Resurrection
Metropolitan Community Church

December 4, 2016

+ **Opening Song / Canción de Apertura**

Your Grace Is Enough

Great is Your faithfulness, oh God, You wrestle with your children's heart
You lead us by still waters into mercy, And nothing can keep us apart

So remember Your people, Remember Your children
Remember Your promise, oh God

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me

Great is Your love and justice, God
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of Your salvation
And all Your people sing along

So remember Your people, Remember Your children
Remember Your promise, oh God

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me

So remember Your people, Remember Your children
Remember Your promise, oh God

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me

Yeah, Your grace is enough, Heaven reaching down to us
Your grace is enough for me

God, I sing Your grace is enough, I'm covered in Your love
Your grace is enough for me, for me

by Matt Maher
© 2003 spiritandsong.com and Thankyou Music, CCLI# 4477026

Our Community Gathers / Nuestra Communidad Se Reúne — Rev. Troy Treash

Announcements / Anuncios — Angela Whorton

+ **Exchange of Peace / Saludo de la Paz** — Rev. Troy Treash

+ You are invited to rise in body or spirit. / De pie por favor.

Wonder: Advent Series

Often this season we may wander without intention or even wonder about life's direction, but this focus is on wonder as connection to love and life and awe of the holy. Advent is the season where the holy interrupts the world, where God cries out "enough" and does a new thing in Jesus for the same old reason—removal of any sense of separation between us and God's love. Our world needs the interruption. God cries out "enough" over and over again coaxing us back into wonder, back into the way of kin-dom come.

Un…Time…Ly
Nov 27

Un…Expect…Ed
Dec 4

Un…Predict…Able
Dec 11

Un…Believe…Able
Dec 18

Un…Comfort…Able
Dec 24

Un…Recognize…Able
Dec 25

Gathering Song / Canción de Reunión

Star Child

Star-Child, earth Child, go-between of God,
Love Child, Christ Child, heavens lightening rod,
This year, this year, Let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for everyone, Everyone alive!

Spared child, spoiled child having, wanting more,
Wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store,
This year, this year, Let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for everyone, Everyone alive!

by Colin Gibson and Shirley Erena Murray
© 1994 Words: Hope Publishing Company and Music: 1996 Colin Gibson, CCLI# 5102187

Contemporary Word / Lectura Contemporanea Jacqui Jones

Children's Blessing / La Bendición de los Niños (11 am) John Taylor

Special Music / Música Especial LaDy Gentry

Mary's Prayer
Words and Music by Mark C. Brown

+ **Scripture Lesson / Lectura Bíblica** Gary Chamness

Matthew 3: 1 - 12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kindom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of Our God, make straight the paths of God!" '

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to John. They confessed their sins and were baptized by John in the river Jordan.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, John said, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Sarah and Abraham as our ancestors"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to

raise up children to Sarah and Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you on water if you have a change of heart, but the One who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not fit to carry the sandals of the Coming One! That One will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork will clear his threshing-floor. The grain will gathered into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'.

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Anthem / Selección Musical — Gospel Ensemble

I Speak Life Words
Music by Donald Lawrence

Sermon / Sermón — Rev. Troy Treash

Wonder: Un...Expect..ed

Sermon Response / Respuesta del Sermón — Mark C. Brown

We Offer Ourselves / Nos Ofrecemos — Debbie Maurelli

Invitation to Give / Invitación Para Dar — Angela Whorton

Offertory / Ofertorio — Gospel Ensemble

Agnus Dei
Composer Unknown

Communion

As we gather, break bread, and tell stories of hope through prayer, song and ritual in the practice we call "communion," we bear witness that "Life is stronger than death. People can change with God's help. And God is worthy of our thanks and praise." All are welcome at the table: you do not need to be a member of this or any church to gather as God's children at the table of Life.

A brief blessing is offered with bread and unfermented juice, available to all. Gluten-free bread is offered at the far right; Spanish blessing offered at the far left.

Please honor this time of sacred community with singing, quiet meditation or prayer that we might each receive the spiritual nourishment we seek ...

Comunión

Al reunirnos, partir el pan, y contar historias de esperanza a través de la oración, el canto y el ritual en la práctica que llamamos "comunión", damos testimonio de que "la vida es más fuerte que la muerte. Las personas pueden cambiar con la ayuda de Dios. Y Dios es digno de nuestro agradecimiento y alabanza. "Todos están invitados a la mesa: no es necesario ser miembro de esta iglesia o cualquier reunir como hijos de Dios en la mesa de la Vida.

