
First Presbyterian Church

December 2022



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!!

December 6, 13 & 20 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

Songs for the Waiting
by Magrey deVega

Despite the presence of many beautiful Advent songs in many of our hymnals, most of us would prefer to skip right to singing our favorite Christmas carols.

But in our rush to get to the joy of Christmas, we forget what Advent is all about- watching and waiting for the coming of a promised king.

It is not about shopping, partying, gift wrapping, and vacationing. It is about resting, trusting, praying, and seeking. Through the words of moving Advent hymns and the powerful words of Scripture, Songs for the Waiting will help readers reclaim a sense of the beautiful anticipation and preparation that is central to Advent.

Please email Celeste Dahlgren at: patchespasturellc@yahoo.com for more details.

REGISTER FOR THE ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Administrative Committee

Just a reminder that 2023 budget planning and year end statements are wrapping up.

In preparation for that we are asking for all Capital Campaign Pledges and 2022 Contributions be in the office by

December 22nd at noon.



Remembering Our Staff at Christmas time is the time to not only celebrate the birth of our Savior, but a time of gratitude for the gift of the Christ child. It is a wonderful time, when in the spirit of generosity, we can show our appreciation for others who daily share their talents with us. If you would like to show your gratitude for any or all our staff, please feel free to present them with a card/or monetary gift, individually.

This is a timely opportunity to show appreciation to our Office Administrator (Katie Sands), our Church custodian (Tina Sands) our Accompanist (Lorie Francis), and our Music Director (Jeff Sandquist).

Wishing for you a joyous Christmas, the Administrative Committee.

Communications Update

Jonathan Kimball

Over the past two years, very little has needed to be communicated with churchgoers aside from worship news. Now that we are gradually transitioning to something like normal activities, it is important to re-examine our communications processes. This is important for any committee chair or event organizer!

First and foremost, keep Katie in the loop (e.g., by sending email to office@rollapresby.org). That way she knows how to answer questions that arise. Also, if you are using any part of the church facility, let her know so that she can update the reservation calendar.

We have several communication channels if you want to reach everyone:

Email. Katie maintains a list of everyone who wants to receive email updates. This includes all members and many friends of the church. I get an updated list from her periodically so that I can send Friday emails about Sunday worship. If you change your email address, tell Katie!

o The prayer chain is a separate email list. Bob May (carbobmay@gmail.com) maintains the prayer chain and prayer list. Let him know if you need anything added or updated.

Website (<https://rollapresby.org>). Several people are able to post news items on the website (primarily myself, Katie, and Steve Skelton). Anything that is not *explicitly limited* to an internal audience *should be posted* on the website. That way, people don't have to dig back through their email to find information—they can just look at the website to see what offerings are being collected or what events are coming up or who to contact about various activities.

Facebook. Anything posted on the website is automatically published to Facebook. But also, you can share important information with your church family by sharing a post to our page.

YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@rollapresby>). Our live streams can be found there, if for some reason you can't find the link some Sunday morning. The live streams are all archived as well. Sometimes, the live stream doesn't work out due to technical difficulties; when possible, I post an edited video after the fact. It would help our channel ranking if you **subscribe** to our YouTube channel.

Sunday worship. Of course, we make announcements from the pulpit each Sunday morning. If you have something that needs to be announced, please tell both Jeff and me, so that it gets into the script for the worship leader and the PowerPoint for the congregation to read. If you forget and need to make a last-minute announcement, tell the worship leader, and then follow up after worship with something to post on the website and/or via email.

Whenever you have something to share, make sure to send a message that is complete and ready for broadcast. That way, we can be sure that people receive the right message just as you intend.

It's exciting that we have so much activity in the church again! Events, offerings, services, and so forth. Let's all work together to make sure that everyone can stay engaged.

Worship News

Jonathan Kimball, Worship & Music Chair

Happy Advent! We are entering one of the most special seasons of the Christian calendar. Our new year starts with the First Sunday of Advent. In the lectionary (for the preachers who use it), we are starting Year A, which centers on the Gospel According to Matthew.

Here is our schedule for Advent and Christmas:

- November 27: Pastor Greg Emery preached.
- December 4: Jonathan Kimball preaching. Communion will be served.
- December 11: Congregational meeting @11:00 to elect church officers. Susan Murray preaching.
- December 18: Christmas Cantata, "A Midnight Clear." Please note that RCAS is having their concert this weekend as well.
- **December 24: Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 6:00 pm.** This will be a traditional Lessons & Carols service, with readings by various parishioners and a short homily by Jean Day.
- December 25: Special Christmas Day service. **Normal time (9:45 am) but in the chapel.** Mary Kwantes will lead a service centered on Christmas carols and discussion. The intimate venue will allow people to share their thoughts, just as we did during our old Fired Up! services. We will share cookies and coffee afterwards in the lobby area.
- January 1: Jonathan Kimball preaching. Communion will be served.
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At that point, we are back to normal. Also in February, we will return to the old way of serving communion. We will need elders and deacons to serve. Please be patient as we re-learn how to do that.

