



## December 2019

# Second Edition

[www.2ndpres.org](http://www.2ndpres.org) | Second Presbyterian Church | 865.523.2189

### *Inside This Issue*



The church office will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas Holiday. Due to this schedule, submissions for January's *Second Edition* are due by December 17<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, Wednesday night dinner and activities will be on Christmas break from Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. We will resume our regular schedule on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Merry Christmas!

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## On Second Thought...

If there is one thing I have learned in almost 19 years as a pastor, it is this: it is increasingly difficult to keep Advent. Though I have always been involved in congregations that observe the liturgical calendar, it was during seminary that I discovered a passion for the rhythm of the liturgical year, especially for Advent. I came to see Advent as a voice of hope in the wilderness of advertisements and consumerism, a word of mystery in the midst of the ringing of registers and the swiping of plastic. So, in the intervening years I have tried to guide congregations on a path through Advent as a witness to a different reality.

Unfortunately, the world in which we live seems to have stronger sway over our imaginations. Christmas music is blaring in every store we visit. Two radio stations are all-Christmas, all the time beginning Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. Hallmark begins running Christmas movies 24/7 before Halloween. People go Christmas shopping before the Thanksgiving turkey is cold. Christmas trees and lights are put up in early November. People start wearing Christmas sweaters the first week of December. We complain about singing unfamiliar Advent hymns in worship while our friends at other churches are already singing the more familiar Christmas hymns. Restraining ourselves from celebrating the coming of the Christ child until Christmas Eve not only becomes more and more difficult each year, it becomes laughable. How is it even possible? Why even bother? Here's why I bother.

Christmas is the time to celebrate the coming of the Light into the world. It is the time to proclaim with joy the birth of the Savior of the World. It is the time to Go Tell It on the Mountain that "unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." But how can we truly appreciate the magnitude of this gift of Light if we have not spent some time meditating on the darkness? How can we truly be grateful for a Savior unless we spend some time contemplating our need to be saved? How can we truly understand the Good News of the Prince of Peace without spending time thinking about our longing and need for peace? We can't – not without Advent.

Advent gives us time to reflect on just how much we need the coming of the Messiah. As we gather and worship and pray and study during Advent, we are moving through the darkest days and longest nights of winter. In the midst of this gathering darkness, we listen to the voices of the prophets crying out as they confront Israel in the wake of unfaithful kings and a divided kingdom. In their voices we hear them confront us, as well, and come face to face with our aching need for salvation. Only then are we properly able to celebrate the birth of an unlikely Savior, born as a child in Bethlehem.


I know this is difficult to do. Our culture wants to rush past the darkness and toward the light. We ignore pain and lament and grief and longing, seeking more immediate gratification. The truth is, the Spirit of Christmas is so euphoric it is addictive; we want it to start earlier and last longer each year, and we feel an emptiness when it is gone.

But without putting Christmas in its proper context, it is nothing more than mere sentimentality. It can never approach the fullness of hope God intended it to be. You see, celebrating Advent doesn't minimize Christmas. By truly celebrating Advent, we shine an even brighter light on Christmas, making it even more meaningful than our culture is capable of doing.

This is why we do not sing Christmas hymns until Christmas Eve, why we light the Advent Wreath each week prior to worship, why we encourage people to place Advent Wreaths or Calendars in their homes, and why we encourage people to set aside special time for prayer and study during Advent. These things build anticipation and understanding so that we may sing, along with Mary, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior."

May you have a Blessed Advent...and a Truly Merry Christmas!

Grace and peace...



## Sermon Texts & Topics in December

Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup>	We Are Sent Into the World (Romans. 13:11-14)
Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Service of Lessons &amp; Carols</i>
Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Waiting Impatiently (Luke 1:46b-55)
Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	The Context of Jesus' Birth (Matthew 1:18-25)
Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Christmas Eve – Jesus' Birth</b> (Luke 2, Isaiah 9)
Dec. 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship - How Christmas Works</b> (Matthew 1:18-25)

## worship & celebration

### *Lessons & Carols – December 8<sup>th</sup>*

On Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, during worship, the Chancel Choir will present *Festival of Lessons & Carols* by John Leavitt. Capturing the varied moods and colors of Advent and Christmas, this cantata will present a selection of Scripture readings and carols that will point us toward the birth of Christ. The choir has been rehearsing the music for this service since the end of the summer! We hope that you will join us as they proclaim God's Word through song.

