

F i r s t 

Presbyterian

Church of Monroe

December 10, 2017; 11:00 AM

108 Washington St., Monroe, Michigan 48161
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The mission of the First Presbyterian Church is to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ and to proclaim his salvation in worship, education, and outreach.

Second Sunday of Advent

**We invite all who are able to stand where there is an asterisk.*

OPENING WORDS

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us;

Let us find our rest in Thee.

PRELUDE

“I Wonder as I Wander”

John Jacob Niles

Janet Spence, Flute

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kathy Lee, Anne Todd, and Tom Bajkiewicz

Lighting the Second Advent Candle

Leader 1: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Leader 2: Advent means coming.

Leader 1: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid.

Leader 2: The calf and the lion and the fatling shall dwell together, and a little child shall lead them.

All: We are preparing ourselves for the days when enmity between creature and creature, between people and creation shall be no more and when all shall worship the child and dwell together in peace.

*OPENING HYMN #88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Savior, it is certain that you will be coming in power to bring all people and nations under your rule. You will sift and separate. You will use your winnowing fork. But who can endure the day of your coming? We profess that you are Lord, yet our paths are crooked and our ways are rough. Show us the tender mercy of our God. Break in upon us from your holy heights. And refine us with the fire of your Spirit so that we may live as people of the light.

SILENT CONFESSION

HYMN #579

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven.

**The Lord has forgiven our sins
and cleanses us of all unrighteousness.**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*SONG OF AFFIRMATION #113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

*Children 3rd grade and younger are welcome to continue worship in the Wee
Believers Room, #159.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING – Isaiah 40:1-11

OT p. 667-668

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING – Mark 1:1-8

NT p. 34

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON “The Messenger”

HYMN #84 “Creator of the Stars of Night”

OFFERING *Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Registry.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” Polish Carol, arr. D. Willcocks
Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, nowells ringing, tidings bringing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all; Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new; saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow, Christ the Babe was born for you! Christ the Babe was born for you!

*DOXOLOGY ★606

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, full of compassion, I commit and commend myself to you, in whom I am and live and have my being. Take what is yours and return to me the gift of your presence in joy and love.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,

we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

--From A Brief Statement of Faith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #96

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE #105

“People, Look East”

v. 1

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able;

trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today; Love, the Guest, is on the way.

POSTLUDE

“Allegro” (from *Water Music*)

G.F. Handel

TODAY

Sunday Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

After worship, please come to the Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and light refreshments due to the carpeting being done in Boyd Chapel.

Special Congregational Meeting: After worship this morning, the Session has called a special congregational meeting for the purpose of electing new officers of deacon and elder nominated by the Nominating Committee.

ELDER AND DEACON NOMINEES

Elder Nominees - Class of 2020

Cheryl Eder

Jennifer Hueston

Greg Hunter

Alan Schroeder

Elder Nominees - Class of 2019

Kathy Lee

Mary DeSloover

Elder Nominees - Class of 2018

John Chesman

Cory Fogle

Deacon Nominees - Class of 2020

Judy Chesman

Shannon Costello

Mary DeSloover

Jeffrey Haman

Ann Lux

Brad Norwood

Karen Sobieralski

Nominating Committee 2018 - Members at Large

Shannon Costello

Kathy Fogle

Ann Lux

Anne Todd

Fruit Cake Pickup

This morning you may pick up your fruit cake orders.

Advent Fair

Our traditional Advent Fair will be held the next two Sundays in December, following worship. Now is the time to grab some great stocking stuffers and gifts that will be a joy to give and will benefit others.

The students in at the Monroe County ISD have a great coffee shop at Monroe High School. We will have the stocking stuffer size bags of a variety of their coffees. These fit perfectly in the stockings of the coffee lovers on your list. Also from the ISD students at the Ed. Center we will have a great selection of soaps.

These are beautifully packages by the students and make great gifts. Your purchase of these items helps to support the goal of preparing these students to be successful.

