

# ***The DECEMBER Leaven 2022***

Dear Friends,

I have always loved Advent – it's a bit of a paradox. Advent comes at a time when people feel stressed, and busy, and trying to "get ready for Christmas" and yet Advent invites us to slow down, ponder, meditate, wait. I love the hymns of Advent; the words are so powerful such as:

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel*

So, my prayer for you this Advent season is that you will be able to slow down, ponder, meditate, wait.

Christmas is on a Sunday this year. It happens either every 6 or 7 years. We will have both a Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service. On Christmas Eve, we will hear the story of Jesus birth through lessons and Carols; we will have gifts for our children and invite them to stay in worship to hear the music and story; we will celebrate communion and end our time with candlelight in the dark. We have decided to have an early Christmas Eve service – 5pm. We hope that will help with Christmas Eve family gatherings and encourage families to bring children.

Christmas Day we will celebrate the light, sing more Christmas Carols and enjoy the great gift that God has given us – Jesus Christ. *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

I am very blessed to spend this Advent and Christmas with you as my church family. You are a blessing to our family and to me as your Pastor. Blessed Advent and Christmas to you all.

Peace – Krista

## **A Christmas Carol**

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child through the retelling of that old, old story, the lighting of candles amid this present darkness and the singing of familiar carols associated with the season, I can't help but think about Carol, our occasional after-church parking lot visitor with hands proverbially extended, and wonder what kind of Christmas she will be experiencing this year.

Perhaps more important, I can't help but think about the question "What role, if any, should the local church play in helping the Carols of this world?" and how that question should be answered by us.

After all, this church and many others like it have limited financial resources and can't afford to "adopt" several supposedly down-and-out adults for the holidays, let alone the rest of the year. On

the other hand, Jesus calls us in Matthew 25 to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, look after the sick, etc., etc.

When I last encountered Carol in our parking lot (Sunday, October 16), she wanted some money to buy some medicine at Walmart. Or so she said. And when I didn't immediately whip out a Lincoln, a Hamilton or a Jackson to help her out, she proceeded to put a little more psychological pressure on me by saying "I'm a Christian!"

Another congregant offered to accompany Carol to Walmart and purchase the medicine for her. She refused this generous offer.

So what's a fellow (or lady) to do? Well, at one time (and perhaps it's still the case) the pastor of our church was authorized to give up to \$50 in cash to someone in need of money, but that would require the individual who wants the money to actually have some interaction with the pastor during his or her regular office hours. That's easily hoped for, of course, but it's not all that likely to happen, right?

Might I suggest that to assist the Carols of this world from time to time, the church think about acquiring some gift cards (I'm specifically thinking of places that don't sell liquor, tobacco or firearms) that could be handed out in the parking lot by designated congregants entrusted with this task. What do you think? I'd love to hear from you regarding this difficult but recurring subject.

Rick Nichols, Clerk of Session



## **Christmas Concert to be Presented December 18**

Our Music Director and organist Freda Proctor and other members of her family will be teaming up with the Bell Choir and the First City Flute Choir to present a free Christmas Concert in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 18 at 3 p.m.

The well-known Christmas favorites the assembled musicians will be performing include "Silent Night," "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," "What Child Is This," "The First Noel," "Away in a Manger," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

The concert will open with a brass quartet arrangement of "Deck the Halls" featuring Nicholas, Nathan, Peter and Ben Proctor. Next, Freda will hook up with Riley and Sarah Proctor on a flute trio arrangement of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear." Later, Nicholas will play "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night) on the trumpet, Jordan Proctor "What Child Is This" on her cello, and Ben "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" on his trombone.

The proverbial spotlight of attention will be directed at the Bell Choir when it performs "Silent Night," "Carol of the Bells," "Away in a Manger," and "Ding Dong Merrily on High."

