

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER, 2018

Osawatomie First Presbyterian Church
 344 Main Street
 Osawatomie, Kansas 66064 * (913) 755-3964 * osawatomiepresby@hotmail.com
 Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

Church Staff

Rev. Paul Davidson
 (913) 755-3964

Linda Prothe
Administrative Assistant
 (913) 755-3964 (913) 731-4554
 (913) 755-3008
 osawatomiepresby@hotmail.com
 Office Hours Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday
 9:00 a.m.-12:00p.m.

Laurie Swicegood
 Bookkeeper
 (913) 755-3964
 (913) 256-9524
addingsub-
tractng@osawatomiepresbyterian.org

Brigitte Pinneo
 Custodian (913) 731-0236

Contact New Hope Parish (Miami-Osawatomie-Paola)
 Voice Mail: 913-259-4235
 Email: nhparish.org

Secretary Snippets

Please have your **January 2019** newsletter information turned in information in by **December 21, 2018.**

Blessings,

Linda Prothe, Administrative Assistant

Upcoming Events

Date	Time	Activity
Dec. 1st	10a.m.-2:00 p.m.	Christmas Bazar at The Grand Loft
Dec. 2nd	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Worship Service Communion Children's Sunday School 1st Sunday of Advent
Dec. 3rd	6:30 p.m.	Finance Committee
Dec. 5th	7:00 p.m.	Session
Dec. 9th	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Worship Service 2nd Sunday of Advent Children's Sunday School
Dec. 12th	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	New Hope Parish Women's Christmas Gathering at Little Town Youth Ministry/ Christian Education
Dec. 16th	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Worship Service 3rd Sunday of Advent Children's Sunday School Fellowship Dinner following service with Preliminary Budget Report
Dec. 19th	6:30 p.m.	Women's Group with election of officers
Dec. 23rd	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Worship Service 4th Sunday of Advent No Children's Sunday School
Dec. 24th	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship Service Sunday School
Dec. 30th	10:00 a.m.	Joint Parish Service at Paola Presbyterian Church 1st Sunday after Christmas No Children's Sunday School

Greetings All,

It is hard to believe that we are now entering the holiday season. It almost seems like the seasons are sneaking up on us. And as the days grow shorter and the season seems to pull us in a hundred different directions, it may be easy to find ourselves going down dark paths of depression and despair. That's when we need to refocus our hope on the joyous birth, life and teachings of our Lord, Jesus.

There are some scholars that dispute the date of Jesus birth. According to the History Channel's website, "The Bible doesn't mention his exact birthday, and the Nativity story contains conflicting clues. For instance, the presence of shepherds and their sheep suggest a spring birth. When church officials settled on December 25 at the end of the third century, they likely wanted the date to coincide with existing pagan festivals honoring Saturn (the Roman god of agriculture) and Mithra (the Persian god of light). That way, it became easier to convince Rome's pagan subjects to accept Christianity as the empire's official religion."

It's too bad that there are some who get so tied up in discussions about details such as this one that we forget what is really important. It's not important to get the date correct; instead, it is important to get Jesus correct and to let Jesus fully into our hearts while giving him our lives and all that is bringing us down. Not only is Jesus one of the endless number of gifts God has given us, when we are truly able to remember the joy that his birth represents, we can find joy in the darkest of times. As 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 and as Eugene Peterson translated it so well, "So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever." (MSG) Although it is often easier said than done, we must not give in to the down-times, we must instead hold on tight to the hope that Jesus has given us through his birth, life, death and resurrection. And, as we enter a new year in the church calendar with the beginning of Advent and as the daylight gets shorter, remember that the light of Christ will forever shine bright.

Remembering what Advent is all about should help us to better focus on the light of Christ. According to the Book of Common Worship, "'Advent' means coming or arrival. This word has a double significance, as in Advent we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and look with longing for his coming again. The season of Advent begins with an emphasis on final things (eschatology). We watch and pray with expectant hope for the establishment of God's justice and the return of the Prince of Peace. As the weeks of Advent progress, the focus shifts to thanks and praise for the birth of the one who has already come—Jesus Christ our Savior.

The origin of the season of Advent is uncertain. It may have been patterned after the season of Lent as a period of penitence before Christmas, or as a time of preparation for baptism at Epiphany. The duration of Advent was, in some times and places, as long as six or seven weeks." Our season of Advent four weeks, ending on Christmas Eve with the lighting of the Christ Candle. Regardless of when or why we started celebrating Advent, it is truly a time of hope, peace, joy and love as we look forward with great anticipation to Christ's full reign over all of God's creation. As I continue to get settled in being your new pastor, I look forward to continuing to know each of you better and to you all continuing to get to know me better. I am excited about what God has in store for each of the churches and New Hope Parish as a whole. As long as we keep focused on God and God's path and sharing God's Good News through word and deed, the future is bright. As always, if you've any ideas for me or for the rest of our church family, please don't hesitate to let me know. Also, if you would like a visit from me or if you'd like to visit me, let me know.

