

december

The Church and You

2018

First Presbyterian Church



Music for Advent & Christmas

1st Sunday of Advent (December 2nd)

- Bells play “Love Came Down at Christmas” (8:30)
- Sanctuary Singers sing “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” and Treble Choir sings “Light One Candle” (11:00)
- Carols include “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

2nd Sunday of Advent (December 9th)

- Sanctuary Singers sing “Are You Looking for Jesus?” and Bells play “Love Came Down at Christmas” (11:00)
- Carols include “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

3rd Sunday of Advent (December 16th)

- OCU Brass is here!
- Youth Chorale sings “I Shall Know Him When He Comes”
- Sanctuary Singers sing a brand new piece written by Puffer (11:00)
- Carols include “In the Bleak Midwinter”

Handel’s Messiah performed by Kemp Concert Choir Sunday, December 16th

Doors open 6:00 p.m. Pre-concert talk at 6:30 p.m. Concert begins at 7:00 p.m. (No tickets, no charge.)

4th Sunday of Advent (December 23rd)

- featuring Linda Bosteels, flute and Dorothy Hays, cello
- “Mary’s Song” Katharyn McCarty
- Sanctuary Singers sing “See Amid the Winter’s Snow” (11:00)
- Carols include “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Christmas Eve

The 4:00 p.m. service will include the Treble Choir, Youth Chorale, and handbells, as well as many favorite carols!

Our candlelight service organ prelude begins at 10:00 p.m.; candlelight worship featuring Sanctuary Singers and Matthew Denman on guitar begins at 10:30 p.m. -Puffer Jones

From the Pastor's Desk:

Advent: Come, Lord Jesus! Our Lord Has Come!

Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! In Advent, we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord. In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come.

Since the first century, Christians await the advent of the true Light. The season of Advent emphasizes both our remembrance of the past and our hope for the future. In Advent, the beginning and the end times meet. We live between our prayer for the future coming of the Lord, and our belief that the Lord has come as God's ultimate act in history.

I hope you will take on the spiritual discipline of daily devotions this Advent season. There are two resources available for you at the church.

"The Father's Love for each and every one of us is immeasurable," writes Henri Nouwen, a spiritual icon of the twentieth century, who wrote about that love for decades in insightful and inspiring writings that continue to captivate millions of readers. Excerpts of Nouwen's writings, as well as Scripture passages and original reflections and prayers within *The Father's Love*, will guide you through daily prayer and reflection as you gain a better sense of how the Father loves us and why he sent his only Son to dwell among us.

Peace on Earth is a collection of family devotions for Advent by Danielle Bean. She writes, "While we may never achieve perfect peace on this side of heaven, during Advent, we can work to bring the peace of Jesus to our broken world, beginning in our own homes and families. *Peace on Earth* will guide you and your family through a peace-filled Advent, allowing you to grow in love for one another and to bring more peace to the world. Together, this Advent season, let us look to Jesus in the manger and open our hearts to receive the peace that can only come from him."

Advent begins December 2nd. I encourage you to stop by the church office and pick up a copy of whichever devotion sounds best to you. As we begin our Advent journey this year, in the midst of the busyness of the season, let us each commit to spending a few minutes with God each day in thought, Scripture, and prayer guided by our Advent Devotions. Perhaps within their pages we will discover or rediscover the greatest gift ever given in new and exciting ways. God bless you! -Pastor John

December KirkNight

Wednesday Dinners & Fellowship

All welcome. Nursery available. Please RSVP.
Yoga also meets at 6:30 each week.

6:00 *Chicken florentine, lasagna, salad, bread, pot de creme*

5th **6:30 Christmas Carols with John Edwards**

6:00 *Rosemary chicken and cranberries, brie and Granny Smith apple pork chops, roasted potatoes, carrots, steamed broccoli, Christmas cookies.*

12th **6:30 Edmond Memorial presentation of the musical *Elf Jr.***

"Music for the Nativity"

Friday, January 4, 2019, Noon

Sanctuary Choir Loft

H. Scott Raab, Organist

Lunch to follow in Watchorn Hall.

Mr. Raab is the Canon Musician at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Oklahoma City.

