

Grace Presbyterian News

December 2019

Game Night – Friday, November 29, and Friday, December 27, at 6:30 p.m.

If you receive your newsletter in time, please remember that Friday, November 29, is monthly game night, starting at 6:30 p.m. Bring games and/or snacks and we will have fun. Friday, December 27, will be the game night for December.

Decorate Sanctuary for Advent/Christmas – Saturday, November 30, at 10:00 a.m.

We gather to decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas, Saturday, November 30, at 10:00 a.m. With many hands making light work, we can usually get this done in 60-75 minutes.

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.

Get Up and Go Bunch – Events in December

For those who have already purchased tickets, we go to “A Christmas Carol” at Theatre Memphis Wednesday, December 4, leaving from the church at 12:15 p.m.

The second event for December is the Peabody Hotel Parade of Ducks and Christmas Decorations, with lunch following. We leave from the church Monday, December 16, at 9:45 a.m. Cost: the price of your lunch.

Our first ever Las Posadas – Friday, December 6, at 5:30 p.m.

We start in the sanctuary singing Christmas hymns while the children re-enact for us Mary and Joseph's search for a room on the night of Jesus' birth. Sing and watch as they eventually find a stable. A catered Mexican meal (\$10/person), fellowship and festivities. RSVP on the friendship pad.

Choral Music Abounds in Worship with Lessons and Carols on December 8

Our worship on the morning of December 8 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.

Breakfast with Santa – Saturday, December 14, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Kids of all ages, come and enjoy breakfast on Saturday morning, December 14, 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. Also pictures will be taken, especially for those new to the church to be included in the 2020 Pictorial Directory.

Presbyterian Women Pot Luck and Study – Sunday, December 15, after worship

All are invited to join Presbyterian Women's Christmas pot luck, following worship on Sunday, December 15. Please bring a dish to share. A devotional and then the secret pal gift exchange will conclude the event. We also during this time will celebrate Cristaldawn Perry Smith's fifth anniversary as Children and Youth Ministry Director.

Helping Three Bartlett Families at Christmas

Our Mission and Outreach Committee and our youth will be helping three Bartlett area families with food and gifts at Christmas, using funds from the Ringing Offering. If you would like to supply a vegetable or dessert dish to accompany the ham we are taking for the meals, please sign up on the list on the table in the narthex. The food items need to be at the church by the morning of Tuesday, December 24.

Lay Readers

Lay readers will resume right after Christmas, and if you wish to join the company of lay readers in 2020 please speak to Pastor Mike Krech or sign up on the Friendship Pad.

Bartlett Area Chorus Christmas Program – Thursday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m.

Child Care Christmas Program – Thursday, December 19, at 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship with Communion – Tuesday, 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.

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.

Choir rehearsals are held in the sanctuary on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. through December 18

Bartlett Area Chorus rehearses in the sanctuary Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. through December 12

GrandPals read to children in the preschool on Fridays at 11:00 a.m. through December 13

Mustard Seed, a program for children, meets on Fridays at 4:15 p.m. through December 13

Other Area Events of Interest to Celebrate Advent/Christmas

Thursday, Dec. 12; 10-1:30. The Dixon on Park Avenue decorated for Christmas. Free

Saturday, Dec. 14; 2:00 p.m. Memphis Men of Harmony Concert (barbershop style singing); St. Benedict at Auburndale Auditorium. See John Gordon for tickers.

Sunday, Dec. 22; 2:30 p.m. Magic of Memphis Holiday Spectacular Symphony and Chorus; Cannon Center

Visitors in Worship who signed the register in November 2019

Michele, Cyrus & Vivian Baldwin; Don & Sandy Bane; Heather & Holly Bopp; Eddie & Dawn Byrd; Matt & Sue Cloughen; Gerald & Jari Dykstra; Casey & Ellie Gurlen; Al & Susie Hayes; Sandra Hurley; Elizabeth Jacobs; Brien, Samuel & Paul Luck; Roseann & Dan Mayo; LindaJo & Don McKim; Steve Montgomery; Janice & Shane Thornhill; Janet Warren; Daniel Whitaker; Steve White.

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 Prayer & Praise 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Advent 1 12:00 Bell Choir	2 7:00 p.m. Bartlett Area Chorus Special Rehearsal	3	4 12:15 p.m. Get Up & Go to 'A Christmas Carol' 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	5 7:00 p.m. Bartlett Area Chorus Rehearsal	6 11:00 am GrandPals read to pre- schoolers 4:15 Mustard Seed 5:30 Las Posadas	7
8 9:30 Prayer & Praise 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Advent 2/ Lessons & Carols 12:00 Bell Choir	9 <i>Alma Ruth Bucovaz</i>	10 7:00 p.m. Bartlett Area Chorus Special Rehearsal	11 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	12 7:00 p.m. Bartlett Area Chorus Christmas Program	13 11:00 am GrandPals read to pre- schoolers 4:15 Mustard Seed	14 9:00 am Breakfast with Santa
15 9:30 Prayer & Praise 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Advent 3/ Communion 12:00 Bell Choir 12:00 PW Potluck <i>Paula Bishop</i>	16 9:45 a.m. Get Up & Go to The Peabody 5:30 p.m. Session Mtg.	17	18 7:00 p.m. Choir Party	19 10:30 a.m. Child Care Christmas Program	20 No Grandpals or Mustard Seed Until January <i>Harold Howard</i>	21
22 9:30 Prayer & Praise 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Advent 4	23	24 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion	25 Christmas Day	26	27 6:30 p.m. Game Night	28
29 9:30 Prayer & Praise 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Christmas 1 <i>Gerald Lawson Kendall Walker</i>	30 <i>Mike Krech</i>	31				

Elders Serving Communion

December 15: Paula Bishop, Rickie Cooke, John Price, Anna Tate, Elizabeth Velazquez

December 24: Kevin Bopp, John Gordon, Harold Howard, Sandy Kehrl, Janet Vawter

Usher Schedule

December 1 & 8: Hannah & Karen McAdams

December 15 & 22: Cole & Greg Price

December 24:

Hugh Bishop & Brooks Keiser

December 29: Ruth Ellen Cox & Becky Stirling

Closing Elder

December 1: Rosemary Gordon

December 8: Ruth Ellen Cox

December 15: Elizabeth Velazquez

December 22: Rickie Cooke

December 29: Elizabeth Velazquez

Lectionary Readings for Worship:

Dec. 1: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122;
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Dec. 8: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72;
Romans 15:4-13; Luke 1 and 2 selected

Dec. 15: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146;
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Dec. 22: Isaiah 7:10-16; 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. 29: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148
Hebrew 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

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

6671 Yale Road

Bartlett, TN 38134

Church Office: 901.386.3241

www.grace-pres.org

Sent With Love To: