

First Presbyterian Church



November 28, 2021
9:30 a.m. In-Person & Live Streaming

525 North Broadway • Wichita, Kansas 67214 • (316) 263-0248
www.firstchurchwichita.org

November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Prelude on *'Divinum Mysterium'*

arr. Fred Bock

Greetings

*Call to Worship

*Hymn

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (vs. 1, 2)

No. 2

Advent Reading

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent means coming. With our Jewish brothers and sisters, we wait for the coming of the Messiah. As Christians we know this will be his Second Coming not his first. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, he grew up in Nazareth, he preached the Good News, he performed miracles, and he was crucified on a cross in Jerusalem. He died, was buried, and was raised from the dead. He told his followers that he would come again. We believe that day will come when Jesus returns to fully establish the kingdom of God on earth. But until that day as Christians, we wait as we celebrate his first coming in anticipation of his second coming.

Light the first purple candle.

Let us pray: O God of Advent, we find ourselves waiting for your coming this year like we did last year and the year before and the year before. Like the first Christians we can become discouraged by your delay in coming to us. Help us, O God, to recapture our hope as we tell the story of your coming to us as a baby born in Bethlehem as we wait for your Second Coming. Help us to remember that we are not only counting the days until Christmas but also when you will return to set up your kingdom. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

Silence

Choral Response

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Salvation is closer now than when we first believed. Repent and believe the Good News of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Song of Joy *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (vs. 1)

*The Peace

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Kid's Connection (pre-recorded)

Liz Norris

First Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Anthem

E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Second Reading

Luke 21:25-36

Sermon

"Look at the Fig Tree"

Dr. Rev. Brent O. Johnston

*Affirmation of Faith - Excerpt from *Brief Statement of Faith*

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Call to Stewardship

Offertory	<i>Winter Storm</i> Asael Castillo, Piano	Asael Castillo
*Doxology	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	No. 592
*Prayer of Dedication		
*Hymn	<i>Comfort, Comfort You My People</i> (vs. 1, 2)	No. 3
*Charge and Benediction		
*Postlude	Postlude on <i>'Veni Immanuel'</i>	Hal Hobson

*signifies congregation standing (for those able)

Worship Leaders

Pastor	Brent O. Johnston
Liturgist	Dave Fulton
Director of Music	Steve Bixler
Organist	Gary Huffman

Production Crew

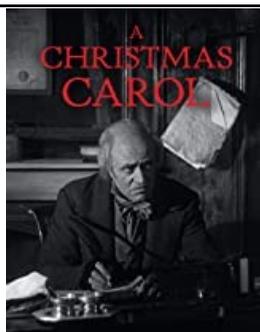
Dave Muehl, Sound; Sailor Sulier, Computer Graphics; Bob Moler, Camera Operator;
Video Editor, Michelle Edwards

News & Events

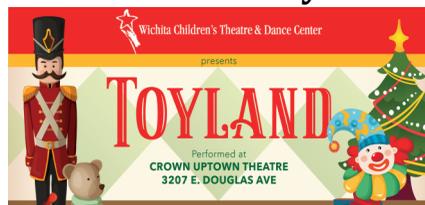
Advent Wednesday Night Series

In what way must we reckon with our past, present, and future as we listen to what the Holy Spirit would say to us through the spirits who visit Ebenezer Scrooge on Christmas Eve? We will look at segments of *A Christmas Carol* and then enter a lively discussion.

No preparation needed unless one wants to read the book or watch your favorite *A Christmas Carol* movie. **We will meet in *The Well* and on Zoom on December 1, 8, and 15 at 6:30 p.m.**



Family Fun Event on Saturday December 4th



The Family Fellowship group will be attending the "Toyland" performance by the Wichita Children's Theatre.

Please contact Liz Norris for details and to RSVP if you plan to attend. Tickets and space are limited.

Church Key Card System Failure

Our access system has failed. Replacement parts are no longer available. Hence, the system must be replaced. Maintaining access to the mail room and the handicap entrance are the focus until the new system has been installed. The new system should be installed in the next 2 or 3 weeks. We will know more once the contractor receives confirmation of when the equipment will be shipped. When we get close to the date of install, we will send out more information about how we will transition from the old system to the new. We apologize for this temporary inconvenience.

~ Roy Yarbrough-Facilities/IT Manager

SESSION NEWS

The Session has approved the call of a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing the four at-large members to the PNC. **The Congregational Meeting will follow the 9:30 Worship Service on December 12, 2021.**

The 2021 Nominating Committee will be presenting the following members for the PNC Brian Howard, Dick Wieland, Marilyn Heffner and Sailor Sulier.

Please recall that due to the restricted size of the PNC and the need for an in-person and virtual meeting, nominations from the floor will not be received.

Upcoming News & Events

USHERS NEEDED

Now that the number of members and guests attending worship is increasing, the need for ushers is also growing. This includes greeting members and guests at Sunday services, serving at weddings and funerals as well as assisting handicapped individuals. If you would be willing to consider serving our church in this activity, please let us know. Training will be provided, and schedules are flexible. **Please call Phil Michel at 316-213-5515 to learn more.**

A WORD FROM THE FINANCE COMMISSION

To save money, we did not mail out the automatic bank withdrawal authorization form with the pledge packets. We have placed the form on the resource table across from the church office. You may also, contact Sherri Miller, preferably via e-mail, at finance@firstchurchwichita.org, and she will send you the form. Thank you for your continued support of the church.