Una breve bendición se ofrece con el pan y el jugo, al alcance de todos. Pan sin gluten se ofrece en el extremo derecho; bendición españoles ofrecen en el extremo izquierdo.

Por favor respetar este tiempo de comunidad sagrada con canto, la meditación o la oración silenciosa para que podamos recibir cada uno el alimento espiritual que buscamos.

Prayer of Receiving / Oración de Recepcíon Angela Whorton

Communion / Comunión Rev. Vickey Gibbs

Communion Songs / Cantos de Comunión

Just As I Am
by William Batchelder Bradbury, Daniel Doss, and Charlotte Elliott

What a Friend We Have in Jesus
by Charles Crozat Converse and Joseph Medlicott Scriven

Pass Me Not
by Fanny Jane Crosby and William Howard Doane

Prayer of Thanksgiving / Acción de Gracias Rev. Vickey Gibbs

+ **Closing Song / Canto de Salida**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O Come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Child of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, O Adonai,
Who came to all on Sinai high
And from it's peak a single law
Proclaimed in majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

by Henry Sloane Coffin, Thomas Helmore, and John Mason Neale
Public Domain, CCLI# 31982

+ **Benediction / Bendición** Rev. Troy Treash

+ **Postlude / Postludio** Joel Hammett

Executive Team

Rev. Troy Treash
Senior Pastor
RevTroy@ResurrectionMCC.org (x101)

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Professional Stipend & Volunteers

Georgette L. Monaghan
Usher Coordinator

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Organist & Accompanist

Christy Irvin
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John Taylor
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Cassandra White
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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 - 19 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.

> Our **MISSION** is to demonstrate God's unconditional love to all people through Christ-like action.
>
> Our **VISION** is to boldly experience, engage, and embody our faith to transform ourselves and the world into the full expression of Christ's inclusive love.

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. Inclusion is a primary focus of our ministry. We believe that all people, as they are and where they are, should be welcomed at God's table.

Community

Our deep desire is to offer a safe and open community for people to worship, learn, share, and grow in their faith. 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

A message of liberation guides our ministry. We believe that when people are invited to experience God through the life and ministry of Christ, lives are transformed.

Justice

We are committed to uplifting all people and standing with those who suffer under the weight of oppressive systems. We are guided by our commitment to global human rights.

WONDER DEVOTIONALS

November 27 - December 25

Christmas is the story of wonder. Yes, it is the story of what happened on a bright, starlit night some two thousand years ago in the village of Bethlehem, but it is also the story of what is happening right now, right where you are. Without Christmas we could never fully know the wonder of God's love. The wonder of Christmas is that God loved us more than we could imagine and came to live among us so that we could experience God with us.

Join us on our Advent journey of Wonder through the daily devotionals recorded by our members and friends that will be posted to our website.

www.ResurrectionMCC.org/wonder

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

SUNDAYS

TODAY & December 11

Welcome Area
Drop off Your Christmas Toy Donations for Children Ages 4-12

Since 2002, Dee Dee Watters & The First Amendment volunteer group have been providing Christmas toys to children in Houston's Third Ward, Fifth Ward, and neighboring low-income apartments. Please consider bringing a new, unwrapped toy suitable for children ages 4-12 and place it on the counter in the Welcome Area. Your generosity will be a blessing for many children this Christmas!

ST. HOPE FOUNDATION
"Your Patient Centered Health Care Home"

HIV / STD TESTING

BY THE ST. HOPE FOUNDATION

FIRST SUNDAYS

TODAY

10 am - 1 pm • Gathering Place

Free testing for HIV, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and Syphillis (results in 2 weeks), as well as Hepatitis C (results in 15 minutes). Knowing your HIV and STD status is the best way for you to stay healthy and avoid spreading sexually transmitted illnesses. Get tested and take control.

www.offeringhope.org

Christmas Celebration with our Neighbors

With your support, we can provide a reusable insulated bag with all the ingredients necessary for our neighbors to prepare a delicious Christmas meal for their families. Pride Charities is coordinating this effort again this year. Our goal is to collect enough donations of food and cash to assemble 150 bags and there are several ways you can share your love with our neighbors in need:

DONATE FOOD AND CASH

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 4 & 11

Gathering Place

1 can of corn, 1 can of mixed vegetables, 1 29 oz. can of sweet potatoes, 1 lb. bag of rice, 1 lb. bag of pinto beans, 1 box of mashed potatoes, 1 box of macaroni and cheese, 1 can of frosting, 2 packets of gravy mix, and a $25 gift card to Kroger, Walmart, or HEB.

