



LIVING HOPE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

From the Pastor...

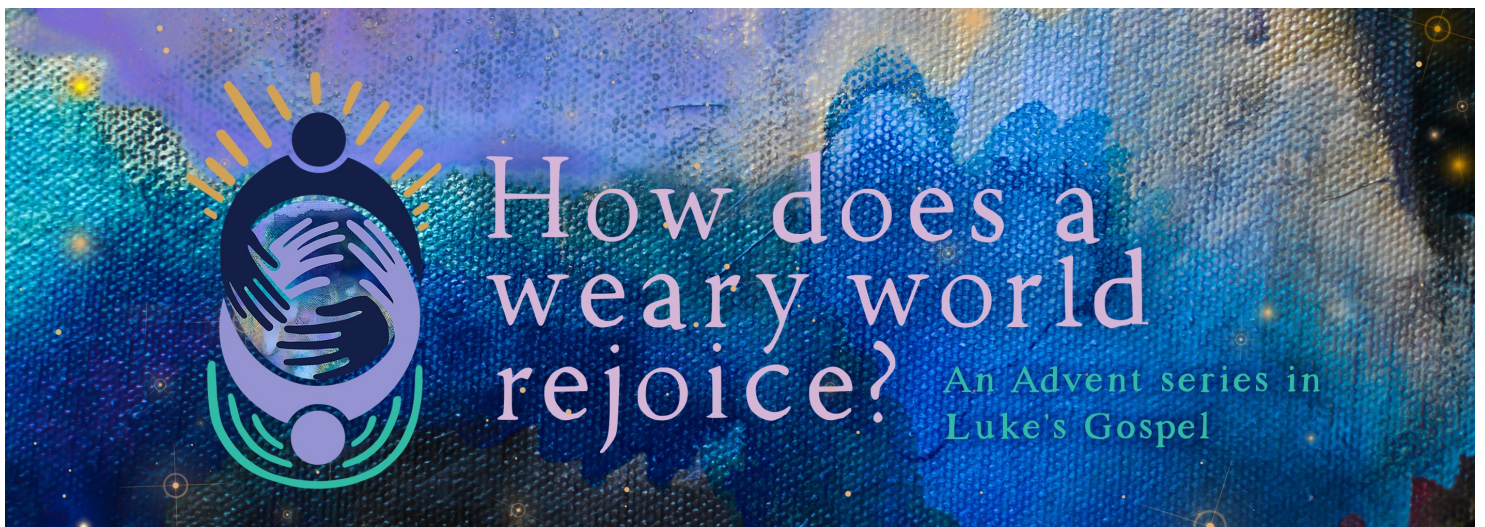
December 2023 Newsletter

As we come into December and the season of Advent, we come into a time that can be hard for some folks. This time of year emphasizes getting together with family and friends, going to parties and celebrations, and, in general, having a jolly old time. However, when we are living with the grief of a loved one who has died or dealing with the pressures that comes with gatherings, it can be really hard to be fully present in the holy-day festivities.

This year, our theme for Advent is "A Weary World Rejoices." It recognizes that we live in a complex world where our emotions and experiences are not always in line with the expectations. We do live in a world that even when things are moving along well, it can be a daily grind. There is

stress that seems to be ever present, even if at a low level. We listen to what is happening in the broader world and we can't help but feel concerned. The question is: how do we find hope, joy, and wonder in a world where it can be so hard to see the good? How do we rejoice while living in a weary world?

Over the four Sundays of Advent we will explore this question by looking at the first chapter of Luke and the stories of birth announcements that are held there. We will follow the family of John the Baptizer, Zechariah and Elizabeth, and also listen to Mary and her story. We will hear how they deal with their grief, fear, and apprehension while also embracing the good news that they receive from God



about God's actions in the world. We talk about how we deal with our losses, our concerns and worries, when we are in the most wonderful time of the year (even if it's not).