There will be tasty treats from the Women's Bean Project. This program, in Colorado, gives women a chance to get back on their feet and turn their lives around. There will be two types of soup, their great chili mix, and corn bread, including gluten free.

One of our most popular offers is donations to the Heifer Project. This year we will have information packets that include order forms, catalogs, and greeting cards. Stop by and pick up a packet, take it home to browse the catalog, and then send in your order. What a great way to help families around the world.

There will also be a few handmade goodies from the ladies of the church. The purchase of these items will help to create a pre-school at Oaks of Righteousness. Early intervention is a way to break the cycle of poverty in which so many children are living.

Come do some great Christmas shopping and lend a hand to folks locally, nationally, and internationally.

Welcome to FPC of Monroe!

We are glad you are here today! We hope you find this a community of faith where you experience God in Jesus Christ. Childcare is always provided on Sunday mornings and the nursery is located near the parking lot entrance of the church. Hearing assistance is available.

Ladies Christmas Luncheon

The Martha Mary Circle will be going to the Monroe Golf & Country Club tomorrow, **December 11** at 12:30 p.m. for a Christmas luncheon. This is open to all ladies of the church. Please sign-up in the CE Lobby.

Advent Noon Recitals

Advent recitals will be on the next two Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. Bring a light lunch and invite a friend. The program is: **December 13:** Janet Spence, Flute and Susan Barker, Piano; **December 20:** The Monroe Recorder Consort.

Adult Education Classes

The Messiah: God's Plan of Salvation

We have started during the 9:30 a.m. Adult Education hour, to explore God's plan of salvation and how it culminates in Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection. As the long-promised Messiah, he fulfills the covenant God made with his chosen people, the Israelites, and the Law he gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. During this season of

Advent, where we sing and hear Handel's "Messiah," we may wonder about the idea of the Messiah and where it all started. We will learn about the history of salvation as chronicled in the early books of the Old Testament, the kingdom of David, and the new king, Jesus the Christ. The class will be facilitated by Pastor Annemarie.

Advent Study on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. and Thursday at 10:00 a.m. We are studying, "The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem" by Adam Hamilton. Come and join us!



Martha Mary Circle-Christmas Shopping with Paula's House

The Martha Mary Circle on Friday, **December 15** at 10:00 a.m. will be taking the ladies from Paula's House out for some Christmas shopping. They will return to the Fellowship Hall for a light lunch and to wrap their presents.

Christmas Magic Parade in Monroe

On Saturday, December 16th at 6:00 P.M., the Bed Race to Aid Children will have an entry in the Monroe Light Parade. We will be starting right by the church, and will march for a little over a half mile. Our entry will be a lighted Nativity scene, and we are inviting parishioners and children to march along. Please dress as a shepherd, angel or a wise man. For further information contact Dale DeSloover at 242-7979, or at ddesloover@comcast.net.

Findley Collection on Display at Sawyer House

The Findley family's antique Santa Claus collection is on display at the Sawyer House during the month of December. Please go and see the display.

Rhythmic Ringers

Our youth handbell choir meets each Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. under the direction of Charlotte Frary. New ringers are sought and encouraged to attend.

Prayer Team

Lois Barnes is heading up the Prayer Team. Please direct any prayer requests to her. You may text or call Lois at 419-308-0262.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will start meeting weekly on Tuesday, **January 2**, at 2:00 p.m. in the Manse.

Winter Room Use

Please remember to turn down the thermostat after your meetings to help conserve energy.

Sermons

Printed copies of the weekly sermon are available in the church office in the mailbox labeled Sermons.

Newsletter deadline

Please send in your newsletter items by Friday, **December 22**.

Pledge cards

If you were not here on Stewardship Sunday please remember to fill out your pledge card and drop it in the offering plate. Blank pledge cards are available in the narthex, from the ushers, or in the church office. Thank you very much!

Christmas and New Year's Office Hours

The church office will be closed on December 25 for Christmas Day and January 1 for New Year's Day.



Christmas Poinsettias



(Please feel free to take your plant home after the 10:00 p.m. Worship Service on December 24th)

In Memory Of

Presented by:

Dan and Pat Batista
Bob and Nancy Douglas
Mike and Wendy Gaynier
Jim and Sue Heisler
Lonnie Peppler-Moyer
Ron and Ruby Pope

Mark Baker
Barbara Pillarelli

Dale and Mary DeSloover

George and Alice Kostoff

Arlene Turnbull
Winnie Findley

In Loving Memory Of:

Frank and Wilma Taylor
Dale and Arlene Douglas

Our friend, Sheri Russo
Dr. Herbert S. Moyer
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Haynes
Mr. and Mrs. William Pope
Peggy Baker
Anthony Pillarelli
Seth and Dorothy Oliver
Elizabeth Maveal
Cyril DeSloover
George and Jean Kostoff
Vernon and Harriett Dahl
Howard Turnbull
Rev. William H. Findley

In Honor Of

Presented by:

Kate and Jonathan McCoppin
Elinor Upjohn
Alan and Helyn Schroeder

Anonymous

In Honor Of:

Fay McCoppin
Jim Upjohn
Alan Schroeder's family
Helyn Schroeder's family
Susan Barker
Charlotte Frary



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are from the Lectionary. We invite you to take time each day to read the Bible passages in preparation for Sunday morning.

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday | Mark 1:1-8 | The beginning of the good news |
| Monday | Isaiah 40:1-11 | Comfort my people |
| Tuesday | 2 Peter 3:8-15a | Promise of the Lord's calling |
| Wednesday | 1 John 4:16-21 | God is love |
| Thursday | 1 Timothy 1:12-17 | Gratitude for God's mercy |
| Friday | Malachi 3:1-4 | God promises a messenger |
| Saturday | Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13 | A prayer for God's peace |
| Sunday | John 1:6-8, 19-28 | John's witness to the light |

Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kidder; **Director of Music Ministry:** Susan Barker;
Financial Secretary: Suzanne Bondie; **Administrative Assistant:** Sara Jones;
Sexton: Gary Bogedain; **Childcare:** Suzanne Bondie, Amy Morgan;
Custodian: Sean Farris
Pastors Emeriti: Rev. Dean McGormley, Rev. Dr. Ellen McGormley
Liturgist: Laurie Hoffman
Advent Wreath Lighting by: Kathy Lee, Anne Todd, and Tom Bajkiewicz
Ushers: Cory & Kathy Fogle; Rusty & Cathy Shorter

Sermon Notes

THIS WEEK

| | | |
|-----------|-------|--|
| SUNDAY | 12:15 | Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) |
| MONDAY | 12:30 | Ladies Christmas Lunch at Monroe Golf & Country Club |
| | 7:00 | AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall) |
| TUESDAY | 11:00 | Staff Meeting |
| | 12:00 | Staff Christmas Potluck (Fellowship Hall) |
| | 5:00 | Rhythmic Ringers |
| | 5:30 | No Congregational Life Committee |
| | 6:00 | No Finance Committee |
| | 7:00 | No Mission & Outreach Committee |
| WEDNESDAY | 9:30 | Chair Yoga |
| | 12:15 | Advent Recital (Sanctuary) |
| | 1:00 | Deacons Visit |
| | 5:00 | No Worship Committee |
| | 6:00 | Bible Study (Library) |
| | 6:30 | No Bell Choir |
| | 6:30 | No Property Committee |
| | 7:30 | Choir |
| THURSDAY | 10:00 | Bible Study (Cairl Room) |
| | 6:00 | Personnel Committee |
| | 6:00 | Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall) |
| | 6:00 | TOPS |
| FRIDAY | 9:00 | TOPS |
| | 10:00 | Christmas Shopping with Paula's House |
| | 8:00 | Heroin Anonymous |
| SATURDAY | 5:30 | Socialites (Fellowship Hall) |
| SUNDAY | 9:30 | Adult Education Class |
| | | Advent Fair (Boyd Chapel) |
| | 11:00 | Worship |
| | 12:15 | Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) |