



Big Plans for the Rest of the Year

You might be wondering what worship will look like through the end of the year. Or even what church will look like. How are we going to celebrate advent? The first few pages of this newsletter are attempting to answer those questions. Session put together a task team that was given the task of planning worship and pieces of fellowship through the end of the winter. They met last Sunday evening on Zoom. Congregation members were invited

to join this task team via email and announcements. There is still quite a bit of work to be done and you are invited to join this task team, just let Rev Steve know.

Worship through November 22nd

1st Presbyterian will be continuing to focus on the drive-in service through November 22nd. We will have some special wrinkles or tid bits that celebrate the Protestant Reformation October 25th and All Saints Day November 1st. November 22nd will have a special focus on Thanksgiving as we look at some of the many times the Church has had to carry on and even thrive through moments of adversity. For the most part, the service will remain the same. We meet in the blacktop lot at 11 am every Sunday. Members of the congregation tune their car radios to 88.7 FM. During worship we sing hymns led by Thom, we listen to each other's prayer requests, we offer up prayer, we read scripture and then I bring a sermon. There is also an opportunity for offering as we drive out of the parking lot. These services have been a lot of fun and have given us a great opportunity to worship together.

Again, they will continue through November 22nd. I will point out that the weather is starting to turn colder and there is a chance that the temperatures or other inclement weather will cause us to cancel a service prior to that. Check your email before you head to service if the weather is cold or the rain is pouring on a given Sunday morning. A service will be posted by Sunday afternoon, if a drive-in service needs to be canceled.



Worship through the End of the Year

Beginning November 29th all services will be online. They will be posted on the church's YouTube channel, on our Facebook page and sent out as a link in an all church email. If you do not have the capability to watch the services online, we will be happy to mail you services on a DVD. Or, you could use this as an opportunity to expose a friend or a family member to church by asking them if they can come over and show the service to you on their phone or other electronic device.

When planning these online services we have two goals in mind. 1. We want the services to be as 'familiar' as possible. 2. We want to include as many people as possible. In order to make the services feel familiar, we will be bringing back all typical forms of liturgy. These services will have preludes, postludes, prayers, hymns, scripture readings, anthems, offerings, responses, liturgists, advent candles, and sermons. They will be mostly recorded in the sanctuary, the sanctuary is going to be decorated for Advent and I might even wear my robes. Bulletins will be sent via email for people

to follow along. There will be a Christmas Eve service of 9 Lessons and Carols. We are hoping to plan a Christmas carol hymn sing. All of this will be online, but still very familiar and very much in tune with the Advent season.

We also want to include as many people as possible. One way to include others is through the worship itself. These services will be pre-recorded and the services will not be recorded whole at one time. By this I mean that we will probably be recording the music, the liturgy and the sermon all at different times. Our hope is that this allows more people to take part in the recording of the service. As you just read, these services are going to have all the parts of liturgy our services regularly have and so we need volunteers to read scripture, to sing hymns, to provide special music, to offer prayers, to give testimonies, to record segments, to serve as liturgists, to light advent candles. A great thing about pre-recording the services is flexibility. If you wanted to volunteer to do a few musical numbers, you could record them all at the same time, even if they are for different services. If you wanted to volunteer to do a reading, you could record it anywhere and send me the video. If you wanted to volunteer, but didn't want to come in when anyone else was here, you could. See Rev Steve for details or to volunteer.

Another way we want to include others is by offering the services through a Zoom that we can all take part in. Each week you will have the option of watching these services at your convenience. You can watch them whenever you would like. However, we will have a Zoom session every Sunday morning at 10:45am that will allow us to watch the service together. The Zoom will start 30 minutes before worship and last 30 minutes afterwards. This will give us time to see each other, talk to each other; it will serve as a virtual coffee hour. You can also use the chat function during the service to ask questions, share prayer requests or just say amen.

There are lots of other little ideas that we are looking into that would help to bring us all together during this time apart.

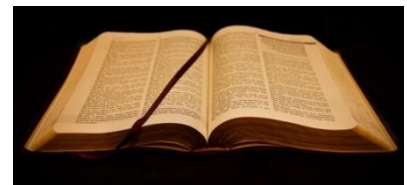


Musical Volunteers Needed

We are going to need a lot of musical volunteers. In total, we are in need of 7 preludes, 7 postludes, 7 songs for special music and 21 hymns for Sunday morning services. We would also need 1 prelude, 1 postlude, 5 songs for special music and 4 hymns for our Christmas Eve service. A special service of Christmas carols would need another prelude, postlude, and 6 or 7 carols. *We would like to have people singing or leading the hymns that are intended for the congregation to sing along with. *We would like all recordings to be completed at least a week in advance, but the sooner the better.

Volunteers Needed for Reading

We will need 7 Sundays worth of individuals who would serve as liturgist. This person would offer a prayer of preparation, read the scripture and pray for the collection. We will need 2-4 individuals who would be willing to read the Scriptures for Christmas Eve. These persons would need to read 2-4 Scripture passages. We will need 4 individuals or groups who would light the candles on the advent wreath and this would include a reading, a prayer and then lighting the candle. *We would like all recordings to be completed at least a week in advance, but the sooner the better.



Other Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to help decorate the outside of the church.

This will depend on the needs of the individuals volunteering for the given tasks, but we might need persons willing to help with recording. This could be at church on the church's camera or it could be going into a different location, like a person's home, with your own equipment or the church's.

Here are Some Other Ideas that are Being Considered

This is such a unique and crazy time. It is hard to know what would be helpful or impactful. The task team has come up with all sorts of ideas that could help the church feel united through the winter or would allow us to worship God more effectively at home. The hard truth is that we can't do all of them. What the church does and does not do over the course of this pandemic has a lot to do with what garners excitement, what seems helpful, what we can get volunteers for, what we can get creative with, what we can plan safely. When you read through the following ideas; think about which ideas seem interesting to you, which ideas seem helpful, what ideas you would like to help with, which ideas you would take part in.

-Advent Calendar – Here we would create an advent calendar that would be given to each of our members. These calendars would have a special item for each day of advent. The items could be devotionals, activities, gifts, thoughts for the day, candy and anything else we can think of.

-Sacred Space/Worship Kits – Here we would create a kit that would be given to each of our members that would help us create a place of worship within our homes. Part of what makes the Sanctuary special is that it is a place set aside for worship. We can do this in our own homes by creating an atmosphere of worship.

-A Service of Christmas Carols- This would be an online service that could be live on Zoom or pre-recorded that would include lots of carols for us to sing together.

-A To-Go Christmas Dinner- We could have a dinner prepared and ready in to go containers that could be picked up at a given time and taken home. This could be paired with a Zoom fellowship time.

-A Zoom Devotional Time – Members of the church will be receiving a devotional for advent. We could set a time a few times a week in which we would look at the devotional together.

-Sanctuary Open House Hours- We could have set times during the week in which the sanctuary is open for individual prayer. This would only be possible if the situation becomes safe enough in the county that it is possible for Session approval.

-A Live Nativity – Here we would set up our manger in front of the church and have volunteers live out the nativity for a predetermined time.

-Christmas Caroling – Having a family group or a few persons carol to individuals who have requested or given approval in advance. Without entering anyone's home and maintaining good social distancing.

Winter Activities Google Survey- Your participation is requested please!

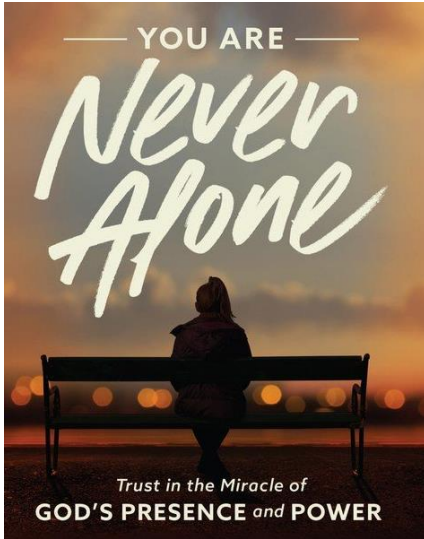
We would love to know what activities, events or programming would be meaningful to you during this season of Advent. Attached is a link that you can go to and participate in the survey. We will also be mailing out surveys to the few that don't get email. Please have your survey filled out by October 31st. We want to hear your thoughts and give you a chance to have a voice. Thank you for your participation in advance.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJdvbdXpOfVBDpM9OfTBCqGvGWyPIp9tEryZaoGKIYhbgpJA/viewform>



Rev. Steven Brand, Pastor

The Adult Sunday School class

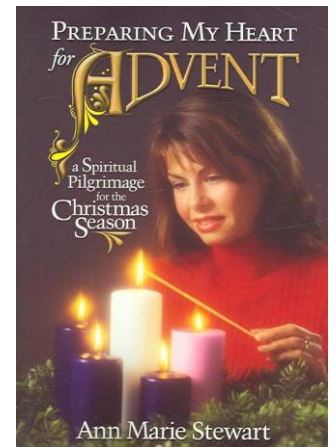


The Adult Sunday School class begins a new study November 8th entitled “You Are Never Alone”, a DVD-based study by Max Lucado.