Make a financial donation so that we may purchase items that are not donated. Make checks payable to Pride Charities," write "Christmas Bags" in the memo line, and place in offering plate. You may also donate online at www.pride-charities.com. Please type "Christmas Bags" in the notes field when paying by credit or debit card.

ASSEMBLE BAGS

SATURDAY, DEC 17

9 - 11 am • Activities Building

Create an assembly line to pack each of the food items into insulated bags in preparation for distribution.

CELEBRATION & BAG DISTRIBUTION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

12:30 - 3 pm • Activities Building

Pride Charities and Resurrection MCC join together to celebrate the season with our neighbors. Join us as we distribute Christmas Bags, have holiday snacks, sing, and maybe have a visit from someone familiar!

HOUSTON FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERING

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 8

6 - 9 pm • Portwall Warehouse

535 Portwall St, Houston 77029

Join us in the fight against hunger as we volunteer for the Carousel and re-pack project at the Houston Food bank. We will assist other volunteers in processing over 60,000 pounds of food that will go out to our hungry neighbors. Wear a Resurrection MCC "Got Love / Love Thy Neighbor" shirt if you have one. Registration is requested at www.ResurrectionMCC.org/food-bank

Mark@ResurrectionMCC.org

CAMPUS CARE TEAM MEETING

MONDAY

DECEMBER 12

6:15 - 7:30 pm • Workroom

RESURRECTION NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We are looking for persons interested in stepping up during this Operations transition time. The Campus Care Team is responsible for assessing the ever-changing conditions on our campus and grounds. We meet monthly to plan and execute much needed maintenance projects in and around our church home. Other opportunities in this ministry are hosting Friends By The Fire, Spirit Walks, and Campus Care Days. All are welcome to attend this meeting and see if this ministry is a fit for your Spirit! Dinner served at 6:15 pm

www.ResurrectionMCC.org/campus-care-mtg
Shiv@ResurrectionMCC.org

VIGIL FOR GUN VIOLENCE VICTIMS

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 14

11 am - 1 pm • Chapel

Prayer Vigil and Reading of the Names of those lost to gun violence.

RevVickey@ResurrectionMCC.org

FRIDAY • 7 - 9 pm

DECEMBER 9

Terry Briggs's Residence
5804 Lynbrook Dr, Building M
Houston 77057

Please bring an unwrapped toy for our annual Christmas Toy Drive. We hope you will join us for this special Friday evening at a member's home, which will be filled with food, fun, and friends. To help ensure that we have adequate food and seating, we ask that you please RSVP and let us know if you will be attending. As always, friends, family, and children are welcome!

