

# SECOND EDITION

DECEMBER 2023



## HOW DOES A WEARY WORLD REJOICE?

An Advent series  
in Luke's Gospel



SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - [WWW.2NDPRES.ORG](http://WWW.2NDPRES.ORG)



# ON SECOND

## Thought...



*Thought you might enjoy this from the late Paul Harvey...*

By the mid-17th century, it had gotten way out of hand in England. The authorities had no choice but to consider making it against the law. As far as anyone knew it had never been banned before anywhere, and if the British government did make it illegal, would enforcement be feasible? According to the observers upon whose written recollections history is based, this suspect something had often led to rioting in the streets, had even caused church services to be invaded by unruly mobs. "Abomination", "prostitution", "profanity", the Puritan authorities called it.

And at last, in 1652, by an official act, it was abolished. It was strictly, legally taboo in England beginning in 1652. And yet as today's law enforcement agencies have difficulties restricting the use of certain drugs, British authorities of over 350 years ago found the prohibition of this one public habit to be almost impossible. I think we can say this. After 1652 it was no longer visible. It was driven underground; that is, it still happened – just not openly.

Seven years later, in 1659, it was outlawed in the new world of New England. According to this legislation, designed for preventing disorders arising in several places within this jurisdiction, offenders would be fined. A penalty more harsh would perhaps have been unnecessary in these staunch Puritan surroundings. For indeed, as stated in the New England law of 1659, "Such an offence was to the great dishonor of God."

What adds to the fascination of these historical footnotes is that, apparently, the aforementioned

offense was an offense in no other place and at no other time in all of history. The customs and laws, past and present, of Russia, China, Japan, Europe, Africa, and South America reveal no place where it was prohibited. Nowhere can we find a tradition enforced, or a law on the books, like those of old England and New England over 350 years ago.

Anywhere else at any time in recorded history you could have gotten away with it. But not there and not then. It was legally prohibited in England for 8 years, between 1652 and 1660, and it was prohibited for 22 years, between 1659 and 1681, in the New World. Remember that. It was prohibited in our new world.

Yet, so powerfully was this practice protested in the land that was to become the United States of America, that the effects of its suppression were to be felt for two centuries more. In 1847, no New England college officially recognized its existence, a condition perpetuated throughout the professional community of Boston until 1856, and throughout the public academic community of that city until 1870. In the early 1900's, no student at the Boston Latin School could have told you what it was.

And yet despite the one-time threat imposed by colonial legislation, despite the distant cries of paganism, like our contemporary consternation over commercialization, Americans simply could not...still cannot...kick the habit of it. The habit of observing Christmas. And now you know the rest of the story.

Grace and peace...



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# UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS & TOPICS

Our Advent theme is, *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?* (See below article.)  
The preaching texts and themes are based on the Christmas story as found in Luke 1-2.

<b>December 3rd</b>	Luke 1:1 – 23	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Acknowledge Our Weariness</i>
<b>December 10th</b>	Luke 1:24 – 45	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Find Joy in Connection</i>
<b>December 17th</b>	Luke 1:57 – 66	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Allow Ourselves to Be Amazed</i>
<b>December 24th (a.m.)</b>	Luke 1:46 – 55	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Sing Stories of Hope</i>
<b>December 24th (p.m.)</b>	Luke 2:1 – 20	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Make Room</i>
<b>December 31st</b>	Luke 2:21 – 38 & 3:21 – 22	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Root Ourselves in Ritual</i>

## How Does a Weary World Rejoice – Our Advent Theme

Joy is often a companion to many other emotions. We can feel joy in addition to feeling many other things at once: grief, anticipation, anxiety, excitement, disappointment, exhaustion. Perhaps many of us live with the myth that joy is not something we deserve – or that it is wholly out of reach. But our joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God. Can we tether ourselves to that deep truth? We deserve to feel joy – fully. The world needs our joy, even if we are weary. Our joy is better when it is shared.

This theme alludes, of course, to a line in the familiar Christmas hymn, *O Holy Night*. This hymn has an interesting history. The lyrics were originally written by a French poet who was an atheist and a Jewish composer supplied the music. The hymn was later translated into English by an American Unitarian minister. In the 1800s, it became a popular hymn for Christian abolitionists due to its justice-focused language in verse 3. Like Mary's song, the hymn reminds us that justice and joy belong together. Sometimes our joy is an act of resistance.

And so, this Advent we will hold space for both our weariness and our joy. We will seek a “thrill of hope” in our hurting world. We will welcome joy – even, and especially if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort. In this weary world, may we find ways to rejoice this Advent season.



# CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

We will gather in the sanctuary on **Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m.** for our **Carol & Candle Lighting Service.**

This service is a tradition at Second going back many decades and has come to be a cherished opportunity for our church family to honor the birth of Christ together.

Pre-service music will begin at **5:15 p.m.**



# 5

Our next **5th Sunday worship** is **December 31st.** Worship that day will be in the Fellowship Hall.

Come celebrate the New Year with worship and fellowship!

## Order and pay for your Christmas Poinsettias in Realm! The cost is \$15 per flower

On the EVENTS tab (click the QR code!), you may order flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one and can indicate whether you prefer to take your plant home after Christmas Eve services or donate it to others. You may pay in Realm or send a check as you prefer.



You may also donate to offset the costs of decorating the church for special occasions. Please go to the GIVING tab in Realm to make that tax-deductible donation.





# Happy Birthday



12.01 GEOFFREY KENNEDY  
12.01 KENNEN ROBERTSON  
12.04 TINLY GRIMM  
12.11 SUE JACOX  
12.12 KYLIE BEETS  
12.12 JACK ROSAMOND  
12.14 JIM WHITE  
12.16 MARY KAY SULLIVAN

12.21 KAY WEAVER  
12.21 JOHN MATLOCK  
12.21 DOUX ROBERTSON  
12.22 LYNDA MAY  
12.24 ILEEN CHEEK  
12.28 JESSICA LEWIS  
12.29 ABRAHAM ULLRICH  
12.31 EMILY JONES

IF WE INADVERTENTLY MISSED SOMEONE...HAPPY BIRTHDAY!  
PLEASE HELP US UPDATE OUR RECORDS SO WE'LL HAVE YOUR SPECIAL DAY ON FILE.

## 2ND WEDNESDAY @ 2ND PRES

This month's 2nd Wednesday program on **December 13th** is a **Carol-Sing along** with a Reader's Theater recreation of the Christmas story. This will be an intergenerational activity.

Come and sing your favorite Christmas carols and hear the Christmas story with a fun and hilarious twist!

Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. - please RSVP by registering in the **EVENT** tab in Realm, or by calling the church office.

For this meal, donations are gladly accepted - there is no fixed cost for the meal. You may donate at the door or in Realm on the **GIVING** tab (select "Wednesday supper").

The program will begin at approximately 6:45 p.m.







# CHRISTMAS CAROLING

This year we are returning to our pre-pandemic practice of caroling to some of our homebound members.

We will meet in the church parking lot on

**Sunday, December 17th at 1:30 p.m.,**

and travel together to some of the homes and nursing homes of our homebound members.

Everyone is invited and welcome to participate in this wonderful ministry of spreading Christmas cheer to those we don't get to see on a regular basis!



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN DECEMBER MEETING

Presbyterian Women will meet for its regularly scheduled second Tuesday in **December on Tuesday, December 12**, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All men and women of the church, both members and visitors, are welcome to attend.

The December Bible study will continue to examine Jesus' encounters with ostracized members of Palestinian society. In December we will see how Jesus demonstrates his acceptance of a suffering leper in Luke 17:11-21.

JOIN US!



## WOMEN'S RETREAT

# A SUCCESS

Presbyterian Women sponsored Second Church's first women's retreat—an all-day event—on Saturday, November 11, in the church's Fellowship Hall. Dr. Meredith Loftis, Associate Minister at First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, led the retreat.

The retreat included all ages of women—members, and visitors—and the event was scheduled when everyone could plan a day away from regular duties and come together to study, to learn, and to fellowship. The book of Psalms was used as a guide and participants experienced many serious and not-so-serious discussions.







will meet on **December 13, at 11:30 a.m.**

at the home of Liz Peebles.

We are gathering for lunch (no book for this month),

and you are asked to bring a covered dish:

*salad, veggie, or dessert.* Meat will be provided.

Questions, call Margaret Sullivan(865) 363-3967.

If you have stuffed animals for the  
juvenile court, please bring them with you.



## MORTON ROSE HONORED

Morton Rose was presented a "Blanket Tennessee in Love" quilt by the Andrew Doyle Chapter of the DAR at a ceremony honoring our veterans on 11/10/23.

Morton served during WW2. Tom Sullivan was recognized for his service during the Vietnam War.

The Buckingham Community, part of Presbyterian Homes of TN, honored the current veterans residing within the community.

Thank you all veterans for your service!





# FALL RECAP

## *Friendsgiving*



The Thanksgiving event was enjoyed by approximately 84 people. Hopefully, no one went away hungry, and are truly thankful for our many blessings!



