



THE CHURCH MOUSE

First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Georgetown, KY 40324

December 2023. Vol. 17 No. 12

Pastor's Corner

Had a little bit of help preaching last Sunday, and for all of you who were there in person or online, it was a treat. One of our toddlers, comes up the aisle, climbs the stairs by the pulpit, and is suddenly surrounded by adults – a choir full of robed people, and the pastor in the middle of her sermon. I stopped and said hello, opened my arms, and he wanted up. I held him while I continued the sermon, and he seemed quite content for a while. Occasionally I asked him if he was still okay, and continued preaching. Eventually he got bored and wanted down. Hope the rest of you didn't get bored, but in a few minutes Luke started up the aisle, too. I loved it. **Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven."** (Matthew 19:14) But the most important thing is that to both of these little boys, church is a safe place.

When Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, His world was not a safe place. Born far away from home and family, He was born in a stable because no one would offer shelter to His mother. He was born into a hostile culture under an oppressive regime, and His very life was threatened by a jealous pseudo-king, Herod. Shepherds came and magi worshipped, and they weren't safe either. Anna and Simeon prophesied over Jesus at the Temple. Everyone who saw this newborn boy experienced a spiritual epiphany. And then Joseph took his young family to Egypt for a couple of years because Jerusalem wasn't safe, Nazareth wasn't safe.

Christmas Scriptures teach us about the remarkable arrival of our Savior; beautiful predictions fulfilled in the most unusual way. But the reason Jesus Christ came to earth was to make us safe. Standing between us and all hostility, He brings forgiveness, grace, peace, love, and joy. He brings us eternal life. **Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven."** Because Jesus came to earth as a little child, we can wander into Heaven like little children. Like Luke, Heaven is our safe place. We can climb up the steps to God's throne, and reach up to be held, and we are lifted into God's arms and we are safe.

Come to church this Advent and Christmas, and celebrate in our safe place here on earth. Worship with us, hear about our Savior King, Who leads us to our eternal home, our eternal safe place. Merry Christmas!

In the love of Christ,

Pastor Elizabeth Stone

Report from the Session**Session has taken the following actions:**

- **approved the use of the annex on 12/16/2023 for community children's Christmas party**
 - **approved the placement of a Narcan dispenser on church property**
 - **agreed to execute charter agreement with BSA to sponsor a cub scout troop**
 - **elected a Church Trustee for 2024**
 - **approved pay increase for church staff**
- **approved contracts for Choir Director and for Organist/Accompanist**
- **the next stated session meeting will be 12/13/2023 at 5:30 pm**

ATTENDANCE**11/05/2023 : in sanctuary, 45****11/12/2023 : in sanctuary, 37****11/19/2023 : in sanctuary, 47 (congregational meeting)****11/26/2023 : in sanctuary, 37****COMMUNION****Traditional communion will be served during morning worship on 12/03/2023 and again on 01/07/2024****CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ACTIONS****At the called congregational meeting on 11/19/2023 the following were elected:****Two ruling elders for the class of 2026 were elected.****Three members were elected congregational representatives to the****Nominating Committee for 2024.****A member was elected congregational representative to the Personnel Committee for 2024.****Bible Study**

Join the member-led church-wide Bible Study on Thursdays at 10:30 am via Zoom. A member leads the discussion which focuses on the book of **Luke**. Here's the Zoom address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82346112262>.

YOUTUBE

Our Sunday worship service is transmitted live via YouTube and is listed as First Presbyterian Church Georgetown KY.

NEW WEB SITE CONTENT

If you have visited our revised church website recently you likely were pleasantly surprised. In one unique feature you can view the YouTube recording of a previous church service in its entirety by clicking on the date of the service. Perhaps you want to share a sermon with a friend or maybe you want to hear the choir's anthem once more. Now through the magic of the www, the ability is yours. The website is www.pcgeorgetown.org.

MUSIC NOTES

We welcome anyone who enjoys singing to join the choir for practice on Wednesday evenings at 6:50. We finish at 8:10. See special note concerning Christmas music from the Director on page 4.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The **Betsy Bradley Circle** will meet at 9:30 am, Monday, December 4, in the church Annex. They will discuss Lesson 4 from the current Bible study which focuses on “Mary & Martha Encounter JESUS.” The PW Birthday Offering will be received.

The **Linda Sharron Circle** will have a potluck Christmas meal on Monday, December 4. Entrée and drinks will be provided. Everyone else is asked to please bring sides. If you wish to bring a donation for the women’s shelter at the Gathering Place, please do so. Please do not wrap it because the Gathering Place will distribute according to what the individuals need. Looking forward to a delightful evening.



