



GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

The Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury

December 5, 2018
Volume 55, Issue 23

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 9, 2018

9:30 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE *Musical Service*

11:00 A.M. Church School

12:00 P.M. Youth Christmas
Party

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 16, 2018

9:30 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE *Pageant*

11:00 A.M.

Church School for All Ages

3:45 P.M.

CAROLING

Please join us at 3:45 PM to sing Christmas carols to our shut-ins in the neighborhood. What a great gift to give. No wrapping needed!



Joy to the World!

CHRISTMAS PARTY for all the women of the church will be held on Tuesday, December 18th at 11:30 am. All women are welcome. Any questions see any member of the Women's Association.



SESSION MEETING has been changed to Sunday, December 16th at 10:30 am.

From the Pastor...

This is a season of angels, Wiseman, shepherds, a census and a baby born in a manger, but it is also a season of the Lion. A time to remember that the baby Jesus will become a man and willing sacrifice himself for all humanity. CS Lewis is one of my favorite writers, he was not fond of the Christmas holiday that he believed had become too commercial, even in his day. He did write about Christ in the Chronicles of Narnia and described him as Aslan the Lion: *"One day you'll see him and another you won't. He doesn't like being tied down – and of course he has other countries to attend to. It's quite all right. He'll often drop in. Only you mustn't press him. He's wild, you know. Not like a tame lion."*

Not like a tame lion; our God is wild. Lewis learned this through his experience of grief. He also began to write eloquently about the deep longing that defines human existence; a longing that can only be satisfied by our true eternal home in God. What I find profoundly helpful here is the acceptance that our lives will *always* be restless and filled with longing. It's what led Augustine to sigh that well-known prayer: *our hearts are restless, O Lord, until we find our rest in you.* Lewis describes the full implications of that restless longing as an essential part of being fully human, full alive.

The restless longing of our hearts is evoked in everyday experience and it can lure us into the reality of God's invisible presence. In "Till We Have Faces," he declared, *"It was when I was happiest that I longed most. ... The sweetest thing in all my life has been the longing ... to find the place where all the beauty came from."*

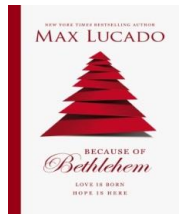
He believed this longing was evoked by such simple experiences as the scent of a flower, a lovely musical tune, a conversation and more. When we mistake the experience as the real thing is when we lose our way. The real thing is always elusive in this life; it is our eternal home in God. The beautiful, the good and the true are the foretaste of what is to come: the eternal weight of glory (the title of another of his books.)

In the season of Advent, we draw most deeply into this longing for our eternal home. In the music, the biblical texts, the prayers and the Sacrament of Holy Communion our hearts are lifted into the remembrance of our eternal home. This longing is a sweet sorrow to which we respond, *Come, Lord Jesus, come.* May you experience Christ during this season, and give thanks for God's kingdom.

In Christ,
Phil

2018 Advent Study December 2018

A remarkable gift can arrive in an unremarkable package. One did in Bethlehem more than 2000 years ago. No one expected God to come the way he did. Yet the way he came was every bit as important as the coming itself. The manger is the message. Join us on Sunday's at 11:00 am, December 9, 16 and 23.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING supports a variety of needs: The Board of Pension's income supplement, nursing home care assistance and emergency need grants for retired church workers; the Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges of the Presbyterian Church (USA); and our church's special interest missions in Honduras and Nepal. Envelopes are provided in the pews. Checks should be made payable to our church. Please give with joy!

JOY



MITTEN TREE is up in the Chapel and ready for the mittens, gloves, and hats that will be given to Urban Promise in Camden.

YOUTH NEWS: SNL Contemporary Service – Saturday, December 8th at 7:00 pm. Come worship and support our youth!

THE ADVENT WREATH MAKING PARTY was a great success! Lots of wreaths and cookie jars were made, and plenty of food and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Thanks for all who helped.

USHERS NEEDED for Christmas Eve Family and Candlelight Services. Please contact Ed Parkin (856) 464-8542 or the church office.

COMMUNITY DINNER
 Thursday,
 December 13th
 5:30 P.M.



Join the church and community for a time of delicious food and fellowship.

CHORAL ARTS OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY CONCERT: Join us on Sunday, December 30th at 3:00 pm for a Holiday Musical Program in the Sanctuary.

PLEDGE CARDS: Thank you to those who have returned their pledge cards. If you have not returned yours, please do so as soon as possible so the Budget Committee can begin to formalize the 2019 Budget.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Fred Petri, Florence Hillman, Anita Corbin, Alex Jenei, Florence Meyer, Fred Davis, Emma Mustard, Brian Praetzel, Meg Lolly, Dorothy VanHorn, Amelia Exley, Meghan Orem, Judy Fetty, and Marie Batten. A reminder to keep our military personnel in your prayers, including Jonathan Gabler, Nathan Wadding, Cameron Wadding, Jarrod Fetty, and Wesley Tatham.

The Christmas Tree decorated with our member's favorite ornaments is located in the Narthex. If you have an ornament you would like to add, feel free to do so.



ADVENT DEVOTIONS are available in the narthex and Chapel. This year over a dozen booklets are available for your choice.

2018 ADVENT – CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
2nd Sunday of Advent

December 9
 9:30 A.M. Worship Service - A Celebration with Music
 11:00 A.M. Advent Sunday School - *“Worship Works Wonders”*

December 16
 9:30 A.M. Worship Service - Christmas Pageant
 11:00 A.M. Advent Sunday School - *“God Guides the Wise”*

December 23
 9:30 A.M. Worship Service – Lesson and Carols
 11:00 A.M. Advent Sunday School - *“Every Heart a Manger”*

December 24
 5:00 P.M. Family Christmas Eve Service with Choir
 10:00 P.M. Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Soloist



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: DECEMBER 9 - 15, 2018

2 nd Sunday of Advent:	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 AM	Prayer Room 3
	9:30 AM	Worship Service/ <i>Musical Service</i>
	10:45 AM	Children’s Choir
	11:00 AM	Church School for all ages
	12:00 PM	Youth Christmas Party
Monday:	6:30 PM	Girl Scouts
	6:30 PM	SJ Choral Arts Rehearsal
	7:00 PM	Trustees
Tuesday:	1:00 PM	60 Plus Bible Study
	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
Wednesday:	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting
	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
Thursday:	5:30 PM	Community Dinner
	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: DECEMBER 16 - 23, 2018

3 rd Sunday of Advent:	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 AM	Prayer Room 3
	9:30 AM	Worship Service/ <i>Pageant</i>
	10:30 AM	Session Meeting
	10:45 AM	Children’s Choir
	11:00 AM	Church School for all ages
	3:45 PM	Caroling
	7:00 PM	Pack Meeting
Monday:	6:30 PM	Girl Scouts
	6:30 PM	SJ Choral Arts Rehearsal
Tuesday:	10:00 AM	Women’s Association Christmas Party
	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
Wednesday:	8:30 AM	Men’s Breakfast
	10:00 AM	Staff Meeting
	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
Thursday:	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
4 th Sunday of Advent:	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 AM	Prayer Room 3
	9:30 AM	Worship Service/ <i>Lessons in Carols</i>
	10:45 AM	Children’s Choir
	11:00 AM	Church School for all ages