

First Presbyterian Church
200 North 7th Street
Paducah, KY 42001
Return Service Requested

The Voice

First Presbyterian Church
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December 2025**To Know Him and To Make Him Known**

Siblings in Christ,

As December swiftly settles in, a new season begins for the church community; a sacred season of preparing one's heart and home for the birth of Christ. Throughout Advent, the church is invited to embrace the theme of **Divine Hospitality**, inspired by the book *Stay Awhile: Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality* by Kara Edison.

The Advent season begins on **November 30**, the First Sunday of Advent, focusing on **The Hospitality of Hope**. As we reflect on the message from Matthew 24:36-44, it is a time to create space for Christ to enter, trusting in the promise of his return. To close out the day, the annual Downtown Advent Walk begins at 4pm at Broadway United Methodist Church and concludes in our First Presbyterian Church sanctuary.

On **December 7**, the Second Sunday of Advent, the focus shifts to **Planning and Preparing the way for Peace**. John the Baptist's call to repentance from Matthew 3:1-12 serves as a guide, urging all to actively prepare their lives for the Prince of Peace, making a straight path for his soon-to-be arrival.

The Third Sunday of Advent, on **December 14**, we will gather for a **Joyful Children's Program** during worship. It will be a day of witnessing, once more, the birth of Christ through the eyes of children. Joseph and Mary will be there, too, demonstrating the ultimate act of hospitality: making room for joy that changes the world. Later in the day, all are welcome to Christmas Carol with the church from 2-4pm.

The final Sunday of Advent on **December 21**, centers on **Letting in Love**. This special service, which includes the Festival of Lessons and Carols, will be a celebration of intertwining scripture readings with beloved hymns to tell the story of Jesus. It will be a morning to experience the communal love that comes with preparing for the birth of Christ.

The Advent journey culminates on **Christmas Eve, December 24**, with a service centered on **Staying Awhile in Christ's Presence**. Just as the shepherds in Luke 2:1-20 stayed awhile with the newborn King, we are invited to linger in the awe and wonder of God becoming human.

Members of this beloved congregation have compiled an Advent Devotional to accompany the church on the journey of this season. Paper copies of the devotional are available throughout the church, which walks readers through daily scripture passages followed by personal reflections. Please read them, reflect on them, and share them with your friends and family. All are welcome to join in this season of waiting, welcoming, and celebrating the ultimate act of **Divine Hospitality**.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas,

Lex

DECEMBER WORSHIP

December 7-Planning & Preparing for Peace

Matthew 3:1-12

December 14-Children's Program

December 21-Festival of Lessons & Carols

December 24-Staying Awhile in Christ's Presence

Luke 2:1-20

December 28-Christmas Continues

Psalm 148

Upcoming Events

Monday, December 1-Bible Study 12pm

Sunday, December 7-Second Sunday of Advent 10:45am

Sunday, December 7-PW-Bring cookies for Christmas tins

Monday, December 8-NO Bible Study

Tuesday, December 9-PW Circle in the library at church 10am

Sunday, December 14-Children’s Program during Worship 10:45am

Sunday, December 14-Christmas Caroling 2-4pm

Monday, December 15-NO Bible Study

Sunday, December 21-Festival of Lessons & Carols during Worship 10:45am

Monday, December 22-NO Bible Study

Wednesday, December 24-Christmas Eve-Office Closed

Wednesday, December 24-Christmas Eve Service 5:30pm

Thursday, December 25-Merry Christmas!!

Monday, December 29-NO Bible Study

Wednesday, December 31-Office Closing at noon

A special thanks to the 22 people who helped decorate the sanctuary for Advent. Many hands make light work!!

Treasurer’s Report-Year to Date through 10/31/25

	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Income	359,856	367,075	(7,219)
Expenses			
Benevolences	23,245	25,661	(2,416)
Church Staff	162,056	199,184	(37,128)
Administrative	39,601	37,660	1,941
Worship	3,516	7,333	(3,817)
Christian Life	5,838	7,167	(1,329)
Property	53,904	57,849	(3,945)
Pastoral Care	-	250	(250)
Missional Outreach	303	2,250	(1,947)
Programs	2,038	2,399	(361)
Buddenbaum	4,555	4,167	388
	295,056	343,920	(48,864)
Net Total	64,800	23,155	41,645

The summary financial operating statement for the first ten months of 2025 is presented below. Income was higher than expenses by \$64,800 as of 10/31/2025. This is primarily explained by the fact that we were not fully staffed for much of the year. If you have not yet submitted a financial pledge for 2026 please do so as soon as possible. Let me know if you have any questions.

