



**Presbyterian Times**  
**December, 2018**

First Presbyterian Church  
919 E. Tenth Street Rolla, MO 65401  
Telephone: 573-364-3852 / Fax: 573-426-5320  
Email: [office@rollapresby.org](mailto:office@rollapresby.org)

**A Message from Our Pastor**  
Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

Grief and the Holidays

Let's be honest, when someone close to you has died, the grieving never ends. The grief may become more manageable over time, but it never ends. This time of year, from Thanksgiving through New Year's, grief may become more acute than at other times of the year. That's to say, all of the merry making can be exhausting because we do not feel like making merry. We may find the grief weighs heavier, and we are less likely to acknowledge it or talk about it. Who wants to hear about our sadness when we are all supposed to be happy?

Well, death and grief are a part of life whether or not we want to accept it. So, please do not feel like you have to put on a mask or be inauthentic through the holidays. During this season, if you feel like talking about your loved one who has died, to reminisce, to share his or her life with others, go right ahead. If you feel like keeping your memories in your heart and holding them close, that is fine too. If you feel like crying, that is perfectly normal. If you are afraid of appearing weak because your emotions get the best of you, remember living through the death of a loved one is one of the most difficult events human beings experience. Ever. Tears shed because we have lost someone we love are never wasted and never a sign of weakness.

Please remember, during this season and any other, you are not alone. You have a church family that loves you. My door is always open to listen to your story, to sit with you in your grief, to walk with you as you need it.

Those of us who are not weighed down with grief, please remember to check on your friends who may be feeling especially sad this holiday season. Keep them in your prayers. Love them and be as merciful and gracious as you possibly can be. And if you are grieving, remember to love yourself, be as merciful and gracious to yourself as you possibly can be. This season is full of promise and hope. I pray we all experience the fullness of God's enduring love as we honor the birth of our savior – who grieved the death of his cousin John and his friend Lazarus.

Peace, Lou Ellen

PASTOR LOU ELLEN AND BRETT  
INVITE YOU TO A

**HOLIDAY RECEPTION**

Sunday December 2

During Fellowship after Worship

to say

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

The **Christmas** Joy Offering: A Perfect Gift this Advent Season

In the lead up to **Christmas**, many of us spend time in search of the *perfect gift* — the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. We search our memories for indications of what gift might cause the faces of our loved ones to light up. We scour the stores and shops, hoping to come across the thing that will communicate a depth of love that our words cannot.

As important as gifts to loved ones are, we have an opportunity to give gifts that help many people we do not know through the **Christmas** Joy Offering. These gifts in particular draw us back to the manger and God's perfect gift to us — Jesus Christ.

Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. A perfect gift from a gracious God.

During this **Christmas** and Advent Season, we celebrate leadership; past, present and future through support of the **Christmas** Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the path to be more like Jesus. We want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need which are provided through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We also support the offering to help our future leaders in the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Supporting these students helps the whole church develop leaders who reflect the wideness of God's intended diversity.

For those supported through the **Christmas** Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ — the truly perfect gift.

We will collect the **Christmas** Joy Offering on Sunday December 23 and at our **Christmas** Eve Service.

Are you looking for some alternative gifts this **Christmas** season? There are many ways to give that can be a blessing to many. Here are a few ideas offered through the PC (USA).

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Donations in honor or in memory of someone special.

[www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/alternative-giving-printable-gift-cards-4/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/alternative-giving-printable-gift-cards-4/)

### Presbyterian Giving Catalog

You can give gifts which go directly to those in need. You may give everything from a flock of chickens (\$25), to a refugee food basket (\$50), to a latrine (\$50-\$350), to an oxen and plow (\$1500) and everything in between. See the link below for more information.

<https://presbyteriangifts.org/>

Make a donation in honor or in memory of someone special to one of the community ministries our congregation

sponsors:

GRACE

The Rolla Mission

The Russell House

The Backpack Program

## Artwork in the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmastide

For centuries visual art has played a major role in the life of the church. From ancient shrines to gothic cathedrals to banners in post-modern worship centers, visual interpretations of our faith have helped worshippers connect with the sacred. In our sanctuary through this season you will see some new artwork by Jan Roberts on the walls. The archangels will be among us, guiding us through the season.

This certainly is the season for an angelic presence. They are bringing messages to Jesus' family and shepherds. They are bursting into song. They are rejoicing in the birth of the savior. So it seems appropriate to include them as part of our worship space. We invite you throughout this season to view the paintings, consider their roles on behalf of God's purpose in the world, consider how they represent God's presence and hope for us as communicator, protector, and healer.