The talents of members of the First City Flute Choir will be showcased on Tchaikovsky's "Danse des Mirlitons" from the Nutcracker Suite, a medley of French carols ("He Is Born," "Pat-a-pan" and "Angels We Have Heard on High"), "Fum, Fum, Fum," "The First Noel," "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen," "The Holly and the Ivy," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

## **IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN FOR THE JOY, JOY, JOY OFFERING**

The fourth and final denominational offering of the year is ever so near and will afford members and friends of the church the opportunity to bring some real joy to two groups of people who stand to benefit from our generosity as difference-makers in these difficult times we're living in.

We will be receiving this offering, the Christmas Joy Offering, on Sunday, December 18. This offering helps past and present church workers across America who could use a boost financially, but it also assists those who will be laboring on behalf of the larger church in the future.

As always, the Faithful Discipleship Committee asks that you prayerfully consider the possibility of doing what you can with the resources at your disposal to put a smile on the face of someone else. And remember, like the folks at Presbyterian Mission are fond of saying, "When we all give a little, it adds up to a lot."

More information about the Christmas Joy Offering will be shared with you from the pulpit during the December 4 worship service and the December 11 worship service. Thank you for taking the time to read this important message.

--- Rick Nichols, Moderator, Faithful Discipleship Committee

## **IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS**

Members and friends of the church remained at 407 Walnut following the worship service Sunday, November 20 for the Hanging of the Greens, which was coordinated once again by Howard and Carolyn Anderson.

As some concentrated on the decorating of the sanctuary for Christmas and others on the assembly of the "red tree" just inside the east entrance to the building, Linda Barry and Sally Azbill turned their attention to the bittersweet task of preparing the Memorial Tree in the parlor for viewing.

And that was a good move on their part because the parlor is where the pizza, the laborers' "pay" for the day, could be found.



## **MISSION COLLECTING THE BLUE BAGS THROUGH DECEMBER**

Mission Committee will be collecting the blue bags through December.

## PROGRESSIVE DINNER DECEMBER 10

Progressive dinner for Saturday, December 10. 5:00-9:00 p.m. Starting at Carl and Linda Johnson's at 5:00 p.m. for appetizers followed by the main course at Claude Wiedower and Pat Domann's and to finish with singing and dessert at the church. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you are able to bring something and how many will be attending.

**Child care will be provided at the church.**



## CARE TO RING A BELL FOR THE SA?



If you think you lack the talent to be part of the church's Bell Choir, perhaps you'd be willing to just ring a bell for an hour or two to help the Salvation Army raise some money to assist needy families in Leavenworth County this Christmas.

The Salvation Army has assigned the church two days on which to ring bells in front of Dillons in an effort to fill the red kettle with currency and coins, Thursday, December 8 and Tuesday, December 13. The hours for the 8th are 1 to 8 p.m., and for the 13th, 1 to 6 p.m.

Most of the available shifts are two-hour shifts, but there are a couple of one-hour shifts if you don't have a lot of free time to spare or don't want to be on your feet for two straight hours. Anyway, the sign-up sheet can be found in the narthex.

## ALL IN FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS



Our church participated in the annual Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade again this year, with Jim Mathison, a veteran himself, Paul Keeling, also a veteran, Rick Nichols, Dennis Goodwin and Carolyn Tillotson braving the elements (subfreezing temperatures and a brisk wind) to show their support and, by extension, that of the church itself for the men and women of America who have donned the uniform in defense of the nation down through the years.

Dennis drove the big pickup that pulled the trailer furnished by John Strand that Jim and Carolyn rode on, American flags in hand. Meanwhile, Paul and Rick, American flags in hand, too, walked behind the trailer, bringing up the rear.

Back at the church, hot coffee and donuts awaited the entire crew once they had completed the route through downtown Leavenworth.

## OUR NEW DAY CUSTODIAN

The church's newest employee is Riley McEvoy, who began working at the church November 14 as the weekdays custodian. He replaces Steven Shade.

Asked November 22 how his first few days on the job had gone, Riley replied, "Yeah, it's good. It's bigger than anything I've ever done."

Before joining the church staff Riley, who is 21, was a busboy at Homer's Drive In for two years.

A resident of Leavenworth, Riley is a product of the Pleasant Ridge school system.

Quizzed about his hobbies and interests, Riley immediately indicated that he likes to read when he has some time on his hands.

Riley will be working in the building from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Jim Garrett will continue to be the weekend custodian.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, Riley!



## PRAYERS

**Immediate:** Joe Hudson, Trent Ross (D. Anderson), Dr. Nahyham and family(Ann K), Jennifer Anderson (Debbie), Edwin and Bre FlueVog (Anna), John (Pam Crume), Margie Holland, Elaine Coffman, Kiara "Boo" Doby, Brianna Hoffman and Family (Cindy Scircle), Jim and Lorna Mathison, Diann Wooley (Cindy Scircle)

**Ongoing:** Steve Finch, Maria Gordon (C. Tillotson), Bernice Johnson, Shirley Rockwell, Barbara-Sue Rose, Le Thomas, V. Williams (Barbara-Sue Rose), Judy Jahn, Michael Brock (C. Scircle), Mike Graham (Norma Graham), Jeanie (Barbara-Sue Rose), Rick Nichols, Greta Sharp, John Garner (Carolyn T.), Richard and Linda Cooper (Darrell and Margie Holland's daughter and son-in-law)

## DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP TREATS

**Dec. 4**—Choir and Bell Choir    **Dec. 11** – Circle 3

**Dec. 18** –Circle 4    **Dec. 25**-Circle 5

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**1-** Lois Chapman    **2-**Gerald Bowman    **2-**Jim Roe    **4-**Jayda Kiger    **10-**Bryant Butler  
**12-**Freda Proctor    **30-**Carol Beall

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

**7-** Jim and Kum Cha Williams    **14-**Darrell and Margie Holland

# POINSETTIAS

The Poinsettia price will be \$10; you need to turn in **order by Dec. 11th.**



## POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PLANTS \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT PAID \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Plants are \$10 each.)*

*Plants will be in the sanctuary starting week of Sunday, Dec. 18*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I will take my plant home.*      \_\_\_\_\_ *Give my plant to someone to enjoy.*

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit form and check made out to **FPC.**

# Merry Christmas



# December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2 Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	3 10:00am Flute Practice
4 Fellowship Treats-Choir and Bell Choir 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Mission Committee Mtg.	5 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cody Choraliers	6 10:00am Adult Study	7 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship 5:00pm Flute Practice 6:00pm Bell Choir	8 6:00pm Session Meeting	9 Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	10 10:00am Flute Practice  5:00pm Progressive Dinner
11 Fellowship Treats-Circle 3 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am Worship New Officer Orientation Lunch	12 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cody Choraliers	13 10:00am Circle 3 6:00pm Circle 5	14 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship 11:00am Deacons Meeting 5:00pm Flute Practice 6:00pm Bell Choir	15	16 Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	17 10:00am Flute Practice
18 Fellowship Treats-Circle 4 9:00am Adult Study 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am - Worship  3:00pm Christmas Concert	19 7:00am Men's Morning Discussion Group 10:00am Circle 4 7:00pm - 8:30pm Cody Choraliers	20 10:00am Adult Study  5:00pm Community Meal	21 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship 5:00pm Flute Practice 6:00pm Bell Choir	22	23 Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL 6:30pm - 8:00pm Amateur Radio Testing	24 5:00p.m. Christmas Eve Service
25 <b>Christmas Day</b> Fellowship Treats-Circle 5 9:15am Choir Practice 10:30am Worship	26 <b>Church Office Closed Krista gone through Jan. 2</b>	27	28 9:30am Crafts & Fellowship 5:00pm Flute Practice 6:00pm Bell Choir	29	30 Church Office Closed 1:00pm ESL	31

Krista will be on vacation from December 26 through January 2 and will be back in the office January 3. Our Guest Preacher on January 1 will be the Rev. Katherine Bates

The office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2 for Christmas and New Year's Holidays.