



First Presbyterian Church
Advent 2016
A Season for Waiting & Anticipating!



FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday, November 27



9:15am Church School for all ages
 10:30am Worship—Communion - Hanging of the Greens - 1st Candle
 11:30am Advent Lunch—This meal will include a combination of music, liturgy, and candle lighting. The liturgy focuses on three people from the Advent story, John the Baptist, Mary, and Jesus himself, and reflects on what they are saying to us today. The meal is intended to be a time of reflection. While it is simple in contrast to the excesses of much contemporary Christmas custom, celebration and joy are central to the time together. *The main course will be prepared. The congregation is asked to bring a dessert to share.*

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 4



9:15am Church School for all ages
 10:30am Worship - Special Music, Brendon Considine, violinist
 11:30am Fellowship Time

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 11



9:15am Church School for all ages
 10:30am Worship—Special music, Dale Graham, soloist
 11:30am Fellowship Time

Monday, December 12

6:00pm Pack groceries for Community Parish Food Distribution—the food will be distributed on Tuesday, December 13 from 10am to noon.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 18



9:15am Church School for all ages
 10:30am Worship—Joy Offering will be dedicated—Children will have a short program
 11:30am Fellowship in Fellowship Hall—Birthday Cake for Baby Jesus.
 5:00pm Contemplative Christmas Service—Refreshments will follow the service.

The constant refrain on the radio and television, from shopping malls to churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation - all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending time with others. Sometimes, we simply need a quiet place to sit with our thoughts, to be, and to worship. We need the space and time to acknowledge our feelings and concern; we need to know that we are not alone. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

For these reasons, we are offering a special contemplative Christmas service on December 18 at 5pm. Join with us as we worship together through prayer, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God's presence is forever with us - and that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome.

**All during Advent you can take *SELFIES IN THE MANGER* in Fellowship Hall.
 There will be costumes if you want to dress the part!**

**We have *ADVENT POSTERS* to color during this season.
 Whenever you have a spare minute, come to Fellowship Hall,
 pick up a colored pencil and color away.**

ADVENT MISSION PROJECTS Opportunities for Giving

Mineral Ridge Community Parish Fund: The area churches will join together to provide Christmas food items to those in need. Please remember our food cupboard when you are doing your grocery shopping. We will be distributing groceries for the holidays and vouchers for **Christmas Hams**. Deacons will be in Fellowship Hall for you to purchase a ham voucher for \$20. Groceries will be packed on Monday, Dec. 12 at 6:00 p.m. YOU are invited to help.

Gifts for Community Youth: The Mission Committee is asking for donations of gifts to be given to children whose families receive food from the Community Parish Fund. A tag for each child will be on the tree in Fellowship Hall. Please limit gifts to \$20-\$25. Please have your new gifts wrapped and back to the church by December 11.

Hats, scarves and gloves: Our Mission Committee invites you to help with this project again this year. Bring in these items and hang them on the clothes lines in Fellowship Hall.

Coats and blankets: We are collecting new or gently used coats and blankets for the Warren Family Mission.

Christmas Joy Offering: This denominational offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired ministers and church workers in their hour of greatest need by providing funds to help them through life's challenging circumstances. It also promotes the education of racial ethnic men and women by supporting racial ethnic schools and colleges. This offering will be dedicated on Sunday, December 18 during worship.

These are opportunities for giving—you are not expected to give to all, but those that touch your heart.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



Saturday, December 24—Candlelight Services
5:30pm—Special music

11:00pm—Special music
Prof. Larry Harris—Organist



CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE

Sunday, December 25—10:30am

Join us Christmas morning in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, hot chocolate, and light refreshments as we gather around tables to hear the Christmas story, sing carols, and celebrate Communion together as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Each Sunday during worship the Advent Candles will be lit.
There will be special music each Sunday during Advent.

Online Devotionals for Advent:

<http://blog.goshen.edu/devotions/subscribe>

or

[www.d365.org/following the star](http://www.d365.org/followingthe star)

First Presbyterian Church
3654 Main Street
Mineral Ridge, OH 44440

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit #11
Niles OH 44440



Advent 2016

Online Devotionals for Advent:

<http://blog.goshen.edu/devotions/subscribe>
www.d365.org/followingthestar