During the coming month, my invitation to all of us is to recognize both those hard things that are present in this time of year and also the blessings and promises that are abundant. It is okay to have both, in fact, it is expected. It is these exact situations to which God speaks and acts with the gift of Jesus. Without the hard things in our lives, without the weariness that this world creates, there would be no need for Christ or this season to help us remember that God is with us, bringing new and glorious morns.

May we all have a blessed Advent season where we do rejoice even in a weary world.

In Christ,

Will



Advent Devotional

- available at church

Our devotional for Advent this year is inspired by the work of Henri Nouwen - A Little Child Shall Lead Them.

Copies are still available - you can pick one up at church on Dec 3.



Brass Quintet

Sunday, Dec 17

We welcome the Bruce Bush Brass Quintet to worship for the Third Sunday of Advent.





Poinsettia Dedication Form

As we plan for our Advent and Christmas season, we again offer for you to contribute toward this beautiful display by donating any amount toward the Poinsettia Fund. Donations **above** the cost of the plants will be designated to the Flower Fund, providing flowers on the Communion Table on third Sundays throughout the year. This form can be used to designate “in honor of” or “in memory of.”

Your name: _____

Given in memory of : _____

Given in honor of: _____

Donation amount: \$ _____

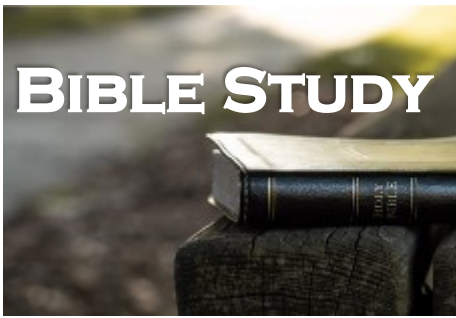
Donation (checks or cash) must accompany your form. Please place this donor form and payment in the offering plate, or give to Lisa in the church office. Donations are accepted until Thursday, December 14, 2023 to have your loved ones included in the Memory/Honor page.

Did You Know that We Have Affiliate Membership?

If you are a regular attender here at Living Hope, but have a congregation that you have been a member at for a long time and don't want to change your membership, you can become an Affiliate Member of Living Hope.

Affiliate membership recognizes the relationship that you have with Living Hope without having to give up the relationship that you have with your congregation. Unfortunately, being an affiliate member doesn't allow you to serve on the session (church board) or as a deacon, but there are many other ways that you can get involved here at Living Hope.

If you have questions about or are interested in Affiliate Membership, please talk with Pastor Will or one of the members of the session. If you decide that you would like to join as an affiliate member, we will send a letter to your home congregation letting them know about your desire to become an affiliate member and that we are here to help them as they continue to care for you as a member of their congregation. We will also have a new members/affiliate class in January, where we will talk more about what it means to be a Presbyterian and also go over the details of both full membership and affiliate membership.



Monday Bible Study

Mondays at 9:45 AM

Join us for a discussion about the coming Sunday's lectionary readings either in-person in Fellowship Hall or watch on Channel 966. We meet three more times in December, and then will be off two weeks for the holidays and resume on Monday, January 8, 2024

Dec 4 - Isaiah 40:1-11; Luke 1:24-45

for Dec 10

Dec 11 - Psalm 126; Luke 1:57-66

for Dec 17

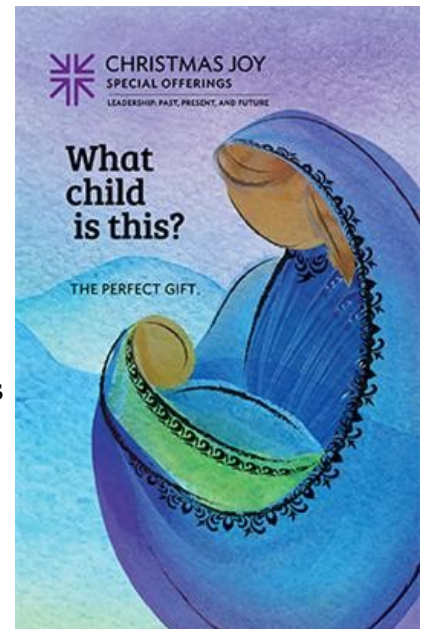
Dec 18 - Luke 1:46-55; Luke 1:67-80

for Dec 24 am

Christmas Joy Offering

On Sunday, December 17, we collect the last of the Four for Four offerings for the PC (USA).

