

Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

December 2023

Sunday December 3 is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of anticipation. We are anticipating the birth of Jesus. Throughout the month of December, we listen to God's Word through the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, and others.

Isaiah spoke of a branch from David's tree, David's lineage, a Messiah who would be the just and righteous king. When Isaiah was speaking it was 700 years before Jesus would be born. The people would live in anticipation for 7 centuries.

They were anticipating a King, a Messiah, one who would liberate people from their oppressors and under whom their lives would be better.

This is not the picture that we receive about this king in Isaiah 9. *"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore."* (Isaiah 9:6-7, NRSVue)

When the Messiah is born, God will give him authority to rule with a mighty hand. Yet if we are to understand the names of this Messiah, we see a mighty hand that is gentle in caring for all people.

Walter Bruggeman defines Wonderful Counselor as one who will have extraordinary wisdom and foresight about planning. The expected King will initiate policy and practice that would be of practical benefit for the people. Along with the Holy Spirit we receive great wisdom from God through Jesus.

Bruggeman goes on to say that during Isaiah's time the king was expected to be a carrier of "divine power" that is that the king was responsible for the well-being of the entire realm. The expected King will return Israel and Judah to a state of shalom, peace, marked by God's justice righteousness.

The Israelites viewed God as their Everlasting Father and viewed the king as God's agent to take on the role of caring for people as a father. As they listen to Isaiah, the people were to take hope that the expected King will ensure God's justice, mercy, and righteousness. As Jesus' followers; that is followers of the Mighty God and Everlasting Father; we look to Jesus for examples of how to bring God's justice and righteousness to the world.

Finally, the expected King will be the Prince of Peace. Paul would write to the Philippians; *"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:7, NRSVue). Isaiah's listeners have no idea what it meant that the expected King would be Prince of Peace. Paul tried to explain it to those who became followers of Jesus Christ. As Christians we lean into the idea that peace is a state of tranquility or quietness of spirit that transcends circumstances.

As we enter into Advent and consider the gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior; that we listen to the wisdom of God through the prophet Isaiah. May we experience the peace of God, the wisdom of the Wonderful Counselor, and the ability to look at each other with eyes of justice and mercy.

Pastor Susi

Birthdays
of the Month

December

- 6 Rebecca Lindstrom
- 16 Barbara Hise
- 20 Ron Morrissette
- 23 David Craft
- 27 Eleanor Payne
- 29 Ronnie Hise



The November 9th PW meeting was held in the Noah's Ark room at 1 PM. Jeanie Morrissette gave the

devotional. There were 14 members in attendance. Connie Moynihan was welcomed to the group and she shared her joy in



being with us. Barbra Fawley gave the treasurer's report of \$504.93 for November 2023. She reported \$100 check has been given to the

Christmas mother.

Jeanie gave the birthday card report and shared that Ann Marie Elmore has a birthday on November 26th and Emily Amick has a birthday on November 29th. We all sang "Happy Birthday" to them.

Our social committee reported that our December meeting will be at Bev Warburton's home, at 12:15 PM on December 14th. We are so thrilled this will be our December meeting. If you want to share a salad or dessert that would be great. However, there will be plenty if you



choose not to bring a dish.

The director of the children's home, Billy Rice, will be at our December meeting for you to meet and to

share your questions. He will be given the gift cards for the children and perhaps share some updates on some of their projects. Thank you for supporting this project of gift cards for the children.



The continued collection of peanut butter is still an important part of our ministry. Thank you all for your generosity in caring for those less fortunate.



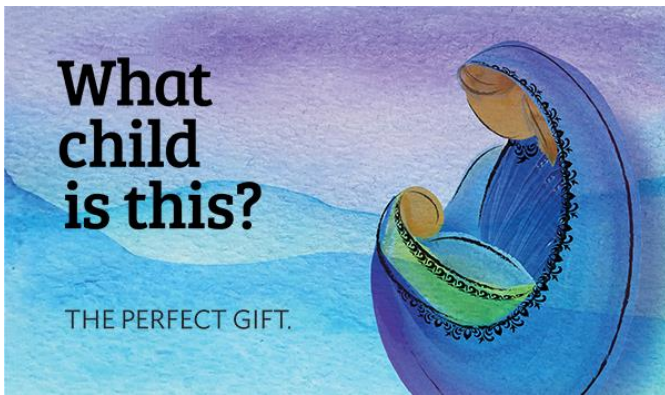
Pastor Susi Ennis gave a great lesson on the healings that were done by Jesus.



Thank you all for your discussion points.

