

First Presbyterian Church
200 North 7th Street
Paducah, KY 42001
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The Voice

First Presbyterian Church
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December 2024

To Know Him and To Make Him Known

Siblings in Christ,

What is the greatest promise ever kept?

For some of us, this question may recall a childhood promise between friends. Others probably think of their wedding vows. There may be a few who are in the process of keeping a promise – to their children, friends, or even themselves. Promises are a natural part of the human life. They give us something to work toward, keep us grounded, and grant perspective.

As you know, Advent is a time of waiting for our Savior’s birth. It is also a season of promises. Long ago, in the very beginning, God promised all of humanity that a Messiah would reconcile our sinfulness. We wait for that promise to be fulfilled in Advent. Through the birth of Jesus, we are promised that new life is always ours. We proclaim that promise to be true every time we gather in worship. On a different note, the first weeks of December promise holiday music and merry and bright colors. We experience this each time we turn on the radio or enter a store. One of the only things we cannot promise in this season is snow. Bummer!

This Advent, First Presbyterian Church will explore the promise of Jesus Christ as we wait for Christmas, even as Christmas has already reached us. Please see the bookmark on the next page and join us as we explore the coming promise.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas,

Rev. Lex M. Allum

ADVENT 2024



The Promise

With

First Presbyterian Church

December 1

First Sunday of Advent 10:45am

Advent Walk 4pm
(starts at First Presbyterian)

December 8

Second Sunday of Advent
10:45am

Christmas Caroling 2-4pm

December 15

Third Sunday of Advent
10:45am

Children & Youth Program
4:30pm

December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:45am

Festival of Lessons & Carols

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service 5:30pm



DECEMBER WORSHIP

December 1-The Promise is on His Way
Luke 21:25-36

December 8-Soon We Shall See the Promise
Luke 3:1-6

December 15-Just a Tad Bit More, I Promise
Philippians 4:4-7

December 22-Lessons and Carols

December 29-Flashbacks
Matthew 2:1-12

Worship Committee Highlights:

There are many opportunities for you to prepare the way for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We hope you will be able to join us in one or all:

- December 1-Advent Walk at 4pm starting at First Presbyterian Church
- December 8-Christmas caroling-2-4pm
- December 15-Children and Youth Christmas program at 4:30pm followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall
- December 22-Festival of Lessons and Carols during worship 10:45am
- December 24-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion 5:30pm

Christmas Donations:

The Church is offering multiple opportunities for members to complete their gift giving this Christmas. You can remember and/or honor friends and loved ones with three giving options:

- Purchase a poinsettia for \$25 to gift after Christmas Eve
- Purchase a Glory to God hymnal for \$25 with a dedication placard
- Make a donation to Paducah Cooperative Ministry

You will have an opportunity to complete a donation form with an insert in the bulletin or contact the church office.

Children and Youth Program and Nativity and Reception
Please join us for an evening with good friends and good food. Bring your favorite festive finger foods and the church will provide a festive punch. Drop off in the Fellowship Hall and then we will proceed to the Sanctuary for the Children’s Nativity at 4:30pm.

Upcoming Events

- December 1-PW Christmas cookies due
- December 1-Advent Walk 4pm
- December 5-Faith in Film-5:30pm supper/movie 7pm
- December 8-Caroling 2-4pm
- December 15-Children’s Christmas Program 4:30pm
- December 17-Session Meeting 7pm
- December 22-Festival of Lessons and Carols
- December 24-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:30pm
- December 25-Christmas Day
- December 29-Epiphany Celebrated

Treasurer’s Report-Year to Date through 10/31/24

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Income	339,784	373,433	(33,649)
Expenses			
Benevolences	22,231	26,503	(4,272)
Church Staff	206,244	225,878	(19,634)
Administrative	41,015	39,098	1,917
Worship	3,417	6,042	(2,625)
Christian Educ.	6,786	5,917	869
Property	51,474	59,473	(7,999)
Pastoral Care	29	250	(221)
Evang/Outreach	1,609	1,500	109
Programs	1,500	2,340	(840)
Buddenbaum	3,791	4,167	(376)
	338,096	371,168	(33,072)
Net Total	1,688	2,265	(577)

