



From the Minister's Mac

Blue Christmas

The season of Advent is that time of waiting and anticipating the arrival — that is what Advent means, “arrival” or “visit” — of Emmanuel, God with us. The incarnation, where divine love takes on human form, is both a joyous and deeply meaningful event. Yet, like the incarnation itself, this season is filled with complex emotions. Alongside the promise of new life and our awe over the King of Kings, we also acknowledge the frailty and struggles of being human, including grief and loss. The image of God coming to us as a vulnerable infant reminds us that our relationships with God and with each other are

woven together with joy and sorrow, and God's love and divine grace.

Even as we celebrate the birth of Christ, we are called to recognize and honor the grief carried by our brothers and sisters whose relationships have been lost through death or altered by other forms of loss or separation. For many of us, the holiday season can be a bittersweet time, where moments of joy are shadowed by feelings of grief, loneliness, or distress. These emotions may emerge suddenly or build as the holidays approach. In a culture that often pressures us to "put on a happy face," this can make the holidays a difficult time.

For this reason, many churches hold what is called a Blue Christmas or Longest Night service, some time in December. This service can be a beautiful, communal experience, where the full range of human emotions, including sorrow, are welcome. By acknowledging grief in worship, we defy the isolation that pain and loneliness can foster.

Throughout Scripture, especially in the Psalms and Lamentations, we find examples of God's people openly expressing their grief and lament in community. Psalm 130, for example, uses deeply personal "I" language but is also meant to be sung by groups of believers, reflecting both individual and communal sorrow. Similarly, the book of Lamentations blends individual pain with a collective voice, showing that our personal grief is intertwined with the experiences of the broader community. In sharing our sorrows within the safety of the worshiping community, we find strength and solidarity. Blue Christmas services offer an opportunity to lean on God's love, trusting that grace meets us in our vulnerability, guiding us toward healing and wholeness with God, ourselves, our neighbors, and creation. And hopefully, in the process of acknowledging our laments, we find solace and experience God's comforting presence.

If any of this speaks to your heart, or if you know someone you feel would benefit from being in worship with others who are there to care for them, the Rinn Blue Christmas Service is Tuesday night, 12/17 at 7:00pm. We will explore Biblical Lament and healthy ways of expressing our grief without losing our faith. Even if you are not experiencing grief this year, you might consider coming to the service to pray with and support others who are.

May God bless our caring community!

See you in church,
Lin

"Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications."

Psalm 130:1-2

A Very Special Sunday Service
December 15

This holiday season, we will be blessed to experience a musical gem from the past with the choir's presentation of the rare and unique Christmas cantata, *The Prince of Peace*. Composed in 1895 by the esteemed composer Emma Louise Ashford, this timeless piece is set to enchant audiences with its rich history and beautiful harmonies.

Despite its historical significance and past acclaim, *The Prince of Peace* has no existing recordings today, making this performance a rare treat for music lovers and history enthusiasts alike. Anneke discovered the music for it tucked away on a back shelf in a closet in the church's choral library. She says, "When I played through the score I couldn't help but be charmed by it," describing it as a "lovely little sacred operetta in a classical European style, but some elements are distinctly American."

E. L. Ashford, a child prodigy who became an internationally known classical composer of the late Romantic era, wrote between 600 and 700 works including hymns, anthems, song cycles, and hundreds of organ pieces. *The Prince of Peace* was among her early works, written in 1895 at the encouragement of Edmund S. Lorenz, who had recently founded Lorenz Publishing Company (now Lorenz Corporation). Ashford's contributions as an editor, arranger and composer played a key role in the company's success over the next 36 years. This, her first cantata, was evidently popular, as its copyright was renewed in 1923, and it was later published in a version for three parts in 1940.

This cantata has a history at Rinn, though it hasn't been performed here since 1948. When the music was handed out to the choir, several singers discovered printed bulletins inside their folios, left there from the 1948 performance—and it turns out that Helen Anderson, Scott and Shelly's grandmother, was the soprano soloist back then! Scott and Shelly will be doing homage to their grandmother when they sing their own solos this year.

Mark your calendars and be sure to make it to church on Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a living history experience and to enjoy the beautiful music of an era gone by!

If you're curious and want more information on the cantata and its composer, you can look at <https://reedorgans.wordpress.com/2016/08/31/emma-louise-ashford-1850-1930/> or https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_Louise_Ashford#cite_note-20.

PLEASE DON'T LET DOWN YOUR GUARD AGAINST THE SCAMMERS

Unfortunately, even in the Christmas season, scammers are trying to target churches and church members specifically. As we prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace, we also

need to be aware of the danger.