*young adults and families*

# OAKES FARM



# FRIENDSGIVING





# FALL FESTIVAL





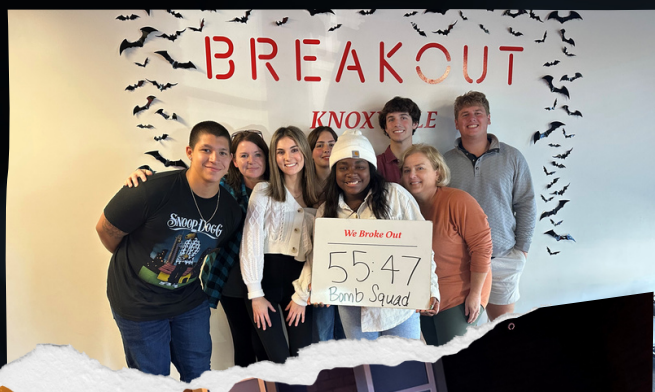
# BOOK FAIR



## GRANDPARENT'S DAY







# BREAKOUT ROOM



## HORSEBACK RIDING





# ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Our Advent Devotional is available in digital format under the “Members” tab on our website. Printed copies are available at the church. Created by the Sanctified Art creative team, the devotional contains reflections, artwork, writing prompts, prayers, and hymns for your use during the Advent season. Large print versions are available in the office, for those who need them.

## Advent calendar

Each day during December we will post an activity or writing prompt on our social media pages to guide you in celebrating Advent. Printed copies of these prompts are available in the Atrium and in the Narthex.







## VIENNA LIGHT ORCHESTRA RETURNS TO 2ND PRES FOR CHRISTMAS CONCERTS!

Featuring music from the ensemble's favorite Yuletide songs, this performance will enthrall audiences of all ages. Prepare for an enchanting and festive evening filled with mesmerizing music and holiday cheer, held in a relaxed but awe-inspiring atmosphere, bathed by the flicker of over two thousand candlelights.

Date and Showtimes: **Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm**

Venue: **Second Presbyterian Church - 2829 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919**

Program:

VIENNA LIGHT ORCHESTRA audiences have called the Christmas concerts "mesmerizing, transcendent, emotionally stirring and stimulating to the senses" and said that "the performers were so talented and angelic!" A VIENNA LIGHT ORCHESTRA Christmas concert is a unique and joyous occasion unlike any other. Get your seats now for this "must-do" event in Knoxville for the 2023 Christmas Holiday Season!

Here We Come A-Caroling	Silent Night
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer	O Holy Night
Sleigh Ride	It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
March of the Nutcracker	Away in a Manger
Still Still Still	Ave Maria
The Christmas Song	The First Noel
O Little Town of Bethlehem	Greensleeves
Adeste Fideles	Carol of the Bells
Silver Bells	Till the Season Comes Round Again
O Come O Come Emmanuel	White Christmas
Waltz of the Flowers	We Wish You a Merry Christmas
	Auld Lang Syne

Guests may purchase tickets online using the following link:

<https://viennalightorchestra.com/1221-knoxville-christmas>

2nd Pres members - To get 10% off your ticket prices, be sure to use **MEMBERS10** as the code at checkout.



*come and be still...*

For one hour this holiday season, slow down and enjoy  
THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS AT

## KNOXVILLE NATIVITY PAGEANT

**\*\*FREE activity booklet/"busy bag" provided for children\*\***



Saturday, Dec 9 at 3pm  
Sunday, Dec 10 at 3pm  
Monday, Dec 11 at 7pm

Knoxville Civic Coliseum  
KNOXVILLENATIVITY.COM

SPANISH  
TRANSLATION  
PROVIDED



To learn about volunteer opportunities or support this event, scan the QR code.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VIENNA LIGHT ORCHESTRA'S CHRISTMAS CONCERTS.

Those who came in November enjoyed a beautiful evening of music.  
The Christmas concerts are scheduled for **Thursday, December 21st.**

**We're looking for 2 - 4 volunteers for each performance to serve in two primary roles:**

**Job 1** - Greet vehicles dropping off passengers at the front steps, and direct the drivers to regular or handicapped parking spaces as appropriate.

**Job 2** - Station yourselves in front of the Barbour room and the corridors so you can greet and direct guests to restrooms in that hallway and/or at the gym.

### **Volunteer Group 1:**

Attend 4 pm performance (till 5:30)

Bring and enjoy a snack afterward!

Work 6:45 pm - 8:45 pm (during the late show)

### **Volunteer Group 2:**

Work 3:15 pm - 5:45 pm (during the early show)

Bring and enjoy a snack afterward, or grab a quick dinner. Attend 8 pm performance.