The summary operating statement through October is presented above. Although the statement shows that we are behind budget on revenues by \$33,650, that amount includes \$14,000 of endowment fund revenue that we have decided not to transfer to the operating account in 2024. Expenses are also behind budget for the year. This is primarily due to the fact that we have not been fully staffed throughout the year. As of 10/31, there was an operating gain of \$1,688 year-to-date. If you have not yet fulfilled your financial pledge for 2024, it would be helpful if you could do so by mid-December. Thank you to those who have submitted pledge cards for 2025. If you have not pledged yet and would like to do so, please mail your pledge card to the church office at your earliest convenience. Your continued financial support of First Presbyterian Church is greatly appreciated.

Karen Durbin, Treasurer

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women will be gathering on Monday, December 2nd at 1pm in Memorial Hall. We will be studying Lesson Four of the Horizon’s Bible study, “Let Justice Roll Down.” A few books are still available for those in need. The 2024-2025 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 1st. 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 that helped the PW and youth decorate for Advent.

Flower Ministry

Thanks to everyone who has provided flowers for worship this spring and summer. We will not need volunteers again until after Christmas. We would like to encourage all church members to consider donating flowers for our beautiful sanctuary for the coming year. These flowers will be taken to homebound church members after the service.

The new sign-up sheet is available in the hallway by the office.

December Birthdays

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

December Anniversaries

3	Rob & Dawne Roberston
25	Greg & Melinda Martin
27	Ted & Suzanne Borodofsky

Koinonia (Fellowship) Class

December is a time of ending and it is also a time of beginning. As the year goes by we wrap up the year 2024 and begin eagerly awaiting the year 2025. The election year has passed but those elected have not taken their office. The transition is not complete. The trees are bare of their leaves but we fool ourselves into believing that we see tiny buds for the spring.

In our religious cycle we know that we must go back to a time before Jesus so that we can work our way forward arriving at his birth before the end of the month. There are so many Old Testament stories to tell to build up the expectation. But that expectation also has to be set up so as to fulfill a promise, aka a prophecy. There is so much to tell and so little time.

Of course we cannot tell the entire story each year. That is why we do our Biblical study in cycles. We can only tell a few stories each year but with year following year we are able to tell most of the story. We rely on our memories to fill in the blanks.

We also use devices to help our memories. When Donna and I set up our Christmas tree at home we recall when and where we got each decoration. The memories flood back of trips to foreign lands and around our nation. We remember family and friends who gave us these trinkets. They become more than items, they are memory makers.

We do the same at church. Our Chrismon tree is decorated with symbols to help us tell and remember the story. The name "Chrismon" is a portmanteau of "Christ Monogram" and signifies the Christian significance of these Christmas ornaments. They have been used since the mid-20th century and are particularly popular in the United States. Chrismons are symbolic decorations that represent the story of Christ from the Bible.

In December we have an end so that we can begin again. The cycle continues.

With that in mind, Happy Holidays to you and your family. This joy includes our church family as well as our relatives. God bless us, God bless us everyone.

Lifelong Learning Sunday School Class

The Lifelong Learning Sunday School class will continue its study of "The History of Archaeology of the Bible" through November. This is another Great Courses study led by Professor Jean-Pierre Isbouts, a National Geographic Historian.

The Lessons covered over the next month will include the following:

December 1-Judea in the Early Roman Empire

December 8-The Kingdom of Herod the Great

December 15-The World of the Gospels

December 22-The Birth of Jesus

December 29-Young Jesus

Please join us in Memorial Hall for some great discussions as we explore these topics.



Paducah Cooperative Ministry

As we head into the end of the year, please remember those in our community that are struggling. The need is overwhelming, the frenzy of the holiday season approaches, and it gets colder and darker every day. Small acts of kindness and small donations make a big difference. What if you were the light in the dark? Please keep PCM and those it serves in your heart and share what you can. Every dollar makes a difference-\$25 provides shelter for one individual for one night in our Fresh Start Village, \$45 will provide groceries to last 5-7 days to a family of 3, and \$175 provides for one utility payment assist for a McCracken county family.



