

Grace Presbyterian News

December 2023

Decorate Sanctuary for Advent – Friday, December 1, at 3:00 p.m.

Come and be part of decorating the church for Advent/Christmas as we hang wreaths and banners and the like and decorate the Christmas tree. We meet at 3:00 p.m., and this usually takes about 90 minutes.

Congregational Meeting to Elect Elders – Sunday December 3

Nominee for an unexpired term, Class of 2024: Brooks Keiser;

For the Class of 2026: Sandy Kehrl; AZ Ndingwan; Becky Stirling

Members of the church may nominate other members of the church with that person's consent to serve if elected.

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 Matthew Smith is studying First Samuel. Children and youth study lessons related to the day's lectionary readings.

Cookie Sale

The Christmas Cookie Sale happens again this month. You can still sign up on Sunday, December 3, to bake cookies, or check with Janet Vawter at janet.vawter@gmail.com for information. The cookies will be boxed on Wednesday, December 6, beginning at 4:00 p.m. They will be sold Thursday, December 7, at the Bartlett Area Chorus program, and Sunday, December 10, after church.

Children and Youth Pinecrest Fundraising Opportunity

Cookie Boxing Up - Wednesday, December 6, at 4:00 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 7, at 7:00 p.m.

The Bartlett Area Chorus, which has been rehearsing in our sanctuary on Thursday evenings, presents its holiday program in our sanctuary on Thursday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m. The concert is free. Cookies from our Cookie sale will be available at the concert.

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 11. Cost is \$10. The poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary for worship beginning December 17 and may be left through worship on December 31.

Presbyterian Women Bible Study December 11 and 12 – 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 11. The day circle, taught by Becky Stirling, meets at 10:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, which is December 12. Both meetings are both in person in the church fellowship room and on Zoom. The 2023-2024 study book is *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* by Olive Mahabir. If you need the Zoom link, please email Patsy Krech at patsykrech@gmail.com

Las Posadas – Friday, December 15, 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; \$30 max/family), fellowship and festivities. RSVP on the friendship pad.

Lessons and Carols in Worship, Sunday, December 17, at 11:00 a.m.

Our pattern of worship for the third Sunday in Advent, December 17, 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 17 will include the lections for Advent 3 as well as other passages from the Old Testament and the Gospels which tell the story of hope and joy as Advent blends toward Christmas. Choral anthems and hymns will augment the themes of these lessons.

Presbyterian Women Meet December 17 after Worship

On December 17, we 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.

Grace Presbyterian Day Care Christmas Program – Tuesday, December 19, at 10:00 a.m.

The children of the Grace Presbyterian Day Care hold their Christmas program on Tuesday, December 19, at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

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 "*A Surprising God: Advent Devotions for an Uncertain Time*," by Thomas G. Long and Donyelle C. McCray on Wednesday, December 6, and Thursdays, December 14, 21, and 28. Send Mike an email at jmkrech@yahoo.com to be added to the list receiving the Zoom link and questions for discussion.

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

We gather for worship on Christmas Eve, Sunday, 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.

Game Night – Friday, December 29

Game Night in person will be Friday, December 29, at 7:00 p.m. Bring snacks as early as 6:30 p.m.

Pictorial Directory

Please check and OK your picture for the pictorial directory on the bulletin board in the hallway.

New Roof

We are getting a new roof on the church, covered by insurance due to the storm damage from last summer. There may be minor inconveniences due to this for a few days, but thanks to property chair Jere Lawson for his labors in making this happen.

December 2023

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

Lectionary Readings for Worship:

Dec. 3: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80;
1 Cor. 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Dec. 10: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85;
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Dec. 17: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11;
1 Thess. 5:16-24

Dec. 24: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Psalm 89
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

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

Dec. 31: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148;
Galatians 4:4-7; 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

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Sent With Love To: