

The First Word

**DECEMBER
2019**

December Lectionary

December 1

1st Sunday of Advent

Isa. 2:1-5;

Ps. 122;

Rom. 13:11-14;

Matt. 24:36-44

December 8

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 11:1-10;

Ps. 72:1-7, 18-19;

Rom. 15:4-13;

Matt. 3:1-12

December 15

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 35:1-10;

Ps. 146:5-10

or *Luke 1:46b-55*;

James 5:7-10;

Matt. 11:2-11

December 22

4th Sunday of Advent

Isa. 7:10-16;

Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19;

Rom. 1:1-7;

Matt. 1:18-25

December 29

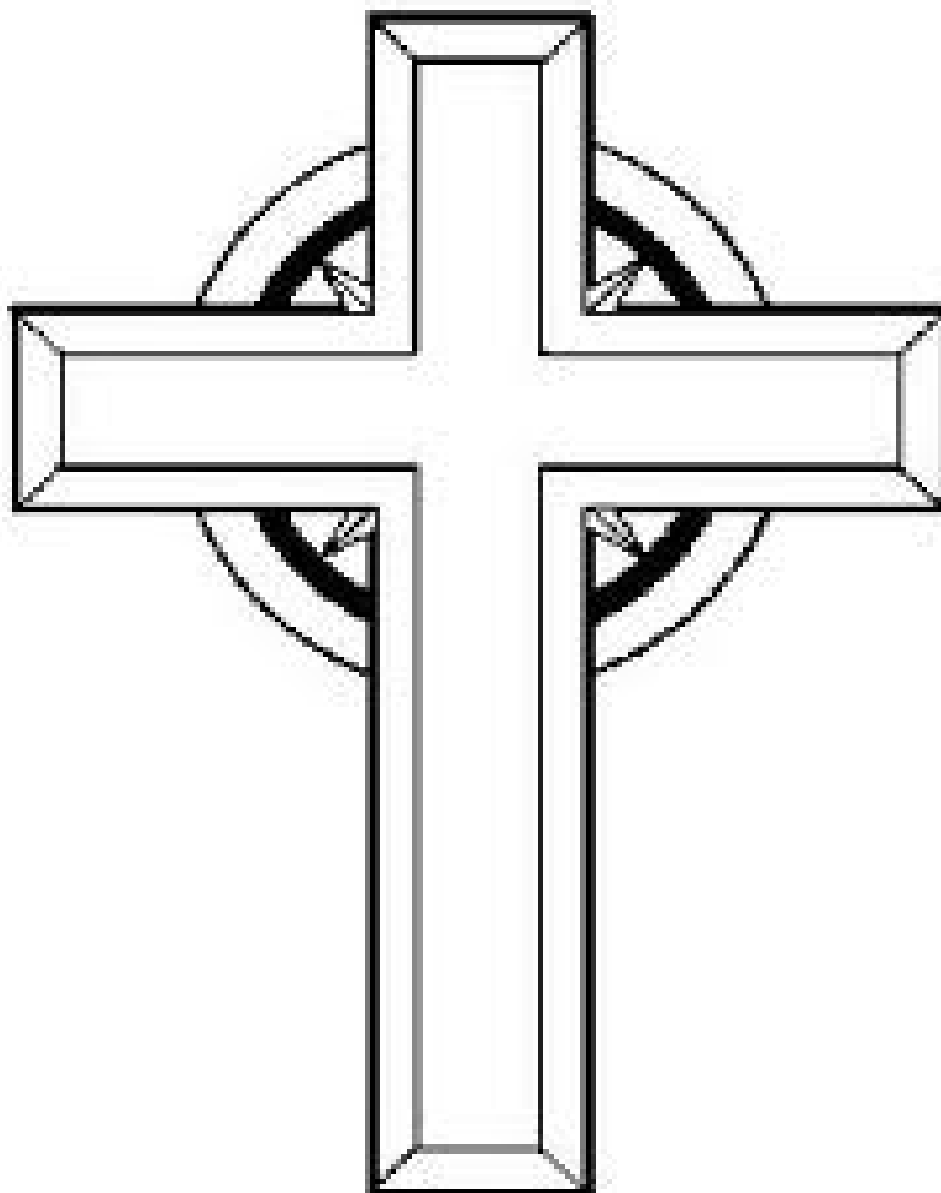
***1st Sunday after
Christmas Day***

Isa. 63:7-9;

Ps. 148;

Heb. 2:10-18;

Matt. 2:13-23



First Word Reflection - December '19

Between the Times

Advent is a time for waiting. For children, and most adults, it is a time of waiting for Santa Clause by decorating our houses with Frasier firs, wreaths, and lights. Sometimes we even have a little nativity scene set up somewhere out of the way. It fails to act as the vector to which our eyes are drawn like the Christmas tree. Even so, this infant Jesus ushered into the world by way of a virgin in a manger isn't all the focus of the Advent season. It is perhaps more so a time when we re-orient ourselves to the second coming of Christ.

