



**Emmanuel Newsletter for December 25-27
Christmas 2020**



Dear Friends,

It happened this year on December 21, an extremely rare “celestial meet” of two planets, Saturn and Jupiter. For real! We have the eyes to actually see it. The last time Saturn and Jupiter, the largest planets in our solar system, orbited as closely was the year 1226.

“Almost 800 years later... [these titanic orbs appeared] in the heavens [just one-tenth of a degree apart](#) — about the thickness of a dime held at arm’s length, [according to NASA.](#)” (from *New York Times* by *Sandra Garcia*) Astrologers heralded it as a sign of rebirth. And some are even calling it the Christmas Star.

Just as darkness lengthens to its conclusion, we are given a new brightness in the sky. A brightness that will continue increasing each day for the next six months. But the brightness that is in our hearts continues to grow as we embrace one another as cherished children of God and make our way to the manger within us.

No wonder the Astrologer Magi were so persistent and excited about the Star they saw. It was likely as real to them as it is to us today. And that is our Christmas message in 2020, the brightness of our savior is with us now and forever more. God is present and bringing us every good sign for the beginning of a new era.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Merry Christmas to you all.

Come, join us as we take communion together on Christmas Eve, Thursday at 5:00 pm. There will be no interactive service on Saturday, December 26. A pre-recorded service will be available through the website for Sunday, December 27.

May God bless us all!

The Rev. Dr. Joyce Caggiano



NOTE: LIVE ZOOM SERVICE IS AT 5:00 PM this Thursday Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95479180823?pwd=TnBmZ0JiNmJzSVhZNkFVVWZ1aDRxUT09>

Meeting ID: 954 7918 0823

Passcode: 061858

View the TAPED service anytime via our YouTube site any time after 10:00 pm Dec. 24:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEQm5KH2wGB_XbZ8h9jldhA

Have a comment? Email us at: info@emmanuelwr.org

*******SPECIAL NOTE: The Service for Sunday, December 27, will be pre-taped with no live Zoom service. The Sunday service will be available on our website and YouTube starting late Saturday, December 26. To access that service, go to <https://emmanuelwr.org/sermons/>**

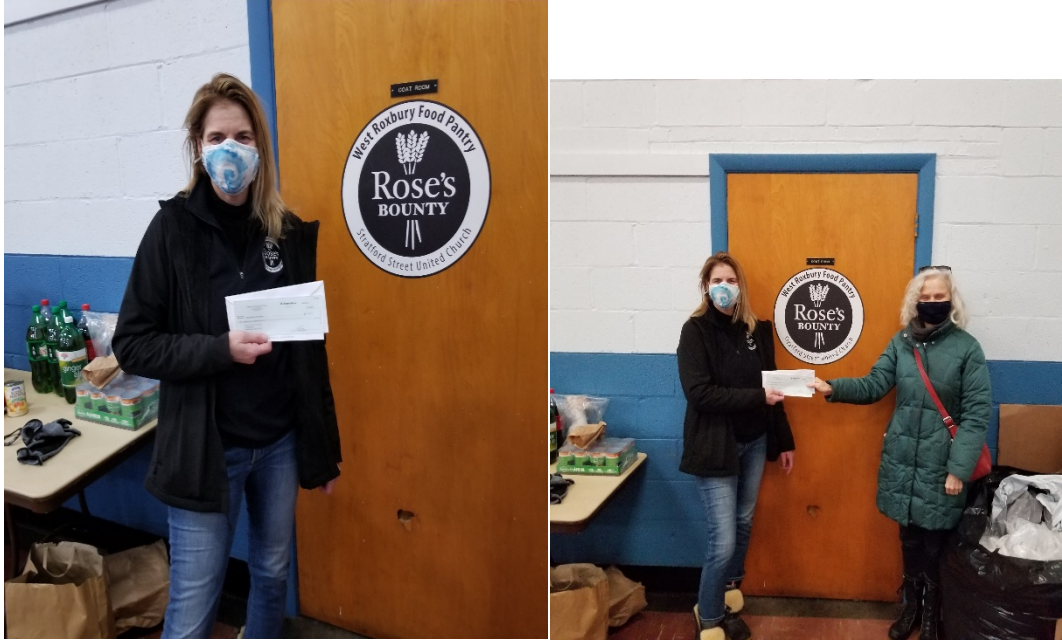


We Raised \$1600 for Rose's Bounty Food Pantry!!!

We have surpassed our goal! Our goal was \$1000! Thank you everyone for your generous donations.

If you have not yet donated or wish to, we will continue to accept checks until January 10 which we will combine and give to Rose's Bounty from Emmanuel Church.

See photos on the next page of Darra Slagle, Director, of Rose's Bountry after she was given our check on Tuesday, December 22 and Darra and Susan as she was given the check. Darra is thrilled and sends her thanks to us all. This will help toward feeding the needy in our community.



Singing on Christmas Eve ---Virtual Coffee Hour

We will sing Christmas Carols after our live Christmas Eve service. It is not recorded, so stick around for the informal fun after the service.

The Carols include:

78 - O Little town of Bethlehem - vs. 1,2,3,5

84 - Love came down at Christmas - Text only. We will sing it to the anthem tune which the choir will know. Using that tune, you have to repeat the very last phrase twice. All vs.

87 - Hark! The herald angels sing - all vs.

100 - Joy to the world



Also, a reminder—we need to receive your pledges for 2021, so John can put together a budget and the financials for Annual Report for 2020. Please email pledge promises by December 31, 2020.

Thank you.