

Lectionary for December

December 5: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

December 12: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 19: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

December 24: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19.
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

December 29: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18.
Matthew 2:13-23

Please keep these folks in your prayers:

Arlene Besner	Sally Day	Dick Brown
Vera Dice	Nancy Huegel	Jim Berden
Vickie Von Berg	Pat Perea	Heather Rousseau
Ginny Rusch		

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Second Presbyterian Church Newsletter December 2021



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



Join us on **Christmas Eve** for
Services of Lessons and Carols

6:30 p.m.



Grace and Peace!

Advent is a time of Preparation and Reflections! A time of the year where the light of Christ brightens our darkness. As we begin the Season we light the Advent Wreath each Sunday,

representing HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE, we do so as a reminder of Christ Jesus who brings the everlasting light to our lives.

This is the season, now more than ever, to hold on to the Advent truth Isaiah proclaimed, that *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them.”* And we hold onto that promise together, in a community rooted in prayer and marked with compassion and forgiveness. How do we live in the light then? For lighting candles to chase away the darkness and gathering with others around the Advent Wreath, this way Advent is being lived out. God

promised to bring the light into our darkness through God's Son Jesus Christ.

As we live Advent: lighting candles of hope, speaking words of peace, sharing the bread of joy, and feasting on the abundance of love we will find in that lowly manger bed.

This may be a time for us to reflect on how we allow the light of Christ to shine in us and in one another, in waiting for Christ the Lord who is the Messiah in preparation for Christmas. The best present that cannot be wrapped and placed under the tree, rather this present; Christ walks in our darkness with us each moment of us glowing in Grace in our faith, while extending our love to one another as Christ has done for us, living the light that shines among us.

What about the New Year that is drawing so close? Are you making any New Year reflections or Resolutions to grow in our lives as faithful believers or taking stock of what we have done from January to December of 2021? This may be something to reflect on as we make our list for Christmas. Perhaps the best gift of light to ourselves in the season, and to one another, is for our Faith in the Lord to be strengthened with Christ the Light.

May the light Christ shine with HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE fill your hearts this day and forevermore; through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace who comes in the name of the LORD and Savior of the World. Amen!!

Theme for Advent Season: "Light out of Darkness"

First Sunday in Advent November 28, **"Expecting the Light"**
Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 21:25-36

Second Sunday in Advent December 5, **"Walk in the Light"**
Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 3:1-6

Third Sunday in Advent December 12, **"Bearing the Light"**
Zephaniah 3:14-20 and Luke 3:7-18

Fourth Sunday in Advent December 19, **"Shine the Light of Love"**
Micah 5:2-5a and Luke 1:39-45

Christmas Eve December 24, **"The Bright Light Shines"** Lessons and Carols (Service 5:30pm)

Merry Christmas and A Peaceful New Year to you and to all!!!

In Christ Peace!

Pastor Philomena

Christmas Joy Offering



The Christmas Joy Offering will be received Sunday, December 12. This offering supports the work of Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and provides supplemental income and medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families.

Poinsettias



If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone special, please sign up and pay in the office. The deadline to order is December 5. These beautiful poinsettias are \$10.00 each and have multiple large blossoms and a bow attached. They will decorate the sanctuary for worship beginning on Sunday, December 19, and will stay until after the Christmas Eve service. Take your poinsettias home after the Christmas Eve service.

Florence Gilmour Circle

Florence Gilmour Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 8, at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall to assemble Thinking of You plates for those who can't get to church. After we have completed the plates, we will meet to have lunch at Sullivan's Restaurant on Gratiot Rd.



Estimate of Giving



We have received 45 Estimates of Giving for 2022. If you have not already done so, please turn in your blue **2022 Estimate of Giving** slip (one is enclosed in this newsletter) by either mailing it to the church or dropping it in the donation box. We are working on our budget for 2022 and many programs of the church depend upon your Estimate of Giving. Thank you for your faithfulness!



Finance Update

To keep the congregation abreast of the budget and financial needs of the church the Finance Committee has a chart on display in the main hallway with information regarding the church finances. We hope this will give everyone a greater understanding of our finances. We thank you for your commitment to the ministry and your ongoing support for the programs here at Second Presbyterian Church. The church recently sold our investments and reinvested them at the Presbyterian Foundation, to take advantage of services offered. The sale of our investments resulted in a "realized gain," which reduced our deficit.

Financial Report as of 10/31/2021	
Income	189,975.08
Expense	188,017.94
Excess	1,957.14

2021 End of Year Contributions



The IRS requires that donors must hand deliver or mail (the postmark must be on or before December 31, 2021) to claim a deduction for 2021. Giving in 2022 and predating a check for 2021 does not qualify for a 2021 deduction.

Mission Minutes

"Go also the second mile" Matthew 5:41



The Angel Tree gift tags are on the table in the front hallway. Angel Tree is a part of Prison Fellowship and provides an opportunity for our church to extend the hope of the Gospel through delivering Christmas gifts on behalf of their incarcerated parents. Please keep in mind, although there is a "wish list" on each tag, you are not obligated to buy everything on that list. \$25 is usually the maximum amount. All gifts are due back at church by December 12.

Old Town Soup Kitchen

The Mission Committee would like to know if there is an interest in volunteering at the Old Town Soup Kitchen in 2022. Old Town Christian Outreach is a wonderful organization committed to helping those in need.

We would love to be able to get a group of people together to volunteer once or twice a month. If you think this is something you'd like to try, put your name on the list. Let us know what day(s) would work better for you -- Monday / Wednesday / Friday from 11am-1pm. It's a lot of fun, a little hard work, great fellowship, and the spirit of helping others. The sign-up sheet is on a clipboard on the Mission table.



Inclement Weather Policy

When Saginaw Township Schools have been closed due to inclement weather (snow, ice, temperatures, etc.), any church programming for that day will also be cancelled. This includes any activity of the church or outside groups that use church facilities. Examples

are (but not limited to): Session, Committee meetings, Choirs, Bible Study, Women's Circle, Community events.

Youth News

First Presbyterian Church Youth Group has invited any youth to shop with them on December 12 for a needy family in Saginaw. If you would like more information, please call Genie Herter – 989-793-8215 or the church office – 989-792-1023.

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 one of the only fundraisers that the Scouts raise money for their camping trips and summer camp. Thank You!

SERRV Sale

Beginning December 1st, we will have the SERRV merchandise displayed in the gathering area. We have many new items and wonderful gift ideas. Please consider shopping and supporting the artisans. 25 % of the proceeds will go to support the Mission projects we as a congregation contribute to throughout the year.



PNC Update



The Ministry Information Form (MIF) has been uploaded to the CLC website. We now wait to be matched with applicants. The committee is still meeting to develop questions for the interview process. Please pray for the committee to discern the best fit for the call to Second Presbyterian Church.

Congregational Meeting



On Sunday, December 12 immediately following worship, we will have a congregational meeting to elect elders to the class of 2024 Second Presbyterian Church Session. Please attend as we need a quorum to pass any motions.

For Those in Need

If you know of a family in the church that could use extra help this Christmastime, please let Pastor Philomena know. We have helped with Consumer's Energy gift certificates, toys, clothing, and food when we know of the need. Christmastime is a great time to show our generosity.



Gifts Given to the Church

We have been the beneficiary of a generous gift of two spaces/crypts at Oakwood Mausoleum. If you think you may be interested, please stop into the office for more details. Proceeds from the sale of these crypts will be spent on local mission projects per the donor's wishes.



Recipes from the Special Recipes Cookbook Circa 1988-1999

Fruitcake Bars

Submitted by Carol Ann Poole

½ C. Margarine or Butter 1 pkg. Pillsbury Nut Bread Mix
1 C. Coconut 2 C. Diced Mixed Candied Fruit
1 C. Chopped Dates 1 C. Coarsely Chopped Nuts
14 oz. Can Eagle Brand Milk

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt margarine in 15x10 sheet pan. Sprinkle evenly with dry bread mix. Sprinkle with coconut. Distribute candied fruit evenly over coconut. Distribute dates over candied fruits. Sprinkle with nuts. Press mixture lightly. Pour condensed milk over top spreading evenly. Bake at 350 20-30 minutes or until set and lightly browned. Cool 30 minutes. While slightly warm, cut into bars and remove from pan. Cool completely. Yield 48 bars.

Candied Fruitcake

Submitted by Carole Bricker

2 C. Flour 2 tsp Baking Powder
½ tsp Salt 2 ½ C. Candied Pineapple, cut
2 C. Candied Cherries 3 ½ C. Pitted Dates, cut
4 Eggs 1 C. Sugar
5 C. Pecan Halves

Sift flour, baking powder, and salt into large bowl. Add pineapple, cherries, & dates. Mix well with hands to coat each piece of fruit with flour. Beat eggs until frothy & gradually beat in sugar. Add to fruit and mix well with hands. Mix in nuts. Grease & line with brown paper 2 deep 9" Spring form pans & press down firmly with fingers. If necessary, rearrange fruit and nuts to fill empty spaces. Bake in very low oven (275 degrees) for 1 ¼ hour. Let cake stand in pans about 5 minutes. Turn out, pull off paper and cool.

Fluffy Potato Bake Submitted by Ruth Anderson

6 Large Potatoes ¼ C. Finely Chopped Onion
¼ C. Butter 12 oz. Small Curd Cottage Cheese
¼ C. Snipped Parsley 1 tsp. Salt
Melted Butter

Cook and mash potatoes. Sauté onion, but do not brown. Stir onion, cottage cheese, parsley, and salt into mashed potatoes. Spoon potato mixture into a well-greased casserole dish. Drizzle melted butter over the top. Bake at 350 degrees until browned. Approximately 30 minutes. Garnish with additional parsley if desired. Roll in mixture of ¼ C. parsley and ½ C. Pecans. Serve with crackers.

Four Bean Baked Beans Submitted by Linda Penney

1 lb. Hamburger 1 lb. Bacon
1 (16 oz.) can Lima Beans 1 (16 oz.) can Kidney Beans
1 (16 oz.) can Butter Beans
48 oz. Randall Great Northern Beans
1 Qt. Tomatoes
1 Large Diced Onion
1 ½ C. Brown Sugar

Brown bacon and hamburger and drain. In a large bowl, combine the hamburger, crumbled bacon, the beans, and the tomatoes. Layer onions and brown sugar in bottom of roasting pan. Pour the bean mixture over top. Bake 3-3 ½ hours at 350 degrees. Serves 8-10.





Second Presbyterian Church

December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.	3 	4
5 9:30 Worship 2 nd @ Second 10:45 	6	7	8 Florence Gilmore Circle 10:00 a.m.	9 Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.	10	11 
12 9:30 Worship Congregational Meeting 	13	14	15	16 Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.	17	18
19 9:30 Worship 2 nd @ Second 10:45 	20	21	22	23 Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:30 p.m.	25 
26 9:30 Worship 2 nd @ Second 10:45	27	28	29	30 Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.	31	