~ Finance and Administration Commission

Buy a FPC 150th Anniversary Cookbooks for Christmas!

The 150th Anniversary Cookbooks are here. These make a perfect Christmas gift. Contact Geri Doll or come by the office on Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to buy a cookbook. You may also purchase a cookbook on Sundays after worship. They are only \$15.



Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettias will once again adorn the Sanctuary for the Advent season. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one, the suggested donation is \$12. Please place your order by December 10. Envelopes are located outside of the church office.

If you mail your order to the church, please make sure to notate that the donation is for a poinsettia and who you would like it to be dedicated to. This year we will not have the poinsettia trees. It will be a scaled down version with fewer poinsettias. You may take your poinsettia home with you after the worship service on Sunday, December 26. **Thank you!**





Welcome, Visitors!

We extend a special welcome to those who are visiting First Presbyterian Church this morning. We are glad you are here! If you recently had a change in address, e-mail, or phone number, please feel free to contact the office on Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. so that we may update your information.

Please remember to turn off your cell phone before worship this morning.

Please sign in at the front entrance prior to entering the Sanctuary for Sunday worship service. Thank you.

Children's Information-Children are welcome in worship. We do not mind a little fidgeting and fussing in the pew. Finally, we encourage you to consider the Nursery, which is located in the south end of the Case Building, where we have trained Staff to supervise and engage your child from birth to Kindergarten. If we need to contact you during worship, just give us your cell number and we will text you, if needed. You and your child's (spiritual, emotional, and social) needs are important to us.

A quick reminder: Under the Child Protection Policy children are not allowed to leave the Sanctuary without an adult escort. In addition, all children and youth group activities including children in the Nursery must be supervised by a minimum of 2 authorized staff or volunteers. -Liz Norris, Director of Children's Ministry

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sympathy-The white rose on the baptismal font today is in honor of Naomi Lingwood who passed away November 19, 2021. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers as they grieve their loss. A Memorial gathering was held on Wednesday, November 24 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cozine Life Events Center.

Praying for the Church Family-As a congregation we weekly focus our personal and corporate prayers upon a selection of church members and friends. Let us remember in prayer this week the following: Gary & Loyce Booher, Mary & Mitch Crouch, Jr., Virginia Garver, Doug & Stephanie Hutchison, and Mark Johnson.

Worship in the McComb Room.

If you would appreciate being able to Worship in a quiet, peaceful setting, consider the McComb Room. The live streaming video of the 9:30 service is now available in the McComb Room in the northwest corner of the main floor.

Calendar

Sunday, November 28

- 9:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 9:30 Worship (Sanctuary) In-Person, Live Stream, & Facebook Live-Nativity Processional
- 10:00 WRCC Worship (C204)
- 11:45 Journey's Class (Hobbs/Zoom)

Tuesday, November 30

- 1:00 Staff Mtg (*The Well*/MS Teams)
- 2:30 Pastoral Staff Mtg (*The Well*/MS Teams)
- 6:30 Session Mtg (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 1

- 9:00 Dorcas (C105)
- 6:00 Youth & Kid's Club (YL)
- 6:30 Adult Advent Study Group (*The Well*/Zoom)
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday, December 4

- 8:00 Community Breakfast (KIT/WDR)
- 11:30 Family Fellowship Event (Offsite-Crown Uptown)

Sunday, December 5

- 9:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 9:30 Worship (Sanctuary) In-Person, Live Stream, & Facebook Live-Jesse Tree
- 10:00 WRCC Worship (C204)
- 10:30 Deacon's Mtg (C109)
- 10:45 Kid's Club Advent Workshop (*The Well*)
- 11:45 Journey's Class (Hobbs/Zoom)

SAVE THE DATE!

Shhhh! Silent Auction-Epiphany 2022

First Church is looking for folks who would like to submit a themed basket or items for a Silent Auction on January 9th. Silent Auction items can be a "themed" basket, artwork, a service, or even a gift certificate from your business. All items for the auction need to be delivered to the church by Saturday, January 8th for program setup at 10 a.m. If by chance you need to turn your donation into the auction earlier, you can bring it to the church office during open hours. When you deliver your item, you will need to fill out some information about your donation. Thank you for supporting your church family!



Fill your "spiritual cup" and another's by donating a basket of goodies to be auctioned off!

EPIPHANY BINGO 2022 ON JANUARY 9

Epiphany BINGO.....and the not so Silent Auction is on Sunday, January 9 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join your church family for a fabulous afternoon of fellowship with soup & bread, playing Bingo for prizes, and making bids on Silent Auction baskets.

- FREE Soup Dinner with a Bingo Card
- Folks will sit in Family/Friend Groups
- Small charge for a dauber and extra Bingo Cards

BRING FRIENDS!!

Donations are always appreciated! All proceeds of the Silent Auction will go to support spiritual growth and renewal of our congregation as we celebrate **151 years** of being the **First Church of Wichita!**

Contact Michelle Murray-Cline at 734-0243 for details or if you would love to assist!