

## ***First Sunday of Advent and Communion***

December 1, 2013

*"In Your will is our peace;  
In Your love is our rest;  
In Your service is our joy."*

### ***GATHERING AROUND THE WORD***

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Al & Linda Crear (8:30); Jeff Shepherd (11:00)

We light this first candle of Advent as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means "coming." Now is the time to wake from our sleep.

**The night is far gone; the day is near.**

Keep awake; be ready. Christ is coming!

**Let us walk together in the light of the Lord.**

\* HYMN, #2 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of glory, you told us to expect your coming, but we fail to watch for you. We do not walk in your light. We shun your Spirit and ignore your Truth. We study the ways of war; we stray from the paths of peace. By day we waste your gifts; by night we dishonor your name.**

**Forgive us; deliver us; awaken us to your Word, so that we may be ready to welcome you with joy, in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Now hear our silent, personal confessions...**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\* RESPONSE TO PARDON Hymn #4, verse 3

"Creator of the Stars at Night" Greensleeves

"At Thy great name, oh Jesus now, all knees must bend,  
all hearts must bow; All things on earth with one accord,  
like those in heaven shall call you Lord."

### ***PROCLAIMING THE WORD***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING Isaiah 2:1-5 (page 550)

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

**In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills;**

All the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say,

**"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."**

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

**They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

ANTHEM (11:00) "We Wait" Ruth Elaine Schram  
Esther Sooter, cello

*"In the flame of the flickering candle, we see the promise of hope and joy; The promise of peace, the promise of love is a Baby Boy. We wait. We wait. Advent candle, burning bright, gently reflecting heaven's light, Lead us to the Prince of Peace; O guide us to the Perfect Light."*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 24:36-44 (pg. 806)

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

SERMON "A Christmas Promise for the "Top of Tennessee"

### ***RESPONDING TO THE WORD***

\* HYMN #434 "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Apostles' Creed*, hymnal pg. 14

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Offertory "If I Had Been in Bethlehem" Sally DeFord  
Maddie Carbarry and Katie Haase, duet; Sarah Klein, flute

"If I had been in Bethlehem that Christmas night of old, or travel with the wise men there to bring Him gifts of gold.

But I can give a greater gift than any earthly gem,  
for all my heart and all my love will be my gift to Him."

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy.....who forever sing to the glory or your name:

**"Hosanna in the highest!**

**That ancient song we sing**

**For Christ is our Redeemer,**

**The Lord of heaven our King.**

**O may we ever praise Him**

**With heart and life and voice,**

**And in His blissful presence eternally rejoice."**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\* HYMN, #13 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\* CHORAL RESPONSE AND POSTLUDE

### **WORSHIP NOTES**

**Leong Lee** is the Elder of the Day. **Ross Hicks** is our liturgist.

**We welcome our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Gregory L. Glover!** A brief reception will be held in the fellowship hall after both worship services so that you can meet his family. At the reception we would like to take your family photo as you go through the line. The photos will be given to Greg to help him begin to put faces with names.

**Next Sunday, Pastor John David Laida's** message will be "The Fullness of Time: How God Prepared the World for the Coming of Jesus," from Galatians 4:1-7. At 4:30 pm, will have our **Christmas Music Program** with the **Potluck Dinner** to follow around 5:30pm.

‡ **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 rack and place them in the offering plate.

\* **If you are able, please stand.**

### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST**

**Sunday, December 1**

**Reception for Pastor Greg Glover and family** in the fellowship

hall immediately following both worship services.

**No Senior High or Middle School Youth** meetings.

**Monday, December 2**

7:00 am **Men's Monthly Breakfast** at Shoney's on Kraft St. All men, all ages, are invited to join in on conversations on life and faith. A brief devotional follows the meal.

9:00 am **Deborah Circle** meets.

11:30 am **PW Board of Officers** meets.

12:30 pm **PW Luncheon** in the fellowship hall. We will have a devotional, good food, fellowship, and a program of Christmas music with Leo Adames. We will also have the story of Mizpah. Please bring your canned food items to assist in the Loaves & Fishes Jingle Bells Food Drive.

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

**Tuesday, December 3**

10:00 am **PW Morning Circle** meets in the library.

