



**Sunday Worship Times:**  
8:30 am satellite service/  
online on  
Facebook Live & 10:30 am  
in-person service  
Child Sunday School 9:45 am  
Fellowship Time 9:45-10:25 am

## **New Community Church of Union**

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# ***The Anchor: NCCU News***

## **December 2021**

Pastor Michael's Message:

December 2021

December. Here we are once again. I am not sure I want to be in December. Don't get me wrong; I do love Christmas! I just don't like December. It is the month of darkness and gloom, and maybe even depression.

It's the month when the 7am morning walkers become the 8am morning walkers. It is the month when the evening strollers become the evening stalkers. What was once a pleasant walk in the fading evening sunlight has become the work of navigating the blackness with a sometimes-fading battery powered flashlight. When we used to sit outdoors watching the world and its beauty, we now sit indoors watching the television and its flickerings. Our backs get sore, our bottoms get tired, and our brains get numbed. And then it's off to bed, where we can close our eyes to the darkness around us, hoping for a little more light the next day.

Yes, that is December. It doesn't sound very good, does it? But then that is only half the picture! December also brings Christmas! And there is light to Christmas! The darkness is subdued by the many Christmas lights that go up around the neighborhood on the outside of houses. And then there are the lights of the Christmas trees that people place prominently in their windows for all to see as they stroll by in the darkness-made-lighter by the décor of the trees. Then there is the light of family and friends who come by, or send cards, or send warm wishes over some sort of video link. It is the time when the kids come home, and the grandkids display their exuberance and vitality for life. It is a time that gets us off our butts, eases our backs, and stimulates our brains.

December brings with it a time of hope, a time of warmth, a time of encouragement, and, of course, a time of light. Isaiah 9:1-2 says, "Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress... The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." This is the prophecy of the birth of Jesus – the light of the world!

December is a time when we celebrate the light, even, and especially, in the darkness. What a month of contrast! It is a month of physical darkness, yet a month of spiritual light and life. It is the birth of the Messiah! It is the physical presence of Emmanuel, God with us – who is, by the way, still with us. He is with us in the darkness and is the very light to us. In fact, because of the light of Jesus, we too are called lights. Yes! We are the light of the world also. Because of Christ in us, we are, in our new nature, lights. Jesus tells us that we are the light of the world (Mt 5:14). Did you get that?! We ARE light! Being people of the light is who we are! Wherever we go and whatever we do, we illuminate the darkness around us. We are not overcome by the darkness of December because we are light bearers. We always carry with us, and in us, the light of Christ.

May we learn what it means to be light bearers in the darkness of December, not only for ourselves, but for others. May we bring the light of Christ to those living in the darkness – both physical and spiritual. Perhaps we can pick up the phone and speak light into someone. Or perhaps we can pick up the pen and write a card of light to another. Perhaps a quick visit, or a small gift, or an act of kindness, or maybe a prayer will lighten someone's day.

The darkness of December is real, but not as powerful as the light that is in us. Let us be that light in this dark world.

Sincerely His,

Pastor Michael



# *~The December Extra~*

**What:** Union Holiday Market

**When:** Friday, December 10th & Saturday, December 11th.

**Where:** NCCU inside Church and on the grounds

**Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Shopping & fun all rolled up in on, featuring vintage treasures & Crafters!**

**Homemade soups are being sold by the NCCU kitchen for lunch.**

**Come by and support the community and NCCU.**

*Women's Fellowship  
Saturday, December 04, at 11:30 am in the  
office conference room.*

*Men's Fellowship  
Saturday, December 11, at 9:00 am, in the conference room behind the office.  
Breakfast will **NOT** be served.*

*Sunday School  
**New time:** 9:45—10:30 Sundays  
Questions? Talk to Ray & Laurie Copelin 503-523-8724.  
(School-aged children only)*

*Fellowship Time  
Sunday 9:45—10:25 am  
Come join in fellowship between services with others, and have a cup of coffee.*