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.



Mission Giving

Living Hope received a request to sponsor the Ernest Glenn Christmas Toy Store at Christ Presbyterian in Milwaukee. Mission Committee recommended that we give a \$1000 donation through our Mission Budget Funds.

If you would like to purchase toys to donate as well, we will collect through Sunday, December 10 - we will take to Christ Church on Monday, December 11.

DECEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				30 9-12:30 Office Hours	1	2
3 Advent 1 10 AM Worship - with communion  Food Pantry Sunday First Sunday of each month	4 8:30-12:30 Office Hours 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH 	5	6	7 9-12:30 Office Hours	8	9
10 Advent 2 10 AM Worship 11 AM - Congregational Meeting	11 8:30-12:30 Office Hours 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH	12 6:30 PM Finance Meeting	13	14 9-12:30 Office Hours	15	16
17 Advent 3 10 AM Worship - Joy Offering 11:30 AM Session	18 8:30-12:30 Office Hours 9:45 AM Bible Study—FH	19	20	21 9-12:30 Office Hours	22	23
24 Advent 4 / Christmas Eve 10 AM Worship 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31 10 AM - Worship - Rev. Pete Haskins	1 January Office Closed	2	3	4 9-2:30 Office Hours	5	6

The church office will be closed Dec 25-through Jan 1. All offerings post-marked and dated by Dec 30 will be counted for your 2023 giving. Lisa will return emails beginning Jan 2 and in the office Th Jan 4.



We are a connectional church...connected in faith to God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Jesus taught us that prayer connects us to the Divine...and to each other.

Each month we list our faith community. Every family has a date when we ask you to hold them in prayer.

December Prayer Calendar



December Birthdays

**The Care and Concern of the
Congregation is with:**

All those who have lost loved ones this year.

Average November Attendance

In person: 41

Zoom/livestream: 8

Total Average Attendance: 49

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary?
Please let the office know so we can
update our files.

FINANCIAL UPDATE - As of October 31, 2023

	Actual	Budget	Fav/(Unfav) Variance
Total Income - YTD	\$119,181.97	\$ 91,330.00	\$ 27,851.97
Total Expense - YTD	\$134,829.64	\$ 127,750.00	\$ (7,079.64)
Net Income - YTD October 31, 2023	\$(15,647.67)	\$ (36,420.00)	\$ 20,772.33
Unrestricted Funds as of October 31, 2023	\$317,750.59		



Food Pantry Sunday

First Sunday of each month

Food Pantry Sunday
Dec 3 Jan 7 Feb 4



LIVING HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



W156 N4881 Pilgrim Road, Menomonee Falls WI 53051

www.LivingHopePCUSA.org

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Will Houts

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Office: (262) 599-8340 Cell: (262) 949-1830

Administrative Assistant: Lisa Quinn

Email: Office@LivingHopePCUSA.org

Office: (262) 599-8341

Office Hours: Mon and Th 8:30-12:30 (remote email rest of the week)

Clerk of Session: Kathryn Fresch

Treasurer: Steve Sinner

Church Musician: Teresa Ledford

2023 Session Members: Karl Bertram, Michael Brady, Dorothy Dieter, Kathryn Fresch, Curtis MacDonald,
Mike McBride and Marcia Sinner

2023 Deacons: (A-B) Tom Tennyson (C-F) Ann Tennyson (G-K) Diane DeBoer – Moderator
(L-O) Cherie Andrus (P-R) Karen Stephan (S-Z) Ken DeBoer