



Pastor Message
Ellen Gurnon

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Dear Friends,

It's beginning to look a lot like... we'll be *staying* home for Christmas.

Even just a couple months ago, I never imagined we would be celebrating Advent and Christmas by livestream rather than in person. As difficult as that is for most of us to realize, it is a sacrifice we make out of love for one another, for the health of our families and community, and in support of healthcare workers who are physically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausted.

We have been working on some ways to make worship meaningful while we remain at home during this special time of year. I encourage you to consider participating.

- Create a sacred space in your home. Choose a comfortable chair and place it (or turn it) away from distractions. Perhaps add a small table with your Bible, a candle, a devotional, and an ornament that has special meaning for you. Turn OFF your TV and your phone.
- Send us digital photos of yourself, your sacred space, and your favorite decorations. We hope to include these as part of the livestream worship services during Advent. Email your photos to fpresbytcape@gmail.com
- We hope to include additional voices in the recorded hymns each Sunday, and a virtual choral cantata with both First and Westminster choir members is in the works.
- There will be prayer stations set up in the sanctuary for anyone to use during office hours, M-Th, 8 am – noon.
- We are planning a meditative, fireside BLUE CHRISTMAS worship service for the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year: Monday, December 21, 4:00 pm.
- Check your E-news weekly for a link to Advent devotions from Presbyterians Today magazine, based on this poem by Howard Thurman.

I Will Light Candles This Christmas

I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

Comfort and joy,

Ellen



Lectionary

Second Sunday of Advent— December 6

Isaiah 40:1–11
Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13
2 Peter 3:8–15a
Mark 1:1–8

Third Sunday of Advent— December 13

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16–24
John 1:6–8, 19–28

Fourth Sunday of Advent— December 20

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16
Luke 1:46b–55
Romans 16:25–27
Luke 1:26–38

Nativity of the Lord— December 24 Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2–7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11–14
Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]

Nativity of the Lord— December 25 Christmas Dawn

Isaiah 62:6–12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4–7
Luke 2:[1–7] 8–20

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7–10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1–4 [5–12]
John 1:1–14

First Sunday of Christmas—

December 27
Isaiah 61:10–62:3
Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4–7 Luke
2:22–40



Your impact

Supporting Past, Present, and Future Leaders


The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.



Calendar

December 6th

 [YouTube](#) Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.

December 13th


 [YouTube](#) Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.

December 20th


 [YouTube](#) Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.

December 21st

Blue Christmas Meditative Worship Service

 [YouTube](#) Livestream Worship Service
4:00 p.m.

December 24th Christmas Eve

 [YouTube](#) Livestream Worship Service
(Watch your e-mail for time)

December 27th

 [YouTube](#) Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.



Tori Scott Dec. 19th

Gerald Campbell Dec. 28th

Noelle Stieneke Dec. 28th

Advent is a time for remembering and reflecting on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Father, I pray that you will turn our hearts toward you as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy, love, that you sent to us on that first Christmas.

Help us to see that you are with us. Nothing is too difficult, too messy, or too dirty for you. Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life through the salvation that only you, our Heavenly Father, can give when we believe on your Son, repent of our sins, and confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

~ *Bobbie Schaeperkoetter*



SESSION NEWS

Missions: Christmas Joy Offering – (Please see additional material about this special gift offering on page 2.) You may choose to contribute as you would your regular offering, just designate that your gift is meant for the Christmas Joy Offering.

The Prom Closet has received donated gloves and mittens collected at The First Presbyterian Church in Jackson. These will be donated to the local Salvation Army.

Please keep our health care workers and first responders close in prayer this holiday season as they continue to battle this pandemic. Members are encouraged to send greeting cards offering encouragement and thanks this month. You will find a listing of healthcare organizations along with those addresses where you can send the cards. Please sign your name and also note that the Congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church holds them in prayer.

Grounds: The tree over our picnic pavilion will be removed this week by Floyd & Sons Tree Service.

Estimates are being gathered for re-surfacing the small parking lot.

Building project continues for the fence around the dumpster.

Worship: As noted in the Pastor's address, worship services for the month will return to exclusively on line. This is due to the increase of positive cases of Corona virus in the area. Members are encouraged to contribute photos of your home seasonal décor and worship space to Jonathan at fpresbytcape@gmail.com . We are hopeful that we can return to in person services in January. Please watch your e-mail and the marquee for updates.



Westminster Chimes

December 2020

December Mission Project: As referenced earlier, please consider sending a few cards expressing our gratitude and encouragement to health care providers this season.

Hospitals:

Saint Francis Medical Center
211 St. Francis Dr.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Southeast Hospital
1701 Lacey St.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Landmark Hospital
3255 Independence St.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Nursing Homes / Assisted Living:

Life Care Center
365 S. Broadview St.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Heartland Care & Rehab Center
2525 Boutin Dr.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Auburn Creek Senior Living
2910 Beaver creek Dr.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Fountainbleau Lodge
2001 N. Kingshighway St.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Lutheran Home
2825 Bloomfield Rd. Suite 1
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Chateau Girardeau
3120 Independence
Cape Girardeau, MO 2003

Missouri Veteran's Home
2400 Veterans Memorial Dr.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Capetown Senior Living
2857 Cape La Croix Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Ratliff Care Center
717 N. Sprigg St.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Barnabas Acres
210 Franks Ln
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Jefferson Manor
902 Jefferson Ave.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Saxony Village
2825 Bloomfield Rd. #2
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Public Health

Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center
1121 Linden St.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Cape County Private Ambulance
1458 N. Kingshighway St.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701