

F i r s t 

Presbyterian

Church of Monroe

December 9, 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.

Second Sunday in Advent

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

OPENING WORDS

Behold, we are a people who dwell in darkness

Our understanding is dim, a mere shadow of truth

In a land of deep darkness we await light from our God.

In faith, we see but a faint reflection of God's glory.

Illumine our darkness by the light of your Christ.

Then we shall see and be radiant,

When the true Light which enlightens everyone has come into the world.

Amen, let it be so!

PRELUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo”

Dupre

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT-LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

DeSloover Family

READER: Today we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.

READER: “In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see –I am bring you good news of great joy for all the people.’” (Luke 2:8-10)

PEOPLE: Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, back-breaking labor on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.

READER: On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the second candle as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world. (Light TWO purple candles)

CHORAL AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#95 “My Soul in Stillness Waits”

v. 2

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

*OPENING HYMN #99 “Song of Mary: My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, so often we have tried to tell you what is best for us and our world instead of seeking your eternal wisdom and guidance in prayer. Too often we have sought greatness and power by worldly standards and failed to hear Your call to serve even the poor and wounded around us. Forgive us Lord, and give us strength and courage to become your servants anew. 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

As children welcome into your presence, instill in us a sense of curiosity and wonder as we listen to your Word. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Varner

TODAY

About our Guest Minister

The Rev. Michelle James is a wife, mother and Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbytery of Detroit, living in Grosse Ile MI. She has served churches large and small in Michigan, Virginia, North Carolina and Ohio as Pastor, Co-Pastor (with her husband, Tom), and Associate Pastor. She met Tom in Louisville KY where they attended Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and where they were later married. They have three beautiful children: Emma, a freshman at U of M; Annie, a sophomore at Grosse Ile High School; and Charissa, an eighth grader at Grosse Ile Middle School. Their dogs, Jack and Duke, add lots of energy, laughs and hair to their lives. Currently, Michelle is a part-time Event Support Specialist with Rise against Hunger, an international hunger relief agency. In her spare time, she enjoys dirt therapy, family game night, attending their girls' volleyball and basketball games, and playing silly computer games.

Advent Candle Meaning

This morning during worship we will light the second purple candle of the Advent Wreath. The second candle symbolizes Peace. God, as we light two purple candles please “make us a channel of your peace”.

Christmas Program

This morning we will have a special Christmas Program of “The Christmas Story”, featuring the children of our church. After worship there will be a special tea in Boyd Chapel. Please join us to let the children know that they did a great job in the program.

Congregational Meeting Today After Worship

There will be a Congregational Meeting after worship this morning for the purpose of presenting the following people to serve on Session and the Board of Deacons and for the approval of the 2019 budget:

Elders

Class of 2021: Diane Adams, Jim Crammond, Dale DeSloover

Deacons

Class of 2020: Liz Cunningham, Ann Orwin, David Nielson

Class of 2019: Lynn Geiman, Gwen Peters

Deacons Meeting

After the Congregational Meeting there will be a Deacons Meeting.

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 families and friends of Janyth Pomerville, who joined the Church Triumphant on **November 23, 2018** and Marjorie O. Vensel, who joined the Church Triumphant on **November 28, 2018**. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Fruit Cake Orders

Please remember to pick up your fruit cake orders.

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

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!

Martha Mary Circle Christmas Luncheon Tomorrow

The Martha Mary Circle will be going to the Monroe Golf & Country Club for a Christmas Luncheon tomorrow, **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.

200th Anniversary Cookbook Recipes

We are starting to gather your best recipes for our 200th Anniversary Cookbook. Please remember to pick up the recipe forms located in the Narthex and C.E. Lobby.

Sparklers

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

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: Alice Kostoff

Ushers: Kim Hooper; Marilyn Marshall; George Kostoff

Advent Wreath Candle Lighters: DeSloover 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.

Sunday	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord
Monday	Malachi 3:1-4	The promised messenger
Tuesday	Luke 1:68-79	Zechariah praises the Lord
Wednesday	Isaiah 35:3-7	God changes everything
Thursday	Philippians 1:3-11	Peace to God's people
Friday	Isaiah 40:1-11	A voice in the desert
Saturday	Psalm 126	Harvest of joy
Sunday	Luke 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	12:15	Tea
	12:15	Congregational Meeting (Nominating/Budget Meeting)
	12:15	Deacons Meeting
MONDAY	Poinsettia Orders Due Today	
	12:30	Martha Mary Circle Christmas Luncheon at the Monroe Golf and Country Club
	6:00	Chair Yoga
	7:00	No Property Committee Meeting
TUESDAY	7:00	AA (Fellowship Hall)
	10:00	Chair Yoga
	11:15	Staff Meeting
	5:30	Congregational Life Committee
WEDNESDAY	7:00	Mission and Outreach Committee
	1:00	Sparklers
	6:00	Ecumenical Youth Group (Monroe Free Methodist)
	6:30	Bell Choir
THURSDAY	7:30	Choir practice
	10:00	Bible Study
	6:00	Personnel Committee
	6:00	Community of Need Meal (Fellowship Hall)
FRIDAY	6:00	TOPS
	9:00	TOPS
	9:30	Worship Planning Meeting
	8:00	Heroin Anonymous
SATURDAY	5:30	Socialites
	6:00	Christmas Magic in Monroe Parade
SUNDAY	9:30	Adult Education (Cairl Room)
	11:00	Worship
	12:15	Fellowship

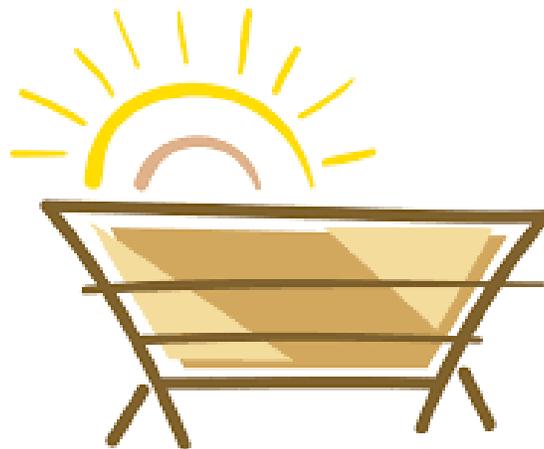


Christmas Worship Service Schedule

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

Sunday, December 23 at 11:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols Service

Monday, December 24 at 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion
Worship Service



**CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**