



FPC
DECEMBER

NEWSLETTER

Embracing the Joy of Advent

The days are growing shorter, and a gentle chill fills the air. We are entering a time of reflection, hope, and joyous preparation for the arrival of something extraordinary. In the spirit of unity and gratitude, our church family comes together to worship and celebrate the true essence of Advent.

Worship during Advent is not just a tradition; it is a heartfelt expression of our collective faith and a beautiful reminder of the profound significance of this season. It is a time when we intentionally pause to reflect on the timeless story of hope and redemption, embracing the promise of a brighter future.

Once again, we will have hymns and scripture readings to transport us to the humble manger in Bethlehem, where the miracle of Christmas unfolded centuries ago. Our tree with Chrismons will be in the sanctuary. We will light the Advent wreath each week as we journey closer to the celebration of Christ's birth.

Our choir will perform a Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 17th. This year, Christmas Eve is on a Sunday at 6:00. Jonathan Kimball will preach during the morning worship service, and we will have a special Christmas Eve service that evening with Susan Murray preaching. We will have a service of reflection and optimism on New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31, at our normal 9:45 am with Susan Murray preaching.

Our Mission and Outreach Committee is collecting personal hygiene items for GRACE's Christmas stocking program in the spirit of giving. A list of items is below; donations can be dropped off in the back of the sanctuary or church office. Our engagement in this program embodies the true meaning of Christmas.

Advent worship is not confined to the walls of our church. It resonates in the hearts and our homes. So, let us share in the joy of the season as we celebrate Advent by lighting candles, reading scriptures, and singing.

Please join us in person or online as we embark on this sacred journey and together spread the message of hope as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

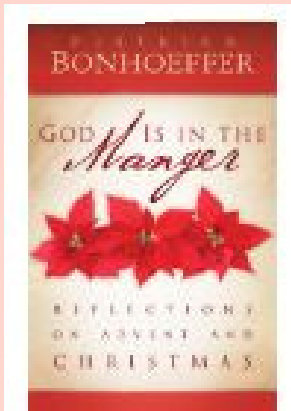


JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERY ZOOM ADVENT STUDY

GOD IS IN THE MANGER

REFLECTIONS ON ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER



THESE 40 STIRRING DEVOTIONS WILL GUIDE AND INSPIRE YOU AS YOU MOVE THEMATICALLY THROUGH THE WEEKS OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS, FROM WAITING AND MYSTERY TO REDEMPTION, INCARNATION, AND JOY. THESE DAILY REFLECTIONS ARE TIMELESS AND MOVING REMINDERS OF THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS.

TUESDAYS AT 11:00 AM OR 7:00 PM

DECEMBER 5, 12, 19

TO REGISTER FOR THE STUDY, _____

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ORDER A BOOK (GOD IS IN THE MANGER: REFLECTIONS ON ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS), HERE IS THE LINK:
[HTTPS://A.CO/D/6GD5XTI](https://a.co/d/6GD5XTI)



THE MISSION OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Mission/Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone for their generosity this year. Our local community, as well as Presbyterian Special Offerings have received contributions to help those in need. We are currently collecting small items needed as “stocking stuffers” for men and women for G.R.A.C.E. These include razors, deodorant, lotion, etc. We are also collecting canned fruit. We will collect these items through December 3rd.



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.



Worship & Music

Jonathan Kimball, Chair

We are approaching the end of the Christian year on Reign of Christ Sunday, November 26. Then our year starts anew with Advent on December 3. Here's a quick run-down of our plans:

- Communion will be celebrated on December 10, due to Jonathan's travel schedule.
- The Chancel Choir will present its annual Christmas Cantata, Festival of Lessons and Carols by Jonathan Willcocks, on December 17.
- On the morning of December 24, we will worship together as usual at 9:45 am, celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

1. At 6 pm on December 24, we will hold our traditional Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols. Please note that we will need some extra readers for the Christmas Eve service. Let Linda Rose know if you would like to participate in worship in this way.