### *Second Sunday Worship for December*

December's *Second Sunday Worship* will be a service of *Lectio Divina*, Latin for "holy reading." It is a prayerful, reflective reading of God's Word in community as divine revelation. It allows a group to contemplate a selection of Scripture in a meditative way. Participants are invited to reflect on a passage in silence and then are guided in sharing words, phrases, thoughts, feelings, and questions from their time of reflection. The intent is to leave worshipers collectively open to the leading of the Holy Spirit as God's Word is heard. Sometimes *lectio divina* is called "listening with the ears of the heart."

The *Lectio Divina* service will be held in the Chapel on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm. Also, due to decreasing attendance over the last 6 months, this will also be our final *Second Sunday Worship*. We hope that you have enjoyed engaging God in new and different ways over the last year.

### *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 celebrate the birth of Christ together. Bring your friends and family or invite a co-worker. You can even invite a stranger to join us! Pre-service music will begin at 5:10 p.m. All who come will be blessed by being part of this holy evening. *\*This is a new time this year.*

### *5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship*

Our next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship in the Fellowship Hall will be on December 29<sup>th</sup>. We'll be talking about How Christmas Works. This will be an *informal* worship service, so wear your favorite holiday sweaters or other comfy clothes!



# *Service of the Longest Night*

Second Presbyterian Church will once again hold a Longest Night service this year in recognition that the holiday season can be a painful time for some. The constant refrain about the joy of the season and getting together with friends and family reminds many of what they have lost, or may have never had. It may be the first Christmas without a family member. It can be a time when feelings of loneliness, isolation, or estrangement are amplified. The darkest nights just before Christmas can be a time when the anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of economic well-being, the weariness of ill health, the weight of a recent diagnosis, or feelings of being disempowered can make it difficult to believe the promise of the resurrection. We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and pain; we need to know that we are not alone.

We will gather in the chapel at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, to pray, read Scripture, sing, and be reminded that we are not alone; that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle, and that God's light continues to shine in the darkness, offering hope to the hopeless. All are invited, especially those who have experienced loss in the previous year and those who want to stand in the place of darkness with others. We hope that this will be a time of healing and hope.

We are also offering rides to those who do not or cannot drive at night, or for those who simply do not want to come and go alone. We have a list of volunteers who want to make sure that anyone who wants to attend this worship service will be able to do so. If you are someone who would like to ride with another person, contact Audrey Johnson in the church office (865.523.2189 / [ajohnson@2ndpres.org](mailto:ajohnson@2ndpres.org)) and let her know.

## NOVEMBER GUESTS AND VISITORS

### 1<sup>st</sup> Time Visitors

George Brunner  
Wyatt DeRoche  
Kathleen Duncan  
Jim Gorman  
Julia Hardaway  
Greg Nichols  
Hal and Jeanie Oakley  
Barbara Robbins  
Julian Ruibal

### Regular Visitors

Katie Bell  
Kirsty Bleyl  
Linda Boyd  
Fred & Susan Brackney  
Don Brickey  
Eugene and June Burke  
J. Buske  
Andrew Butler  
Alex Cooper

Lindsey Cope  
Kira Evans  
Ruthann Froberg  
Suzie Hill  
Stephanie Huben  
Derryl Kasler  
Karen and Oliver Keene  
Jennifer Levy-Tatum  
Shawna Lister  
Robert Meyer

Joanne Mounger  
Henry Naff  
Al Pierson  
Elizabeth Seastrunk  
John Quillen  
Karen Vance  
Pat Wininger



## *December Birthdays*

12/1

Kylie Beets  
Janet Bower  
Geoffrey Kennedy

12/9

Al Pierson

12/10

Eric Wallace

12/15

Allan Bartlett

12/18

Nettie Downen

12/21

John Matlock  
Kay Weaver

12/22

Lynda May

12/23

Betty Copeland

12/24

Ileen Check

12/29

Abraham Ullrich

12/31

Emily Jones



## discipleship



The **Preschool Christmas Music Program** will be Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please come out and join us!

## Wednesday Night Dinner and Programs in December

*December 4<sup>th</sup>*

*Advent Workshop*

Ileen Cheek will lead us in making Chrismons for our new sanctuary Christmas tree. We will also have some advent wreaths and candles for folks to make.

