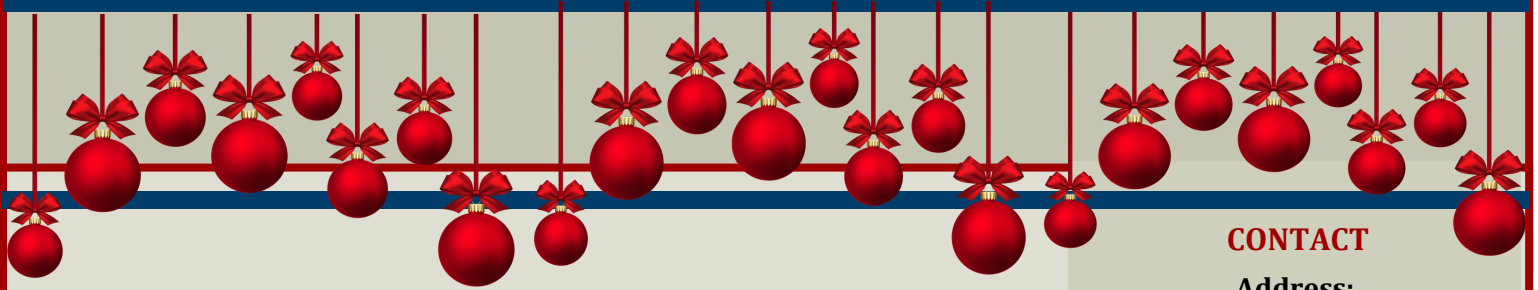


# First Presbyterian Church

**THE VOICE**  
**December 2022**



Dear Friends,

Advent is upon us! A four-week liturgical period leading up to Christmas, this season is more than a precursor for the holidays. In ancient times, Advent was a period of penitence. Knowing that the arrival of the Messiah required righting of the heart, Christians everywhere acknowledged a need for the Savior. Before celebrations could begin, a period of repentance ensued. Filled with expectation and reverence, Advent was a period of waiting. Still celebrated today, we await Christ's appearance into our world this season, not yet seeing him. Christmas is coming, but not yet.

Our theme for Advent 2022 is *Waiting in Wonder*. Over the next four weeks we will worship together, reflecting on the miraculous gift of Christ's upcoming birth. Each Sunday leading up to Christmas Eve we will light another candle on the Advent Wreath. Full of symbolism, these candles remind us weekly that Christ's presence and light are growing brighter and brighter day by day. As we wait, we give thanks for the wondrous love of God that we will shortly receive. Finally, on Christmas Eve, we will light the Christ Candle in the center of the wreath as we hail the Messiah's arrival once more into the world.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we will celebrate the incarnation and nativity of Jesus Christ. Our period of waiting will be over, and we will rejoice in God's fulfilled promises of love and grace. The season of Christmastide will continue from Dec. 25 until Epiphany on January 6, which many know and sing as the Twelve Days of Christmas. After penitence, we finally proclaim the wonderful gift of Emmanuel – God with us – and begin a new year rejuvenated in Christ.

Join us at First Presbyterian Church for our celebrations. Advent worship services are every Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m. December 18 will be a special day as we gather for our *Festival of Lessons & Carols* in the morning and then enjoy our Children & Youth Christmas Program at 4:30pm. Our Saturday Christmas Eve service will be at 5:30 pm and we will gather once more on Christmas Day for our regular Sunday morning worship.

This season is filled with expectation, anticipation, and hope. May this time of waiting and preparation ready you for Christ's coming. The Prince of Peace is already on his way.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas,

Rev. Lex M. Allum

## CONTACT

### Address:

200 N. 7th St  
Paducah KY 42001

### Phone:

270-442-3545

### Email:

firstprespaducah@gmail.com

### Worship Times:

Sunday, 10:45 am  
In-person + Livestream on FB  
(First Presbyterian of Paducah)

## WORSHIP

### DECEMBER 4

Second Sunday of Advent  
*Soon, We Shall See*  
Matthew 3:1-12

### DECEMBER 11

Third Sunday of Advent  
*Active Patience*  
James 5:7-10

### DECEMBER 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
*Festival of Lessons & Carols*

### DECEMBER 24

Candlelight Christmas Eve  
*Can You Hear It?*  
Luke 2: (1-7), 8-20

### DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day  
*A New Beginning*  
John I: 1-14

# SUNDAY SCHOOL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FELLOWSHIP HALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

What is Advent? “Advent is a period of spiritual preparation in which many Christians make themselves ready for the coming, or birth of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Celebrating Advent typically involves a season of prayer, fasting, and repentance, followed by anticipation, hope, and joy.”

“Advent is a word with Latin roots and means ‘coming.’ Christians use this period of time before Christmas to prepare for the celebration of Jesus’ birth. It’s also a time of repentance and meditation while anticipating Jesus’ second coming.” (www.learnreligions.com - Mary Fairchild)

These are two of the many definitions found online attempting to describe Advent.

The Fellowship Hall Sunday School Class enters the month of December with the spirit of Advent. We celebrate his first coming where we find him as a babe in a manger. We also look forward to his triumphal return as Lord of Lord and King of Kings.

Our scriptures for the month of December are all found in the Gospel of Luke. Come be a part of our Advent journey. Please take time to grab some coffee and a donut and then join us in the Fellowship Hall Sunday School Class for a festive time during this Holy Season.

Then join us in worship as we follow our traditions. Lighting the Advent candles during worship in the weeks before Christmas is a critical part of preparing our hearts. The four candles focus our attention on the blessings that precede Christ’s birth.



## LIFELONG LEARNING CLASS

The Lifelong Learning Class will start a new study in December - *Understanding the New Testament*. This is another Great Courses series with lectures by Professor David Brakke from Ohio State University: “The New Testament presents a paradox.

On the one hand, it’s a single book, one of two distinct parts of the Christian Bible, and as such, it has provided foundational authority for Christian thought and practice for centuries all over the world. On the other hand, it’s 27 different books, reflecting the diverse views of some 16 early Christians who live in different times and places.

That paradox has presented challenges to Christian thinkers from the very moment that the New Testament was born – but it offers wonderful opportunities as well.”

Please join us in Memorial Hall for some interesting discussions.

## TEENS/TWEENS SUNDAY SCHOOL

In the Teens/Tweens class this month we will continue our discussion about What We Believe:

12/04 What Do I Believe?

12/11 Who Do I Believe In?

12/18 How Do My Beliefs Affect How I Live My Life?

12/25 Christmas Day - no Sunday school class

01/01 New Year’s Day - no Sunday school class

We’re in the Tweens/Teens Sunday School room next to the old Choir room each Sunday beginning at 9:30ish. You’re welcome to join us any Sunday, the discussions stand on their own so if you can’t make it every Sunday, you’ll still be able to participate.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

November youth activities included attending the Tri-Presbytery youth gathering at Camp Loucon, decorating the sanctuary for Advent, and participating in the Advent Walk and youth gathering that followed at Pizza Inn. The Giant City State Park trip was postponed due to weather, but will be rescheduled for a warmer, sunnier day (perhaps in the spring). December activities will include Christmas caroling, ringing the Salvation Army bell, and participating in the Children's and Youth Christmas program on the evening of December 18.

Looking further ahead, on January 6, 2023, there will be an ecumenical Youth Lock-In at Broadway United Methodist Church from 6pm to 12am. In addition, we are in the early planning stages for a joint ski trip to Perfect North in Indiana with Grace Episcopal Youth Group. The tentative dates for that trip are February 16-18, 2023. Youth group is a great way for your kiddos to become invested in their church community through service, education and just-for-fun activities.

### DECEMBER 4

Ring Salvation Army Bell at Southside Walmart

### DECEMBER 11

Christmas Caroling 2:30-4:30

Youth Choir rehearsal 4:30-5:30

### DECEMBER 18

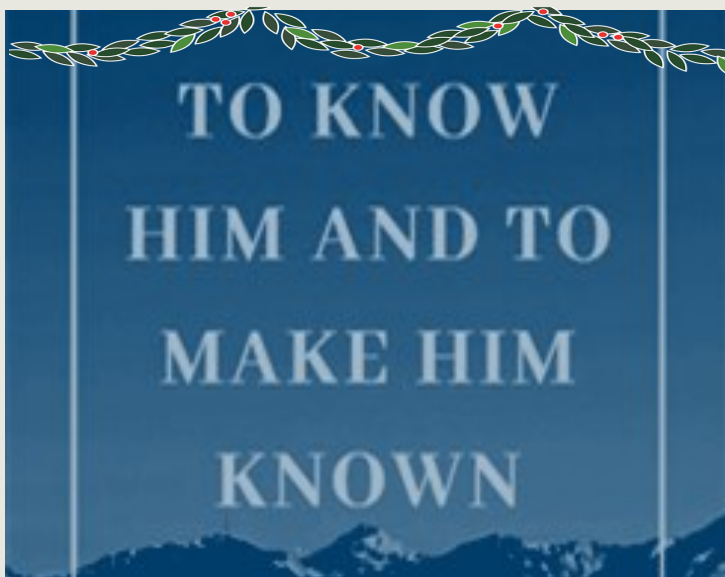
Children's and Youth Christmas Program 4:30 pm

Christmas Reception in Fellowship Hall 5:30 pm

### DECEMBER 25

Worship on Christmas Day

*There will be no Tweens/Teens Sunday school on 12/25*



## BOOK CLUB

We will not meet in December. Our next book is, "Before We Were Yours, a novel" by Lisa Wingate.

