

F i r s t 

Presbyterian

Church of Monroe

December 16, 2018; 11:00 AM

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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 in Advent

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

OPENING WORDS

Listen. Deep in the darkest night is the sound of hope.

Deep in the midst of despair is a message of new life.

Listen. It is coming closer.

A bell in the distance,

A sound of joy,

An echo of love,

A note of promise,

A melody of Praise.

Listen.

PRELUDE

“All Earth is Waiting”

Green Book #93

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT-LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Heisler Family

READER: Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

READER: And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.” (Luke 1:46-49)

PEOPLE: Today we give thanks for the Marys’ among us, who step out of the roles society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.

READER: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of the Way. (Light two Purple Candles and one Pink One.)

CHORAL AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#95 “My Soul in Stillness Waits”

v. 3

(You will find this in the green songbook in your pew “Sing! A New Creation”)

*OPENING HYMN #143 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, as we continue to move through Advent, we are so aware there is much in the world that would distract and harden our hearts to the message of love. You gave us the birth of Christ. Lord, forgive us for all those times we have willingly chosen the distractions and turned away from You. Call us once more to the true joy in Christmas. 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 3rd grade and younger are welcome to continue worship in the Wee Believers Room, #159.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING – Philippians 3:4-7

OT p. 198

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING – Luke 3:7-18

NT p. 60

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Ethics of John the Baptist”

*HYMN #116

“The Snow Lay On the Ground”

CALL TO OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Registry.

OFFERTORY

“Shepherds Echo Carol”

*DOXOLOGY ★606

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We praise you with our offerings, gracious God, and honor you with our gifts. As we remember the greatest gift you gave us, your Son Jesus. May these gifts today we used to glorify His name to all the world. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Winnie Findley

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION—Pastoral Search

Jim Crammond

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #123

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Carillon”

Young

TODAY

Advent Candle Meaning

This morning during worship we will light the three candles of the Advent Wreath. The third candle symbolizes Joy. As we light two purple candles and one pink candle please remember the joy that we have as Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

About our Guest Minister

Rev. Alex McLean, is our guest minister this morning! He is a retired Presbyterian minister who has served over 20 years in churches located in Michigan, New York, North Carolina, and Ohio. Please give him a warm welcome this morning!

Fruit Cake Orders

Please remember to pick up your fruit cake orders this morning in the little kitchen.



Christmas Poinsettias



(Please feel free to take your plant home after the 8:00 p.m. Worship Service on December 24th)

In Memory Of

Presented by:

Mark Baker
 Dan and Pat Batista
 Bud and Betty Cheney
 Dale and Mary DeSloover
 Dale and Mary DeSloover
 Bob and Nancy Douglas
 Winnie Findley
 Mike and Wendy Gaynier
 Jeff Haman
 James and Susan Heisler
 Kim Hooper Family
 Kim Hooper Family
 George and Alice Kostoff
 George and Alice Kostoff
 Ronald and Ruby Pope
 Ronald and Ruby Pope
 Alan and Helyn Schroeder
 Randy Stiffler
 Randy Stiffler
 Randy Stiffler
 Randy Stiffler

In Loving Memory Of:

Peggy Baker
 Frank and Wilma Taylor
 Our Parents
 Donald and Elizabeth Maveal
 Cyril and Marie DeSloover
 Dale and Arlene Douglas
 Rev. William H. Findley
 Frank and Wilma Taylor
 Barbara Pillarelli
 Our Parents
 Bud and Bonnie Allison
 Dale, Virginia, and Marie Hooper
 Vernon and Harriett Dahl
 George and Jean Kostoff
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Haynes
 Mr. and Mrs. William Pope
 Our Families
 Todd Thompson
 Bob and Marge Cornoyer
 Jr. and Anna Flack
 Richard Stiffler

In Honor Of

Presented by:

John and Judy Chesman
 Winnie Findley
 Jeff Haman
 Jeff Haman
 Alan and Helyn Schroeder
 Arlene Turnbull

In Honor Of:

Our Parents
 My Alaska Family
 Mary Haman
 Jean Hicks
 Our Families
 Kathleen, Gary, and David Turnbull

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 sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Shannon Pifer, granddaughter of Barbara Gryder. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Adult Education

Throughout the month at 9:30 a.m. Dallas Dieckmann will lead us as we continue to study the Word of God. Nursery will be provided.

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 in the Cairl Room!

Blue Christmas ~ A Service of Healing and Wholeness

While shouts of "Merry Christmas" bring joy to some, for many, it is a season that brings difficult memories, sadness, and overwhelming stress. We will be offering a "Blue Christmas" service for those who are not experiencing a Merry Christmas. Come and worship with one another in a manner that speaks of the love of God for the lonely and the grief-stricken. Please gather with us in Boyd Chapel on Friday, **December 21** at 7:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served after the service. Childcare will be provided.

Newsletter deadline

Please send in your newsletter items by Thursday, **December 20**.

Welcome Reception for Robert Edwards

After worship next Sunday, **December 23** there will be a welcome reception for Robert Edwards and his family. Please join us in Boyd Chapel to extend a warm welcome and to introduce yourself to the Edwards family!

Church Office Hours

On Christmas Eve, the Church Office will close at 1:00 p.m. and will reopen on Wednesday, **December 27** at 9:00 a.m.

Committee Year-End Reports

The Committees need to begin writing their year-end report that will be included in the Church Annual Report. Please send your reports to the Church Office by Tuesday, **January 15**.

2019 Church Directory

It's time to update the church directory for the year 2019! Please carefully review your contact information in this past year's directory to make sure it is correct. If you have moved, changed a phone number, an email address, or if you are a new comer and wish to have your contact information included in the Church Directory, please call the Church Office. If you know of someone that has moved and you have the current contact information please let the Church Office know. The deadline to update your information is Monday, **January 28**. Thank you for your cooperation.

Pastoral Care Needs

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



Christmas Worship Service Schedule

Please join us this Christmas as we worship the Newborn King!

Sunday, December 23 at 11:00 a.m.

Monday, December 24 at 8:00 p.m.

Lessons and Carols Service

Christmas Eve Communion

Worship Service

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 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming
Monday	Zephaniah 3:14-20	A song of joy
Tuesday	Philippians 4:4-7	The Lord is near
Wednesday	Isaiah 9:1-7	A child is born
Thursday	Hebrews 13:7-17	Service that pleases God
Friday	Isaiah 11:1-9	The peaceful kingdom
Saturday	Isaiah 12:2-6	Thanksgiving and praise
Sunday	Luke 1:39-55	Mary visits Elizabeth

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: Mary DeSloover

Ushers: Jim Crammond, Helyn Schroeder, David Nielson

Advent Wreath Candle Lighters: Heisler Family

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	12:15	Fellowship
MONDAY	9:30	Worship Planning
	6:00	Chair Yoga
	7:00	Session
	7:00	AA (Fellowship Hall)
TUESDAY	10:00	Chair Yoga
	11:15	Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAY	6:00	Ecumenical Youth Group (Monroe Free Methodist)
	6:30	Bell Choir
	7:30	Choir practice
THURSDAY		Newsletter Deadline
	10:00	Bible Study
	6:00	Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TOPS
FRIDAY	9:00	TOPS
	9:30	Worship Planning Meeting
	7:00	Blue Christmas Worship Service (Boyd Chapel)
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SUNDAY	9:30	Adult Education (Cairl Room)
	11:00	Worship (Lessons and Carols Service)
	12:15	Fellowship-Reception for Robert Edwards