

Grace Presbyterian News

December 2020

Advent Outdoor Fellowship - Saturday, December 5

Though we regret that COVID prevents our usual indoor gatherings around this time of year, we are looking for ways to enjoy fellowship and celebrate the season of Advent. We will gather outdoors on Saturday, December 5, at 2:00 pm for fellowship, games, and crafts. Bring your own lawn chair and plan to stay at least 6 feet apart from other family units. We will have activities for both children and adults, so we hope to see many of you there. The event will likely be over by 4:00 pm. If it rains, we will cancel.

Magi Family 2020/2021

For many years celebrating the Advent/Christmas season at Grace Presbyterian Church with Magi families has been a tradition. Based on the Three Kings/ Three Magi who brought gifts to the Christ child, you adopt a family for whom you will provide gifts. The gifts are primarily prayers and cards, with possibly a small gift at the end of the season. Previously the process was for those who signed up to participate to be assigned the name of a family or individual who had also signed up to participate.

This year, with the restrictions due to Covid-19, we are looking at doing things a little differently. Many families and individuals are feeling overwhelmed and at a loss at this point. In an effort to reach out to church members who are more restricted in community access, including age or illness, causing more stress and isolation, those who sign up to participate as a Magi Family will be assigned to someone who has not registered to participate. This selfless act of giving comes at a time when we are reminded of the unconditional love offered to us all through the birth of a child.

Take part in the Gift of the Magi by filling out the information page in the Sunday bulletin and placing it in the offering plate, or by emailing Janet Vawter at janet.vawter@gmail.com. For any questions call at 901-438-4575.

You will be given the name of a church member or family. You will receive the information on your family either via email or mail. You may do as little or as much as you wish for you assigned family. The only thing that is asked you is that you pray for your family during the Advent/Christmas seasons, which extend through January 6, 2021.

The deadline for sign-up is Sunday, December 6, 2020.

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 is Monday, December 14. Cost is \$8; send your check to the church.

Other flowers

The church website now has a place to sign up to provide flowers for Sundays that we need them. Check it out at <http://www.grace-pres.org>

2020 Secret Pal Reveal

We are going to have a reveal on Monday December 14 at 6:30 on the zoom for Bible study. Your final present needs to get to your Pal before the reveal. You can mail it, drop it off at their home, or drop off your present at church and if you see your present there take it home with you, but don't peek!! If you can't get to the church and need help with present delivery, call Sandra Lynn Kehrli 550-8101 or 372-5496 and we will get your present picked up or dropped off as need be. If you want to be a secret pal again let Sandy know and we will get you the form. Happy Holidays. God Bless you!!

Advent Devotionals Online

This year's devotional will be online only. The theme is based upon a poem by Howard Thurman, challenging us to shine through the four weeks of Advent, and the 12 days of Christmas - ending with the celebration of Epiphany. <https://bit.ly/2GUzHe5>

Christmas Eve Worship with Communion – Thursday, December 24, at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve candlelight Communion on Thursday, December 24, begins at 5:00 p.m. This service, as all services now, require masks to be worn throughout the service and to observe physical distancing. Please send Pastor Mike an email at jmkrech@yahoo.com if you would like to attend Christmas Eve service BUT ARE NOT currently attending on Sunday morning. We can accommodate a few more people for Christmas Eve than typically attend on Sunday, but we need to limit the total number to 40.

Pinecrest Cinnamon Rolls are available as gifts or for yourselves

Rolls are prepared in pans of 6 rolls, frozen and packaged for gifting. 1-9 pans - \$15 each; 10+ pans - \$13 each. Order by December 5 at 901.878.1247 or email Amanda at amanda@camppinecrest.org. Pick up in Memphis or at Pinecrest on Saturday, December 12 or Friday, December 18. Times TBA.

Don McKim has a new article called

'What the Protestant Reformers Teach Us About Prayer' and it may be accessed here:

<https://servantsofgrace.org/what-the-protestant-reformers-teach-us-about-prayer/?fbclid=IwAR2Hu3wXXUlcRuQfv47eELD4VRq19pcvVwvJbrR2PpGtP03DTrpdLKN-C0>

New Study Group Coming in January 2021:

Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others by Barbara Brown Taylor

We will be offering a new study in 2021, via Zoom, on the book Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others. Becky Stirling will be the facilitator for this discussion-based class. "This book is a small window on a large subject." Taylor is teaching Religions of the World 101 in a small, rural college in Georgia. She takes her students, herself, and us on field trips to monasteries, temples, and mosques to discover and think about the myriad ways other people and traditions encounter the transcendent. She takes heart in how often God chooses outsiders to teach insiders. She finds things to envy in all the traditions and that her faith could be improved by the faith of others. The one constant in her odyssey is the sense that God is the one calling her to discover God and to enrich her faith in other human beings and in God.

A study guide with just a few good questions concerning each chapter will help us discover something new in our faith and the faith of others. There should be some lively and meaningful discussions!!

We will meet in the evenings, probably on a Wednesday or Thursday, depending on the schedules of those who are interested. You can purchase the book yourself, or let Emily know to order a copy for you (emilykrech@yahoo.com). Please email Becky (rebecca_stirling@comcast.net) if you are interested in participating in this class.

Regular Events at Grace Presbyterian Church this month

Sunday School on Zoom – Adult Class at 9:00 a.m.; Children's Class at 9:30 a.m.

In person Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Masks and physical distancing are required at all times.

Live stream Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m, at the church website www.grace-pres.org

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

Game Night on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Fridays, December 4 and 18.

Presbyterian Women Day Circle on Zoom – Tuesday, December 8, at 10:00 a.m.

Presbyterian Woman Night Circle on Zoom – Monday, December 14, at 7:00 p.m.

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom	3	4 7:00 p.m. Game Night on Zoom	5 2:00 p.m. Advent Outdoor Fellowship
6 9:00 Adult Sunday School on Zoom 9:30 Children's Sun Sch. on Zoom 11:00 Worship In Person & Live Stream Advent 2	7	8 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Day Circle on Zoom	9 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom	10	11	12
13 9:00 Adult Sunday School on Zoom 9:30 Children's Sun Sch. on Zoom 11:00 Worship In Person & Live Stream Advent 3	14 6:30 p.m. Secret Pal Reveal on Zoom 7:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Night Circle on Zoom	15 <i>Paula Bishop</i>	16 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom Child Care records class Christmas programs in sanctuary	17 Child Care records class Christmas program in sanctuary	18 7:00 p.m. Game Night on Zoom	19
20 9:00 Adult Sunday School on Zoom 9:30 Children's Sun Sch. on Zoom 11:00 Worship In Person & Live Stream Advent 4 <i>Harold Howard</i>	21 5:30 p.m. Session Mtg.	22	23 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom	24 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion	25 Christmas Day	26
27 9:00 Adult Sunday School on Zoom 9:30 Children's Sun Sch. on Zoom 11:00 Worship In Person & Live Stream Christmas 1	28	29 <i>Gerald Lawson Kendall Walker</i>	30 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer on Zoom <i>Mike Krech</i>	31		

Lay Reader Schedule

December 6: Becky Stirling
December 13: Bob Gammon
December 20: Bob Harrold
December 27: Akwi Aseh

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.

Lectionary Readings for Worship:

Dec. 6: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85;
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
Dec. 13: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11; Psalm 126;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28
Dec. 20: 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. 27: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Grace Presbyterian Church

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Sent With Love To: