

## Lectionary for January

**January 3:** Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18

**January 10:** Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

**January 17:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

**January 24:** Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:14-20

**January 31:** Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

### Please keep these folks in your prayers:

Arlene Besner	Billie Bauer	Stephanie Bennett
Jim Berden	Dick Brown	Don and Sally Day
Vera Dice	Esther Egbert	Carole Fowler
Heather Kleen	Georgia Latty	Heather Rousseau

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## Second Presbyterian Church Newsletter January 2021



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

### The Story of the Magi and Epiphany -Matthew 2:1-12

Happy and a peaceful New Year!

The year 2020 is gone and now we welcome the year 2021. Did you take an inventory of 2020? Well, the list may be exceptionally long or perhaps short. Yet as Children of God, we always have a list for God, thus making sure we do not miss anything that we want to share with God in prayer. What about the beginning of the year? We like to make a list and plans of things that we would like to do in the coming months. Some may call it New Year's resolutions! The question is, are we able to follow through with them?

The Magi made plans and visited baby Jesus. After their visit, which was completed with the gifts for the baby Jesus, they could not find their planning arrangement to return by the same way they had gone to see Jesus. They had to abandon their original plan for a different travel route to get home. Yet they were still celebrating and rejoicing, having been led to see the Savoir to the world, which we celebrate as Epiphany, the light of Jesus Christ to the world. What is Epiphany and why it is important celebration in the Lectionary Calendar Year?

Epiphany is the celebration of God's manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ. **(continued)**

The word “epiphany” (from the Greek *epiphaneia* or *theophaneia*) means “appearance” or “manifestation” of God, and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. In ancient times, an epiphany meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god. **An excerpt from the [Companion to the Book of Common Worship](#) (Geneva Press, 2003, 94-95)**

As we celebrate the Season of Epiphany and rejoicing in the light that came out of darkness and the Savior to the world in Jesus Christ, to be witnesses to God’s true light. God in flesh leads us forth to show and tell of Christ as God’s gift of grace and salvation for all persons. Some call this ongoing epiphany the work of Christmas.

Even in times of like these we can rejoice knowing that the endless light still leads. Christmas and Epiphany time is that Christ comes again and again into our lives with hope. Although 2020 has been a very difficult year, and each of you has shared something about the isolation and the stress. I see Christ’s light and great hope in the development and distribution of vaccines. May we find great comfort in traveling through these trying days with such a committed congregation. The Shepherds and the Magi brought the gifts of worship and adoration to Jesus. You have brought the gift of community and support to each other. In setting our eyes on the possibility of worshipping together Indoor. Hopefully the pandemic numbers will be heading down soon, as the days grow lighter and brighter.

**Prayer:** God of endless light, you sent a star— rising from darkness, guiding seekers and sages, overwhelming us with joy. Let the splendor of your dawning light grow in us and in all the world until the whole creation shines with your glory; through Jesus Christ our light. (Matthew 2:1-12)

In Christ light of Peace,

Peace and Blessings in the New Year!

Pastor Philomena

## 2<sup>nd</sup> at Second Lectionary Bible Study

We will begin to examine the lectionary at 11:00 a.m. Sunday January 10<sup>th</sup>. We will gather online for fellowship, Bible study on Sunday Scriptures, and prayer. This will continue to be a great way to deepen friendships and faith. Please join us, there is no commitment or homework. If you'd like to join in for some light conversation and have a chance to study the Sunday Lectionary, simply follow this link. **The same link each week.** The meetings begin around 11:00 each Sunday. It will be great to "see" you!  
Topic: Second @ 2nd Sunday Bible Study  
Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8198599266?pwd=WFJoYklyYlplEa3FtT1VYUldoeHBjdz09>

Meeting ID: 819 859 9266

Passcode: 2665

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,8198599266#,,,,\*2665# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,8198599266#,,,,\*2665# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 819 859 9266

Passcode: 2665

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8198599266>



## Thursday Fellowship

Beginning Thursday January 7, 2021 @ 10:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. join me for Fellowship and Prayer Via a ZOOM meeting. If you'd like to join in for some light conversation, Bible Study and Prayer, have a chance to see some familiar faces, simply send an email to [secondpres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:secondpres@sbcglobal.net) to request an invitation. We will then send you a link to the Zoom meeting. **You only need to do this one time, and you can use the same link each week.** It will be great to "see" you!  
Second Presbyterian is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Thursday Fellowship and Bible Study at Second Presbyterian  
Time: Jan 7, 2021 10:15 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8198599266?pwd=WFJoYklyYlpEa3FtT1VYUldoeHBjdz09>  
Meeting ID: 819 859 9266  
Passcode: 2665  
One tap mobile  
+13017158592,,8198599266#,,,,\*2665# US (Washington D.C)  
+13126266799,,8198599266#,,,,\*2665# US (Chicago)  
Dial by your location  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/krXXYDTg0>

## Per Capita Apportionment

At the beginning of each year our Per Capita Apportionment for ecclesiastical expenses comes due. Per Capita is part of being a Presbyterian and connecting to the Presbyterian Church as a whole; it is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. The total 2021 per capita amount is \$8,311.64 for our church or \$28.76 per member (not per household). It goes to General Assembly, Synod of the Covenant and the Presbytery. If each member pays their Per Capita amount above their regular giving then pressure on our budget is reduced. Please mark Per Capita on your check or envelope.

## Keeping In Touch

During 2020 we increased our use of email communications and found this to be an efficient way of communicating with our church family. If you have an email address please ensure you are receiving our weekly email regarding church activities. Email is the quickest way to contact the congregation with last minute updates or changes. To be added to the email list please contact the church office at (989) 792-1023 or [secondpres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:secondpres@sbcglobal.net).

## Music Notes



Happy New Year everyone!  
It was a lot of fun putting on the Christmas Concert this year. I want to thank you all for the incredible generosity you have shown in donating to Operation Underground Railroad. Together, we raised over \$2,500 to support their work protecting the most innocent! Great teamwork! 🎵🎹🎄 -Michael Wechter

## Part Time Custodian Position Available 20-24 hours per week

Responsible for maintaining the congregation's building in good physical condition with a clean and neat appearance and be available for special events set-up and take-down.

Primary Responsibilities and Duties:

- Weekly cleaning of all areas of the church
- Set up and take down tables and chairs as needed
- Simple maintenance and repair tasks as may be required
- Work as a team with other staff members
- Must be able to lift moderate amount of weight
- Full job description in office

This is a part time position 20-24 hours per week.  
Applications are available in the Church office.

## Mission Study

Mission Study of the church Survey has been sent by mail to you. Kindly take time to fill it out and return it the church ASAP in the stamped envelope provided or email it to [secondpres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:secondpres@sbcglobal.net). This is a necessary step in forming the Pastor Nominating Committee.

## MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

### "Go also the second mile" Matthew 5:41

The Stewardship & Missions Committee would like to give everyone a Huge Thank You for stepping up during Christmas! You helped make 54 children in Saginaw have a brighter Holiday. When we were sorting through the gifts that were donated, some of you clearly went above & beyond. It really made us sooooo proud to be a part of such a wonderful congregation. Bless You All!



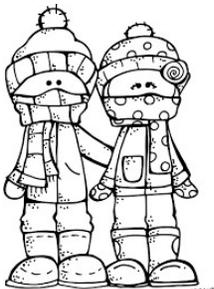
For our Mission Focus in January, we will again be collecting your spare change for "2 Coins A Meal". This is a wonderful program to help combat hunger -- 25% goes to support the PCUSA Hunger Program and 75% will be retained by our congregation to be designated toward local hunger relief efforts at the First Presbyterian Food Pantry.

The collection will be, Sunday, January 31, 2021\*\*

\*\*If we're still unable to attend church in person, then please designate your giving to "2 Coins A Meal".

"And we know that in [all things God works for the good](#) of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

[Romans 8:28](#)



## Sunday School

For the month of January, the Sunday School focus will be the "Miracles of Jesus."

- January 10 – Casting Out Evil Spirits
- January 17 – Calming of the Storm
- January 24 – Raising of Lazarus
- January 31 – New Unit begins with "The Story of the Rich Young Man"

Please join in via YouTube every Sunday at 4:00 p.m.



## Estimate of Giving

If you have not already done so, please turn in your bright pink **2021 Estimate of Giving** slip by mailing it to the church. Your donations make many programs of the church possible.

## PayPal Donations

We now have the ability to support the work of Christ by giving to the church via PayPal. Simply visit [www.spcsaginaw.org/donate](http://www.spcsaginaw.org/donate) and follow the steps to make a donation. Some folks have found this to be a convenient method of giving. As always, there is a cost to convenience. PayPal charges the church 2.9% plus \$0.30 for each transaction. Even with the added cost, we feel it is important to let you know this option is available. As always, we thank you for your continued support of Second Presbyterian Church, which supports the work of Christ here, and around the world.



**Please read the weekly update for current and up to date information.**