

Church Chatter Newsletter

December, 2019



As we prepare for the Advent Season in the church, the word “Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return.

Between Memory and Hope

**An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship*
(Geneva Press, 2003, 96)**

In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God’s new world, yet we praise God who raised the “righteous branch” to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land.

Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! In Advent, we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord. The dialectical tension of maranatha [alternately translated “Come, our Lord!” or “Our Lord has come”] places us between memory and hope, past and future. For this reason we wait in hopeful anticipation for the power and fullness of God to inhabit our lives and churches.

May the God of light arise and shine upon us during this beautiful season and beyond. Advent blessings to you and your loved ones!

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Olive

Lighting the Advent Wreath



In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in the Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world. We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love and remember the promises of God with prayer. The Advent Wreath will be lit all four Sundays of the Advent Season and on Christmas Eve night.

Advent on my mind!

Sunday, December 1, 2019	10:30 am	Hanging of the Greens Worship Service
Sunday, December 8, 2019	10:30 am	Worship and the Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sunday, December 15, 2019	10:30 am	Choir Cantata and Christmas Dinner
Sunday, December 22, 2019	10:30 am	Advent Worship Service
Tuesday, December 24, 2019	5 pm	Christmas Eve Worship and Candlelight Service (Cookie Fellowship FLC 4:15 pm.)
Sunday, December 29, 2019	10:30 am	Service of Lessons and Carols

God's Little Miracles of Joy

By Pat Hockett

For several years we have survived without having the companionship of a dog after the pain of losing our last one. However, in the past few months, Dave kept suggesting that he would really like to get a small lap dog, perhaps a "rescue". Our search began, and I put the word out in hopes of surprising him, along with a prayer request to God to help us.



So, on Monday, Nov. 4th while at a dental appointment, I mentioned to Sherry, who mans the front desk and is a friend, that she keep an ear open for us, and I explained what type of little dog we were in hopes of finding. As I did this, she raised an eyebrow to Teresa, her co-worker, who also raised an eyebrow and looked at Sherry and smiled. Teresa came to the counter and said, "I know someone looking for a good home for theirs." Excitedly, I asked, "Would you mind giving me their phone number or pass mine along to them? With tears in her eyes, she replied, "I am that person. I have two little Yorkies, seven (7) year old siblings whom we have loved since we got them at eight (8) weeks, a male and a female, Dexter and Deborah (DeDe). We have been searching for a good home for them because we are downsizing and are moving to another location near my husband's work (he is on shift hours), and I have some major health issues. We are not home enough to give them the love and attention they need. Several people have wanted only one, but we will not separate them. We have been looking for several months, and just last night we prayed that God would send the right person, perhaps a retired couple with a large family. I feel that you and your husband are the right ones."

When I told Dave, we were getting not one, but two little Yorkies, his face lit up like a light. We have always wanted twins, even if they are of the canine variety.

So, on Tuesday evening, Nov. 5th. Teresa arrived with our two little bundles of joy...their food, special shampoo and flea application, ear cleansers, treats, vet and groomer information, doggie baby stroller, and explained that she would have their "Chip ID" transferred to us.

She visited about an hour to see how they would adapt to us and saw that they immediately were comfortable and friendly with us.

And now the fun begins....shopping for new treats, cute little sweaters, leashes, toys (now scattered on the floor, along with sofa pillows flipped onto the floor constantly). I call them "My Saddlebags" because if you sit down, immediately one is on each side. Upon returning to home, they greet you excitedly, grinning and baring their teeth in smiles. They came potty trained and sleep all night in their crate together. At night when we say that it is time to go to bed, they run into the bedroom and jump in their bed. Of course, DeDe brings her favorite squeak toy to sleep with her.

God definitely blessed us with our new little miracles and provides a pleasurable outcome for all of us when we include Him in our plans. We are now adding a "PS" to our prayer that He will help our Yorkies to show a new love to our sweet cats instead of chasing them into hiding, and to allow the many deer to know they are welcome on the property. At their first encounter, they chased off a whole herd.

I understand from their previous parents that they travel well, so Bon Voyage!

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women's first road trip to see the exhibit, "Exploring Human Origins," from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History was a huge success and enjoyed by those who attended. So...we are planning our second outing! Sometime in January 2020, date to be determined, we will be visiting the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers. There is much to see and visit while on the grounds of the Monastery. Stay tuned for details.

The Presbyterian Women's Morning Circle will meet Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 10:00 AM at Eloise Belle Isle's home and may be followed by an outing for lunch. The Morning Circle will continue with the new 2019/2020 Horizons Bible Study – Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments and are on Lesson 3, *Words of Love: Keep Sabbath*.

The Evening Circle will meet on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Lake Spivey Country Club with the Men of the Church for our annual Christmas Dinner and Fellowship. All single ladies will be treated to dinner by the Men of the Church. The Evening Circle will resume bible study in January 2020.



The first was lots of fun and no one walked away hungry, or empty handed, we're having the Presbyterian Women's 2nd Annual Cookie Swap! In lieu of Bunco, we will gather on Friday, December 20, 2019 at 2:00 PM at Julie Hancock's home. We're hoping you've finished all of your shopping and you have time just to celebrate the holiday season and fellowship with friends. The only "rule" is you must prepare and bake your cookie from scratch - no cheating! Bring 4 dozen "cookies", sweet or savory - to taste, to share and to swap and the recipe! Just a fun way to share your favorite or a new recipe you've been wanting to try. If you're not up for the baking, join us anyway as we take a little time away from the hustle and bustle of the holiday!



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Just a reminder, Presbyterian Women will be collecting items for Santa Claus Express again this year. If you would like to contribute, please do so by Sunday, December 1, 2019. Posted in the Family Life Center on the white bulletin board, is a list of most needed items. Please leave your **unwrapped** items in the Santa Claus Express box located in the Family Life.

Thanks so much ladies! Hope to see all of your smiling faces at one or ALL of our upcoming events!



December

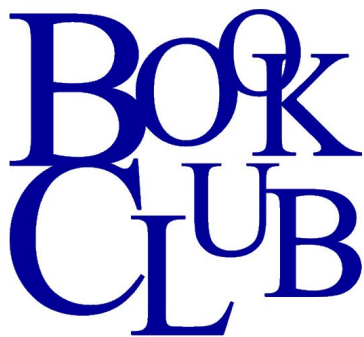
12/01 - Gavin Markovitch
 12/03 - Joana Apronti
 12/05—Kristin Bush
 12/10 - Grant Hudalla
 12/14 - John Anzalone
 12/21 - Walt Taylor
 12/23—Sid Lanier
 12/24 - Heather Markovitch



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December

12/21 - Heather & Eddie Markovitch
 12/29 - Rhonda & Mike Fox
 12/30 - Dong Sun & John Wykstra



December 12, 2019 (Thursday) Book Club:

Glory Over Everything by Kathleen Griesom. This is a sequel to our book (*The Kitchen House*) which we read last month. Please join us. Any questions see Nancy Parkhouse or Ruby White. **All are welcome.**



The MOTC Christmas Party will be held at Lake Spivey Country Club, December 9th at 6:30 PM. Meal price per person \$20.00 and unaccompanied ladies' meals are covered. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Family Life Center. Please sign up by December 1st.



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Hanging of the Greens Meal after worship	2	3	4 Breakfast Club 9 am Choir 7 pm	5	6	7
8 Communion	9 PW/MOC 6:30 pm	10 PW Morning Circle 10 am	11 Choir 7 pm	12 Book Club 5 pm Church Office	13	14
15 Christmas Choir Cantata Dinner	16	17	18 Newsletter Deadline Jan. Choir 7 pm	19	20 PW Cookie Swap 2 pm	21
22 Christmas Joy Offering	23	24 Christmas Eve Service- Communion 5 pm Dessert 4:15 pm	25 	26	27	28
29 Lessons and Carols Service	30	31				



THE PERFECT GIFT

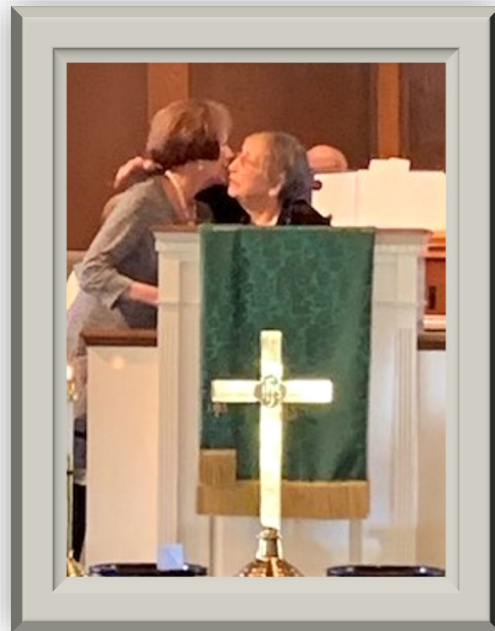
In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the perfect gift- the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them.

For those of us gathered together in Advent expectation, we know that the only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ — a perfect gift from a gracious God. Although we cannot give the perfect gift, we can give generously. When you give to the Christmas Joy Offering...

50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

50% of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected on December 22, 2019, but you can give through the end of December. Please write “Christmas Joy Offering” on the memo line of your check or Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or donate. Please give generously!



Presentation of Chalice

On Sunday, November 10, 2019, Eloise Belle Isle graciously donated a communion chalice and cloth to FPCJ. The gift was presented to Jane Luetkemeyer representing Presbyterian Women. Eloise received this beautiful cloth and chalice several years ago at a Presbytery meeting and we are so thankful that she opened up her heart to share this with us.

Extended Prayer List

Church Member

Pray For:

Sue Alford	Richard Baldwin
Raymond and Susan Baggarly	Rodney Mitchell
Betty Bush	Marilyn Vaughan
Faye Callina	Pat Goggin
Carolyn Fox DuPree	Randy Bradley, Broward Clark
Mike and Ronda Fox	Stephen Mitchell
Carol Francis	Francine Walker
Brianne and Kevin Graham	Libby Graham, Melissa Gunter
Mike and Julie Hancock	Henry Hancock, Donna Pratt, Kenny Edmondson, Matt and Skylar Guarnieri
Carol Hatfield	Ann, Dorothy, and Amelia Patterson
Julie Hester	Lauren Parker
Mary Huie-Jolly	Lucie Huie
Stan May	Karen Pearce, Tony May, Paul Carrington-May
Bill and Barbara Rhinehart	Rocky Boulware
Keith and Jennifer Taylor	Lauren Hutchinson, Barry Smith, Sandy Hawkins
Walt and Gwen Taylor	Dewey Ellenburg, Betty Lovin, Sarah Corley, Charles Kelley, Mike Pickett, Nancy Hendrix, May Etheridge, Richard Whitton
Brian and Deanie Turner	Christopher Turner
Laura and Mike Wigington	John and Carol Abbott
Rick and Karen Ferrell-White	Lacy Rabanal
Pat Wood	Randy Clokey, Bob and Charlotte Roach
Debbie Woodard	Howard Marsh, Rebecca Browning

Church Member and Friends Prayer List With On-Going Concerns

John Anzalone, Raymond and Susan Baggarly, Dave Harland, Carol Hatfield,
Eloise Belle Isle, Dorothy and Fred Kobus, Chris Lizama, Stan May, Elliot McElroy, Greg Par-
khouse , Bill and Barbara Rhinehart, James White, Lee White, Rick White and Karen Ferrell White.

Military Prayer List

Jason Ali-Talha, John Ham, Philip Ham, Josh Hamby, Chris Harvill, Daniel Hudalla, Kyle Hudalla,
Austin Kobus, Logan May.

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Congregational Care	Jane Luetkemeyer
Outreach	Melissa Ham
Stewardship & Finance	Brian Turner
Endowment	John Westerfelt
Worship	Debbie Woodward
Treasurer	James White

Cyndi Smith — Clerk

SESSION

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At First Presbyterian Church of Jonesboro,
we believe Jesus calls us to **love** *wholly*, **connect** *fully*, and **serve**
abundantly each and every day; spreading the Good News of God's
redeeming love by act, word, and deed.