

From the Pastor...

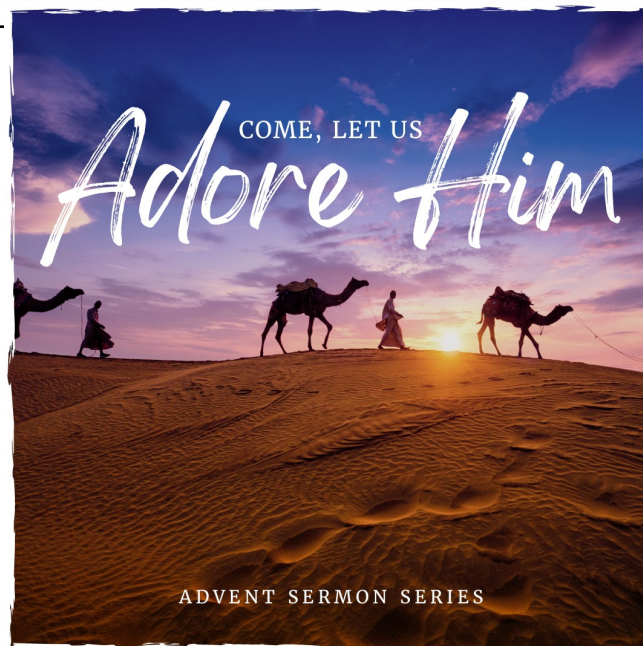
December 2024 Newsletter

Advent is coming....literally. The word advent means coming, and that is exactly what the church season of Advent is about. Jesus coming; Jesus coming again; Jesus coming into our hearts and lives; Jesus coming into the world; Jesus coming to Bethlehem all those centuries ago. As we come to the season of Advent, there are many things that try to get our attention: getting Christmas cards in the mail, figuring out what gifts to get everyone, fitting all of the extra events on to our calendars. But there is one thing that we really need to do, find ways to come closer to Jesus and celebrate his presence in our lives.

Our theme this year for Advent will be "O Come, Let Us Adore Him," because while a lot of Advent is about Jesus coming into the world and our lives, we also need to come to him. As we work at coming to Jesus to adore him, we will look at how we need to **prepare** ourselves and the world to meet him, the ways that we need to have **passion** about our connections to God in Christ, how our **being present** to others can help us and others adore Jesus, and the **promise** that is present in our preparations for the world to come meet Christ born again into this world.

As we come to this season of the church, preparing to meet Jesus again for the first time, may we all find ways in our daily lives to come and adore the new born king and see how he changes this weary world, and us, into a world and people that rejoice.

In Christ,



Cake Kits for Food Pantries



On Sunday, December 8, we will be putting together Birthday Cake kits to give to Food Pantries. These kits contain everything you need to make a birthday cake – mix, frosting, candles, sprinkles – in a cake pan. Mission will give these to our area food pantries we support.

No donations needed – just come and have some fun!

Christmas Joy Offering

On Sunday, December 22, 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.



Our November Project

Our November Mission opportunity is with Christmas Clearing Council. We have partnered with them in the past and are looking forward to partnering with them again to help make a family's Christmas a little brighter.

We have been matched with a family consisting of a single mother and her four children. Marcia and Mike are spearheading this project and Marcia has been in contact with the family and is in the process of compiling what they would want/need for Christmas. If you are donating money or purchasing gifts, please bring them to church by Sunday, Dec 8. Please contact Marcia with any questions and look for more information.



Christmas Clearing Council
of Waukesha County



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 19, 2024 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.



Tuesday Dec 3 at 1:30 pm
in Fellowship Hall

Dec 3 - Mary, Mother of Jesus - As we approach Christmas we will spend some time looking at what we know and what we don't know about the woman who agreed to bring the Messiah into the world and how that choice shaped her life.



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 will be off Dec 23 and 30 and resume Jan 6, 2025.

Dec 2	Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6	for Dec 8
Dec 9	Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18	for Dec 15
Dec 16	Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-55	for Dec 22

Advent Devotionals

Our devotional for Advent this year is "good news, great joy" from Augsburg Fortress and is based on the lectionary readings for this year.

Copies are available at church. Advent starts on Sun, Dec 1.

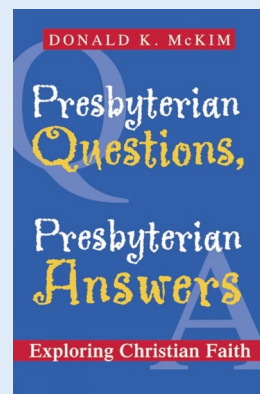


Winter/Spring Book Discussion

As we wrap up our Women of the Bible series this month, we are planning for our next book discussion

starting in January 2025 - Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers.

Meetings will be Thursdays at 1:30 pm - more to come next month!





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

COME, LET US ADORE HIM

DECEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Advent 1 10 AM Worship with Communion 11:10 AM Mission Mtg	2 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	3 1:30 PM Women of the Bible Mary, Mother of Jesus	4	5 1 PM CE Mtg	6	7 12:30 Visitation 2 PM Service for Mary Dalton
8 Advent 2 10 AM Worship 11:05 AM Congr. Mtg 11:10 AM Cake Kits for Mission	9 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	10	11	12 9 AM Finance	13	14
15 Advent 3 10 AM Worship 11:10 AM Session	16 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	17	18	19	20	21
22 Advent 4 10 AM Worship	23	24 Christmas Eve 6:30 PM Candle-light Worship	25 	26	27	28
29 10 AM Lessons and Carols 11:05 AM Coffee Hour	30	31	1 January	2 Office open	3	4
<div>Will is on vacation Dec 26 thru Jan 3.</div>						
<div>The church office will be closed Dec 25-through Jan 1. All offerings postmarked and dated by Dec 31 will be counted for your 2024 giving.</div>						

Mission - December 8

Please bring your gift donations for the family we are sponsoring - and after worship, we will be putting together Birthday Cake Kits for Food Pantries.



Brass Quintet Sunday, Dec 15

We welcome the Sterling and Brass Quintet to worship for the Third Sunday of Advent.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 at 6:30 PM

Lessons and Carols Sunday, Dec 29 with Coffee Hour



LIVING HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Treasurer: Steve Sinner

Church Musician: Teresa Ledford

2024 Session Members: Karl Bertram, Michael Brady Joe Fresch, Kathryn Fresch, Curtis MacDonald, Mike McBride and Marcia Sinner

2024 Deacons: (A-B) Tom Tennyson (C-F) Ann Tennyson (G-K) Diane DeBoer

(L-O) Cherie Andrus — Moderator

(P-R) Karen Stephan

(S-Z) Kathy Mathews