**Volunteers get FREE VIP RESERVED tickets to the performance**, so hurry to claim yours by emailing or calling Bonnie ASAP ([bsmith@2ndpres.org](mailto:bsmith@2ndpres.org) or 865-523-2189). She will keep the list of volunteers and will have your tickets on the 21st.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NOVEMBER STATED SESSION MEETING

- Received the Treasurer's Report.
- Received reports from the Preschool and Ministry Teams as information.
- Approved an Anti-Racism Policy
- Approved the Go Team request that the Christmas Eve loose plate offering be included with the Christmas Joy Offering.



### CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on **Sunday, December 17**, and on **Sunday, December 24** (Christmas Eve).

This offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

## OCTOBER BUDGET REPORT

	OCTOBER	YTD	BUDGET
<b>TOTAL GIVING</b>	\$67,804.60	\$716,314.75	\$784,417.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$71,377.40	\$646,500.20	\$819,176.00
<b>EXCESS(SHORTAGE)</b>	(\$3,572.80)	\$69,814.55	( \$ 34,759.00 )



# DECEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice 9:30 a.m. Faith, Science & The Future (Barbour) 10:30 a.m. Worship	4 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (Barbour) 3:00 p.m. Budget Finance Support Team (Zoom)	5 4:30 p.m. CONNECT Team (Barbour) 5:00 p.m. Facilities Support Team (Zoom)	6 2:00 p.m. Compassionate Cuisine (Atrium) 5:30 PreSchool Christmas Musical (Sanctuary) 6:30 p.m. Bible Study (Library)	7 1:00 p.m. GO team (Barbour)	8 8:30 a.m. Work Day (Outside) Rain Date if needed	9 8:30 a.m. Work Day (Outside) Rain Date if needed
10 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice 9:30 a.m. Faith, Science & The Future (Barbour) 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Cookie Swap	11 10:00 a.m. CCR&R (Fellowship Hall) 12:00 p.m. Preschool Board Meeting (Zoom)	12 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Meeting (FH)	13 11:30 a.m. 2nd Readers Christmas Lunch (@ Peebles) 6:00 p.m. 2nd Wednesday Dinner & Program (FH) 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (Sanctuary) 8:00 p.m. Bible Study (Library)	14	15	16
17 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice 9:30 a.m. Faith, Science & The Future (Barbour) 10:30 a.m. Worship 1:30 p.m. Caroling	18	19 11:45 a.m. Staff Christmas Luncheon CHURCH CLOSED til 2 pm	20 9 a.m. Realm 101 (Sm Conf Rm) 10 a.m. Realm 102 Sm Conf Rm 2:00 p.m. Compassionate Cuisine (Atrium) 4:00 p.m. Deadline for Second Edition 6:30 p.m. Bible Study (Library)	21 10 a.m. Arts & Crafts (Room 227) 4 p.m. Vienna Light Orchestra 7 p.m. Vienna Light Orchestra	22	23
24 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice 10:30 a.m. Worship 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH CLOSED	26 CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH CLOSED 9:00 a.m. FISH Pantry (Fellowship Hall)	27 10:00 a.m. Realm Leaders Training (Sm Conf Rm) 6:30 p.m. Bible Study (Library)	28 1 p.m. Realm Leaders Training (Sm Conf Rm)	29	30
31 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice 10:30 a.m. Worship (Fellowship Hall)	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY CHURCH CLOSED	2	3	4	5	6

The events included in this calendar will take place as listed if we are in COVID Phase Green or Yellow, BUT NOT if Red. Please see the home page and calendar on our website, 2ndpres.org with up-to-date information on COVID Phase changes and new criteria, as well as real-time calendar updates.





THE SECOND EDITION  
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2829 KINGSTON PIKE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

#### CLERGY STAFF

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*Responding in gratitude to God's love and grace,  
we are a welcoming, faithful, and hopeful community,  
following Jesus and serving him in the world.*

#### ELDERS

##### CLASS OF 2024

Ileen Cheek

Joe Clarke

Angela Jones

Mary Kay Sullivan

##### CLASS OF 2025

Zachary Burch

Lisa Henley

Elizabeth Seastrunk

Terry Weaver

##### CLASS OF 2026

Leonard Bailey

Doug Barbour

Monica Casey

Clara Hardin

#### MINISTRY TEAMS & MODERATORS

##### WORSHIP

Ileen Cheek

Elizabeth Seastrunk

##### CONNECT

Joe Clark

Terry Weaver

##### GROW

Zach Burch

Monica Casey

##### GO

Leonard Bailey

Clara Hardin

##### SUPPORT

Mary Kay Sullivan

Angela Jones

Doug Barbour

##### PRESCHOOL

Lisa Henley