

Lectionary for December

December 1: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 15:4-13;
Matthew 24:36-44
December 8: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12
December 15: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10;
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11
December 22: 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:

Winnie Bingham	Ed Dewyse
Pam Seavolt	Stephanie Bennett
Vera Dice	Sally Day

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No.12

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Second Presbyterian Church Newsletter December 2019



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

Join us on **Christmas Eve** for
Services of Lessons and Carols
5:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

The 5:00 p.m. service is more family-oriented.
Nursery care is available for all services through age 3.

Communion Servers

If you are a past or present Elder or Deacon, please consider helping serve Communion on December 1st. The signup sheet is in the gathering area.

Feeding Individuals Sharing Hope – F.I.S.H.

On communion Sundays we also collect food for the First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry. Please bring your non-perishable food and place them on the table in the main hallway on Sunday, December 1st.



Christmas Joy Offering
The Christmas Joy Offering will be received Sunday, December 22nd. This offering supports the work of Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and also provides supplemental income and medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families.

Please Update Your Contact Information in the Office for the 2020 Directory.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast



All men of the church are invited to join in on Saturday, December 7, for breakfast, study and fellowship. We meet at 8:00 a.m. at the church, and will continue our study of the Acts of the Apostles. Come and join us for breakfast, study and fellowship!

Busy Hands and Hearts



This is our busiest time of year. The colder the weather, the greater the need. This month we are working on hats of all sizes, mittens, lap robes, baby sweaters, and blankets. You do not need to knit, crochet or sew. If you can coordinate colors, or can pick up and deliver materials, we need you. Come and join us on Monday, December 2nd from 1-3 p.m. Please contact Ruth Anderson at 792-0372 for information.

"Odd" "Tuesday Bible Study

Our "Odd" Tuesday Bible Study will meet one more time, and we're going to look at the Christmas story. So come and join us on Tuesday, December 3rd. We'll begin at 7:00 p.m. Mark your calendars, bring your bible and join in!



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 8. These beautiful poinsettias are \$10.00 each and have multiple large blossoms and a bow attached. They will decorate the church for worship beginning on Sunday, December 22, and will stay until after both Christmas Eve services. Take your poinsettias home after the Christmas Eve services.

Giving Number Changes

We have achieved a significant cost savings by reducing the number of boxes of "giving envelopes" we ordered for 2020. We will still provide envelopes for everyone who wants them, but some assigned giving numbers will change. If you do not use envelopes (or your giving number) when making contributions, you can ignore this notice.

If you make use of envelopes, **be aware that your giving (envelope) number MAY change on January 1, 2020.** The new envelope set you will receive shortly has your correct new number. To assure that your contributions are properly credited, please discard any/all old envelopes on December 31, and begin using the new envelopes. This is especially important for cash donations, as your envelope number is the only way your contribution can be properly identified. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Morris.



2019 End of Year Contributions

The IRS requires that donors must deliver or mail and postmark checks on or by December 31, 2019 in order to claim a deduction for 2019. Giving in 2020 and predating a check for 2019 does not qualify for a 2019 deduction.



2019 Per Capita Apportionment

If you have not paid the Per Capita for 2019, you have until December 31st. 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 2019 per capita amount is \$28.77 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.

Youth Events

Sunday, December 1st – No PYG during Sunday School time. Please remain in worship with your family
Sunday, December 8th – PYG during Sunday School. We will also have our Christmas Party this day – see below for info
Sunday, December 15th – PYG during Sunday School time
Sunday, December 22nd, 29th and January 5th – No PYG. Enjoy the holidays and time off with your friends and families!



Youth Christmas Party

We are planning on having our Christmas Party this year on Sunday, December 8th. Details on timing will come closer to this date because we want to go and see the Mister Rogers Neighborhood movie during our party!! We will also have snacks and goodies and do our \$5 gift exchange. Watch the bulletin, and your email, for details but mark this afternoon/early evening on your calendar and join us!

2nd @ Second

We will continue our study of Judaism and should finish up in February. There will be two classes on December 1 and December 8 following the worship service (*God and Man; God and Community* and *Philosophers and Mystics*, respectively). There will be **NO 2nd @ Second on December 15 through January 5.**

Sunday School Workshop Leaders

We are still in need of volunteers for leading our Sunday school workshops for 2nd through 5th graders! There are some very exciting workshops coming up in the New Year! Please consider a small time with our children of Second Presbyterian Church.

Children's Choir

Children will be lifting their voices in song during the worship service on December 15! Rehearsals for our music will be during Sunday school classes December 1st and 8th. All children ages 4 year old to 6th grade are invited to sing! Please make every effort to attend church for the next few Sundays so we will be able to practice with a full choir. If you have not received a copy of the words/music, please see Peggy.



Mission Minutes



Stockings for the Troops was a resounding success due to the overwhelming generosity of the congregation. The final count was 61 stockings filled plus some extra items this year, which is fantastic. These were delivered to Garber Buick on November 22nd to start their trip to the troops.



The mission for the rest of November and the month of December is the Angel Tree program. The Angel Tree table is set up in the main hallway. This year we have the tags laid out for 61 children. So check it out and if you can help please do, but remember, these gifts must be back by December 8th so Santa's helpers can get them all delivered.

Estimate of Giving

If you have not already done so, please turn in your orange **2020 Estimate of Giving** slip by either mailing it to the church, by dropping it in the offering plate, or by bringing it into the church office. We are working on our budget for 2020 and many programs of the church depend upon your Estimate of Giving.



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.



Transition Process

The Session has begun working with the Presbytery to learn more about the pastoral transition process.

The first stage of the process is the early interim period, typically 1-6 months. This stage begins with the Jim's departure. The Session will create a task force to coordinate during this time. During this period the Sunday worship will be supplied by pulpit supply. This will be a mix of supply pastors and individuals from our own congregation.

In December the Session will form an Interim Search Committee to search for an Interim Pastor. The interim pastorate is typically 12-18 months and is a beneficial time for a congregation. Interim pastors are trained to assist congregations during periods of transition. During the interim time a mission study is completed to identify the direction the congregation wishes to go, the leadership model appropriate to the church, and the gifts necessary to lead them.

Once the mission study is complete the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is formed. The PNC is the committee which will search for a new pastor.

The Session has appointed a Music Search Committee to search for a new Music Director. The position has been posted to various job posting sites.



Florence Gilmour Circle

Florence Gilmour Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 11, at 10:15 a.m. to put together 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 the Horizon Center.



Taizé Service

Mark your calendar for the evening of **Thursday, December 12th at 7:00 PM!** Take time out of your busy holiday season for a time of reflection in the tradition of Taizé! This service includes meditative music, scripture readings and silence.

We invite all to spend a quiet hour of introspection during this advent season! Childcare will be available.

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.



Scrip for Christmas

Finish your Christmas shopping early with gift cards. We are going to place Scrip orders December 1 & 15.

Your order is typically in the office on the Wednesday after the order date. Place an order for almost any retailer in the area or we have any of these cards available right now in the office:

Applebee's \$25	Bath & Body Works \$10/\$25	GQT \$10
Logan's \$25	Meijer \$25	Olive Garden \$25
Starbuck's \$25	Red Lobster \$25	Taco Bell \$10



Second Presbyterian Church

December 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion 9:30 Worship & Nursery 2nd @ Second 10:45 	2	3 Busy Hands and Hearts 1-3 p.m.	4 Odd Tuesday Bible Study 7 p.m.	5 Bell Choir 6pm Chancel Choir 7pm	6 	7 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.
8  9:30 Worship & Nursery 2nd @ Second 10:45 PYG Christmas Party	9	10 Session 7 p.m.	11 Florence Gilmore Circle 10:15 am Bell Choir 6 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m.	12 Prayer Group 8:30 a.m. Taizé Worship 7 p.m.	13	14
15 9:30 Worship & Nursery 	16	17	18 Bell Choir 6pm Chancel Choir 7pm	19 Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.	20	21
22 Christmas Joy Offering 9:30 Worship & Nursery 	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m. & 7:30 pm	25 	26 Prayer Group 8:30 a.m.	27	28 
29 9:30 Worship & Nursery	30	31 Office Closed				

Unto Us
a Child is Born



Merry Christmas from your church staff!

Sonia

Ken

Jim

Samantha

Cathy

Laurie

Peggy

Donna

Carol

Z

Doug



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.



WAYS TO GIVE



Through your congregation



Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or donate



Online at presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

1236-19-306

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.



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

God is with us.

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we receive the perfect gift of God being with us, and of being with those in need.



SUPPORTING OUR PAST AND PRESENT CHURCH LEADERS



“The generosity of Presbyterians and the work of the Board of Pensions bears witness to the care of the ‘Good Shepherd.’”

Gloria Casasus-Urrutia

Ten years after retiring as the organist from her church, Porta Coeli Presbyterian Church in San German, Puerto Rico, Gloria found herself

thrust into severe financial hardship, made worse by Hurricane Maria. However, because of grant from the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, made possible by gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, Gloria’s life “has taken on a new turn.”

Gloria is so grateful for the gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering and for the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions they support. Gloria especially wants her Presbyterian family to know that she faithfully places her tithe in her congregation’s offering plate to share the blessings that she received.

50%

of your gifts to Christmas Joy
assist current and retired church workers
and their families who are in financial need.

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.



PREPARING THE WAY FOR FUTURE LEADERS



“Stillman has made me the person I am today, the desire I have for other people to do well, the professionalism I carry, and the desire to show the love of God, the love of Christ.”

Devon Kelly

As a high school senior, Devon had no place to call home and little hope. However, his entire outlook, and his life, began to change when he encountered an admissions representative from Stillman College, a historically black school affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), at his high school. With that, Devon began to imagine Stillman as a place where he could succeed. And he did.

He found hope. He found his future. Today, he is pursuing his masters degree in social work to help other young people like himself.

50%

of your gifts to Christmas Joy
make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith
at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges
equipping communities of color.