*December 11<sup>th</sup>*

*End of the Semester Celebration*

We'll have an Advent story and a carol sing, featuring carols from our new Glory to God hymnals.



Once again this year, we are going caroling to our shut-ins and others. We need all voices young, old and in-between!

The date is **Sunday, December 15th**. We will gather at the church at **3:00 p.m.** and will proceed from there on our mission of spreading a bit of Joy. Lift up your voice!

Our **First Sunday Youth Fellowship** for the month of December will be a Christmas party. The youth will gather in the youth room from 4:00 to 6:00 on Sunday, December 1. We'll eat pizza, decorate (and eat) Christmas cookies, enjoy some holiday festivities, and do a White Elephant gift exchange. Bring a gift that costs \$10 or less.

Check out these great pics from November's First Sunday Fellowship trip to Cruze Farm!





## Introducing the Children and Youth Team

Last year, I persuaded some working women to join me in becoming a special ministry to our children and youth. Tracy Horton, Tammy Akers, Cathy Briscoe, and Mary Howard joined me in writing to our youth and children, sending birthday cards, and giving special treats at Christmas and Easter.

Under the leadership of Sarah Morgan, we started a new celebration of our graduating seniors. In May, we invited the church to join us for a celebration lunch for Seth Reynolds and Will Pruitt. The boys were presented with a gift and words of encouragement. This coming May we will celebrate Max Jones' graduation. We hope you will pray for this ministry. Our children and youth are our treasures.

- Liz Peebles

-



Liz Peebles



Cathy Briscoe, Tracy Horton



Tammy Akers



It's time to order poinsettias for Christmas!  
Please place your orders by December 10<sup>th</sup> so that a poinsettia can be placed in the sanctuary to honor your friends and loved ones. Order forms can be found in the Church Office, Atrium, or the Narthex.



# care & compassion

## PW ANNOUNCES NEW PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Board of Presbyterian Women of Second Presbyterian Church is in the process of evaluating/considering their community mission and service activities which are the foundation of the women's group operating within Second Church for over 150 continuous years. During this 2019-2020 year, Presbyterian Women has begun the planning process with a new project involving the Preschool of Second Presbyterian Church.

An endowed designated fund has been established to honor the women of Second Church, past and present, in recognition for their long years in service and education activities performed under the church's umbrella.

This new fund is invested with the East Tennessee Foundation (which also handles Second Church's 200th Anniversary college scholarship fund) and will serve one purpose for the future: to supplement tuition costs for selected children enrolled in the Preschool of Second Presbyterian Church. As the fund grows from donations and earnings, some of the earnings will be used for tuition scholarships. The Presbyterian Women's group of Second Church will continue to support and promote this fund as it grows over time.

The Board of Presbyterian Women invites the congregation and friends to consider the Preschool tuition scholarship fund for gifts in memory in and honor of selected individuals.

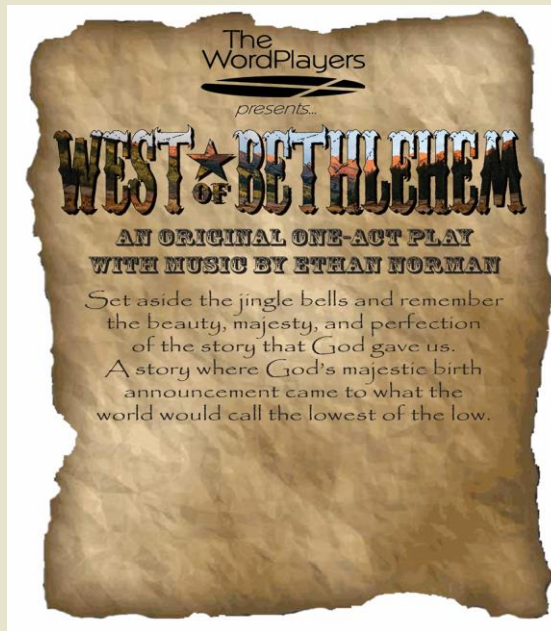


## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### A note from Charlotte Klieman:

As the November meeting of PW Mission group was cancelled due to bad weather, I went to the Love Kitchen by myself to assist and learn about their program. On Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> there was an abundance of volunteers as one of the "regular" volunteers brought her co-workers from her real estate office. All of us "newbies" were given tasks to do; we learned and laughed together. I look forward to returning for more "research" as their morning activities differ greatly from the afternoon. I plan to share when I have the whole picture.