## THEOLOGY ON TAP

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for FPC's first ever Theology on Tap at Paducah Beer Werks on Thursday, January 12 at 6 p.m. This will be a casual gathering for some get-to-know-you conversations with Lex about God, the church, and the Bible. All grown-ups in their 20s, 30s, or 40s are encouraged to attend. Child-care (with food) will be provided at the church from 5:45 until 7:45 p.m. Hope to see you there – cheers!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women will be gathering on Monday, December 5, 2022 at 10:30am in Memorial Hall. Margaret Kaltenbach will be leading us through Lesson Three of the Horizon's Bible study, "Celebrating the Sabbath." A few books are still available for those in need. The 2022-23 PW directory has also been updated for you to pick up in the church office.

PW that signed up to make Christmas tin treats are asked to bring them to church on Sunday, December 4. The tins will be assembled that afternoon and women can pick up their tins for delivery after circle on Monday.

A special thanks to all who helped the PW and youth decorate for Advent.

## PADUCAH COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES

The Thanksgiving service was well attended with a reception for Heidi Suhrheinrich following. Lacy Boling, of Paducah, was introduced as the incoming Executive Director. She began her tenure, November 14. We wish her well as she starts this new journey.

PCM is a financial supporter of the Warming Center again this year. The Center is looking for volunteers (individuals or teams) to staff the center for members of our community that need a warm place to sleep. The warming center depends on volunteers and donations to operate safely. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the warming staff at Washington Street Missionary Baptist Church at 270-442-8033.



## BUDDENBAUM HOUSE

The Buddenbaum House, our newly refurbished property, has been well received by visitors and guests alike. Opened for business on November 1, we've had two-night stays on each of the first two weekends in November. We have a couple of local organizations booked for December events, additional guests in December, and pretty much an open venue after that. No problems have surfaced yet.

Linda and I continue to seek "cohosts," that is, somebody who would be interested in backing us up and interested in learning how to be a host. No experience necessary!

Thank you for the opportunity to participate at the Buddenbaum.  
Jim & Linda Gould

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Sandra Dochniak will be assisting the committee by recruiting ushers for Sunday morning to collect the offering. Please give this form of "giving" to your church prayerful consideration, if she calls, You can serve with a friend, a spouse, or your family.

We will be hosting our Christmas Festival on Sunday, December 18. The adult choir will present the Festival of Lessons and Carols during worship at 10:45am. The children will present their Christmas program Sunday afternoon at 4:30pm, followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall.

## MUSIC OF THE SEASON



Another church year has come to a close. On November 27 we entered the season of Advent - a time of **waiting, anticipation, and repentance**. The secular world begins its New Year with parties and loud celebrations, but the Christian world starts its new year in

a quieter, more introspective way. We turn to Old Testament prophecies. We look for signs of Christ's presence around us. We look forward to Christ's return.

The secular world is not **waiting**. Christmas decorations have been in stores since before Halloween. But **waiting** is good. It is a time of **hopefulness** and a time of **repentance**. Our Advent hymns reflect this mood. They yearn for Christ's coming. They urge us to be ready for his coming.

All of this **waiting** and **repentance** prepares us for the *CELEBRATION* of Christmas and its beloved carols. Christmastide doesn't end on December 25 - it's just beginning. It lasts until Epiphany, January 6, when we remember the visit of the wise men.

May the scriptures, prayers and hymns of the next few weeks help **prepare** you for the gift of the Christ.



## SANDRA & PERRY'S RETIREMENT

Good Friends  
Never Say Goodbye  
They Simply Say  
"See You Soon"