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

**Wednesday, December 4**

10:00 am **Bible Study** in the church library.

6:30 pm **Senior Highs** meet at Chick Fil A on Madison Street. Bring \$\$ for the meal. We will eat and then hang out till 7:30 pm.

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**Dec. 1** **Greg Glover, our new Pastor leads worship.** A reception follows worship in the fellowship hall.

**Dec. 2** **7:00 am Men's Breakfast at Shoney's** on Kraft St.  
**12:30 pm PW Luncheon** in the fellowship hall.

**Dec. 8** **Deadline to turn in Angel Tree gifts**  
**4:30 pm Christmas Concert**  
**5:30 pm Christmas Potluck Dinner**

**Dec. 15** **10:30 am Children's Christmas Musical** in the sanctuary  
**12:10 pm Advent Craft Fair in the fellowship hall.** There is no cost for the crafts and a light lunch will be available. Some sample crafts are displayed on the table outside the church office.

**Dec. 17** **12:00 noon Deadline to have Memorial Poinsettias listed in the bulletin.** Names of those in memoriam (or in honor of) along with donors will be listed in the bulletin on Dec. 22. Simply make a donation to the FPC Memorial Garden fund and let the church office know your loved one's name.

**Dec. 19** **Maplemere Christmas Caroling.** You are invited to join us as we carol around the Maplemere and Glenwood neighborhoods. Meet at D. David & Susan Elliott's home, 115 Maplemere Dr. at 5:00 pm.

**Dec. 21** **9:00 am Christmas Food Baskets** will be packed in the fellowship hall with delivery to follow. A list of what you can donate is in the vestibule, on the table outside the church office, and in the Newsletter.

**Dec. 22** **Christmas Joy Offering** received in worship.  
**10:30 am Children's Nativity Pageant** in the sanctuary.

**Dec. 24** **Christmas Eve Candlelighting Services at 4:30 and 6:00 pm.** Rev. John David Laida will officiate at both services with his message, "The Cradle That Rocked the World" from Luke 2:8-20.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT & DINNER, DEC. 8**

**On Sunday December 8, join us in the sanctuary at 4:30 pm.**

Our program will begin with J.S. Bach's Cantata #142, "To Us A Child is Born", performed by our Adult Choir, a string quartet from APSU and organ. The middle of the program will feature our Children's Choir and our Handbell Choir. The program will conclude with Robert Shaw's "Many Moods of Christmas, Suite 3, which is a medley of best-loved Christmas carols sung by our Adult Choir, with orchestral accompaniment provided by strings, flute, trumpet, percussion, and organ.

**Following the concert (around 5:30 pm) we will enjoy the annual Christmas Potluck Dinner**

The church provides ham, turkey, dressing, gravy, creamed potatoes, corn casseroles, rolls, drinks. The rest of the meal will be covered dish. Each dish should be 10-12 servings. If your last name begins with:

A-L, please bring an extra large vegetable dish

M-Q, please bring an extra large dessert

R-Z, please bring an extra large salad dish

Dishes may be dropped off on the kitchen serving window before worship on Dec. 8. Please bring pies, cakes, gelatin salads, etc. *ALREADY CUT*. Put your name on *EVERY* item you bring (lids, dishes, serving spoons, etc) because folks frequently have identical bake ware, potholders, etc.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Anyone wishing to host a small group gathering to meet Pastor Greg** in January, February, or March, please contact any member of the Pastor Nominating Committee (Rhonda Banasiak, Don Beck, Kelly Duncan, Steve Griffey, Susan Marks, Sam Mills, Diane Miner, Scott Sitter, Vicki Wallace).

**Presbyterian Women will help Loaves & Fishes** with their Jingle Bells Food Drive in December. Please bring canned goods and/or monetary gifts to the PW Christmas luncheon on Monday, Dec. 2 or drop off donations to the church office during the first week of December.

**Presbyterian Prayer Chain** - If you want to share a concern or celebration with members of our FPC prayer group, contact Ann Waddle at waddleiread@gmail.com.



**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. Gregory L. Glover, Pastor**

213 Main Street, Clarksville, TN 37040  
voice: 931-645-6551, fax: 931-645-9962  
www.fpcclarksville.org  
fpcclarksville@gmail.com