FridayNightOUT@ResurrectionMCC.org

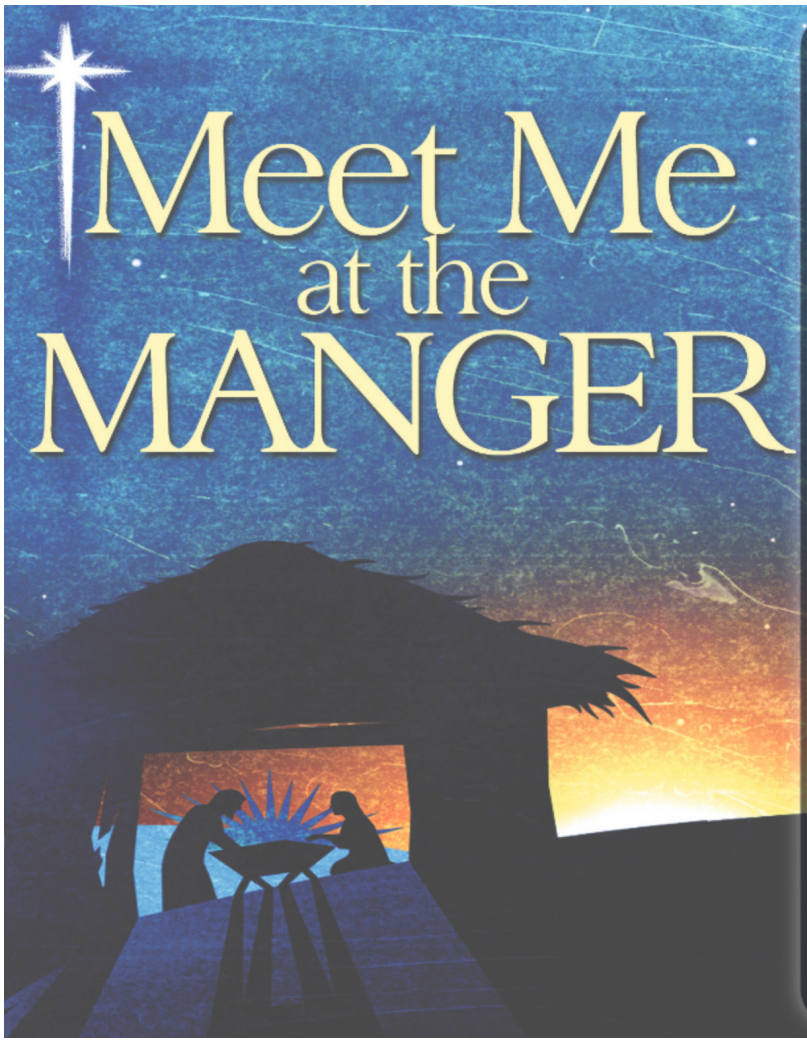
SATURDAY

DECEMBER 17

9 am - 1 pm • Gathering Place

During All Church Workdays, we get together to love on, clean up, organize, and maintain our church. This day we would like to clean storage area, power wash outside ceiling, and paint parking lines. Join us at 9 am in the Welcome Area to choose an indoor or outdoor project. Lunch and laughs will be held in the Gathering Place from Noon - 1 pm.

Shiv@ResurrectionMCC.org



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 the 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.

Santa's Playhouse

SUNDAY

DECEMBER 18

11 am - 1:30 pm • Activities Building

Come meet Santa, have your picture taken, and enjoy some wassail and gingerbread with our Children and Youth Ministry.

RevVickey@ResurrectionMCC.org

KWANZAA

WEDNESDAY

DECEMBER 28

7 - 9 pm • Gathering Place

Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration held in the United States and in other nations of the Western African diaspora in the Americas. The celebration honors African heritage in African-American culture, and is observed from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a feast and gift-giving. Kwanzaa has seven core principles (Nguzo Saba). It was created by Maulana Karenga and was first celebrated in 1966–67. Join us for our celebration.

RevVickey@ResurrectionMCC.org

OWLS

OLDER • WISER • LEADERS • SERVING

SOCIAL

3rd Wednesdays

DECEMBER 21

11:30 am - 1:30 pm • Gathering Place

Join in the fun, food and fellowship of our Older Wiser Leaders Serving (OWLS). Bring your favorite covered dish and join us for games, crafts, informative lectures, fellowship and just plain fun.

OlderAdults@ResurrectionMCC.org or
RevVickey@ResurrectionMCC.org

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR T-SHIRTS

Short Sleeve Cotton - $15
Short Sleeve Dri-FIT - $17
Long Sleeve Cotton - $18

AVAILABLE TODAY
IN INSPIRATIONS
COFFEE CAFÉ & BOOK STORE.

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP

SUNDAY

JANUARY 1

11 am • Sanctuary

As we transition between years, we make our first act of the new year to worship in community together at 11 am. It is always good to begin with worship. Whatever your resolutions imagined or made, start together in celebration and praise.

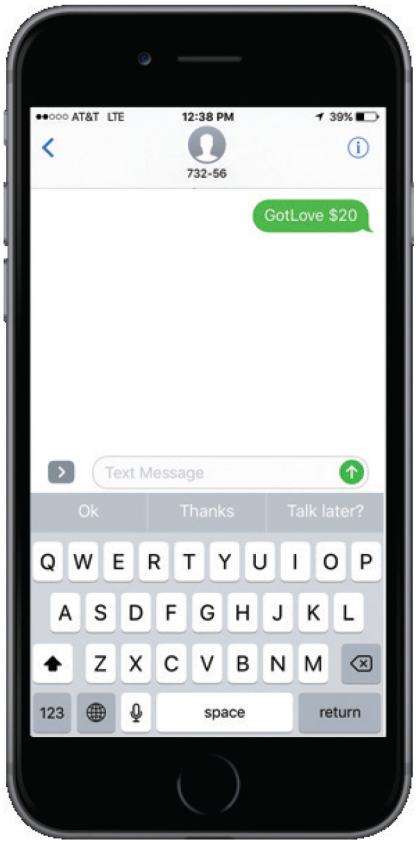
TEXT GIVING

73256

GOTLOVE

+

AMOUNT



IN.formation is a peer led support group focused on creating a gender inclusive community for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, spouses and partners.