As we approach the turning of both the Christian year and the calendar year, I would like to encourage you to consider adding some form of daily Bible study or devotion to your spiritual practices, to extend the worship experience beyond Sunday morning and into your daily life. Some options to consider:

- PC(USA) publishes "These Days." An annual subscription costs \$8.95 (or \$9.95 for large print). You can see samples at <https://www.pcusastore.com/Pages/Item/14604/these-days.aspx>.
- Similarly, UMC publishes "The Upper Room," <https://www.upperroom.org/>. They have a variety of subscription options—print, digital, annual, monthly.
- In the morning, I use Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals, <https://a.co/d/8SYEQg2>. This book is available in hard cover, paperback, or on Kindle. The book includes a variety of services; roughly half is dedicated to daily morning prayer services. I would be happy to show you my copy. It is roughly oriented to the Christian year, but not perfectly.
- In the evening, I use The Year of the Bible, <https://a.co/d/aINElbR>. This is essentially just a list of Bible chapters to read each day (typically 2 OT, 1 NT or psalm).

All of these options take less than fifteen minutes. Watch for a sign-up sheet where you can identify whether you are using one or more. Not that everyone is expected to choose one of these books/programs, but those who do choose one may wish to have fellow travelers with whom to discuss what they are reading and learning. Blessings to everyone on their spiritual journeys!





October & November were fun and busy months at Presbyterian Preschool.

The students enjoyed Halloween activities, a field trip to Pete's Pumpkin Patch, Friendsgiving feast, books from Breakfast Kiwanis Club and a visit from the firefighters to teach about fire safety.

We were excited to partner with our friends from Greentree Learning and Childcare Center. We enjoyed an evening of fun and fellowship (even though the temps dropped 20 degrees while we were there 🥶).

We are singing our way into December with practice for our upcoming Christmas Program. It will take place in the Sanctuary on December 21st at 6:00 pm. We would love for our church members to join us if you can.

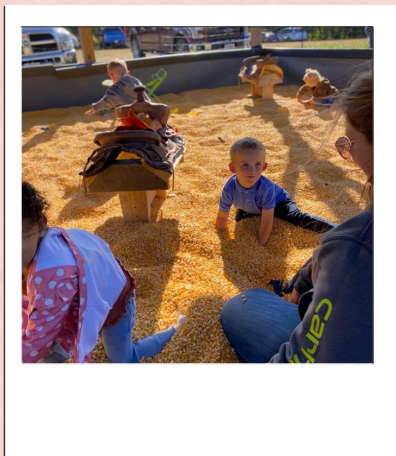
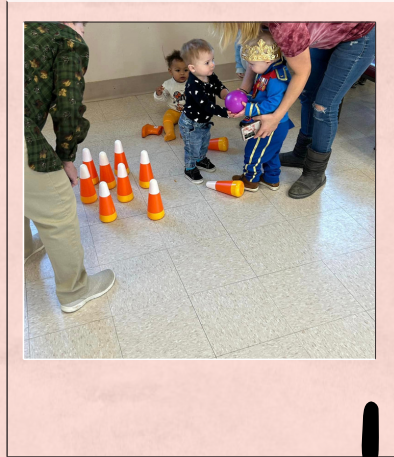
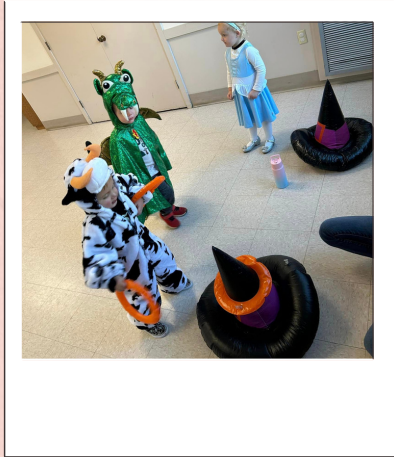
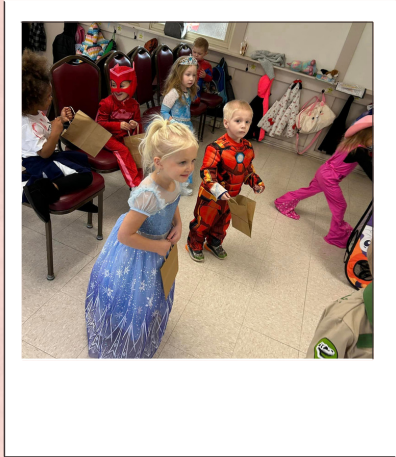
Other news in December is our Christmas classroom parties will take place on the 15th, Polar Express day the 22nd. We will be shut down for our winter break from December 25th through January 1st.

Please enjoy some cute pictures from our fun times.

