
Sunday Announcements

A warm welcome to all visitors. We are glad you chose to worship with us today.

Our liturgist today is: **Suzi Kifer**

Prayer Requests:

Prayers for: Evelyn Evans, the family of Mary Carpenter, Kriis Zeps and the family of Donna Campbell, Patricia Laughlin, Becky Ginter, Jennifer Wheeling, Bob White, Doris Palmer, Pauline Tabb, Loretta Moffett, Midge Rishel, Ruth Beattie's parents, Ann Johnson (friend of Bob White & Annie Rhoten).

A Called Congregational Meeting is scheduled for today following the 11am worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect elders and the congregational members of the 2019 Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee has constructed the following slate of officers to be elected at the meeting:

3-year Elder terms (Class of 2021): Debby Eddy, Julia Pratt and Barbara Rogers

1-year unexpired Elder term (Class of 2019): Tery Ackerman

2019 Nominating Committee congregational members (1-year terms): Joyce Abbott, Mackie Lockhart and Margaret Maxwell

Plan on joining us at the Annual All-church Christmas Potluck following the 11am worship service and congregational meeting today. We hope you will be able to attend and enjoy some Christmas fellowship.

Throughout Advent the decorations in the Sanctuary will change subtly as the story gradually unfolds. The Advent wreath in the front is our anchor for the four Sundays before Christmas. On this second Sunday of Advent, shepherds keeping watch over their sheep (a year-round job) have been added to some of the windows. While serving as characters who will in their own turn receive the glad tidings, these can also bring to mind the idea of God as Shepherd (Psalm 23, Isaiah 40:11). There may be angels about, but they are not yet interacting with the shepherds—perhaps they are rehearsing their choruses! On the chancel you'll see the stable and animals that will set the scene for the birth of the Christ Child.

Christmas Joy Offering. We celebrate the birth of Jesus through the Christmas Joy offering. Half of the offering is used to supplement pensions for former ministers, missionaries, church workers and their families with inadequate retirement income when assistance is needed or to provide grants when medical emergencies arise. The other half of the offering provides scholarships for outstanding students who attend Presbyterian schools founded as mission outreach to provide an excellent education for African American, American Indian or Hispanic students. (Menaul School, Presbyterian Pan American School and Stillman College.) Many will become church leaders and need financial assistance while they discover and prepare for their professional lives. The Christmas Joy Offering gifts help students listening for God's call and church workers who have tried to follow that call faithfully for decades. Our gifts are thanks for past faithfulness and hope for future possibilities. Envelops for this offering are in the pew racks. They can be put in the offering any Sunday morning or at the Christmas Eve service.

A word from your Stewardship Committee: as we near the completion of our Stewardship campaign for 2019, we would like to express our thanks for your generous response through your pledges. The Stewardship Committee is working to finalize a rough draft of the 2019 budget to present to the Session for their discussion and approval at their meeting on December 16th. If you have not already completed your 2019 pledge card, the committee would appreciate your giving prayerful consideration to doing so, in order that they can finalize the 2019 proposed budget for presentation to the Session. Should you need a pledge card, they are available in the church narthex or by contacting the church office. Thank you.

Westminster Village Christmas Basket Deliveries, December 16. To get Christmas off to a good start, deliver Christmas Baskets to Westminster Village on Sunday, December 16. There is a sign-up sheet on the Kitchen Hall bulletin board for those who can drive to deliver food. Hunter drivers pick up groceries at 2:15 behind Save-A-Lot on Southland Drive for delivery to Westminster Village on Versailles Road. Drivers are met there by youth from a number of Presbyterian Churches who unload arriving cars and deliver the groceries to the assigned apartments. The whole process is amazingly well organized and delivery to more than 70 families takes less than an hour on the part of those driving. Please sign-up by December 10.