**There will be no December meeting.**



**YOU are invited to a special Advent  
Luncheon and Program  
Sponsored by Presbyterian Women  
at Second Presbyterian Church.**

**Tuesday December 10th at 11:30**

**Lunch is \$10.**

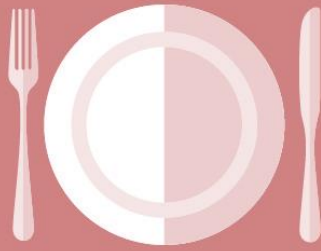
*Presenting*

**The WordPlayers  
Advent Touring Production**

WEST OF BETHLEHEM, a one act-play with music by Ethan Norman, offers your fellowship, in the midst of a busy season, a reminder to remember the beauty, majesty, and perfection of the story God gave us. A story where God's majestic birth announcement, came to what the world would call "the lowest of the low."

WEST OF BETHLEHEM focuses on the powerful contrast in the imagery of the Shepherds. In the Kingdom of God, the Shepherd is an honored title and a picture of leadership. In the kingdom of men, Shepherds are the dregs of society and shepherding is a task of drudgery with little personal gain. We delve into this example for us in Christ as it plays out in the Christmas story, with laughter and with heaviness at moments.

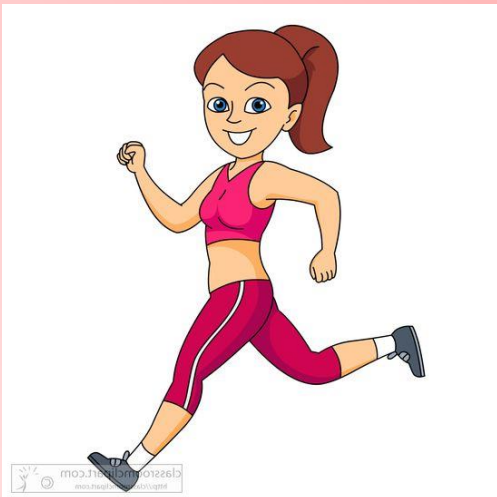
To make a reservation call Mariann Thuesen at 253-7653 by December 5<sup>th</sup>.



# LUNCH BUNCH

**LUNCH BUNCH** will meet **Tuesday, December 3rd** at 11:30 a.m. Our December program will feature Christmas music by the Sunset Trio and two solos by Brice Gilmer.

For reservations, please call John Reynolds (865-588-0085) or Mariann Thuesen (865-253-7653). This is a catered lunch, and will cost \$10.00 per person. All are welcome to attend!



Cruze Farm is hosting a 5k fun run/walk on Saturday, December 7 with all proceeds benefiting the Knox County School of your choice. We have signed up to run and support West View Elementary and we would like to extend an invitation to anyone else who might be interested in joining us. Details about the race and how to sign up can be found at: <https://www.cruze farm.com/cruze-christmas-5k>

-Pastors Tim & Sarah





## WEST VIEW MITTEN TREE

This month there is a “Mitten Tree” in the Atrium for those wishing to bless West View Elementary students with gloves or mittens to go with the hats that the Presbyterian Women Arts and Crafts circle has been making. Let’s fill up the tree with colorful warmth for little fingers!





God, you saw the great needs of the world and you gave us the perfect gift in your son, Jesus Christ.

Help us open our doors to those in need in our Church and the world with our own gifts.



The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> & Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

50%

for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, equipping communities of color.



CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

50%

assistance for current retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

## november session highlights

- Received reports from the Preschool and Ministry Teams as information.
- Received the Treasurers Report.
- Approved a recommendation from the Service & Outreach Team to include the loose offering at the Christmas Eve service in the Joy Offering.
- Approved a recommendation from the Stewardship Team to use up to \$70,000 from the Sprinkle Building Maintenance Fund for the replacement of one cooling tower in the heat pump water loop.
- Accepted the recommendation from the Staffing Task Force to seek permission from the Presbytery to call Sarah Morgan as Associate Pastor for Congregational Life and Mission without a search, and to hire a part-time person to work with the youth. The Session dissolved the Task Force and thanked the members for their service.