Jesus said, "I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." Let's follow those teachings and watch out for the online scammers. Here are some things you can do that take time and attention, but are good habits to develop to thwart the baddies:

1. Check the email addresses you are responding to. Make sure it is the one you know is correct. This might require looking it up in the directory, but might save you some headaches down the road.
 2. Don't click on links in emails unless you are 100% sure the links are legitimate.
 3. Don't send any information to ANYONE without first checking the email address and verifying that it is one you know is safe.
 4. Make sure your own online information is password protected!!!! If you have trouble remembering your passwords, write them down and keep them in a safe place. Don't use passwords like 1234 or 1111 — they are too easy to crack!
 5. Don't call phone numbers sent in emails unless you know they are legitimate. Please check the directory to make sure you are not calling one of the scammers. If you didn't get a directory, call the office and one will be printed out for you. Sorry, but we do not send out digital copies of the directory.
 6. Remember, no one from the church will send you an email asking for gift cards. That is not how we get our gift cards, so please don't respond to those email scams!
 7. Pray for the scammers and pray also that we recognize the scams when we see them.
- Our God is bigger than the biggest scam!!

Collecting for the Backpack Ministry

Justin is once again collecting items for his backpack ministry to the homeless. If you find good deals on shirts, socks, and hygiene items, please pick them up and leave them in the box in the sanctuary.

Altar Flower Sign-Up

Help keep Rinn looking beautiful! If you would like to bring flowers for the altar to honor a loved one or a special occasion or just to make the sanctuary a little bit nicer one Sunday, please sign-up on the sheet at the welcome table.

Lifeline Screening at Rinn



Rinn will once again be hosting
Lifeline Screening on **January 2, 2025**
Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in stroke and
cardiovascular disease risk screening.
Call 888-814-0466 or

Click [here](#) to learn more about it and/or sign up for a time.

~ Rinn Worship Service ~
(In-person and livestreamed on Facebook)

December 8 • 9:30 a.m.

Scripture
Mark 1:1-11

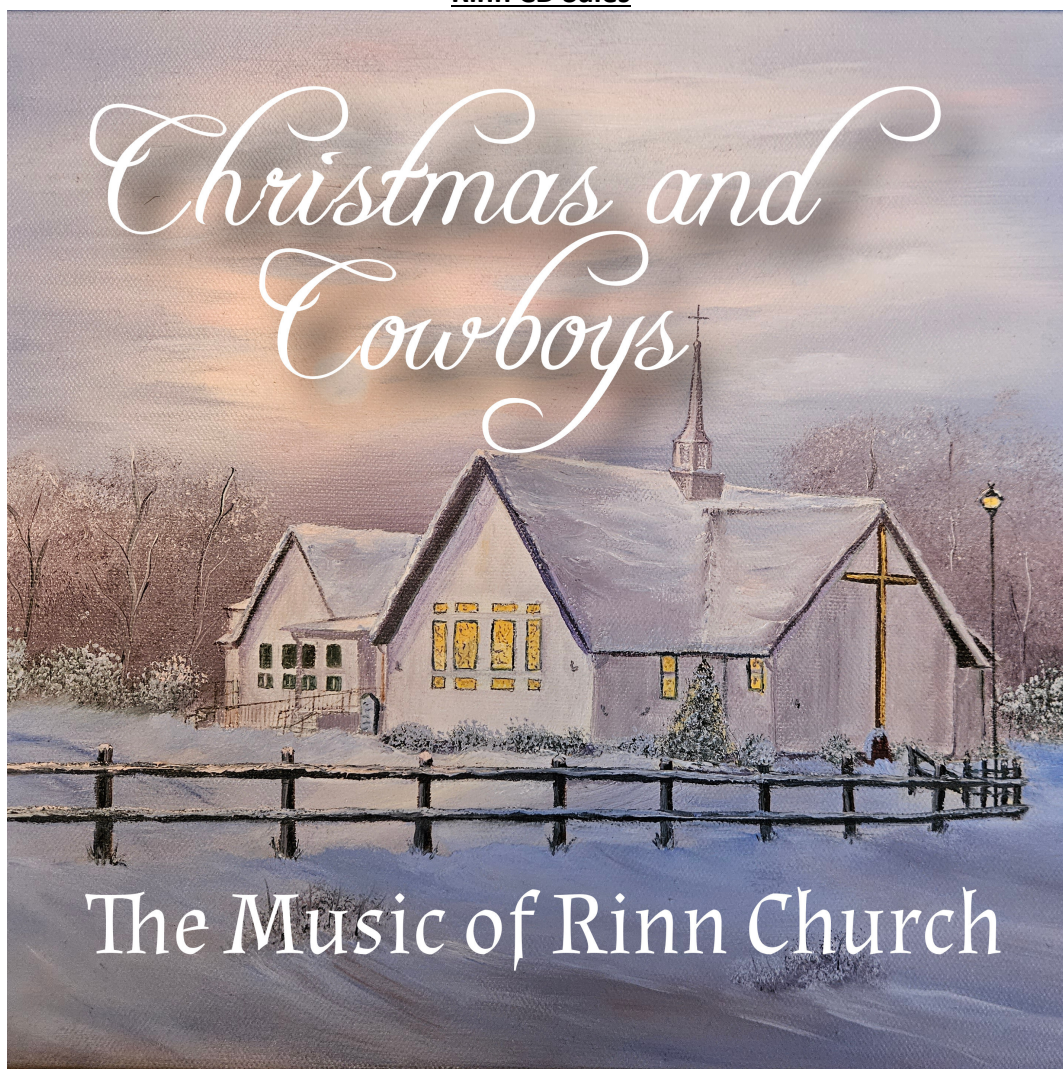
Message

"Christmas According to Mark"

Also featuring a special presentation of the Christmas cantata, *The Prince of Peace*.

Livestreamed on Facebook:
to access our Facebook page, click [HERE](#).
To follow along with the service, the Order of Worship is [HERE](#).

Rinn CD Sales



The Rinn CD, featuring the music from our church, is now on sale for \$15. Enjoy music from Scott, Shelly, Rae Ann and the choir whenever you want. CDs will be available in the front lobby after church, or talk to Wayne Vinson.

"Brunch Bunch" Bible Study

Wednesdays

Breakfast at Maggie's at 8:45 a.m.

Study at Bev Ramsey's house at 10:30 a.m.

Join us weekly for breakfast and a discussion of our faith.

Call the office for location.

Sooper's Cards for Rinn



Did you know that you can tie your King Sooper's loyalty card to Rinn UMC, and the church will get a contribution every time you use it? Please consider signing up! Every little bit helps!

Cookiepalooza! December 21 9:00 a.m.-Noon



Can't get enough Christmas cookies? Have the holiday baking fever? It's not too late! Join us in the Rinn fellowship hall and kitchen for decorating and baking some

cookies. Dough, cookie cutters, and decorations will be provided. You bring the creative energy and we will bake up some Christmas fun! Please sign up on the 'COOKIE' list in the narthex, so we know how many bakers to expect and can provide enough dough and supplies. Please note: for best results, all adults should be accompanied by at least one child, but even if you don't have a child to escort you, come anyway and we'll see about making your own inner child come out and demand cookies.

Adult Bible Study • Sundays at 8:00 a.m.

We are looking at Christian themes in contemporary novels. Our book is "*The Trial of Fallen Angles.*"

Please join us for engaging conversation this Sunday!
All are welcome!

In Our Prayers

COMFORT

- Annie, as she moves to a new place for a new adventure.
 - The Nelson family, and all those who mourn.
 - Wayne's Aunt Linda, as she transitions to assisted living.
- The Holland family, as they deal with the trial and sentencing of the drunk driver who killed their son.
 - Mike's neighbor, who lost her son.
 - All those struggling with depression.

HEALING

- Janice Henderson, who's home following heart surgery but still needs prayers.
- Prayers for all those who have had surgery and are recovering: Sue, Linda, Dave, Dan, Denise, Bethany.
 - Prayers for Vi as she recovers at home from her hospital stay.
 - Rae Ann's sister-in-law as she moves into rehab.
 - Debby Perry as she battles cancer.
 - For those fighting cancer. May God take cancer out of this world completely!
 - Julie, who is having surgery on her shoulder on 11/20, her son Josh, who had surgery on his hand on 11/14, and her husband Eric who is caring for both.
 - Suzanne's sister-in-law Carolyn, awaiting the results of a biopsy.
 - Jenny's father-in-law, who fell.
 - Jenny's friend, who had a stroke.
 - Denise's sister Brenda, in the ICU with renal failure.
 - Carolanne Allen, who grew up at Rinn, was diagnosed with Lupus & Sjoren's Syndrome. Pray for her physical and emotional wellbeing.
 - Linda, Becky, and Lonnie, who didn't make the craft fair due to illness.
 - Debra's son Jordan, that the doctors can diagnose his persistent cough soon.
 - Rhonda, that she might be well enough to sing soon.
 - For all those in the congregation who are ill.

TRAVEL MERCIES

- Rae Ann's son and his family, as they prepare to visit the Middle East.
 - All those traveling this Holiday season.

THANKSGIVING

- For the support that this church gave Sue, Linda, Julie, and Patsy's husband Dave while recovering from surgery.
- All those who have visited Debby and brought her and Dan food (they have enough food for now!)
 - Justin's ministry for the unhoused and all who support it.
 - Paula's son's survival after a car accident.
 - The opportunities Lisa has gotten at work.
 - Scott, for what his doctors are calling a miraculous recovery from cancer!
 - Denise's return to church after surgery.
 - For a successful craft fair!

If anyone needs to be taken off or added to this list please fill out the form in your Sunday bulletin or [email the church office](#).

Refreshments for after Worship sign-up

- December 15th: Nina
- December 22nd: Sue Oliver

Please consider signing up for a date. The sign-up board will be in the narthex either at the welcome table or the podium. If you have any questions, or need to change your date, please feel free to call or text Mary Margaret at 573-368-1390 or call the church office at 303-776-1578 (Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-noon)

If you sign up to help, here are some guidelines:

- Provide around 4 dozen cookies in total (these can be baked at home or store bought)
 - Provide a "non-sugar" option (fruit, cheese, crackers, etc...)
 - Arrange on trays found in the kitchen
- Napkins, small plates, cups, coffee carafes, lemonade pitchers, creamer, sugar, stir stick can all be found in the kitchen
 - Coffee and Lemonade will already be made for you
 - Please take all items to the kitchen and clean up afterward
- you will get a reminder in your email from Mary Margaret about 3 days in advance of your sign-up date.
 - A sign-up sheet will be at the podium in the Narthex each Sunday.

If you have any questions, or need to change your date, please feel free to call or text Mary Margaret at 573-368-1390 or call the church office at 303-776-1578 (Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-noon)

Via Mobility for Life

Providing rides for residents:
Seniors 60+, disabled, and income qualified.
Dacono, Frederick & Firestone
303-444-3043

Cowboy Fellowship at Rinn

Wednesday nights at 7pm

A promotional poster for a Christmas concert by the New Life Quartet. The poster features a photograph of four men in suits performing on stage. The text on the poster includes the date and time of the event, the location, the presenter, and contact information. The background is a gradient of purple and blue.

**Wednesday
December 18, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

Rinn United Methodist Church

Presented by
Rinn Cowboy Fellowship

Admittance is free
Email: NewLifeQuartet@comcast.net
Media sales: NewLifeQuartet.Square.site
Facebook.com/NewLifeQ

New Life Quartet
Southern Gospel
Christmas concert

**New Life Quartet
12/18/2024**

December Birthdays

- 1 Brian Cheek**
- 2 Cody Johnson**
- 9 Janice Hunt**
- 13 Gene Creech**
- 15 Addison Mann**
- 15 Russ Fox**
- 15 Patsy Schmidt**
- 17 Aleta Purcell**
- 20 Marsha Wood**
- 22 Selma Van Dyke**
- 22 Charlie Baum**
- 26 Charlene Russell**
- 27 Mary Stoothoff**

Happy Anniversary to:
4 Alvin & Helen Underhill-Woznick (2021)

Weekly Activity Schedule

For more upcoming events, view our online calendar [HERE](#).

Friday 12/13

7:00pm New Hope AA

Saturday 12/14

11:30am Ladies Luncheon at the Pepper Pod in Hudson

2:30pm Christmas Cantata Dress Rehearsal

Sunday 12/15

8:00am Adult Bible Study

8:15am Men's Koffee Klub

9:30am Worship Service: Christmas Cantata

Tuesday 12/17

7:00pm Blue Christmas service at Rinn

Wednesday 12/18

8:45am Breakfast Fellowship at Maggie's

10:30a Wednesday Brunch Bunch Bible

Study at Bev Ramsey home

7:00pm Cowboy Fellowship

Rinn United Methodist Church Leadership

The Administrative Council meets on the third Thursday of every month. Everyone is welcome to attend. Our leaders who keep your church running smoothly are listed below.

President: Shelly Anderson

Lay Leader: Wayne Vinson

Staff Parish Relations (Personnel): Bonnie Clark

United Methodist Women: Sharon Goldade

Trustees: Rusty Goetze

Chair of Finance: Linda Rinn

Treasurer: Sue Mercer

Finance Secretary: Steve Sterkel

Cowboy Fellowship: Mike Shaw

Nominations: Rev. Lin Cheek
Worship Committee: Betsy Foushee



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Our mailing address is:
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Frederick, Colorado 80504