

Grace Presbyterian News

December 2022

In Person Worship with Masks Optional

We continue Sunday worship in person in December with masks optional. Worshipers are encouraged to maintain distancing as possible. In the interest of security, we also lock the church doors at approximately 11:15 a.m. We continue to live stream the service as well. The link to live stream is at our website www.grace-pres.org.
Pastor Mike Krech

Nursery Available During Worship for Children 5 Years Old and Younger

Child care in the nursery is available during worship for children 5 years old and younger. Our nursery room size and staff size are not adequate to care for children older than 5. The nursery is in Room 103. Children older than 5 are welcome and encouraged to remain in worship.

Sunday School for All Ages at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday at the church

Sunday School meets in person Sundays at 9:45 a.m. for children, youth, and adults. The adult class, led by John Price, is studying the Apostle Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Children and youth study lessons related to the day's lectionary readings. Watch the bulletin and emails for a decision about whether Sunday School will meet on Sunday, December 25.

Presbyterian Women Meet December 4 after Worship

On December 4, PW will have a potluck lunch after worship in recognition of the Reverse Advent Calendar offerings and for our Secret Pal Reveal. You may bring the items of food you have collected up to that point or all of your items if preferred. These food items will be used for the families receiving food through the proceeds of the Ringing Offering.

Cookie Sale Returns

The Christmas Cookie Sale returns for the first time since before the pandemic. You can still sign up on Sunday, December 4, to bake cookies or check with Janet Vawter at janet.vawter@gmail.com for information. There will be three opportunities to BUY the cookies – Thursday, December 8, at the Bartlett Area Chorus program, Friday, December 9, at Las Posadas, and Sunday, December 11, after church.

Children and Youth Pinecrest Fundraising Opportunity

Cookie Sale - Wednesday, December 7 at 5:30 pm

Children and Youth who want to earn extra funds towards their Pinecrest scholarships meet to box up and display cookies for the Cookie Sale. We'll share in a meal either by ordering in or going out after the work is done, depending on what the group decides that evening.

Bartlett Area Chorus Program – Thursday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m.

The Bartlett Area Chorus has resumed after the long hiatus caused by COVID-19. They have been rehearsing in our sanctuary on Thursday evenings and present their holiday program in our sanctuary on Thursday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m. The concert is free. Cookies from our Cookie sale will be available at the concert.

Our Second Ever Las Posadas – Friday, December 9, 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. Cookies from our Cookie Sale will be available at Las Posadas.

Presbyterian Women Bible Study December 12 and 13 – In Person and Zoom

Monthly Bible study for Presbyterian Women meets in December in person and on Zoom. The night circle, taught by Patsy Krech, meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month, which is December 12. The day circle, taught by Becky Stirling, meets at 10:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, which is December 13. Both meetings are both in person in the church fellowship room and on Zoom. The 2022-2023 study book is *Celebrating Sabbath – Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight* by Carol Bechtel. If you need the Zoom link, please email Patsy Krech at patsykrech@gmail.com

Morning Prayer Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom

Morning prayer on Zoom continues each Wednesday in December. We sing a hymn, read Scripture, and pray by name for each person on the prayer list. Email Mike at jmkrech@yahoo.com to receive the link to join us. We try to open the room by 9:20 a.m. so we can chat and visit, start at 9:30, and conclude by 10:00.

Thursday Night Study Group at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Our Thursday night study group on Zoom reads and discusses the book *Names for the Messiah* by Walter Brueggemann on Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22. Send Mike an email at jmkrech@yahoo.com to be added to the list receiving the Zoom link and questions for discussion.

Grace Presbyterian Day Care Christmas Program – Thursday, December 15, at 10:00 a.m.

The children of the Grace Presbyterian Day Care hold their Christmas program on Thursday, December 15, at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Poinsettias

If you wish to give a poinsettia on honor or memory of a loved one, you can complete the order form in the Sunday bulletin, or email Mike at jmkrech@yahoo.com with your name and the name(s) of people being remembered. Deadline for ordering is Monday, December 12. Cost is \$10. The poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary for worship beginning December 18 and may be left through worship on January 1, 2023.

Lessons and Carols in Worship, Sunday, December 18, at 11:00

Our pattern of worship for the fourth Sunday in Advent, December 18, will be lessons and carols. This order of worship came into current form in 1918 and has been made famous by King's College, Cambridge, England. Our lessons for December 18 will include the lections for Advent 4 as well as other passages from the Old Testament and the Gospels which tell the story of hope and joy as Advent bends toward Christmas. Choral anthems and hymns will augment the themes of these lessons.

Christmas Eve Worship Candlelight Communion – Saturday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m.

We gather for worship on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m. for music, scripture, sermon, the Lord's Supper, and candle lighting in celebration of the Nativity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day

Sunday worship happens at 11:00 a.m. on Christmas Day with much hymn/carol singing and special music. I hope to see you there. JMK

Game Night – Friday, December 30

Game Night in person will be Friday, December 30, at 7:00 p.m. Bring snacks as early as 6:30 p.m.

After Church Lunches

Pre-pandemic, several church folks had the habit of going out after worship to have lunch together at any of several nearby restaurants. This habit is trying to make a comeback on Sundays when we do not have a church meal after worship. Those interested in doing so may gather near the table in the narthex after worship to decide where to go. We hope this custom can get into full swing in January.

Commitments for 2023

If you have not had a chance to return a commitment card for 2023 and need any assistance, please call Betsy Lewis at the church on Mondays or Fridays, at 901.386.3241 or speak to or email the pastor at jmkrech@yahoo.com.

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Names in <i>italics</i> indicate that the date is that person's birthday				1 7:00 p.m. <i>Names for the Messiah</i> book study on Zoom; Bartlett Area Chorus practice in sanctuary	2	3 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
4 9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship in person & live-streamed, Communion, Advent 2 12:00 PW Secret Pal Reveal & Reverse Advent	5 11:00 a.m. Elders - Elect Orientation	6	7 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom 5:30 p.m. Children & Youth Box cookies for cookie sale	8 7:00 p.m. <i>Names for the Messiah</i> book study on Zoom; Bartlett Area Chorus program in sanctuary Cookie Sale	9 5:30 p.m. Las Posadas Christmas program & dinner Cookie Sale	10
11 9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship in person & live-streamed, Advent 3 Cookie Sale	12 7:00 p.m. Night Circle of Presbyterian Women	13 10:00 a.m. Day Circle of Presbyterian Women	14 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom	15 10:00 a.m. Child Care Program in Sanctuary 7:00 p.m. <i>Names for the Messiah</i> book study on on Zoom <i>Paula Bishop</i>	16	17 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
18 9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship in person & live-streamed, Lessons & Carols Advent 4	19 6:00 p.m. Session Mtg. on Zoom	20 <i>Harold Howard Mirella Ndingwan</i>	21 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom	22 7:00 p.m. <i>Names for the Messiah</i> book study on on Zoom	23	24 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
25 9:45 Sunday School for all ages 11:00 Worship in person & live-streamed, Christmas Day	26	27	28 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom	29 <i>Gerald Lawson Kendall Walker</i>	30 7:00 p.m. Game Night <i>Mike Krech</i>	31

Lectionary Readings for Worship:

Dec. 4: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72;
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

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

Dec. 18: Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7;
Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-25

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

Dec. 25: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98;
Hebrews 1:1-9; Matthew 2:1-12

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: