

F i r s t 

Presbyterian

Church of Monroe

December 24, 2017; 11:00 AM

108 Washington St., Monroe, Michigan 48161
734.242.1545; info@monroefirst.org
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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve

**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

“Sheep May Safely Graze”

J.S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dale and Mary DeSloover & family

Lighting the Fourth 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 Lord will give you a sign.

Leader 2: Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and his name shall be Immanuel, God with us.

All: We are preparing ourselves for the days when the Lord will give us a sign, the birth of a child born into our hearts, whose name shall be: wonderful counselor, almighty king, God with us, Immanuel.

*OPENING HYMN #140

“Once in Royal David’s City”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of hope, we rejoice in the sure promise that you will be sending us a ruler and shepherd. He lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry. He cares and guides. But we strive to lift up ourselves and in our own strength seek to advance our welfare. Forgive us for having denied your power and disbelieving your promise. In mercy, do not scatter us in our pride; and do not send us away empty-handed. We seek your forgiveness and wait for your embrace.

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.*

DUET

“Silent Night”
Shannon DeSloover and Ann Lux

Joseph Mohr

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING — Isaiah 9:2-7

OT p. 638

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SOLO “Ding Dong Merrily on High” Jehan Tabourot and George R. Woodward

SECOND READING — Luke 2:1-14

NT p. 58

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN #111 “From Heaven Above”

vs. 1-2

SERMON “Of Shepherds and Angels”

HYMN #111 "From Heaven Above"

vs. 3-5

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "I Wonder as I Wander"
Janet Spence, flute

Jacob Niles

*DOXOLOGY ★606

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Jesus Christ is the sole Redeemer and Savior of the world, the King and High Priest, the true and awaited Messiah, that holy and blessed one whom all the types of the law and predictions of the prophets prefigured and promised; and that God appointed him beforehand and sent him to us, so that we are not now to look for any other. Now there only remains for all of us to give all glory to Christ, believe in him alone, despising and rejecting all other aids in life.

--From *The Second Helvetic Confession* (1561)

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 #123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE #105 "People, Look East" v. 5

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

POSTLUDE "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"

Wilbur Held

TODAY

Sunday Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

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



Christmas Eve Services



We would like to welcome you to celebrate Christmas with us this evening. Please join us for Christmas Eve Services. At 7:00 p.m. we will have a Candlelight Lessons and Carols service with childcare provided and at 10:00 p.m. a Candlelight Communion Service. A brass quartet will be featured in both services. Please join us to celebrate the birth of our Savior!

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.

Christmas and New Year's Office Hours

The church office will be closed tomorrow **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 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!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will start meeting weekly on Tuesday, **January 2**, at 2:00 p.m. in the Manse. On **January 9**, they will meet at 11:00 a.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.

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

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.

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 Dieckmann (734) 242-8659.

*We wish you all a Merry Christmas and
A Blessed New Year!*

The Staff of the First Presbyterian Church of Monroe

Annemarie

Sara

Amy Sean



Susan

Sue

Gary



Christmas Poinsettias



(Please feel free to take your plant home after tonight's 10:00 p.m. Worship Service)

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
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	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold
Monday	Titus 2:11-14	God's kindness
Tuesday	Isaiah 9:2-7	The coming king
Wednesday	Titus 3:4-7	The mercy of God
Thursday	John 1:1-14	The word became flesh
Friday	Isaiah 52:7-10	Message of hope
Saturday	Psalms 96	Sing a new song
Sunday	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple

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: Eugene Haman

Advent Wreath Lighting by: Dale and Mary DeSloover & family

Ushers: Jim and Sue Heisler; Randy Stiffler, and George Kostoff

Sermon Notes

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 12:15 Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 Candlelight Lessons and Carols Service
10:00 Candlelight Communion Service
Flowers may go home after 10 p.m. service

MONDAY CHRISTMAS DAY-OFFICE CLOSED
7:00 AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

TUESDAY 9:00 Schroeder Family Party (Fellowship Hall)
11:00 No Staff Meeting
5:00 No Rhythmic Ringers

WEDNESDAY 9:30 Chair Yoga
1:00 No Deacons Visit
6:00 No Bible Study (Library)
6:30 No Bell Choir
7:30 No Choir

THURSDAY 10:00 No Bible Study (Cairl Room)
6:00 Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 TOPS

FRIDAY 9:00 TOPS
8:00 Heroin Anonymous

SUNDAY 9:30 No Adult Education Class
11:00 Worship
12:15 Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King": the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world: above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong; and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring; O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now, for glad and golden hours some swiftly on the wing: O' rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

--Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849