A few words about technology. You may recall that we had a wonderful new sound board and everything was great! Until a lightning strike. I believe that we are fully recovered from the lightning damage. We have the sound board back and I have reprogrammed it. That said, things can always be improved. It is my goal that everyone can hear and fully participate in worship, whether you are in the sanctuary or not. To that end, we have hearing assistance devices, microphones on the choir, lapel mics when necessary, etc. Because I normally stay up in the chancel throughout the service, I don't really know what things sound like for the congregation, nor for remote participants. If you have any comments, please let me know.

I generally post a podcast on Sunday or Monday (depending on my availability) that has just the sermon and the scripture lesson upon which it is based. Also on Monday, I edit the YouTube archived video to trim off the beginning and end, and to add time stamps so that you can jump directly to important parts of the service. If you have any trouble with the podcasts, live videos, or archived videos, please let me know. Also, it would help our YouTube channel if you subscribe to it at <https://www.youtube.com/@rollapresby>.

Outreach & Mission Committee



Christmas Joy Offering

During the upcoming Advent Season, we will be participating in the Christmas Joy offering.

This is one of the PCUSA's special offerings.

The PCUSA reflects God's gift to us through this offering with generous gifts supporting church leaders among us –retired, present and future. 50% of the offering supports past and present leaders who may be in emergency situations. 50% goes to preparing the way for future leaders.

This makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. There are special envelopes on the table as you come into the church.

We will be
collecting this offering until December 28.

Nominating Committee

Church officers

Trustee --- Steve Zap

Elders --- Meng Leu

Clayton Reed

Maudanne Pursley

one vacant position still available

Deacons--- Bill Neely

Carrie Aswegan

one vacant position still available

Preschool News

We are finally seeing some progress with our infant room, and hope to start the new year occupying that space. Thank you for everyone's patience and prayers as we navigate this journey.

We would like to welcome our new employees: Trinity Mohesky, Brandy Griffin, and Alex Schneider. Trinity will be the teacher in our new 3's classroom. Brandy will be our new floater, she will help out in all the classes as needed. Alex will be our new infant room teacher.

A big THANK YOU goes out to Lenn & Cheryl Koederitz and Linda Rose for coming in to help with our Halloween festivities and games!



From the Office

The staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!!



In observance of Christmas and New Years the office will be closed on December 23rd through December 26th. we will reopen the 27th at 7:30 am. We will also be closed on December 30th through January 2nd. we will reopen on January 3rd at 7:30 am.

December Birthday Wishes

go out to

**6th Bill Morgan,
8th Caleb Rose, Dace Murray,
9th Michael Bennett,
26th Caitlin Bennett,
27th Barb Ford**



From Barbara Ford

THANK YOU

I am so grateful this Thanksgiving for the presence of our church during the past 3-4 difficult years.

I am grateful for this time I was able to share with my siblings despite the negative expectations of the medical community. Though difficult at times (thank you COVID) each day brought memories I will always cherish.

I am grateful for each and every expression of condolence and offer of help if needed from you all this past month and truly throughout these past years.

I am grateful for the new processes in the church that made it possible to join worship remotely and when I had time when time was a scarce commodity.

I am oh so grateful for God's presence in my life in the past and going forward.

For years our family thanksgiving dinners began with each person present expressing thanks for something. Responses from younger family members often brought a chuckle, but we elders found the process profound.

So this is my contribution for thanksgiving dinner this year. Thank you.

Barbara Ford

PRAYER REQUEST

Connie Dewitt - continuing recovery from Brain Surgery, Heart Issues.

Carla Simmons - Recuperation after Heart Issues.

Ruby and Lee Malone - Residing at Silverstone. Balance Issues (Lee),
Memory Issues (Ruby)

Bettysu Corey - (Jamie White's Mother) Resides Ce
dar Pointe. Memory Challenges.

Wendy Wilbanks - Recovering after Breast Cancer.

Mike and Sue Reno - Cancer Treatment (Sue), Continuing recovery after
Heart Surgery (Mike)

Liz Stottlemeyer - Recovery after Heart Issues.

Mary Jane Potrafka (Mark and Susan) - Mary Jane Residing at Homelife.
Health Issues.

Marcia Brewer - Recovering after Medical Procedure.

Bob Yenzer - Continuing Health Issues.

Barb Ford - Loss of Sister, Kelly Dean and Brother Tom Eychaner

Baby Arthur (Jan Sletten's Grandnephew), 9 Months Old, Omaha, NE - in
Rehab for Blood Disorder

Please pray for those named and their families as well
as their caregivers.

**THE PRAYER REQUEST LIST WILL START OVER ABOUT
EVERY
TWO MONTHS.**

**IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE WHO NEEDS
PUT ON OR TAKEN OFF THE LIST,
PLEASE CONTACT KATIE IN THE OFFICE**