*Hands for Christ  
Thursday, November 4th & 18th, 2021, from 10:00 am—1:00 pm  
Men & women welcome. Contact Joline Moore 208-746-9230.*

*Karaoke Night  
On Hiatus until the end of January.*

*Starting January 2, Online service (satellite service) will begin at 8:15 am;  
Fellowship Time & Children's Sunday School will be 9:30 am-10:30 am.*

# December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Accepting Food Bank donations ONGOING NOT EXPIRED</b>	<b>AA on Hiatus until Spring</b>	<b>Karaoke Night on Hiatus until January 2022</b>	<b>1</b> 7:00 am Wednesday Psalm Reading  Prayer with Lola 10:00 am Facebook Live	<b>2</b> <b>Hands for Christ 10:00 am-1:00 pm</b>  Worship Team 6:00 pm  Fireside Fellowship will return January 6	<b>3</b> Prayer Group 9:30 am	<b>4</b> Women's Fellowship 11:30 am Office Conference Room
<b>5</b> COMMUNION Worship 8:30 ONLINE Satellite service & Facebook Live Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Time 9:45-10:25 In-person service 10:30 am	<b>6</b> Monday Messages with Del, The Holy Spirit 10:00 am Facebook Live  Haircut Fundraiser Kay Shin 360-801-2662	<b>7</b> Transformative prayer 11:00 am contact Ron Wood  Addiction Ministry 6:00 pm	<b>8</b> 7:00 am Wednesday Psalm Reading  Prayer with Lola 10:00 am Facebook Live	<b>9</b> Worship Team 6:00 pm	<b>10</b> <b>Union Holiday Market 10:00 am-3:00 pm</b>  Prayer Group 9:30 am	<b>11</b> <b>Union Holiday Market 10:00 am-3:00 pm</b>  9:00 am Men's Fellowship  The Forge 10:00 am Facebook Live
<b>12</b> Worship 8:30 ONLINE Satellite service & Facebook Live Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Time 9:45-10:25 In-person service 10:30 am	<b>13</b> Monday Messages with Del, The Holy Spirit 10:00 am Facebook Live  Loss of a Loved One Grief Support 3:00pm-4:30 pm	<b>14</b> Transformative prayer 11:00 am contact Ron Wood  Addiction Ministry 6:00 pm	<b>15</b> 7:00 am Wednesday Psalm Reading  Prayer with Lola 10:00 am Facebook Live	<b>16</b> <b>Hands for Christ 10:00 am-1:00 pm</b>  Worship Team 6:00 pm	<b>17</b> Prayer Group 9:30 am	<b>18</b>  The Forge 10:00 am Facebook Live
<b>19</b> Worship 8:30 ONLINE Satellite service & Facebook Live Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Time 9:45-10:25 In-person service 10:30 am  Orders for fudge delivered by the 19th.	<b>20</b> Monday Messages with Del, The Holy Spirit 10:00 am Facebook Live	<b>21</b> Transformative prayer 11:00 am contact Ron Wood  Addiction Ministry 6:00 pm	<b>22</b> 7:00 am Wednesday Psalm Reading  Prayer with Lola 10:00 am Facebook Live	<b>23</b> Worship Team 6:00 pm	<b>24</b> Prayer Group 9:30 am	<b>25</b> Moments 10:00 am Facebook Live
<b>26</b> Worship 8:30 ONLINE Satellite service & Facebook Live Sunday School 9:45 am Fellowship Time 9:45-10:25 In-person service 10:30 am	<b>27</b> Monday Messages with Del, The Holy Spirit 10:00 am Facebook Live  Loss of a Loved One Grief Support 3:00pm-4:30 pm	<b>28</b> Transformative prayer 11:00 am contact Ron Wood  Addiction Ministry 6:00 pm	<b>29</b> 7:00 am Wednesday Psalm Reading  Prayer with Lola 10:00 am Facebook Live  Game Time NOON	<b>30</b> Worship Team 6:00 pm	<b>31</b> Prayer Group 9:30 am	