## stewardship

### ***OCTOBER BUDGET REPORT***

	October	YTD	Budget
Total Giving	\$53,359.86	\$581,227.47	\$713,087
Total Expenses	\$58,992.82	\$597,420.43	\$782,706
Excess/(Shortage)	(\$5,632.96)	(\$16,192.96)	(\$69,619)

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS will be mailed this week so that you may review your contributions to the church prior to the end of the year. Year end statements will be sent to all members in January.

## Stewardship Dedication Sunday

On Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, during worship, you will have the opportunity to turn in your pledge card for 2020. You should have received a special mailing about this in November. If you did not receive one, copies are available in the Atrium on the table. If you cannot be present on December 1<sup>st</sup>, you may turn in your pledge cards to Audrey Johnson in the church office any time during church office hours. Your support for the mission and ministry of Second Presbyterian Church is needed and appreciated.

<b>1</b> 9 <sup>30</sup> a Sunday School 10 <sup>30</sup> a Fellowship 11a Worship	<b>2</b>  4 <sup>30</sup> The Cross 5p BSF	<b>3</b> 9a Staff Meeting 11 <sup>30</sup> a Lunch Bunch  6p Care & Compassion 7p Service & Outreach 7p Boy Scouts 8 <sup>30</sup> p Basketball	<b>4</b>  12p PET Pastors lunch 4p Line Dancing 4 <sup>30</sup> p Handbells 5 <sup>30</sup> p Wed Nt Dinner 6p Fam Round Table 7p Chancel Choir	<b>5</b>  5p CCR&R	<b>6</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>7</b> 
<b>8</b> 9 <sup>30</sup> a Sunday School 10 <sup>30</sup> a Fellowship 11a Worship 12 <sup>15</sup> p Food & Friends  6p Second Sunday	<b>9</b>  5p BSF	<b>10</b> 9a PW Board Meeting 10a PW Bible Study 11 <sup>30</sup> a PW Luncheon  7p Boy Scouts 8 <sup>30</sup> p Basketball	<b>11</b>  4p Line Dancing 4 <sup>30</sup> p Handbells 5 <sup>30</sup> p Wed Nt Dinner 6p Bible Study 7p Chancel Choir	<b>12</b> 	<b>13</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>14</b>  8 <sup>30</sup> a Church Work Day
<b>15</b> 9 <sup>30</sup> a Sunday School 10 <sup>30</sup> a Fellowship 11a Worship	<b>16</b>  6 <sup>30</sup> p Session Meeting	<b>17</b> 9a Staff meeting  5 <sup>30</sup> p Preschool Musical 7p Boy Scouts 8 <sup>30</sup> p Basketball	<b>18</b> 9 <sup>30</sup> a CCR&R  3p 2 <sup>nd</sup> Readers 4p Line Dancing  7p Chancel Choir	<b>19</b>  10a PW Arts & Crafts	<b>20</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>21</b> 
<b>22</b> 9 <sup>30</sup> a Sunday School 10 <sup>30</sup> a Fellowship 11a Worship	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve  5 <sup>30</sup> p Carol & Candlelight	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Church Office Closed 	<b>26</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>27</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>28</b> 
<b>29</b> 9 <sup>30</sup> a Sunday School 10 <sup>30</sup> a Fellowship 11a 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship	<b>30</b>  5p Wedding Rehearsal	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve  6 <sup>30</sup> p Wolfe/Fox Wedding	<div>DECEMBER</div>			



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

*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 2020

Jimmy Cheek  
Clara Hardin  
Doug Matthews  
Margaret Walther

##### CLASS OF 2021

Monica Casey  
Betsy Foster  
John Henley  
Cleston Jones

##### CLASS OF 2022

Dean Farmer  
Margie Gill  
Patricia Kennedy  
Marty McLean

#### MINISTRY TEAMS & MODERATORS

##### Worship & Celebration

Doug Matthews  
Betsy Foster

##### Discipleship

Monica Casey  
Patricia Kennedy

##### Service & Outreach

Clara Hardin

##### Care & Compassion

Margaret Walther  
Marty McLean

##### Stewardship

Jimmy Cheek  
John Henley  
Dean Farmer

##### Preschool Board

Cleston Jones