This study is both relevant to the time in which we live, as well as insightful. Whether you are feeling ‘pandemic fatigue’ or just dealing with life in general, Max will remind us that we are truly never alone. This study is based on the miracles of Jesus from the book of John, reminding us that John recorded them, not to impress us, but to urge us to believe in the tender presence and mighty power of Christ. He challenges each of us to offer a simple prayer and entrust our situation to Christ. If you are feeling drained by your current circumstances, you will be encouraged by the meaningful messages in this study. It certainly is a refreshing read for such a time as this! Study Guides are available (\$9.00 if able), but not required. If you would like a copy, please contact Peggy.

Ladies (and any gents who would love to tag along)!

November 1, Priscilla's rag tag ever morphing, ever changing Bible Study crew are revisiting *Preparing My Heart for Advent* by Ann Marie Stewart. (Where has the time gone?!?!) The book guides you through Scripture study reminding us of why and how we best celebrate Advent and sets our feet to venture into the Advent season. Then during Advent, the book guides us with very brief daily devotions that correspond to lessons we studied in November. For some of us this November will be a regrounding time. For others, may I recommend you take this journey. This year possibly more than any before, let us find our peace in the Prince of Peace. If you would like a book, contact Priscilla or the church office. (This is not the newest edition so the books are being offered at \$5 until they are gone.)



For study material in December, we are using *Advent: A Weary World Rejoices*, from Lifeway Women. Weekly activities for adults, teens and kids are included. We will try to zoom or online connect in some way during December to discuss what we covered or what we didn't get around to reading, whichever. Contact Priscilla or the church office if you are interested in obtaining a book. They are available for \$10.

If interested in participating in November and December zoom chats over the above material, Priscilla will be working on a zoom session. Currently the group is using a different online meeting company, but she is working to switch to zoom as most of us now have that capability.

Don't Forget!!





November Birthdays

Dwight Gibson	Nov. 2
Phyllis Fish	Nov. 4
Joan Dobson	Nov. 5
Lois Spangler	Nov. 5
Louise Whitis	Nov. 5
Greg Angeletti	Nov. 7
Tina Angeletti	Nov. 7
Cheryl Holman	Nov. 7
Brian Lieb	Nov. 8
Evan Bowles	Nov. 10
Annette Mahon	Nov. 10
Marilyn Johnston	Nov. 11
Karen Birtcher	Nov. 13
Betty Dershem	Nov. 20
Deb Blamer	Nov. 24
Sean Rainey	Nov. 25

November Anniversaries

Scott and Kristie Holman	Nov. 1
Sam and Peggy Lieb	Nov. 20
Bruce and Dee Weekly	Nov. 21



December Birthdays

Scott Holman	Dec. 1
Sarah Bowles	Dec. 2
Steve Keck	Dec. 3
Andrew Frick	Dec. 4
Ed Jobes	Dec. 9
Blake Brand	Dec. 10
Tim Cain	Dec. 10
Keegan Hare	Dec. 13
Diane Higgins	Dec. 13
Sharon Wills	Dec. 18
Kim Dershem	Dec. 31

December Anniversaries

Gary and Debbie Collins	Dec. 20
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Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry:

Instead of the traditional shoebox packing party, we have come up with an alternative for today's times. It will be at church, downstairs in the quilt room. There are scheduled times and days to choose from. There will be someone present to manage the safety guidelines and sanitizing. Contact Sandy or Kim if you have questions.

Fri. 23rd 1 pm-3 pm

Tues. 27th 6 pm-8 pm

Please call Kim Dershem at 740-345-6624 or Sandy Noland at 740-323-0169 to schedule.

We have many wrapped boxes and lots of items to fill them. We want to fill as many as we can in this time of need. Thank you to all that have already participated. Sandy Noland, E&O Committee



"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."
2 Corinthians 9:11