

F i r s t 

Presbyterian

Church of Monroe

December 3, 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.

First Sunday of Advent and Communion Sunday

**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

“Variation on ‘Hyfrodol’”

Charles Callahan

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark Baker, Bob Douglas, Nancy Douglas

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

Leader 2: Advent means coming.

Leader 1: We are preparing ourselves for the days when nations shall beat their swords into plowshares.

Leader: We are preparing ourselves for the days when they shall turn their spears into pruning hooks.

All: We are preparing ourselves for the days when nation shall not lift sword against nation and when they will no longer know to make war.

*OPENING HYMN #82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most holy God, signs everywhere are pointing to your coming day of reckoning. Yet we continue in the sins of youth as though your day were far away. We draw on worldly wisdom, we rely on culture and other people, we live our lives as though the future depended on us. Look upon us with mercy. Convict us of our foolish ways. And raise our heads to look for you and to look to you alone.

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 64:1-9

OT p. 694-695

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING – Mark 13:24-37

NT p. 50-51

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Being on the Alert”

HYMN #373 “O Day of Peace”

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Once As I Remember"

Charles Wood

Once as I remember at the time of Yule, after mid-December, when it bloweth cool, I o'erheard a Mother was a-singing 'Sweet Jesu, La-lu-lay-lu.'

Near as man was able, on my knee fell I, in the Bethlem stable where the babe did lie, and the Virgin mother was a-singing 'Sweet Jesu. La-lu-lay-lu.'

Ox and ass around, courtier-like, did stand; fair white linen bound him, spun by Mary's hand, while the Virgin mother was a-singing 'Sweet Jesu. La-lu-lay-lu.'

Ever among and o'er us angel choir 'gan sing antiphons in chorus to the newborn King. Then the Virgin mother fell a-singing 'Sweet Jesu. La-lu-lay-lu.'

*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--Apostles' Creed (traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with choirs of angels
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All who profess Christ as their Lord and Savior are welcome to partake of the meal
he has prepared for us.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM

“Nativity Carol”

John Rutter

*Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago; born 'neath light of star He who loved
us so. Far away silent lay, born today, your homage pay, for Christ is born for aye,
born on Christmas Day. Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby, over her son
so dear angel hosts fill the sky. Far away silent he lay.....*

*Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills worship this babe so
rare, hearts with his warmth he fills. Far away, silent lay.....*

*Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow; innocent dreaming babe, make
me thy love to know. Far away silent he lay, born today, your homage pay, for
Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas day.*

COMMUNION PRAYER

Here in this place our thirst has been quenched.

Let us carry the cup beyond the door.

Here in this place our hunger has been stilled.

Let us bear the bread into the world.

Let us carry the cup that it might be lifted; let us bear the bread that it might be broken.

From life to life, God's life is given! From life to life, all life is saved!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #93 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

*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 “Toccata on “Hyfrodol”” Charles Callahan

TODAY

Hanging of the Greens

After worship today please stay to help decorate the church for the Advent season.

A soup lunch will be provided after decorating.

Poinsettia Orders Due Today

Poinsettias orders must be received by today, **December 3rd**. Fill out the order form in the bulletin to order. Please submit checks together with your order form in the offering plate. Checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church. The flowers are being furnished by Deb’s Flowers & Gifts. Please feel free to take your plant home **after** the **10:00 p.m.** worship service on December 24th.

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.

Adult Education Classes

The Messiah: God's Plan of Salvation

Starting on December 3 for three weeks during the 9:30 a.m. Adult Education hour, we will 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 Noon Recitals

Advent recitals will be on the first three Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. Bring a light lunch and invite a friend. The program is: **December 6:** The Sanctuary Choir and Sanctus Bells; **December 13:** Janet Spence, Flute and Susan Barker, Piano; **December 20:** The Monroe Recorder Consort.

Special Congregational Meeting: The Session has called a special congregational meeting for Sunday, **December 10** after worship for the purpose of electing new officers of deacon and elder nominated by the Nominating Committee.

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 d-desloover@comcast.net.

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.

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.

Martha Mary Circle

The Martha Mary Circle will be going to the Monroe Golf & Country Club on Monday, **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.

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.

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 13:24-37	The day and hour unknown
Monday	Isaiah 64:1-9	A communal prayer for help
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	God is faithful
Wednesday	Isaiah 9:1-7	The promised messiah
Thursday	Matthew 24:29-31	The coming of the Son of Man
Friday	Revelation 1:1-6	Christ sends a message
Saturday	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Prayer for Israel's restoration
Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	The beginning of the good news

Fruit Cake Order Form ~ It's not too late to order fruit cakes.

Please send in your order by using this form.

_____ **Fruit Cake(s) at \$6.00 equals \$** _____

Thank you kindly!

Poinsettia Order Form

Christmas is just around the corner! Please help to decorate our Sanctuary with a “wave” of red this Advent for the Sundays of December 10, December 17 and December 24.



The following will be available:

**A 6” potted poinsettia with a foil wrap and a bow for \$11.00.
Please submit payment with your order.**

Orders must be received by next **Sunday, December 3rd**. Fill out the order form in the bulletin or call Sara in the office at 734-242-1545 to order. Please submit checks together with your order form in the offering plate. Checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church. The flowers are being furnished by Deb’s Flowers & Gifts. Please feel free to take your plant home **after** the **10:00 p.m.** worship service on December 24th.

My poinsettia is

In Honor of _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

In Memory of _____

My Name is _____

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: Ann Lux
Advent Wreath Lighting by: Mark Baker, Bob Douglas, and Nancy Douglas
Ushers: Carol Rabun, Bill Barnes, Gary and Jo-Ann Follbaum

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	12:15	Hanging of the Greens
MONDAY	7:00	AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY	11:00	Staff Meeting
	5:00	Rhythmic Ringers
WEDNESDAY	9:30	Chair Yoga
	12:15	Advent Recital (Sanctuary)
	1:00	Deacons Visit
	1:00	Sparklers
	6:00	Bible Study (Library)
	6:30	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
	9:00	Prepare Fruit Cakes (Fellowship Hall)
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SATURDAY	8:30	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
SUNDAY	9:00	Deacons Meeting
	9:30	Adult Education Class
		Advent Fair (Boyd Chapel)
	11:00	Worship
	12:15	Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)