY		JANUARY 1
10:45 am	Youth Ministries Program	<i>Activities Building</i>
11:00 am	Sunday Worship	<i>Sanctuary</i>
12:30 pm	Un-Deck the Halls	<i>Sanctuary</i>
12:30 pm	HeavenSound Handbells	<i>Music Room</i>