

F i r s t 

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Presbyterian

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Church of Monroe

December 2, 2018; 11:00 AM

108 Washington St., Monroe, Michigan 48161  
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[www.monroefirst.org](http://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 in Advent and Communion Sunday

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

## OPENING WORDS

Make ready a pathway for our God.

**Clean out the debris in our hearts and in our closets.**

Clear out a space in our calendars.

**Put aside any sense of unworthiness.**

And focus on the One who comes to love us.

**Prepare a place in our homes and hearts.**

Set the table and light the candles.

**for Christ is coming.**

## PRELUDE

“Gabriel’s Message”

Manz

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT-LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE      Todd family

READER: Today we remember the prophets of old, who demanded to be heard, who dared to speak of a child to come, unexpected liberator of the people, vulnerable incarnation of the Holiest of Holies, a new name of God.

READER: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them the light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rest upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”.

(Isaiah 9:2, 6)

**PEOPLE: Today we give thanks for the prophets among us, who bring to us surprising new visions of hope, who challenge us to think outside the box, who show us a future we never anticipated.**

READER: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of the prophets who renew our faith and remind us of what may be. (*LIGHT A PURPLE CANDLE*)

## CHORAL RESPONSE #95

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

## \*OPENING HYMN #82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, so often as we entered the season of Advent our words may have spoken of expectations, but our hearts have been empty or hopeless. Forgive us Lord, and in these weeks to come, rekindle in our souls that fire only the presence of Your Holy Spirit brings and let all who are around us know that Your wonderful message of forgiving love is real. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

HYMN #579

“Lord, Have Mercy”

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

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

\*SONG OF AFFIRMATION #753 “Make me a Channel of Your Peace” vs. 1,3,4  
*Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there’s doubt, true faith in you. O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul. Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we’re born to eternal life.*

CHILDREN’S TIME

Winnie Findley

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

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING – Psalm 25:1-10

OT p. 502

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Waiting for Jesus to Come”

HYMN #90

“Wait for the Lord”

*sing refrain 4 times*

CALL TO OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

“Bethlehemtown”

\*DOXOLOGY ★606

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**With joy and thanksgiving we celebrate this opportunity to share. Your promises are more real to us, O God, when we participate in the outreach our gifts make possible. Lead us, we pray, to do what is right with these offerings and with the time and talents you entrust to us. Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**When the fullness of time came, God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the “just seed of David,” the “Angel of the great counsel of God,” the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.**

—The Scots Confession: The Incarnation of Christ

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” #552

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

And so in remembrance of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves with thanksgiving as a living sacrifice.

In union with Christ’s offering for us, we live out the mystery of faith we proclaim:  
**Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

## 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 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 PRAYER

Gracious and abundant God, even as we wait for the fulfillment of your creation, you meet us in Christ at this table, in this meal. We thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation. Now send us out into the world by the power of your Holy Spirit to share your life and salvation with all whom we meet. **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN #88

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

## TODAY

### **Advent Candle Meaning**

This morning during worship we will light the first purple candle of the Advent Wreath. The first candle symbolizes Hope. We light the first candle in hope and anticipation of the Lord coming!

### **Christ Candle**

As tradition has it, the Christ Candle is lit on Christmas Eve at the birth of Jesus. Our Advent wreath has a Christ Candle at the center of it, but it will not be lit until our December 24<sup>th</sup> evening Worship service. Our tall Christ candle that is normally carried in by an usher-will not be visible during Advent in remembrance of our waiting for the Christ child to be born.

### **About our Guest Speaker**

Diane Adams is a graduate of Adrian College, Eastern Michigan University, and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She is a retired educator, a former hospital chaplain, and one who has served as an interim associate in York, PA, and as a Christian education director in Monroe, MI. Diane was confirmed and married at First Presbyterian Church, Monroe, MI.

### **Hanging of the Greens**

Please join us after worship this morning to help in the “Hanging of the Greens”. We will need many helping hands to help us decorate for the Christmas season. Congregational Life will be providing a light lunch. If you are unable to decorate you can cheer us on from the sidelines.



### **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, wheel chairs, and walkers are also available.

### **Christian Sympathies**

First Presbyterian Church of Monroe extends its Christian sympathies to the family and friends of Marjorie O. Vensel, who joined the Church Triumphant on **November 28, 2018**. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

## **Adult Education**

Dallas Dieckmann and Cindy Morgan will co-facilitate and continue to study the Word of God in the Cairl Room at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Nursery will be provided.

## **Advent Calendars**

There are advent calendars available for adults and children on the table in the Narthex. Please feel free to take one for your family and/or to a shut-in.