Pam Pace
PW Moderator

MINUTE FOR MISSION



The Christmas Joy Offering supports church workers and their families in the PC(USA) who need critical financial assistance. Your congregation has the opportunity to make an impact. You can be the difference between financial hardship and a blessed breath of relief. In addition, the Christmas Joy Offering is committed to helping promote educational opportunities and leadership development, in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Your congregation can enable these institutions to provide students with a transformative education. Give the gift of education and the gift of relief of financial burden this giving season by supporting the Christmas Joy Offering.

**No Advent Bible Study on the following dates:
Dec. 24, 26, 31 or Jan. 2
Study will resume Jan. 7th!**

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

December 3 - First Sunday of Advent
3p- Music on the Corner
Chorale, Chancel & Bells

December 10 - Communion



December 24 - We will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent at the 11:00 A. M. service.

The Candlelight Christmas Eve service will be held at 4:00 P. M.

December 31 - casual service of hymns and fellowship at 11:00 A. M. in chapel.

The Angel Tree

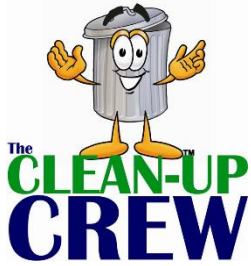


Our Angel Tree has been up for several weeks now in the Narthex. This year we asked that you take a paper angel gift tag and replace it with one of the hand-crocheted angels from the basket. All gifts for the Christmas Mother are to be returned to the tree (unwrapped) by Sunday, December 3rd. These beautiful hand-crocheted angels are a loving gift to the church from Francis Withrow.



A busy November! We welcomed a new friend. For Nurses' Day the twins Mom visited us and talked to us about her job and showed us how to take our blood pressure and temperature and more. We also visited Ms. Tori at the library for Story Time! We fed the birds with our birdseed gifts! Preschool Break 12/22/23-1/1/24





We Need Your Help!

We are undertaking a clean-up of the church. Particularly on the 2nd floor, but other rooms as well have become cluttered. After the beginning of January, we will set a date to have a dumpster delivered so that we can discard things that are no longer useful in our ministry.

If you have any items that you are storing at the church, now is the time to retrieve them. If you are a committee chairman or a member of a committee and you have things that are used regularly, please clearly identify those items so that we do not remove them. Thank You for your assistance as we make our building more user friendly.

COVINGTON CHRISTMAS PARADE

Watch for the First Presbyterian Church pickup truck in the Covington Christmas Parade this coming Saturday, December 2nd starting at 5:00 PM. One more way to let people in our community know that we are here. Please invite folks to come and join our church family.



Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

*The "Joy to the World"
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 24th
at 4:00 P. M.*

*First Presbyterian Church
185 N. Maple Ave.,
Covington*

*Music by the
First Presbyterian
Chancel Choir
and Handbell Choir.
All are welcome and
encouraged to attend!*

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE
**Sunday, December 31st is the
last 5th Sunday of the year.**
**At 11:00 A. M. we will have a
casual service in the Chapel
and sing some of our favorite
Advent songs.**

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Worship is held in-person and live-streamed on our YouTube channel.

Daily devotions with Daniel Pillow are streamed on our YouTube channel.

Bible Study in-person & via Zoom – Contact Pastor Susi for a Zoom link @pastor.susi.ennis@gmail.com

<h2>December 2023</h2>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	2 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
3 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Bible Study 9:45a Worship, 11:00a MUSIC ON THE CORNER 3 o'clock	4 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	5 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Coffee & Conversation 8:30-10:30a Bible Study 6:45p	6 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choir Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p	7 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	8 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	9 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
10 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Bible Study 9:45a Worship, 11:00a COMMUNION SESSION Poinsettia orders Due.	11 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	12 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Coffee & Conversation 8:30-10:30a VOUCHERS DUE, 10a Bible Study 6:45p	13 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Open Sanctuary 1-2 p Choir Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p	14 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a PW 12:15p @ Bev W's home	15 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	16 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
17 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Bible Study 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	18 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Preschool Christmas Celebration 11:30a	19 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Coffee & Conversation 8:30-10:30a Bible Study 6:45p	20 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choir Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p Preschool Discovery Field Trip 10:30a	21 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	22 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	23 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
24 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a No Bible Study Worship, 11:00a CHRISTMAS JOY Offering CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 4p	25 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	26 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Coffee & Conversation 8:30-10:30a VOUCHERS DUE, 10a Newsletter Info Due 10a No Bible Study	27 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Open Sanctuary 1-2 p Choir Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p	28 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	29 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	30 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
31 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a No Bible Study Worship, 11:00a IN CHAPEL						

185 North Maple Avenue, Covington, Virginia 24426 ~ (540) 962-2195 FirstPresCovingtonVA.org

YouTube channel: FPCCovingtonVA ~ Email: fpccovingtonva@aol.com