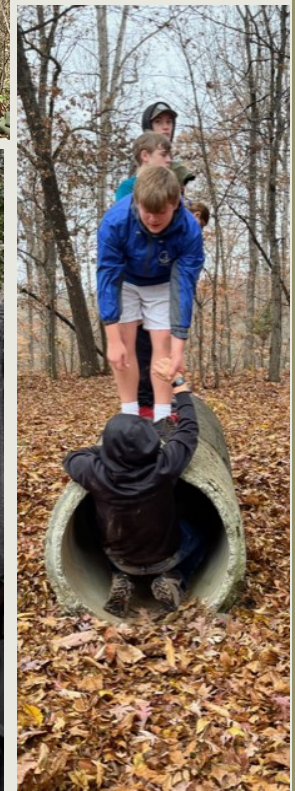


## TREASURER'S REPORT

## CAMP LOUCON

|                                      | as of 10/30/2022 |                 |                 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                      | ACTUAL           | BUDGET          | OVER<br>(UNDER) |
| <b>Income</b>                        | <b>266,389</b>   | <b>263,784</b>  | <b>2,605</b>    |
| <b>Expenditures:</b>                 |                  |                 |                 |
| <b>Benevolences</b>                  | <b>22,650</b>    | <b>23,117</b>   | <b>(467)</b>    |
| <b>Church Staff</b>                  | <b>165,597</b>   | <b>171,209</b>  | <b>(5,612)</b>  |
| <b>Administrative</b>                | <b>30,609</b>    | <b>33,314</b>   | <b>(2,705)</b>  |
| <b>Worship</b>                       | <b>17,184</b>    | <b>20,542</b>   | <b>(3,358)</b>  |
| <b>Christian Ed.</b>                 | <b>5,287</b>     | <b>4,333</b>    | <b>954</b>      |
| <b>Property</b>                      | <b>32,830</b>    | <b>29,667</b>   | <b>3,163</b>    |
| <b>Pastoral Care</b>                 | <b>7</b>         | <b>125</b>      | <b>(118)</b>    |
| <b>Evangelism<br/>&amp; Outreach</b> | <b>98</b>        | <b>250</b>      | <b>(152)</b>    |
| <b>Programs</b>                      | <b>845</b>       | <b>1,000</b>    | <b>(155)</b>    |
|                                      | <b>275,107</b>   | <b>283,557</b>  | <b>(8,450)</b>  |
| <b>Net Income<br/>(Loss)</b>         | <b>(8,718)</b>   | <b>(19,773)</b> | <b>11,055</b>   |

The summary financial statement through October is presented above. We have a deficit through the first 10 months of \$8,719 but this is \$11,055 better than where we were budgeted to be at this point. The pledging for 2023 is showing a positive trend. If you have not yet submitted your pledge card, I encourage you to do so. Karen Durbin, Treasurer



### A-CAROLING WE WILL GO

Mark your calendars for our annual inter-generational Christmas caroling outing on Sunday, December 11, 2:30-4:30pm. We will gather in the church parking lot at 2:15pm and carpool to various caroling stops. The caravan will return to the church at 4:30pm, with youth choir rehearsal to follow. Everyone is invited to participate!

### CHRISTMAS RECEPTION

On December 18, the children and youth will present a Christmas program at 4:30pm in the church sanctuary. A Christmas Reception will follow in Fellowship Hall. Please bring appetizers/finger foods to share as we celebrate the season together!

### MEET LACY BOLING



Lacy Boling is the new Executive Director of PCM. Prior to joining PCM, Lacy was the West Kentucky General Manager for Dollar General. She was a Disaster Program Specialist for the West Kentucky American Red Cross and the Director of Operations and Personnel for Rape Victim Services in Paducah. Lacy holds a Master of Public Administration from Murray State University. She is a Paducah Middle School girls' basketball coach, West Kentucky American Red Cross board member, and member of Immanuel Baptist Church.