## **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

For Advent: We will be using the book, "Celebrating Advent" by Ann Hibbard. It is a book of family devotions and activities for the Christmas Season. Please join us in celebrating Advent during Bible Study on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Cairl Room!

## **Fruit Cake Orders**

Please remember that the last date to order Fruit Cakes is this Tuesday, **December 4**. Order forms are available in the Welcome Center, C.E. Lobby, and the Church Office. For questions see Charlotte Frary. Please place your Order forms in the box outside of the Church Office. Orders will be delivered on Sunday, December 9.

## **Tom Treece Concert**

This Saturday, **December 8** at 7:00 p.m. Tom Treece will be with us in concert. Please join us as we worship our Risen Savior through Christmas Carols of Joy. The Worship Committee will provide a light supper at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Tom Treece will be selling his CD's and books at the concert.

## **Christmas Program**

On Sunday, **December 9** we will have a Christmas Program during Worship. After worship we will have a special tea. We will be setting up the costumes on Wednesday, **December 5** at 10:00 a.m. and a practice with the cast will be on Saturday, **December 8** at 9:30 a.m. Please make sure that you are in attendance at the practice if you are involved in the program.

## **Men's Prayer Breakfast**

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday, **December 8** at 8:30 a.m. at the Fifth Wheel Restaurant. Please sign up in the C.E. Lobby.

## **Congregational Meeting**

There will be a Congregational Meeting after worship on **December 9** for the purpose of electing new Deacons and Elders for 2019 and for the approval of the 2019 budget.

## **Martha Mary Circle Christmas Luncheon**

The Martha Mary Circle will be going to the Monroe Golf & Country Club for a Christmas Luncheon on Monday, **December 10** at 12:30 p.m. This is open to all ladies of the church. Please join us as we fellowship with one another before Christmas and sign up on the sheet in the C.E. Lobby!

## **Sparklers**

The Sparklers will meet to “sparkle” the sanctuary on Wednesday, **December 12** at 1:00 p.m.

## **Christmas Magic Parade in Monroe**

On Saturday, **December 15** 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 Knights of Columbus (K of C) Hall, and will march for a little over a half mile to the church. Our entry will be a lighted Nativity scene, and we are inviting parishioners and children/grandchildren to march along. Please dress as a shepherd, angel or a wise man. We have costumes at the church. For questions, please contact Dale or Mary DeSloover.

## **Pastoral Care Needs**

Please direct any Pastoral Care needs to the Church Office. Information shared is confidential!

### **Staff:**

**Director of Music Ministries:** Robert Edwards;

**Administrative Assistant:** Sara Jones; **Financial Secretary:** Suzanne Bondie;

**Sexton:** Gary Bogedain; **Childcare:** Suzanne Bondie, Amy Morgan;

**Custodian:** Sean Farris

**Pastors Emeriti:** Rev. Dean McGormley, Rev. Dr. Ellen McGormley

**Liturgist:** Ann Orwin

**Ushers:** Carol Rabun, Gary and Jo-Ann Follbaum

**Advent Candle Lighters:** Todd Family

## **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.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 21:25-36</b>	<b>The coming of the Son of Man</b>
Monday	Jeremiah 33:14-16	The Lord's wonderful promise
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Paul's words of thanks
Wednesday	Nehemiah 9:6-15	God's faithful goodness
Thursday	Revelation 22:12-16	Jesus is coming soon
Friday	Malachi 3:5-12	Return to God
Saturday	Psalms 25:1-10	A prayer for help
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke 3:1-6</b>	<b>Prepare the way of the Lord</b>

## THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	12:15	Hanging of the Greens
MONDAY	6:00	Chair Yoga
	7:00	AA (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY		Fruit Cake Orders Due Today
	10:00	Chair Yoga
	11:15	Staff Meeting
	6:00	Finance Committee
WEDNESDAY	10:00	Christmas Program-Costume Set-Up
	5:00	Worship Committee
	6:00	Ecumenical Youth Group (Monroe Free Methodist)
	6:30	Bell Choir
	7:30	Choir practice
THURSDAY	10:00	Bible Study
	6:00	Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TOPS
FRIDAY	9:00	TOPS
	9:30	No Worship Planning Meeting
	9:30	Fruit Cake Baking (Fellowship Hall)
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SATURDAY	8:30	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fifth Wheel Restaurant)
	9:30	Christmas Program Practice
	5:00	Light Supper (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00	Tom Treece Concert (Sanctuary)
SUNDAY	9:30	Adult Education (Cairl Room)
	11:00	Worship
	12:15	Tea
	12:15	Congregational Meeting (Nominating/Budget Meeting)
	12:15	Deacons Meeting