Karen Durbin, Treasurer

December Birthdays

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

December Anniversaries

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



Christmas Caroling
Sunday, December 14th
2-4 pm

Join us for this fun, festive time!!

Wonderful Wednesdays

We are continuing on our new study on the liturgical season of Advent. We have each made an Advent wreath for a family Advent service at home. We will be presenting our nativity program during Worship on Sunday, December 14th. We hope you will make every effort to be present in Worship that day.

Presbytery of Western Kentucky Activities

As the year ends, the Presbytery of Western Kentucky is looking for people to serve on Presbytery commissions and committees. If you have an interest in serving on any one of the following commissions/committees, please contact Lex or Ralph Young. The Committees for your choosing are:

Commission on Ministry; Finance Committee; Personnel Committee; Leadership Development; Mission Committee; Youth Committee; Nominations & Representations; Presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission.

2026 is also a year the PC(USA)’s General Assembly will be meeting in Milwaukee in late June/early July. If you have an interest in being considered for representing our Presbytery as a commissioner, please contact Lex.

Presbyterian Women

Viola Blackwell will lead us in Lesson 4 of the 2025-2026 Horizon’s Bible Study “Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ.” We will meet on Tuesday, December 9 at 10am in the library at church. Please make plans to join us. We will be distributing our Christmas tins. Please bring all cookies to church December 7th.

Thank you to all who participated in assembling the Chrismon tree and preparing refreshments for the Advent Walk. What a beautiful way to begin Advent!

Snow Removal

The property committee is looking for able bodied folks to help with the snow removal at church during the winter of 2025/2026. If we could have 10 people volunteer to help once or twice it would save the church approximately \$1500 to \$2000.

You would need your own snow shovel. We also need someone capable of clearing the parking lot with a tractor.

If you are willing to help please send your name and phone number to the church office at firstprespaducah@gmail.com. Hutch Smith will contact you if help is needed on a snow day.

Recycle your Glass jars & bottles

The Missional Outreach Committee recycles glass. All interested First Presbyterian families are welcome to participate. Former church member Paul Bilak founded this program several years ago by accepting glass to be recycled and periodically hauling it to Carbondale for processing. When Paul moved away, Hutch Smith took over the job.

If you want to participate, bring your clean glass in separate cardboard boxes, one for clear glass and one for colored glass and deliver them between now and January 12, 2026 to 323 Hilldale Road. Put your boxes on the table under the carport.

After January 12, collect and save your glass at your own house until Hutch issues the next “glass call.” There are usually 3 or 4 trips a year.

Paducah Cooperative Ministry

Paducah Cooperative Ministry would like to close out the year with gratitude for the abundance of support they have received from our community. In November, when SNAP payments were in limbo, the number of families being helped each week in the PCM food pantry doubled from 100 to almost 200. The number of new families seeking assistance rose from an average of 59 to 99. PCM is grateful for the increase in monetary donations and pantry items that allowed them to continue to serve our neighbors. PCM is now leading the Homeless Service Alliance in McCracken County, a coalition that meets monthly to discuss homelessness in our area. PCM will also be hosting and leading the regional K-Count, an important one night point in time tally for people experiencing homelessness that occurs every January. Volunteers are always needed to help count. Training will be Thursday, January 8, 2026 from 1-3pm at the Lourdes Marshall Nemer Pavilion-Borders Community Room at 1532 Lone Oak Road. The K-Count will be Thursday, January 28, 2026 in the evening (TBD) starting at Community Kitchen at 1237 Martin Luther King Jr Drive.

The demolition phase of the new Emergency Shelter and Client Choice Food Pantry project began in late November. PCM is thankful for your support of this capital campaign and all the other ways you have contributed to their ability to assist our community.



Sunday, December 21st during Worship

Make plans to join us for this Joyful time of Worship!

November Youth Party!