There are three paintings, all of which include symbols of heaven and earth, a shield, and symbols of God which are in their head bands.

Gabriel is wearing the royal purple and holding a horn. He was often a messenger, bringing good tidings to people who were blessed by God. He helped the prophet Daniel by interpreting his visions, and he also brought news of impending births to Elizabeth and Mary. He, along with Michael, is considered a protector of Israel.

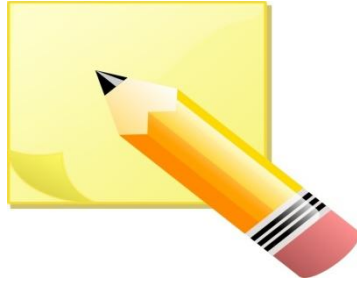
Michael, the archangel, is in royal blue. He is holding a sword. We know him in the book of Daniel and Revelation where he is the protector of the faithful and the one who leads the great battle against the dragon.

Raphael is wearing green, the color of life. He holds a staff with a serpent. Raphael means God's healer or God has healed. We find references to Raphael in the apocrypha in the book of Tobit. Tradition would have Raphael be the angel who stirred the healing waters at Bethesda.



## MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

For those who adopted individuals from the tag tree. It would really be helpful in putting the boxes together if you would identify each package with a post a note (PJ's, puzzle, etc). These will be removed before sending the packages out. This is most helpful with children so when there are two or more in a family, we can keep packages equal. Thank you



## Fellowship News

Bob May, Chair

As we approach this Advent Season with likely more visitors, please acknowledge and welcome visitors as well as appreciate our members and friends. Invite all to our Fellowship time and Sunday School after Worship.

### Recent Events:

Our November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Bonfire was cancelled due to inclement weather, but several people enjoyed gathering that night at Bandanas.

### Coming Events:

**\*\* We won't be having the 1<sup>st</sup>. Friday Night Out in December.**

First Friday Out, January 4<sup>th</sup>. --- TBA, watch for announcement.

January 27<sup>th</sup>. Sunday, 5 p.m. Game / Pizza Night. No Football that day (between semi-finals and Super Bowl) so, note on your Calendar!

February 17<sup>th</sup>. Chili Cook-Off. Watch for announcement.

Note: On most Sundays we will have our basic "fare" of Donut Holes and drink. If anyone would like to bring extra goodies, you are most welcome to do so.

**From the Office**

Katie Sands, Office Manager

I would like to express my gratitude to each one of you for your daily prayers, thoughts, cards, flowers for our sweet *Finley* and family. They are very much appreciated. We feel truly blessed having you as a part of our lives.

Merry **Christmas** to you all, have a safe and Happy **Holidays**.

Our **Birthday** wishes go out to:

- 1<sup>st</sup> John Denbo
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Brett Hartley
- 5<sup>th</sup> Paden Long
- 6<sup>th</sup> Bill Morgan
- 8<sup>th</sup> Caleb Rose, Dace Murray
- 9<sup>th</sup> Michael Bennett
- 15<sup>th</sup> Bill Winch
- 17<sup>th</sup> Glenda Knight
- 26<sup>th</sup> Caitlin Bennett
- 27<sup>th</sup> Barbara Ford



Our **Anniversary** wishes go out to:

17<sup>th</sup> Jim Drewniak & Mariesa Crow- Drewniak

Happy  
Anniversary

### Special Events for the Month:



December 1st Cookie Walk	8:00 – 2:00	Fellowship Hall
December 2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Hartley Christmas Reception</b>	Fellowship Hr.	Fellowship Hall
December 8th RCAS Concert	7:00p.m.	Sanctuary
December 9 <sup>th</sup> RCAS Concert	3:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
December 16 <sup>th</sup> <b>Christmas</b> Cantata	Worship Service	Sanctuary
December 16 <sup>th</sup> <b>Christmas</b> Luncheon	11:30 a.m.	Fellowship Hall
December 23rd <b>Caroling</b> w/ Jeff	4:30 p.m.	Manor/Shut-ins
December 24 <sup>th</sup> Candlelight Service	5:30 p.m.	Sanctuary

**December 24<sup>th</sup> Office hours are 9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m.**

**December 25<sup>th</sup> Office will be closed. We will reopen on Wed. 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.**