Sometimes I need a little nudge. I am thankful for each of you and for having been called to serve you and New Hope Parish. My family and I feel truly blessed to be here and to be a part of your faith journey.

Remember, God is good all the time! Amen!

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Paul



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

*Every generous
act of giving...
is from above.*

— JAMES 1:17



THE PERFECT GIFT.

Christmas Joy Special Offering December 2, 2018 to December 23, 2018

50% of your gifts to Christmas Joy provide assistance to current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial need. 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.

The 25% collected by our congregation

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Presbyterian Women's Group

- December 1st - Winter Bazaar 10a.m. to 2:00p.m. at the Grand Loft Women's Bake Sale Fundraiser. Everything is to be pre-packaged. If you are unable to bring to the loft please leave your baked goods in the upstairs kitchen by the office by 8:00 a.m. December 1st.
- New Hope Parish Women's Christmas Gathering : Wednesday 12/12 @ 6:00 p.m. @ Little Town in Paola. Dinner (\$15) and small Christmas themed gift exchange (\$3 or less). Paola's church thrift shop has many items. Please RSVP to Pat by 12/4 @ (913) 568-3586.
- Christmas Family Adoption: Food and gifts. Food donations will be opened to the congregation. Details to be announced. A sign-up sheet of items needed will be in the Narthex.

December 19th at 6:30 p.m.-Women's group with elections: Terms expiring 1/1/19 Moderator, Vice-moderator, Recorder, Treasurer/Authorized Signer. If you are interested in any of

these **positions**, please contact the Church Office.

Children's Sunday School

There will be no Children's Sunday School on December 23rd or December 30th.



Dec. 2	1 st Sunday of Advent Communion	Jan. 6	Ephiphany of the Lord Communion
9	2 nd Sunday of Advent	13	Baptism of the Lord
16	3 rd Sunday of Advent	20	2 nd Sunday after Epiphany
23	4 th Sunday of Advent	27	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany
24	Christmas Eve Service Communion		
30	1 st Sunday after Christmas		

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:10-14

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

Advent is a season of waiting, expecting, and hoping. Beginning four Sundays prior to Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve, Advent helps us prepare for the coming, or “advent,” of Christ at Christmas. For hundreds of years, Christians have used an Advent wreath to inspire their hopes for the coming of Christ. By lighting candles and reading Bible verses, we are reminded about the meaning of Christ’s birth and become more excited about his coming in the past, in the future, and in our own lives.

Made from evergreens, the circular wreaths symbolize eternal life and the endless nature of God’s love. During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.

By lighting candles and reading Bible verses, we are reminded about the meaning of



The Candle of **Hope**.

A time of anticipation and longing for Jesus' coming.

The Candle of **Peace**.

A time of hope and preparation for the coming of Christ.

The Candle of **Joy**.

A time of rejoicing in anticipation of Christmas.

The Candle of **Love**.

The time to feel the hope, peace, joy and love given to us in the greatest gift from God, God's Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Christ's birth and become more excited about his coming in the past, in the fu-



POINSETTIAS for CHRISTMAS

You may wish to order poinsettias for decorating the sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season. It is a very special way to celebrate or remember a loved one. The poinsettias will decorate our sanctuary **beginning December 9. Orders will be taken through December 16.**

Persons buying poinsettias may take their plant(s) home following the Christmas Eve Worship Service.

Order forms will be in the bulletin or you may contact Linda. Poinsettias will be ordered through Hanes Florist at a cost of \$15.00 and will be red. If you purchase your own, bring your poinsettia to the office Tuesday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – noon.

DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Italics = Anniversaries</i> Bold = Birthdays						1 Joshua Backer Christmas Bazar at the Grand Loft 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Grand Loft
2 9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion 1st Sunday of Advent 10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday	3	4	5 <i>Mike and Evelyn Gabbert</i> 7:00 p.m. Session	6	7 Ellen Porter	8
9 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:00 Children's Sunday School	10	11 Kathie Pinneo	12 Brian Timblin 6:30 p.m. Youth Ministry and Children's Education 6:00p.m. New Hope Parish Christmas Gathering-Little Town	13	14 Melissa Kitchen Mallory Green	15
16 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:00 Children's Sunday School Fellowship Dinner Following Service - Preliminary Budget to be	17	18	19 6:30 Women's Group	20 Alex Backer	21 Thaid Timblin Katie Inscore Bret Pennock	22
23 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 5th Sunday of Advent 10:00 No Children's Sunday School	24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 Misty Polley	26	27	28 Lisa Farley Bob Weir	29 Carolyn Servais
30 Joint Parish Worship at Paola Presbyterian Church 1st Sunday After Christmas No Children's Sunday School	31					