Out 'n' About

On Sunday, January 6th, we will meet at the OKC Museum Of Art to see an exhibit on Victorian Radicals, which highlights how art was used to challenge the changing economic and social norms of 19th century Britain. We will meet at 1:30 at the museum. Tickets are \$25, but sign up in advance in the church office (by January 3rd) and pay only \$15 for your ticket! -Brian Broderick

This month

Erin Henning

is being graduated from Southern Nazarene University with a degree in Medical Business Administration and

Callie Hirschler

Podsezertsev is being graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in Marine Biology.

Congratulations!



Circles Meeting December 11th

Phoebe Circle meeting at Mary Ann Doolen's home.
(7009 Basswood Canyon, OKC 722-8626 1:30 p.m.)

Priscilla Circle meeting at Krista Myers's home.
(2712 E. Randolph Rd., Edmond 627-7209 10:00 a.m.)

Circle Meeting December 18th

Abigail Circle meeting at Jean Nelson's home.
(3925 NW 46th St., OKC 623-8800 6:00 p.m.)

ADVENTure for All Ages – December 2nd

Come spend a relaxed afternoon and evening, from 4:00-6:30 while we prepare ourselves for the season of Advent. There will be activities for all, from hand-made and painted salt-dough ornaments, special music and Christmas Stories for the Children, to candle and wreath making for the adults. There will also be lots of fellowship time around our Advent coloring banners that will help us to focus on the Song of Mary as our scripture theme this year. Families will be able to bring their craft time together at the end, to build their Journey to Christmas Advent spiral. Adults without kids may enjoy creating one of these special advent spirals as well.

We will have Advent Devotions and guides available for all; from the traditional daily devotions, weekly family advent devotionals, to a free online app from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. We have also ordered enough of our children's family devotionals for our Pre-K students, and we pray that those families will be Advent-ing along with us! There will be something for everyone, to help you prepare your hearts and minds for the coming of Christmas.

Dinner will be provided. We'd be happy if you would please bring cookies to share. *-Leigh Miller*

Sunday School – Children and Youth

Our PreK-5th grades are beginning the Winter sessions of Growing in Grace and Gratitude from the PCUSA Publishing. "In Advent we see God's grace poured out. With Mary and the shepherds, we ponder and rejoice at this miracle. With Simeon and Anna, we marvel in God's grace. With the magi, we worship the newborn king. Through the stories of Luke, we are introduced to the beginning of Jesus' ministry as he is baptized by John in the Jordan River and then is tempted in the desert for forty days. Jesus announces his ministry quoting Isaiah 61 and people are at first amazed at his words and then angered at what they might mean. Jesus calls people to follow him, continuing to teach about God's upside-down world where the unexpected receive blessings and following God's way to live means loving, forgiving, and giving."

The Middle School and High School Youth will begin the month with a session on the meaning of Advent, and will have some short sessions, on various topics, before we begin a new series in the new year!

Children in Worship

The worship bags in the sanctuary have been updated with new art supplies and will have worship bulletins and coloring sheets available for each week's lectionary reading. All children (and even the big kids) are encouraged to color and engage with the sermon during worship. Leigh would love it if you share some of your in-church artwork with her! "I have a new bulletin board! Please share your art with me!" Children's worship time has transitioned into the Godly Play model. Leigh will have sign-up sheets available, at the beginning of December, for adults and adult classes, to experience a Godly Play session. See Leigh if you have further questions. *-Leigh Miller*

December Youth Schedule

- 2 ADVENTure – Youth will participate
- 9 4th Sunday at Urban Mission service and Christmas Party at Church of the Savior
- 16 Christmas Eve Acolyte Rehearsal
- 23 Christmas Eve Acolyte Rehearsal and Christmas Party (location TBD)
- 24 Christmas Eve: Youth Chorale to sing at both 4:00 and 10:30 Services



Please follow the FPCOKC Youth & Children on Facebook and request to join our GroupMe group. Contact Leigh for more info at leigh@fpcokc.org or 525-6584.

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Business Administrator—Becki Walden
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Director of Communications—Kathy P. Rangel
Director of Music & Arts—Dr. Warren Puffer Jones
Facilities Coordinator—Jack Lancaster
Organist—John L. Edwards
Pastor—The Rev. John McKinnon

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Sunday Worship Hours

8:30 a.m. Chapel

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Join us for the season of Advent!

Handel's Messiah Dec. 16th

6:30 p.m. Pre-Concert Talk

7:00 p.m. Concert

No charge.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 p.m. Watchorn Hall

All welcome.

Family-friendly.

10:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Prelude commences at 10:00 p.m.