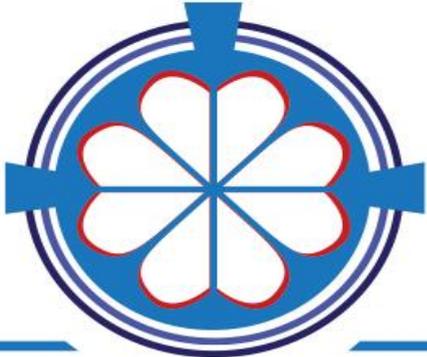


F i r s t 

Presbyterian

Church of Monroe

December 24, 2018; 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.

Christmas Eve Communion Worship Service

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

OPENING WORDS

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness---on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

PRELUDE

“O Holy Night”

Arr. Powell

CHRISTMAS EVE-ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Ellison Family

READER: Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies; well-worn fabric full of years holds in the warmth of parental love; animals and shepherds crowd in tightly, glowing with adoration, while a muffled cry squeezes out to greet the world.

READER: “While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger.” (Luke 2:6-7)

PEOPLE: Tonight we give thanks for every child among us. Each new birth—regardless of circumstances-reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, the promise of God.

READER: On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the child-King, the infant redeemer, the lowly Lord. And now we know...He is born and nothing will ever be the same!

CHORAL AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#134 “Joy to the World”

v. 1

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

*OPENING HYMN #147

“The First Nowell”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The babe whose birth we celebrate grew to be a man. Through his teachings the life he lived, and his death and resurrection, we have learned that our God is a God of love and mercy. This light has shined upon us, but we have often chosen to walk in darkness. Forgive our foolishness, we pray, and enable us with the aid of your Holy Spirit to show forth your love for all human kind. 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 #113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

v. 1

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

CHILDREN’S TIME

Alice Kostoff

Children 3rd grade and younger are welcome to continue worship in the Wee Believers Room, #159. Parents may retrieve children and return at the Affirmation of Faith to take Communion with family.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Beautiful Spirit, come to this place and bless us with your wisdom that we might be guided by God’s word and molded by its message. **Amen.**

FIRST READING – Isaiah 9:2-7

OT p. 638

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Incredible Gift of Hope”

HYMN #145

“What Child is This?”

CALL TO OFFERING/CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Registry.

OFFERTORY

“Shepherds Echo”

*DOXOLOGY ★606

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lamb of God, Keeper of Christ’s flock, with Bethlehem shepherds of old, we come to see what has happened and consider what has been made known to us. We rejoice in the birth of this child Jesus who embodies both the good Shepherd and the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. For his obedience to your saving purpose we are thankful. All glory be ascribed to you, God, Giving, Coming, Renewing. 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 Jesus

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 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.

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

Mighty God, holy is your name. We thank you for gathering us at your table and feeding us with the bread of life. As we leave this table to go to the many places where you call us, send your Spirit to accompany us, so that we may share in your magnificent work: lifting up those who are laid low, showing mercy to all in need of human kindness, and feeding the bodies and hearts of all those who are hungry.
Amen.

*PASSING OF THE CANDLES

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“I Saw Three Ships”

Arr. Page



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

TONIGHT

Advent Candle Meaning and Christ Candle

This evening during worship we will light all four candles of the Advent Wreath. 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. It will be lit tonight during our evening Worship service.

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.

Christmas Joy Offering

Our Congregation supports the Christmas Joy offering at Christmas. This special Presbyterian Church offering reflects God's gift to us, through the Christmas Joy Offering, with generous gifts supporting church leaders—retired, present and future—who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color—offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come. The special offering will be received this evening, December 24.

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.

Church Office Hours

The Church Office will be closed on Christmas Day, **December 25** and **December 26**. The office will reopen on Thursday, **December 27** at 9:00 a.m.

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.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Please join us for Bible Study on Thursdays at 10:00 in the Cairl Room as we study and grow deeper in our faith of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Unhanging of the Greens

We will “unhang” the greens and pack away the Christmas decorations after worship on Epiphany Sunday, **January 6**. A light lunch will be provided by Congregational Life. Many helping hands will be welcomed!

Men’s Prayer Breakfast

The next Men’s Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday, **January 12** at 8:30 a.m. at the Fifth Wheel Restaurant.

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**.

Pastoral Care Needs

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

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.

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

Liturgists: Bob Douglas and Mark Baker

Ushers: Jim and Sue Heisler; Randy Stiffler

Advent Wreath Candle Lighters: Ellison Family

Guest Speaker: Diane Adams, M. Div.

O, Come let us adore Him

