



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

*You are most cordially invited to be present in worship
at the Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church
on Tuesday, December 24, 2019.*

7:00pm – This service is planned as a family service, with lots of carols and special treats for the children. If you are looking for a good, old-fashioned family Christmas Eve, this service is for you and yours.

9:30pm – This service is smaller, quieter and more intimate. Special music, candle-light, and the celebration of the Lord's Supper open our hearts once again to the wonder and awe of Christmas morning.

Both services will include special music and candle-lightings.



December 2019

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

My beloved Lawrence Road friends and family:

Long, long ago, the prophet Jeremiah spoke these words into the pain and exile of God’s people, a people who had lost everything, whose country had been overrun, whose city had been destroyed. Despite the context, they are words full of hope for the future. They are words of comfort and assurance. They are words meant for uncertain times, times of change when it is almost impossible, no matter how hard we try, to see over the horizon to what God has in store for us.

Our community, you and I, are in a place like that right now. I will be leaving this wonderful church and you amazing people on December 31 of this year, about 4 weeks from now. I don’t know what comes next for me and Jim. This will be the first time in more than 24 years that I have not been leading worship on a Sunday morning. To say that I feel as if my anchor has come unhooked is to put it mildly.

And for you, you will be getting used to new voices, new ideas, new ways of proclaiming the gospel. It almost certainly will feel uncomfortable for a while. As members of my family sometimes say, ***change is bad even when it’s good.***

But God has plans for us. Like the ancients in exile in Babylon, we are going to have to sit with our discomfort and our dislocation for a season. But God has plans for us, plans for our welfare, plans for the good of the people who seek him. And in God’s good time, to quote Julian of Norwich, all will be well, all will be will, and all manner of things will be well.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for every blessing you have sent my way, for every prayer you have lifted on my behalf, for every smile, every high five, every holy hug. I treasure every pan of mac ‘n’ cheese I cooked, every giggle, every tear, even all the mornings that the boiler didn’t come on. I treasure the times I have stood at the grave with you, the times that I baptized your babies, the times I helped you tie the knot, the Christmas Eves and the Easter mornings. Every moment of our journey has been God-breathed and I know myself to be the luckiest pastor on the face of the earth. I thank God that way back in September 2001, the co-chair of the Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church Pastoral Nominating Committee called me away from some pretty darned good fishing and asked me to stop by and have a chat.

So as we part ways, just hold fast to one another. Be patient with the process on which you are about to embark. It’s not the world’s quickest work (it is Presbyterian, after all.) But it’s good and faithful work and I have every confidence that you will complete it successfully with all deliberate speed. Just keep your eyes lifted toward God and your hands outstretched to serve your neighbors and God will see you through.

Because God has a plan for the Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church, a plan for its welfare, a plan to give you a future with hope. I will pray for you every day. And I will never forget how much and how well we have loved one another.

All my hopes and prayers be with you –

Rev. Dr. Nina Peck Reeder, pastor, Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church



Ornament and Advent Wreath Making
Sunday, December 8, 2019
11:30am
Fellowship Hall

Wreath & Ornament making during coffee hour. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** LOG kids will be hosting a gift wrapping station for your holiday gifts in addition to selling holiday crafts, cookie jars, and Reindeer Food (Gourmet Popcorn)



Christmas Caroling
Wednesday, December 11, 2019
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Christmas Caroling to the LRPC shut-ins. Hot Cocoa and cookies back at the church at 8:00 pm.
ALL ARE WELCOME!



Sunday, December 15, 2019 @ 10:00am

Mark your calendars for a meaningful and musical worship experience!



Pastor Nina's Celebration & Farewell Dinner
December 15th @ 5:00pm



GIVING TREE

It's Giving Tree time! We are joining our nursery school this year in partnering with Eldridge Park Elementary School in Lawrenceville and we will be assisting families identified by their guidance counselor. Eldridge Park generates a wish list for us as requested by the families.

We ask you to select a tag from the tree. Please have your items in by **Friday, December 13**. We will **deliver them to Eldridge Park Friday afternoon**. The gifts can be placed under the tree on the floor or dropped off in the nursery school office, **unwrapped**. We appreciate anything you are able to contribute.

A Service of Hope and Light

HOPE

The Christmas season is often marked by expressions of joy, excitement, and happiness. It's a time for family to gather and for churches to worship pointing to the hope that is found in the coming of the Christ child.

However, this time of joy and expectation can often overshadow the pain and hurt many experience during this season, when the world's merriment puts their grief and sorrow into stark relief.

This year, friends and neighbors will gather in the Lawrence Road Church sanctuary on **Tuesday, December 17 at 7:30pm** for a low-key service providing a spiritual and affective space for the grief that accompanies loss of any kind, loss most keenly felt around this time of year. Music, prayers, candles, and scripture will come together to support and nurture hope and light in the midst of loss.

We would be pleased to have you join us for this hour of worship and reflection on Tuesday December 17. Come and be refreshed.



Choices:

6" pot, 4-7 blooms	\$ 7.25
7" pot, 7-10 blooms	\$ 12.50
8" pot, 10-15 blooms	\$ 22.00

There are order envelopes located in the church pews and in the back of the Sanctuary.

Orders must be in by Monday, December 9th

All plants will be displayed in the chancel and can be picked up after the 9:30pm service on Christmas Eve.

THANKS FOR GIVING

A great big “thank you” to the LRPC congregation, nursery school families, and all who participated in our Thanksgiving food drive for Arm in Arm. Our grocery cart was overflowing! Thanks for helping neighbors in need by helping hungry families set the table!



- Dec. 3 David Baffuto
- Dec. 4 Robert Gates
- Dec. 5 Eileen Friedeborn
- Dec. 7 John Erickson
Karl Friedeborn
Eleanore Hurst
- Dec. 12 Jeff Allison
Emma Jean Burk
- Dec. 18 Amy Watt
- Dec. 19 Munachi Ogbonnaya
- Dec. 20 Miriam Bochantin
Bobbi Murawski
Sandra O'Neil
- Dec. 21 Irene Mount
- Dec. 27 Francine Gates
- Dec. 30 Joseph Katona
- Dec. 31 Dina Erickson