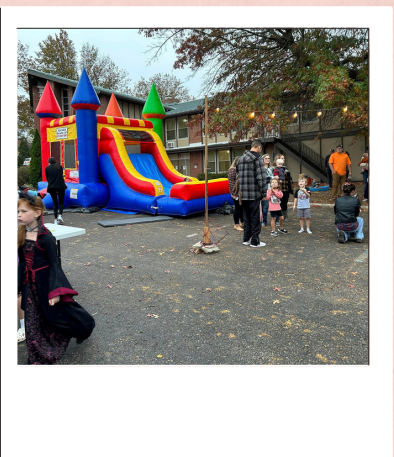
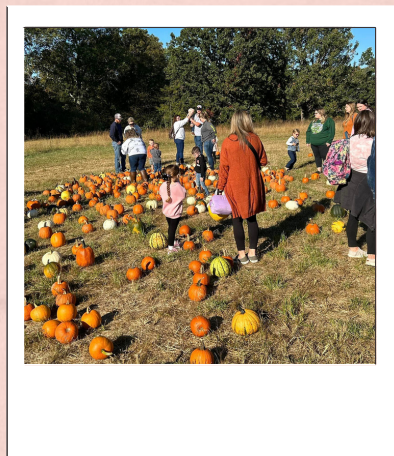
From all the kids and staff

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!





October
2023
Memories





SAVE THE DATE!

JOIN LADIES OF OUR CHURCH FOR
COFFEE, TEA AND COOKIES.

DECEMBER 16TH
10:00 AM

IF YOU BAKE DURING THIS SEASON BRING
ALONG SOME OF YOUR COOKIES TO
SHARE! BRING A DOZEN TO SHARE AND
THEN A DOZEN TO GIVE A FEW TO OUR
SHUT-INS AND A FEW OF OTHER PEOPLES
COOKIES TO TAKE HOME WITH YOU.
WE WILL HAVE A FUN TIME WISHING EACH

OTHER A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

PLEASE RSVP SO WE CAN BE SURE TO
MAKE ENOUGH COFFEE!





SAVE THE DATE!

CARRY-IN LUNCH
DECEMBER 17TH

WE WILL BE HAVING A
CARRY-IN LUNCH IMMEDIATELY AFTER
SERVICE ON DECEMBER 17TH IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL.

PLEASE USE THE SIGN UP BOARD IN THE
SANCTUARY TO LET US KNOW WHAT SIDE OR
MAIN DISH YOU WILL BE BRINGING AS WELL AS
HOW MANY WILL BE ATTENDING.

THE FELLOWSHIP DOORS WILL OPEN FOR YOU
TO BRING YOUR DISH INTO PRIOR TO SERVICE.

DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED.



Administrative Committee

A REMINDER THAT YEAR END STATEMENTS
ARE WRAPPING UP.

IN PREPARATION FOR THAT WE ARE ASKING FOR ALL
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLEDGES AND 2023 CONTRIBUTIONS

BE IN THE OFFICE BY
DECEMBER 20TH 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

ADMINISTRATOR (KATIE SANDS),

OUR CHURCH CUSTODIANS (TINA SANDS, TITO BURGOS),

OUR ACCOMPANIST (LORIE FRANCIS),

AND OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR (JEFF SANDQUIST).

WISHING FOR YOU A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS, THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE.



Session & Nominating Committee

The Session and the Nominating Committee has called a Congregational Meeting for December 10th following worship service for the purpose of electing church officers.

The Session has approved the recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

SESSION

Mary Kwantes
Britt Whitaker
Javier Valentin-Sivico
One vacancy

DEACONS

Dixie Finley
Millie Rodriguez
Carol Bennett
Cynthia Hobart

TRUSTEES

Two vacancies

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Marilyn Schmidt member at- large

Open vacancy nominations will come from the floor and those that are nominated from the floor must have previously agreed to be nominated.



BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR
DECEMBER

GO OUT TO:

6TH *BILL MORGAN*

8TH *CALEB ROSE,
DACE MURRAY*

9TH *MICHAEL BENNETT*

26TH *CAITLIN BENNETT*

27TH *BARBARA FORD*



PRAYER REQUEST

Connie and Bob Dewitt - Continuing health care needs after stroke and surgery

Danny Stollemyer and family - Passing of Liz.

Ruby and Lee Malone - Residents of Silverstone.

Bob Yenzer - Continuing health challenges.

Jean and Steve Day - Jean undergoing cancer treatments.

Fredi and George Zobrist - Fredi with health issues.

Jonelle Crawford, is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Katherine Cook Russell, suffering from dementia.

Please pray for those named and their families

as well as their caregivers.

The prayer request will start over every two months.
If you have someone that needs put on or taken off the list,
Please contact Katie in the office.

