

Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2012
8:30 & 11:00

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

‡ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We light this third candle of Advent as a sign of the Joy that Christ brings. Advent means “coming.” We are preparing ourselves for the days when:

The Lord himself will give a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and call him Emmanuel, which means “God with us.” He will be great and be called Son of the Most High, and his kingdom will never end. (Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:32-33)

* HYMN #8 “Lift Up Your Heads”

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you have shown your love so wonderfully in Jesus Christ our Lord. Yet we confess we have not loved you.
You have called to us through your law, the prophets, and then in your own beloved Son. He lived among us, taught us your ways, and suffered on our behalf. Yet we confess we have not loved you.
You have shown us who our neighbors are, and how to love them. You called them your own brothers and sisters: the hungry and homeless, the sick and the strangers, the imprisoned and the poor. Yet we confess we have not loved you; for we have not loved them.
Forgive us, gracious Lord. Cleanse us by the pure waters of your sacrifice for us. Work into us your long-suffering love and a new heart to forgive, that we may grow into your likeness through the Holy Spirit you have given us.

Now hear our silent, personal prayers of confession...

SILENT PRAYER

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* GLORIA PATRI Hymn #579

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:26-38

ANTHEM (11:00) setting by Tom Mitchell
“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Sacrament of Baptism (11:00) Jake Bryant Arrington

ORGAN INTERLUDE (11:00)

Children ages four through first grade depart for children’s worship

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:39-56

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON “A Christmas Card from Mary”
“Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.” (Luke 2:19)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* HYMN #37 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

* APOSTLES CREED Hymnal, pg. 14

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Offertory Esther Sooter, soloist
“Some People See Him”

The children in each different place will see the baby Jesus’ face like theirs, but bright with heavenly grace, and filled with holy light. O lay aside each earthly thing and with thy heart as offering, come worship now the infant King.

* The Doxology, Hymn #592

* Prayer of Dedication

* HYMN #31 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

* POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

Jennifer Ellis is the Elder of the Day. Amy Lewellen is the liturgist.

We celebrate today the baptism of *Jake Bryant Arrington* (born July 7, 2012), son of Will and Brooksie Arrington, brother of Ellie.

Next week is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Pastor Dave’s message will be “The Innkeeper’s Story,” from Luke 2:1-20. At the 11:00 service we will celebrate the baptism of *Claire Elizabeth Elden*, daughter of Wesley & Marjorie Orr Elden. Today’s sermon, “A Christmas Card from Mary,” is available in print on the table in the narthex and outside the office.

Pastor Dave is available for individual meetings with members of the congregation Monday-Friday, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm, or on Saturdays when circumstances require it. Email him at david.stull.handley@gmail.com.

‡ Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad found at the end of your pew. Write prayer concerns and/or notes to the church office on the cards found in your pew and place in the offering plate.

* If you are able, please stand.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Sunday, December 16

Fair-Trade Olive Oil & Chocolate are on sale outside the church office today.

10:00 am The Children’s Nativity Pageant will be in the sanctuary. All children are invited to participate and should arrive at 9:45 am in order to select a costume. Refreshments will be served following the pageant in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited.

4-6pm Middle School and Senior High Youth will visit the River-walk Christmas Light display. Bring \$\$ for a dessert at Wendy’s and a \$5 or less gag gift.

Monday, December 17

9:15 am **Hannah Circle** meets.

10:30 am **Deborah Circle** meets.

4:00 pm **Memorial Poinsettia deadline** for names to be listed in the bulletin on Dec. 23. The church will order Christmas poinsettias and you are invited to make a donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Donations for the poinsettias should be made to the FPC Memorial Garden fund.

5:00 pm **Theology on Tap** at the Guadalajara Grill.

Tuesday, December 18

12:30 pm **Martha Circle** meets.

5:30 pm **Yoga Class** in the fellowship hall.

6:30 pm **Night Circle** meets for lesson 4 and then will go out to dinner.

Wednesday, December 19

10:00 am **Bible Study**

6:30 pm **Senior Highs** meet at Arby's on Madison St. (bring \$ for dinner)

Thursday, December 20

5:30 pm **Maplemere Christmas Caroling** – you are invited to join us for some old fashioned Christmas Caroling in the Maplemere neighborhood on Thursday, December 20. Meet at David and Susan Elliott's home, 115 Maplemere Dr. between 5-5:30 pm. Refreshments will be served at Mark & Marcia Williams' home around 6:30-6:45 pm.

Friday, December 21

4:00 pm **Volunteers will be needed to sort/count food** in the fellowship hall for the Food Baskets.

Saturday, December 22

9:00 am **Christmas Baskets preparation and delivery begins at 9:00 am** - A list of what you can donate is on the back of the bulletin. Items may be left in the fellowship hall (coat rack & storage area) or the church office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Calendar Booklets are available on the table outside the church office and in the vestibule.

Christmas Eve Candle-lighting Services will be at 4:30 pm and 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. There will be special music, scripture readings, meditation, and candle-lighting.

The church office has re-chargeable gift cards from Kroger that support our youth programs with a 4% return to the

church on all your Kroger purchases. To date we have received \$7,096.85.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

Food baskets for the needy will be packaged and delivered on Saturday, December 22, beginning at 9 am. Items may be left in the fellowship hall (coat rack & storage area) or the church office. Volunteers will be needed on Fri. Dec. 21 beginning at 4 pm to sort/count food, and on Sat. Dec. 22 with packing and delivering baskets.

IF YOUR LAST NAME STARTS WITH:	PLEASE PROVIDE THESE ITEMS:
A	Peanut butter (28 oz) & Jam (18 oz)
B-C	5 cans beans (15 oz cans, pinto, navy, pork-n-beans, black-eyed peas)
D-G	5 cans peaches (1 lb. cans)
H-J	5 jars applesauce (50 oz jars or 5 multi-packs of applesauce)
K-L	5 cans soup
M-N	2 bags apples
O-R	5 cans meat (tuna, chicken, spam, etc.) Or 5 multi-packs of Vienna sausages
S-Z	4 cans corn (15 oz. cans) and Fresh, whole almonds (1 lb.)

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY

Undecorate the church, January 6 immediately following 11:00 worship. Volunteers are needed to help!

A Committee Chair training session will be on Monday, January 7 or Tuesday, January 8, 5:30-6:30 pm. Committee Chairs should watch their email for the set date.

Planning Day, January 26. This is a great time to join a committee. More information will be forthcoming.

OCTOBER 2012 FINANCIAL REPORT

Income for October	\$30,786.65
Expenses for October	\$46,271.40
Net Operating Total for October	-\$15,484.75
Year to date income	\$430,649.26
Year to date expenses	\$434,310.09
Year-to-date operating total	-\$3,660.83



First Presbyterian Church

*With Christ as our Savior and Guide,
We seek to know God's love and share it
With each other, our community, and the world.
We invite you to join us in this journey
of discipleship!*

Organized May 25, 1822
Rev. David Handley, Interim Pastor

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