GATHERING PLACE MISSIONS CONTINUE TO NEED OUR HELP

The next collection of supplies for the Gathering Place will be Sunday December 10. There will be containers in the Narthex for supplies for the Gathering Place Mission for Homeless Men and The Gathering Place Mission for Homeless Women and Children— both on Bourbon Street **ONGOING NEEDS:** Paper goods - large and small plates, bowls, napkins, toilet paper and paper towels (These items are the main ones that our church has approved to supply.) Also needed are personal care items and clothing.

Amen House



This year, **1,047 Thanksgiving Bags** were distributed to families in Scott County. Each bag contained a gift card for a turkey plus all the ingredients needed to make a generous Thanksgiving dinner. WOW!

Thanks to all who contributed!!

Wish List for December

Peanut Butter

Canned Tomatoes (diced or whole)

Soup

Canned Chicken

Bags of Candy (for Christmas events)

Personal Care Items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper)

Heavy duty grocery bags (Kroger Clicklist bags)

Reminder: There’s a collection box in the Narthex.

- Canned Soup
- Potato Flakes

ADVENT PLANS



We are looking forward to a very exciting and busy Worship and Fellowship schedule as we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons.

December 3 is the first Sunday of Advent. We will finish decorating the Sanctuary with the Hanging of the Greens.

December 9 is when the Live Wires travel to Woodford Theatre to see Miracle on 34th Street.

December 10 is the second Sunday of Advent.

December 17 is the third Sunday of Advent.

December 24 is the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. Our morning Worship service will include a Christmas Cantata by our choir. (SEE ANNOUNCEMENT BELOW)

Our Christmas Eve service on **December 24** at 6:00 p.m. will be a "Lesson and Carols" and will include a candlelight departure as we sing "Silent Night."

Every service during advent will begin with an Advent litany and lighting of the Advent candles.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHOIR DIRECTOR



If you love Christmas music you're going to love, love, love our choral Christmas Presentation "Gloria" on December 24 during the 11:00 service, You will love it even more if you come and sing with us.

Our director encourages anyone who wishes to be a part of the Choir's Christmas presentation this year to join us in choir practice on Wednesday nights at 6:50 to 8:10 in the sanctuary. We are attempting some gorgeous, but difficult music for this year's presentation. We have already started learning the music and would welcome additional voices.

There will be one Saturday morning practice on December 16, from 10:00 to 11:30.

Please do not wait until the last minute. Start learning the music now and be part of a "glorious" Christmas Celebration.

CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE

Adult Sunday School Classes meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

We continue to offer two Adult Sunday School Classes on **Adult I** meets in the Church library and uses current books by Christian writers to discuss how modern issues impact our faith journeys. Here’s the address to join the class via Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88041635485>.

Adult II meets in the downstairs classroom and is a more Bible focused class. The group is currently studying the book, *We Make the Road by Walking*, by Brian McLaren.

Young children are invited to “Children’s Church” during worship service.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



Again this year you have the opportunity to order red poinsettias to decorate the church for the morning and evening services on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, . These may be in honor or memory of a loved one or "just because." After the 6 pm service, the plant is yours to keep.

Please submit this form along with your payment:

___ Number of poinsettias

___ Payment, @ \$8.00 per plant, payable to First Presbyterian Church

___(circle) in memory or honor of _____

Your name _____

Deadline, December 17, 12 noon

Please put your order in the offering, via mail slot at Mulberry St. entrance, or by mail, PO Box 533, Georgetown, KY 40324. Note: If mailing your order, please send an email to the church office (presbyterian502@gmail.com) with your ordering information in case of any mail delays. In that way we know to be looking for it.

The Church Mouse

Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Georgetown, KY

Deadline, 28th day of the month

First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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Advent

DECEMBER 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3 First Sunday in Advent. Hanging of Greens, Light first candle. 9:30 Adult I and II Sunday School 11:00 Worship-Communion	4) 9:30 Betsy Bradley Circle 5:30 Linda Sharron Circle	5	6 6:50-8:10 Rehearsal for "Gloria" Cantata	7 1 pm Worship Committee	8	9 Live Wires to see Woodford Theatre "Miracle on 34th Streete"
10) Second Sunday in Advent. Light 2nd candle. 9:30 Adult I and II Sunday School 11:00 Worship	11	12	13) 5:30 Session 6:50-8:10 Rehearsal for "Gloria" Cantata	14	15	16) Special Cantata Rehearsal 10:00-11:30
17) Third Sunday in Advent Light 3rd candle 9:30 Adult I and II Sunday School 11:00 Worship	18	19	20 6:50-8:10 Rehearsal for "Gloria" Cantata	21	22	23
24) Christmas Eve. 11 am Choir Cantata. Light 4th candle. 6 pm candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols. Light Christ candle.	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28	29	30
31 Noisy Offering						