Advent, after all, means "arrival" or "the coming of Christ into the world." While we do emphasize the first arrival of Christ, we do so with a keen awareness that the second arrival is the nucleus of Christian hope.

Karl Barth emphasizes Advent as a time when we remember our locale in the in-between; we are in both the "already here" and the "not yet" of the Kingdom of God. Christ has already come and enabled us to live into a new being, but we know the words of Isaiah shall not be possible without Christ's presence among us again.

In the days to come... they will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools. Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war.
(Isaiah 2:1, 5 CEB)

In the days to come we do not know when such a redemption will occur. Not even Jesus Christ knows. We prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ not with the fear and trembling of judgement; we prepare for the coming by living into Christ's call. Don't wait for tomorrow to do the grace that you could do today. Don't wait for tomorrow to share love, to be forgiving, to live fully and abundantly. Don't use any excuse to delay living fully in the loving grace of God. This is what we are called to do while between the times. Christ has assured us our efforts will be enough.

Blessings,
BJ



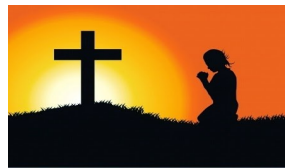
Vickie Bobo	December 1
Rachel Hurt	December 4
Sue Weiger	December 4
Arlin Dollar	December 5
Jon Fortman	December 10
Mark Porter, Jr.	December 13
Hope Oaks	December 15
Jim Hunt	December 16
Allie Porter	December 16
Taylor Richardson	December 17
Claire Hackett Ellis	December 18
Sue Hatcher	December 22
Abby Whitman	December 22
Beth Feland	December 25
Sam Dornan	December 30

MEMORIALS

Paul Douglas Lee

Jack & Harolyn Jones

Dale & Tori Pumphrey



PRAYER LIST

Beth Feland

Prayer Request

Desiree Krieger

Breast Cancer

Jim Hunt

Prayer Request

James Jones

Recovery after Fall

Diane Keen (Carol Jones Sister)

Recently Diagnosed with Cancer

Susan Whitman

Health Concerns

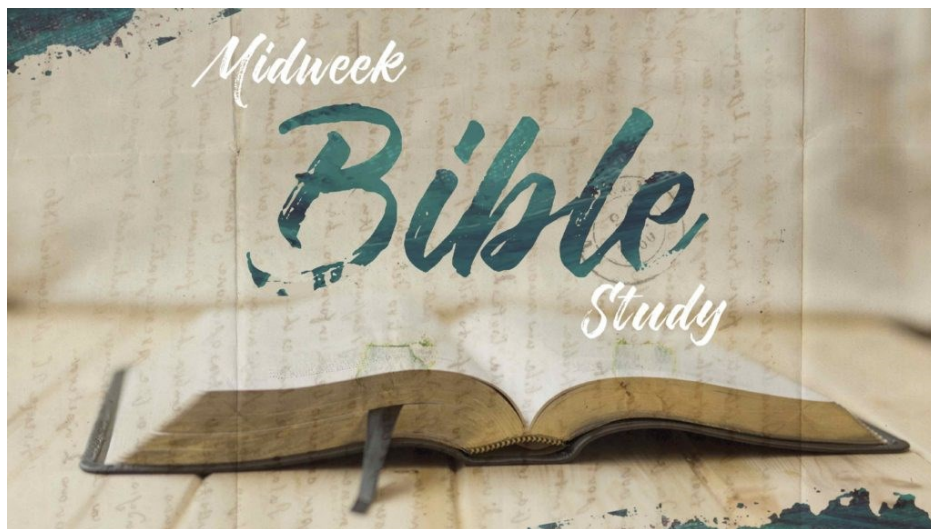
Lee Hackett

Surgery Recovery

Come Join Us Every Wednesday



Prayer Group Every Wednesday at 11:30 am in the Parlor



Bible Study Every Wednesday at 12:30 pm in the Parlor



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

While these are December Notes, I'm writing this with Thanksgiving right around the corner. My heart could not be more grateful to my new church family at First Presbyterian. The past few weeks and months have been some of the most challenging of my life while assisting my father towards the end of his life. I could have never made it through without the love and support that was coming from you. Thank you so much for loving me, my mother and my dad through this time.

I'm sorry you were never able to know my dad. I like to think I am a lot like him. Music was certainly a key factor in my relationship with him.

He was a wonderful folk/classical guitarist and he and I spent many, many hours playing, singing and listening to music. Even as dementia was stealing his memories, his love for music stayed strong and evident.

