

Grace Presbyterian News

December 2018

The Already and Not Yet of Advent – Thoughts from Pastor Mike Krech

The season of Advent consists of the four Sundays before Christmas and the weekdays that coincide with them. I advocate for an observance of Advent that is distinct from celebrating Christmas. The Advent scripture readings in worship bid us contemplate Christ's Second Advent, also called his Return in Glory. They also send us to places of deeper preparation for Christ's birth, such as the proclamation of John the Baptist, and the angel's Annunciation to the Virgin Mary. All this suggests a spiritual journey through Advent, as we attend to the Scripture passages and the Advent music, some of which is in the minor keys of life's dissonance. We ponder the places where all is not well. We have longings for a better world, where justice prevails, violence is ended, and love binds all things together. Let us walk together.

Welcome New Members

Becky Stirling and Patti Smith united with Grace Presbyterian Church at the session meeting of November 19, 2018, and were introduced to the congregation on November 25. Please help welcome Becky and Patti.

Congregational Meeting to Elect Elders – December 2, during worship

The Nominating Committee will present the names of Rickie Cooke, Anna Tate, and Janet Vawter as elders for the Session Class of 2021 at the congregational meeting on December 2. Nominations of other church members may be made by a church member "from the floor," with the consent of the person being nominated.

Breakfast with Santa – Saturday, December 8, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Kids of all ages, come and enjoy breakfast on Saturday morning, December 8, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and linger for the expected visit of the Jolly Old Elf. Lend a hand in the kitchen, in the craft room, with games or come help welcome the children. Sign up sheets for food donations and duties can be found on the table in the narthex.

Great Cookie Sale – Saturday, December 8, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Thanks to all who have stepped forward to bake cookies for the Great Cookie Sale. The date of the sale is Saturday, December 8, with "doors open to the public" at 9:00 a.m. How long will it last? We don't exactly know; it depends on when everything is sold. Thanks for your support of this fund raiser.

Presbyterian Women Pot Luck and Study – Sunday, December 9, after worship

All are invited to join Presbyterian Women's Christmas pot luck, following worship on Sunday, December 9. Please bring a dish to share. To keep focused on the season, please read Lesson 7 in the study book, "God with us, Emmanuel." A devotional and then the secret pal gift exchange will conclude the event.

Youth Gathering - Angel Tree Shopping Outing - Sunday, December 9

We will gather after church to grab a quick lunch and go shopping for an Angel Tree child. Please bring money for lunch and money to contribute to the Angel Tree gifts. If anyone else would like to, please consider donating toward our cause.

Photo Directory Picture Taking – Sunday, December 9

Bob Vawter is taking the pictures and putting together a church photo directory. Some pictures were taken earlier this year with more being done on Thanksgiving Day. Another opportunity to have your picture made for the directory will be Sunday, December 9, right after the pot luck lunch and program.

Mustard Seed Kids Ronald McDonald House Project – Friday, December 14

On Friday, December 14, the Mustard Seed Kids will make Christmas goodie bags to bring some cheer to the children at Ronald McDonald House. Please consider donating toward the cost of supplies.

Handel's *Messiah* by the Memphis Symphony and Chorus – Tuesday, December 18

We are hoping to have 20 folks from Grace Presbyterian go together to hear the Memphis Symphony and Chorus present Handel's *Messiah* Tuesday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m. at Lindenwood Christian Church, at the (northeast) corner of East Parkway South and Union Avenue. At this writing we are about halfway there in terms of people interested in going, so sign up on the friendship pad. Car pool from our church, leaving our church at 6:30 p.m.

Preschool Christmas Program – Thursday, December 20, at 10:30 a.m.

Choral Music Abounds in Worship with Lessons and Carols on December 23

Our worship on the morning of December 23 will be lessons and carols and feature several anthems by the choir as well as the bell choir. We look forward each year to this wonderful musical gift by our faithful singers and ringers.

Christmas Eve Worship with Communion – Monday, December 24, at 5:30 p.m.

Please join us and bring your visiting family members and friends for Christmas Eve candlelight Communion on Sunday, December 24, beginning at 5:30 p.m. It's a service filled with Word and Sacrament, music, light, and redeeming grace as we welcome the birth of the Savior.

Game Night – Friday, November 30, and Friday, December 28, at 6:30 p.m.

