

F i r s t 

Presbyterian

Church of Monroe

December 17, 2017; 11:00 AM

108 Washington St., Monroe, Michigan 48161
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www.monroefirst.org

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

Third 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

“The Holy Boy”

John Ireland

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Cory and Kathy Fogle

Lighting the Third 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 wilderness and the dry land shall be glad.

Leader 2: The desert shall rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

All: We are preparing ourselves for the days when the dry places shall be filled with vegetation and flowers and when the desert shall bring forth new life.

*OPENING HYMN #133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of strength and might, we proclaim that the Lord is near, but we fret over our destiny. We clutch your good gifts and are afraid to share them with others. Forgive us for living as strangers that never knew you. Renew us with your Spirit’s fire, that we may bear good fruit: the fruit of justice, mercy, peace, and gladness, which embodies your coming presence in our midst.

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 61:1-4, 8-11

OT p. 691-692

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING – John 1:6-8, 19-28

NT p. 91-92

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Take to the Light Even in the Darkness”

HYMN “We Are Waiting for the Light”

*See back of bulletin

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Sussex Carol” English Carol, arr. David Willcocks
On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring, news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth. Then why should men on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad? When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty? When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place; angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King. All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night, "Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore, Amen."

*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.

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 #113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

*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 “Noel” Louis-Claude Daquin

TODAY



Our guest preacher this morning is Mary Ellen Sheehan, IHM, STD, a native of Detroit. She is a member of the Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Monroe, MI. She received a B. A. in History and Education from Marygrove College, Detroit; an M.A. in Philosophy from St. Louis University; and a Doctorate in Theology (STD) from the Universite Catholique de Louvain in Belgium. She has taught theology at the University of St. Michael's College of the Toronto School of Theology for thirty-five years. Currently, she lives in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Sheehan lectures and provides workshops and retreats throughout the nation.

Sunday Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

After worship, please come to the Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and light refreshments.

Advent Fair

Today is the last Sunday for our traditional Advent Fair. 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 at the Monroe County ISD have a great coffee shop at Monroe High School. We have available 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 have available a great selection of soaps. These are beautifully packaged 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 have available 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.

Advent Noon Recitals

Our final Advent recital will feature The Monroe Recorder Consort on Wednesday, **December 20** at 12:15 p.m. Bring a light lunch and invite a friend.

Newsletter deadline

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

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.

Adult Education Classes

There will be no Adult Education classes on Sunday, **December 24** or **December 31**. The class will resume on **January 7** with Pastor Annemarie facilitating about the Epiphany and the Three Wise Men. Please join us!

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!

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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Unhanging of the Greens

After worship on Sunday, **January 7** we will take down the Christmas decorations. Please stay after church to help and invite your family or a friend.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Annemarie will be out of the office beginning December 25 through January 1. She will return on Tuesday, **January 2**. For immediate pastoral care needs during that time, please call the church office or the moderators of deacons, Donna and Dallas Dieckman (734) 242-8659.

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.

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.

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!

Contributions for 2017

Please make your contributions for the 2017 tax year no later than Sunday, **December 31** in order to receive a tax credit. Thank you kindly.

Thoughts and Prayers

First Presbyterian Church of Monroe extends our Christian sympathies to the family and friends of longtime member, Peggy Lee Sulfaro who joined the Church Triumphant on December 8. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.



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 Pepler-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
Frank and Wilma Taylor
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	John 1:6-8, 19-28	John's witness to the light
Monday	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Good news of deliverance
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	A call to rejoice
Wednesday	Luke 1:46b-55	Mary's song of praise
Thursday	Psalms 63:1-8	In God's presence I sing for joy
Friday	Acts 16:25-34	A jailer is filled with joy
Saturday	Psalms 126	A people who dream
Sunday	Luke 1:26-38	The bird of Jesus foretold

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: Mary DeSloover
Advent Wreath Lighting by: Cory and Kathy Fogle
Ushers: Bill Barnes, Mark Eby, Jim Crammond, and Helyn Schroeder

Sermon Notes

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	12:15	Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
MONDAY	7:00	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY	10:00	Organ Tuning in Sanctuary
	11:00	Staff Meeting
	5:00	No Rhythmic Ringers
WEDNESDAY	9:30	Chair Yoga
	12:15	Advent Recital (Sanctuary)
	1:00	Deacons Visit
	6:00	Bible Study (Library)
	6:30	No Bell Choir
	7:30	Choir
THURSDAY	10:00	Bible Study (Cairl Room)
	6:00	Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TOPS
FRIDAY	9:00	TOPS
	12:00	Newsletter Deadline
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SUNDAY	9:30	No Adult Education Class
	11:00	Worship
	12:15	Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00	Candlelight Lessons & Carols Service
	10:00	Candlelight Communion Service
		Flowers may go home after 10 p.m. service

WE ARE WAITING FOR THE LIGHT

We are waiting for the light,
we are struggling for survival,
running from the heavy night,
from the cloud that keeps us idle.

Where, o God, can we detect
what you said we should expect?

We are waiting for a turn
toward better, brighter days,
seeking what we cannot earn,
wanting what we hope to praise.

Where, o God, can we detect
what you said we should expect?

We recover tenderness
when we hold a newborn child,
holding it with gentleness,
tending to the smallest smile.
Is the warmth we then detect
what you said we should expect?

Thus, you came, so weak and small,
helping find in us the mild;
from the dark we hear your call
through the gifts of warmth and smile.
And beneath what we protect
lies what you have us detect.

We are ready for the light
we are waiting in surrender,
weak from running from the night,
raw with hurt and soft and tender.
Come, O Child, so we detect
what you said we should expect.

Text: Annemarie S. Kidder, 2002

Music: Carol Muehlig