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

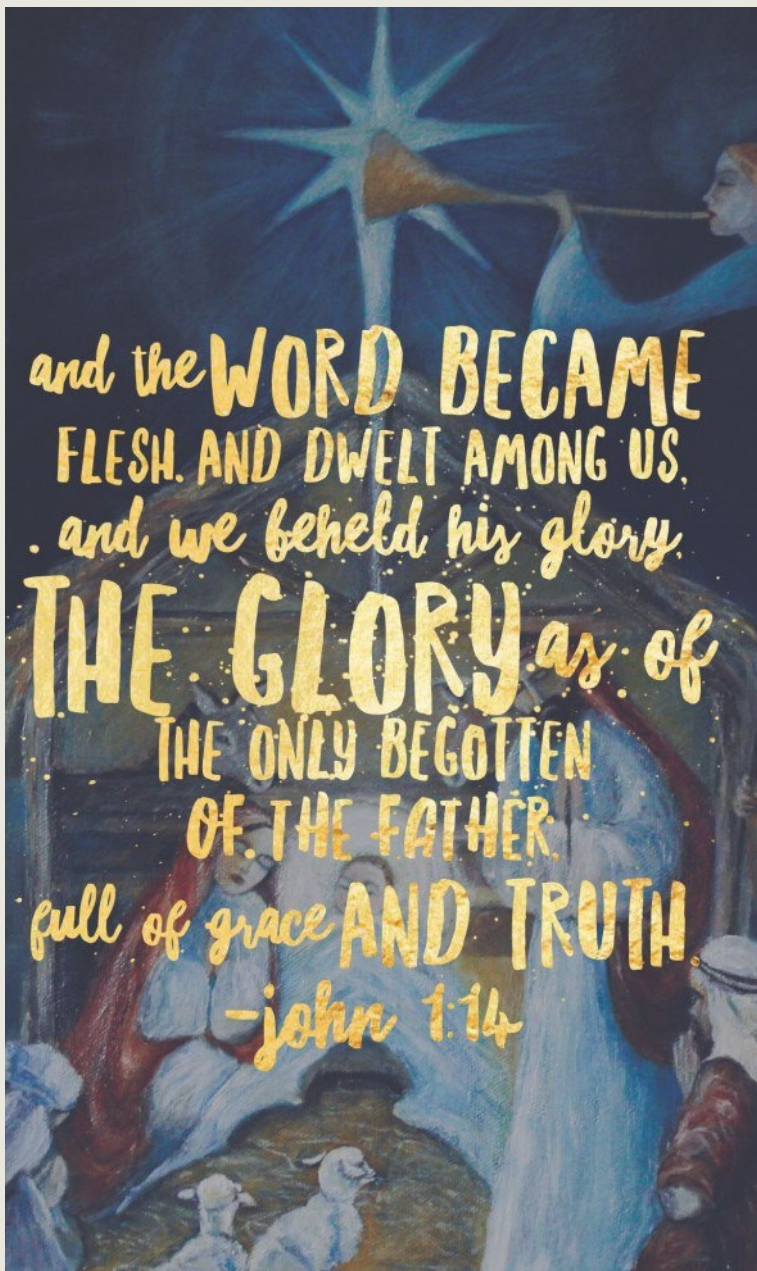
## BIRTHDAYS

|    |                  |    |                  |
|----|------------------|----|------------------|
| 1  | Natalya Cody     | 16 | Greg Martin      |
| 5  | Mary Baker       | 17 | John Ballert     |
| 6  | Ben LeBuhn       | 17 | Katy Miller      |
| 6  | Todd Masek       | 18 | Opal Shurley     |
| 8  | Rebecca McQuage  | 19 | John Craft       |
| 10 | Nicholas Baker   | 21 | Jil Baker        |
| 10 | Elizabeth Gust   | 22 | Rupayne Osborne  |
| 12 | Tony Zacheretti  | 24 | Shelby Durham    |
| 13 | Bill Fowler      | 27 | Charles Lackey   |
| 13 | Sara Kipp        | 28 | Corky Bloodworth |
| 14 | Natalie Cook     | 28 | Thea Shurley     |
| 14 | Melinda Martin   | 30 | Karen Glass      |
| 15 | Edith Hammonds   | 31 | Jim Gwinn        |
| 16 | Nancy Bloodworth |    |                  |



## ANNIVERSARIES

|    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 3  | Dawne & Rob Robertson    |
| 14 | Pamela & Gary Fleming    |
| 25 | Melinda & Greg Martin    |
| 27 | Suzanne & Ted Borodofsky |



# DECEMBER 2022

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue                               | Wed  | Thu | Fri | Sat  |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|-----|-----|--|
|  |  |                                   |  |     |     |  |
| 4<br>Second Sunday in Advent<br>10:45am worship  | 5<br>10:30am Circle<br><i>Christmas tins<br/>delivered</i> | 6                                 | 7<br>4:15 Wonderful Wednesday<br>7:00 Adult Choir  | 8   | 9   | 10<br>Symphony Christmas<br>Concert                  |
| 11<br>Third Sunday in Advent<br>10:45am worship  | 12   | 13<br>6:00pm Worship<br>Committee | 14<br>4:15 Wonderful Wednesday<br>7:00 Adult Choir | 15  | 16  | 17   |
| 18<br>Fourth Sunday in Advent<br>10:45am Festival of Lessons &<br>Carols<br>4:30 Children's Christmas<br>Program (reception follows) | 19   | 20<br>4:30 PCM<br>7:00 Session    | 21<br>No Wonderful Wednesday<br>7:00 Adult Choir   | 22  | 23  | 24<br>5:30 Christmas Eve<br>Candlelight<br>Communion |
| 25<br>Christmas Day<br>10:45am worship<br>No Sunday School   | 26<br>Church Office closed                                 | 27                                | 28   | 29  | 30  | 31   |



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
200 NORTH 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
PADUCAH, KY 42001**

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

# **THE VOICE** December 2022