Support Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Monday
from 7:00 to 8:30 pm
7:00 pm to 7:45 pm Transgender/GNC Support
7:00 pm to 7:45 pm Spouses and Partners Support
7:45 pm to 8:30 pm Both groups meet together

Celebrating Your Birthday!

We would like to send you birthday greetings on your special day so please take a moment to complete your profile in ACS so that we are able to celebrate your birthday with you. It is easy to do. Just go to our Web site at www.ResurrectionMCC.org click on the "My Journey" logo and create or update your profile.

General Fund Giving Report — For YTD Ended November 27, 2016

	Anticipated	Actual
General Offerings	$753,614.39	$713,476.80
Fundraising	$48,340.63	$45,823.55
Events/Leases	$127,196.26	$137,341.18
Total Income	$929,151.28	$896,641.53
Variance		($32,509.75)
Attendance	**Week Ended**	**YTD Average**
Worship	344	398
Programming	153	312
Total Weekly Attendance	497	710

Ministry Plan Need is the weekly amount needed per the budget approved by the congregation to achieve our 2016 ministry plan goals and strategic growth initiatives.

This Week @ ResurrectionMCC.org

This schedule lists open offerings for which all are invited to participate. This is not a comprehensive list of all events on campus.

SUNDAY		DECEMBER 4
9:00 am	**Worship Service**	**Sanctuary**
10:00 am	HIV/STD Testing	Gathering Place
10:15 am	Coffee Talk!	Gathering Place
10:45 am	Generation Faith Xmas Party	Activities Building
11:00 am	**Worship Service**	**Sanctuary**
12:15 pm	Coffee Talk!	Gathering Place
12:30 pm	Brunch Buddies	Welcome Center
1:30 pm	Devotion in Motion	Activities Building

MONDAY		DECEMBER 5
6:30 pm	Toastmasters	Gathering Place

TUESDAY		DECEMBER 6
7:00 pm	Gospel Ensemble Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Music Room
7:00 pm	Narcotics Anonymous 12-Step Meeting	Chapel
7:00 pm	Yoga	Activities Building

WEDNESDAY		DECEMBER 7
6:30 pm	Overeaters Anonymous 12-Step Meeting	Chapel

THURSDAY		DECEMBER 8
6:00 pm	Houston Food Bank Volunteering	
7:00 pm	RMCC Positive:HIV / AIDS Support Group	Chapel

FRIDAY		DECEMBER 9
7:00 pm	Friday Night OUT - Central	

SATURDAY		DECEMBER 10
9:30 am	Overeaters Anonymous 12-Step Meeting	Chapel
11:00 am	YAASS Team Meeting	Conference Room

SUNDAY		DECEMBER 11
9:00 am	**Worship Service**	**Sanctuary**
10:15 am	Coffee Talk!	Gathering Place
10:45 am	Generation Faith Teen	Activities Building
11:00 am	**Worship Service**	**Sanctuary**
12:15 pm	Coffee Talk!	Gathering Place
12:30 pm	Brunch Buddies	Welcome Center
1:30 pm	Devotion in Motion	Activities Building

COFFEE TALK

Every Sunday
After Both Worship Services
Gathering Place

Coffee Talk is an opportunity to make friends over conversation and breakfast snacks every Sunday! We hope you will find this as a great way to meet new friends and reconnect with those you already know. Due to a change in our arrangement with a catering group, we are in need of finger foods each Sunday. Please consider bringing and sharing your favorite sweet or savory dish at Coffee Talk. Contact Shiv@ResurrectionMCC.org with questions or offerings.

NEXT WEEK: Los Cucos

BRUNCH BUDDIES

TODAY • 12:30 pm

Jax Grill

1613 Shepherd, Houston 77007
713-861-5529 • jaxgrillhouston.com

Join us at a nearby restaurant every Sunday. The restaurant name and address will be printed in this location in the bulletin each week. Whether you're a long-time congregant or a first-time visitor, consider yourself invited to become a Brunch Buddy!

Angela@ResurrectionMCC.org