His care-takers were astounded by his reactions to music even in his final days. Many of my musical selections have been and will continue to be some of his favorites as I process his earthly departure and rejoice in his eternal healing. I have never doubted the healing power of music and it is an honor to have our church as a vehicle for sharing music for the purposes of worship, healing and community.

As we enter into Advent, I am especially thankful for our Loft Choir – your commitment, talent and energy bring me joy and warm my heart! Thank you also for your support of our guest musicians from MSU – we will have several guests present at Lessons and Carols and throughout the Christmas season.

Have a blessed December and see you in The Loft!

Christy



December Choir Schedule:

December 4	6:00 pm
December 11	6:00 pm
December 18	No Practice
December 25	No Practice





FPC has adopted a Christmas Family through the Salvation Army as we have in years past. The family has five children- all boys ages 3, 5, 6, 10 and 12. Our Christmas Family Angel Tree has been placed in the Narthex. The tree has tags that represent the needs of the children.

Each child has tags for clothing items and special wishes. Please consider taking a tag or two to provide a special Christmas for these children. If you would prefer to give a monetary donation, there are envelopes on the tree as well.

Place your donation in the collection plate designated: Christmas Family. All gifts and monetary donations must be returned to the church by Sunday, December 8th.

Please do not wrap the gifts, but include the tag from the tree so we know who the gift belongs to.

If you have any questions, please contact Marthalie Porter or Kathy Goodwin

Staff Love Gift



It is customary to distribute a *Love Gift* Offering each Christmas from members of our church to our Church Staff in appreciation of their work and service to this church. If you would like to participate in this year's "Love Gift", you may place your gift in the offering plate or bring to the church office by Sunday, December 13th. Please be sure to designate the donation: "Love Gift."

Bible & Brew



LET'S WEAR UGLY SWEATERS!

*Bible & Brew
Christmas Gathering*

DECEMBER 3RD @ 6PM
HARVEY'S

RSVP to Eric
662-352-3097 or ewdawgs@gmail.com
Don't forget your ugly sweater!!

Joy Gift Service

December 8, 2019

10:00 am



&

Soup & Sandwich
Fellowship Lunch
following the Joy Gift Service



Sunday, December 15th
11am-1pm

Christmas Gift Wrapping Service

Let the FPC Youth Group take the
stress out of wrapping your Christmas gifts!





JOIN US

Every Sunday at 11 am

DECEMBER

December 1	Help with BASIC
December 8	NO YOUTH
December 15	Gift Wrapping
December 22	Small Things: A Christmas Story Lesson
December 29	The Giving Spirit

Bring a Friend

BASIC

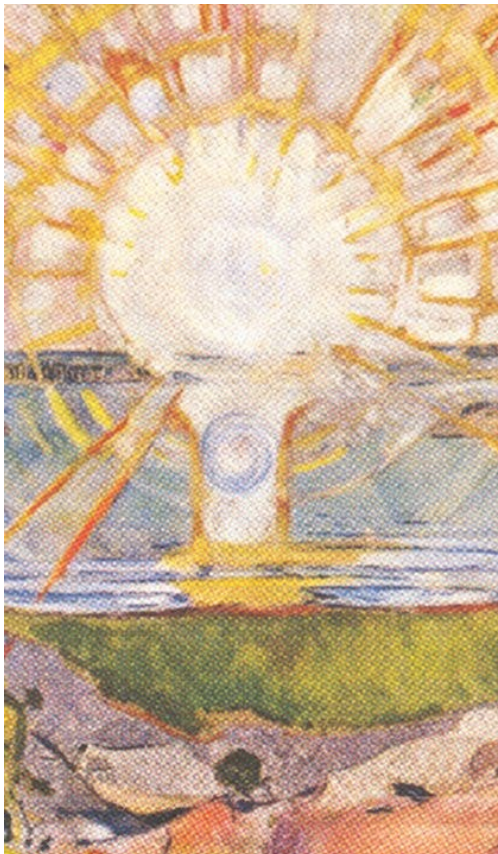
DECEMBER 1

11 am—12 pm

The Creation Story

Creation Day 3

“Let the land produce.”



God called the dry ground
“land,” and gathered the
waters he called “seas.”

And God saw that
it was good.

Then God said,
“Let the land
produce vegetation;
seed bearing plants and trees.
And it was so.

PCDP NEWS



The children of PCDP had a busy November learning about friendship, family, turkeys, and thanksgiving. We had our Friendsgiving Feast on Thursday, November 21st. The children had a great time having a special snack of chicken nuggets, popcorn, apple slices, and pumpkin muffins.

December will bring our units of study on holiday traditions, Jesus, and celebrations. Students will perform a Christmas program on Friday, December 20th at 9AM for parents and guests. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

PCDP will be closed December 23rd through January 5th.
We will return to school on January 6th

First Presbyterian Church

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