

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Volume 67 No.12  
2665 Midland Rd. Saginaw, MI 48603

Periodical Postage USPS 686-170  
Paid at Saginaw, MI

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to:  
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER  
2665 MIDLAND ROAD, SAGINAW, MI. 48603-3448

## Second Presbyterian Church Newsletter December 2024

*Seeking and Serving Christ, We are a Place for Growing Christians.*



**JOIN US ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24,  
CHRISTMAS EVE, AT 4:30 P.M.  
FOR A  
SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

### Lectionary for December

**First Sunday of Advent – December 1:** Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10;  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

**Second Sunday of Advent – December 8:** Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11;  
Luke 3:1-6

**Third Sunday of Advent – December 15:** Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6;  
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

**Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22:** Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46-55 or Psalm 80:1-7;  
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

**Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve)-December 24:** Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14;  
Luke 2:1-14[15-20]

**Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Dawn)-December 25:** Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97:1-12;  
Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:[1-7]8-20

**Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)-December 25:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1-9;  
Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12] John 1:1-14

**First Sunday of Christmas – December 29:** 1 Samuel:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians  
3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52



**Preparing the Way**  
**Sunday, December 1, is the First Sunday of Advent** and communion will be celebrated during the worship service. We hold an open communion at Second Presbyterian Church which means all believing Christians are welcome to participate. We also invite you to bring non-perishable food items for **The Ecumenical Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church**. We do so knowing that it is our privilege to feed the hungry and care for the poor as we are fed and sustained by the grace of God.

### Special Congregational Meeting

The Second Presbyterian Church Session has called a Special Congregational meeting for the purpose of Electing the new Elders and approving the Terms of Call for Pastor Ruth. The meeting will be Sunday December 15, 2024 immediately following worship.



**The office will be open Monday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** As always, please call the office before driving to the church as unforeseen circumstances can occur.

**\*The office will be closed on Wednesday , December 25 and Wednesday, January 1.**

### Florence Gilmour Circle



**All women of the church** are invited to join us on **Wednesday, December 11**, at Sullivan's Food and Spirits 5235 Gratiot Rd, Saginaw, MI 48638, at 9:30 a.m. If you plan to attend, please reach out to Carol Poole @989-793-7485.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

As December is a busy month for many, 2<sup>nd</sup> @ Second will meet on December 1 following worship then not again until after the first of the year. Further information will be provided in the bulletin with the exact date. Have a wonderful Christmas!

Sunday School is scheduled Sunday, December 1, 8, 15, and 22. There will be NO Sunday School on December 29 due to the Christmas break from school. We hope to see you all in the New Year!

### A Book Group for Christmas "The 13<sup>th</sup> Gift" by Joanne Huist Smith



After the unexpected death of her husband, Joanne Huist Smith had no idea how she would keep herself together and be strong for her three children--especially with the holiday season approaching. But 12 days before Christmas, presents begin appearing on her doorstep with notes from their "True Friends." The group will meet to discuss the book, enjoy some fellowship, and eat some treats on **Sunday, December 8 @ 1:30 p.m.** No need to sign up, just show up!



### Boy Scout Troop 321

The Boy Scouts would like to express their gratitude for the Christmas wreaths and greens that members of the church ordered. This is the only fundraiser that the Scouts raise money for their camping trips and summer camp. Thank You!

## HANDEL'S MESSIAH: A SING-ALONG

**Sunday, December 15 — 4 PM**



You are invited to celebrate the Christmas season by attending the *Messiah* sing-along at First Presbyterian Church. Come and hear a combined community choir and soloists for a sing-along performance of selections from Handel's beloved *Messiah*. The concert is Sunday, December 15, at 4 PM. However, for the choruses, the choir wants you to help them! This is a sing-along, and you are invited to join in on the choruses. Scores will be provided, but if you have your own, please bring it!

The evening will conclude with the Hallelujah Chorus. Invite your friends, singers or not. Plan to come, and hear the Christmas story through song; you will certainly find yourself humming along at least occasionally!

If you or a friend are interested in joining the combined choir which will help lead the singing, please let Thomas Heidenreich know so that there will be a seat and a score for you. Please email him at [music@spsaginaw.org](mailto:music@spsaginaw.org).



Dear Friends,  
How are you doing? How are you *really* doing? These have been uncertain and tense times with our recent elections. Turn on the news and we are overwhelmed with talk about the economy, the environment, war, natural disasters, and so much more. There is also the added stress around these holidays as our schedules fill up and expectations weigh us down. So, I ask once again – How are you doing?

Perhaps all of this leaves you longing for some good news. Well, friends, that is what Christmas is all about! When Jesus' birth was announced to the shepherds, the angel said, "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." (Luke 2:10) Are you ready for good news? Are you ready for some of that great joy? It was not just meant for the shepherds. That good news of great joy is for all of us! And it is so much more than sparkling lights and presents under the tree. We will be exploring the good news of Christmas during the four Sundays of Advent. Here is an overview:

December 1	Luke 1:5-25	Anticipating the Good News
December 8	Luke 1:26-38	Disrupted by the Good News
December 15	Luke 1:39-56	Blessed by the Good News
December 22	Luke 1:57-80	Receiving the Good News

Please join us in worship as we are reminded that we are not without hope or help during these challenging times. The birth of our Savior is good news! May we find great joy in this season as we embrace this truth!

In Christ,  
Pastor Ruth



### Let's Go Caroling

Please join us for Christmas Caroling to our homebound friends on Saturday, December 14 at 3:30 pm. We will meet at the church, get on a rented bus, and drive around bringing Christmas joy. We will return to church at 6:30 pm for food and fellowship, and finish the evening with a carol sing-along. Please bring a snack to share and your best holiday spirit!

We would also like to deliver a stack of Christmas cards to those we visit so that they have something to enjoy after we leave. You can help make this happen! Please drop your Christmas cards off in the basket in the fellowship area no later than Wednesday, December 11. If you have any questions, please call Fred & Genie Herter @ 989-450-5416 or 989-791-1589. Here is the list of people:

Lyle & Carol Cousins  
Bob & Peggy Donaldson  
Myrtle Zietz

Don & Sally Day  
Larry & Linda Sims

Ed & Alice DeWyse  
Vickie VonBerg

# Mission Committee Updates

The last quarter of the year comes with a flurry of Mission projects, and the Stewardship and Mission Committee sincerely appreciates the support and participation received from you. From your Peace and Global Witness offering support to local shelters, the Bibles and books donations for the jail mission, the filling of stockings for veterans, to donations of winter-wear for local school children and finally the current "Angel Tree" mission providing gifts for children of parents who are incarcerated, many, many people are being uplifted, inspired, and cared for by our congregation.

May the progression into the Christmas season be a blessing for you and your families. Do not hesitate to reach out to the Committee with any ideas or questions, or if you would like to join us in the new year.



**Please continue to look for items** to donate to our winter-wear mission for local school children. Items will be collected through mid-December and may include mittens, hats, gloves, boots, snow suits, coats, etc., (for all ages and sizes).

**The Christmas gifts for the Angel Tree mission are due Sunday, December 8** so they may be distributed to the children before Christmas. Angel Tree provides gifts to children of incarcerated parents. Tags with suggested gift items for each child are available for pickup in the main hallway. Thank you for your generosity and support to those most vulnerable in our community.



**In the Mission Corner** there is a "Box of Blessings" where you can leave small personal care items like the toothpaste & toothbrushes we often get at dental cleanings, or other small items you might find on sale & pick up. These will be added to the periodic food pantry collections.

## New Pew Bibles

**New pew Bibles, the New International Version (NIV), have been generously donated to the church.** If you would like to have one or more of the old pew Bibles, they will be available for you to take home during the month of December. In January, we will find a good home for the Bibles that remain. We express our deepest gratitude to the anonymous donor, and we praise God for this gift of his Word.



## Poinsettias



**If you would like to order a poinsettia** in honor or memory of someone the order forms are in the gathering area. The deadline to order is **Sunday, December 8**. These beautiful poinsettias are \$10.00 each. They will decorate the church December 24, for the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Please take your poinsettias home after the service.



To keep the congregation abreast of the budget and financial needs of the church we will continue to update the congregation monthly in the church newsletter. We thank you for your commitment to the ministry and your ongoing support for the programs here at Second Presbyterian Church.

Financial Report as of 10/31/2024	
Income	194,787.23
Expense	181,235.06
Excess	13,552.17

## Give Online!



We thank those of you who have utilized our new online giving option! As you've heard, we partnered with the Presbyterian Foundation for a new, easy to use, online giving tool! You can scan this QR code with your smart phone to set up online giving. You can also visit our website, [www.spcsaginaw.org](http://www.spcsaginaw.org), and click the "Give Now" button. You can use this for one-time giving, or to set up recurring giving! Thank you for your gifts to Second Presbyterian Church!



## 2024 End of Year Contributions



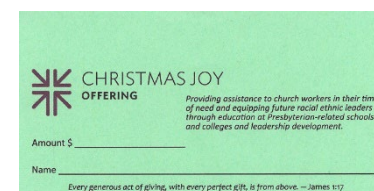
The IRS requires that donors must hand deliver or mail (the postmark must be on or before December 31, 2024) to claim a deduction for 2024. Giving in 2025 and pre-dating a check for 2024 does not qualify for a 2024 deduction.

## Stewardship

We have received 39 Estimates of Giving for 2025. If you have not already done so, please turn in your **2025 Estimate of Giving** slip (one is enclosed in this newsletter) by either mailing it to the church or dropping it in the offering plate. We are working on our budget for 2025 and many programs of the church depend upon your Estimate of Giving. Thank you for your faithfulness!



## Christmas Joy Offering



The Christmas Joy Offering will be received Sunday, December 22 at the 9:00 a.m. service. 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. There are Christmas Joy envelopes in the pews, but you may also specify that your offering is for Christmas Joy.



# Second Presbyterian Church

## December 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship <b>First Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Communion</b> 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship <b>Book Group</b> <b>1:30 p.m.</b> 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Florence Gilmore Circle @ Sullivan's <b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Christmas Caroling</b> <b>3:30 p.m.</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship <b>Congregational Meeting</b> <b>Concert @</b> <b>First Pres.</b> <b>4:00 p.m.</b> 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Service</b> <b>4:30 p.m.</b> 	<b>25</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship <b>*NO Sunday School</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				