If you receive your newsletter in time, please remember that Friday, November 30, is monthly game night, starting at 6:30 p.m. Bring games and/or snacks and we will have fun. Friday December 28, will be the game night for December.

The Advent Wreath

From the Latin *adventus* for "coming," the season of Advent intends to prepare us for the birth of Christ, celebrated at Christmas, and for the Second Advent, the return of Christ in glory at the end of time. The Advent wreath is a good visual symbol of the season and seems to have originated among Lutherans of eastern Germany. The circular shape is a symbol of eternity, the evergreen branches a symbol of unending life. The candles speak of Christ, the light of the world; the four candles mark the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The purple candles are the color of royalty and the pink or rose candle is for the third Sunday in Advent, marking the coming joy of Christmas. The third Sunday can be called Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin for "rejoice," as the historic choral introit and epistle reading for that Sunday is Philippians 4:4-7.

A Reminder of Weekly Events at Grace Presbyterian Church

Sunday Prayer and Praise begins at 9:30 p.m.

Sunday School begins at 9:45 p.m.

Sunday Worship begins at 11:00 a.m.

Bell choir rehearsal is held most Sundays after worship at about 12:00 noon.

Chapel for the Extended Care is held on Mondays at 4:15 p.m. through December 17

Choir rehearsals are held in the sanctuary on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. through December 19

GrandPals read to children in the preschool on Fridays at 11:00 a.m. through December 14

Mustard Seed, a program for children, meets on Fridays at 4:15 p.m. through December 14

Visitors in Worship who signed the register in November 2018

Bill Britton; Michael & Brittany Frazier; Neal & Marty Gaines; Robyn Greene; Sandra Hurley; Joe King; Roseann & Dan Mayo; Shawn McGoldrick; Daxton Rowland; Patti Smith; Becky Stirling; Roger & Sondra Tucker; Roger & Ann Wade; Steve White.

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>9:30 Prayer & Praise 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Advent 1 12:00 Bell Choir</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4:15 p.m. Chapel for Extended Care</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00 am GrandPals read to pre- schoolers 4:15 Mustard Seed</p>	<p>1/8</p> <p>December 8 9:00 am Breakfast with Santa and Great Cookie Sale</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30 Prayer & Praise 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Advent 2/ Communion 12:00 PW Potluck; Youth Lunch & Angel Tree Shop 1:15 Photo session for pictorial directory <i>Alma Ruth Bucovaz</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>4:15 p.m. Chapel for Extended Care</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:00 am GrandPals read to pre- schoolers 4:15 Mustard Seed</p>	<p>15</p> <p><i>Paula Bishop</i></p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:30 Prayer & Praise 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Advent 3 12:00 Bell Choir</p>	<p>17</p> <p>4:15 p.m. Chapel for Extended Care 5:30 p.m. Session Mtg.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Carpool from church at 6:30 p.m. for Handel's <i>Messiah</i> at Lindenwood</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Day School Christmas Program <i>Harold Howard</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>No Grandpals or Mustard Seed Until January</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:30 Prayer & Praise 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Advent 4/ Lessons & Carols</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Game Night</p>	<p>29</p> <p><i>Gerald Lawson Kendall Walker</i></p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:30 Prayer & Praise 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Christmas 1 <i>Mike Krech</i></p>	<p>31</p>					

Elders Serving Communion

December 9: Rosemary Gordon, Jim Pickren,
John Price, Janet Vawter, Marilyn Wilson

December 24: Paula Bishop, Bob Harrold,
Ken Hathaway, Harold Howard, Scott Hunter

Usher Schedule

December 2: Ruth Ellen Cox & Scott Hunter

December 9 & 16:

Michelle Clifford & Ken Hathaway

December 23 & 24:

Hugh Bishop & Elizabeth Velazquez

December 30: Sandy Kehrli & John Price

Closing Elder

December 2: Ruth Ellen Cox

December 9: Paula Bishop

December 16: Bob Harrold

December 23: Elizabeth Velazquez

December 30: Brooks Keiser

Lectionary Readings for Worship:

Dec. 2: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25;
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Dec. 9: Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 126;
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

Dec. 16: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 146;
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Dec. 23: Micah 5:2-5; Psalm 80;
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) Isaiah 9:2-7;
Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

Dec. 30: 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26; Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

A Prayer for Advent

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you. Now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, who lives in power with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Grace Presbyterian Church

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Sent With Love To: