

First Presbyterian Church



FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent

November 29, 2020
9:30 a.m. In-Person & Live Streaming

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

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Prelude	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	Hal Hopson
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Greetings

Call to Worship

Leader: Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; et us forgive one another. the night is far gone, the day is near.

People: Let us worship God.

Lighting of the Advent Candle Joan & Doug Aldrich

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)

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.**

*Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (Vs. 1 – 2) No. 2

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

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.

People: And also with you.

Kids Connection (pre-recorded)

First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

Anthem

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. Robert Hobby

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Sermon

"A Prayer for Deliverance"

Rev. Dr. Brent O. Johnston

Affirmation of Faith - Apostles Creed

Leader: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say:

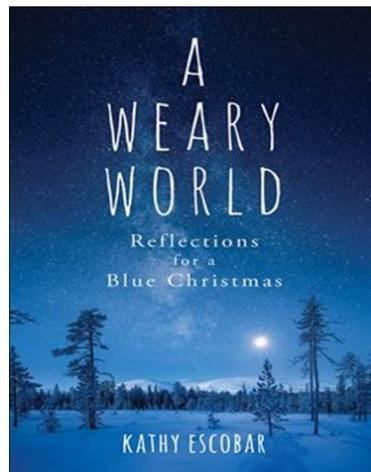
People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Upcoming Classes & Events

Wednesday Night Advent Class

***A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas* by Kathy Escobar**

For three Wednesday nights in December from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., I will be teaching a class on a book of devotions by Kathy Escobar. The main purpose of the book is to help people cope with the Christmas Blues that affect those who have experienced a profound loss and find it hard to get in the celebratory mood of Christmas. And as I think about all the loss so many Americans have experienced on account of this virus—loss of health, loss of life, loss of job, loss of physical contact, loss of social interactions, I think this is a timely study. In many ways Escobar's devotions take the form of lament. They allow us to bring our complaint to God, knowing that we will be heard and comforted by the one who is our Emmanuel—God with us. The class starts on December 2 and ends on December 16. The class will meet via Zoom. I will send out an invitation each week and a reminder.



Journeys Class to meet on Sundays on Zoom at 10:45 a.m. December 13 and 20 - *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Russ Davisson will provide leadership for the Journeys Class for two Sundays in Advent. On December 13th Ann Weems' poem "The Church Year" will provide the backdrop for a look at the church liturgic year beginning with the season of Advent. December 20th will be a continued look at Advent and Christmas with selected poems from her book *Kneeling in Bethlehem* as a starting point. All are welcome to join and participate in what we hope will be an expression of community.

Please plan to join us!

Upcoming Events & News

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 12. 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 that will be viewable on our live streaming service. Thank you!

CHURCH SESSION MOTIONS APPROVED ON NOVEMBER 24, 2020

There will only be one Worship service each week at 9:30 a.m. both in-person and live streaming through May 2021. (In order to maintain social distancing during worship, please do not sit in the pews that are roped off.)

- The Session voted to concur with the Worship and Music Commission's decision to NOT have an in-person Christmas Eve service. The service will be pre-recorded and available for all to view from their homes.
- The Session voted to suspend all meetings and on-site activities, except for Sunday Worship and the Community Breakfast (as limited below).
 - The volunteers who make the Community Breakfast possible will be allowed to operate inside the building. The Community Breakfast guests will continue to be served outside of the building.
- Member key cards will be active only during office hours from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday. If you need access at some other time, please call or text our Facilities Manager, Roy Yarbrough at 516-4772. The Session has discussed the issues created by COVID19 at every meeting since March 2020. They will continue to evaluate the situation and act accordingly each month. They wish they could provide a 100% reopening date for all church activities, but that is just not possible.
- Sunday Worship services continue to require the following protocols be adhered to: face masks are required, maintain social distancing, the west entrance is the only open entrance to the building, temperatures of all participants will be taken, the collection plates will NOT be passed but instead will be placed at the doors, and there will be no congregational singing during services.



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. **All persons must sign in upon entry of the building at this time.**

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

Children’s Information-Children are welcome in worship. We do not mind a little fidgeting and fussing in the pew. However, if you feel that your child is having a difficult time sitting through church, you are welcome to worship in *The Well*. Remember, quiet play in *The Well* is appropriate so as not to disturb others who are trying to worship. And, 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 look after 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. You and your child’s (spiritual, emotional, and social) needs are important to us. (Liz Norris-Director of Children’s Ministry)

A quick reminder: Under the Child Protection Policy children are not allowed to leave the Sanctuary or *The Well* without an adult escort. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

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: Virginia Garver, Tom & Helen Veatch, Mary Johnson and Brent & Catherine Johnston and family.

2021 Calendars Needed for Refugees-The Mission Commission is collecting 2021 calendars for the members of the Wichita Redeemer Congregation Church. As you receive complementary calendars that you cannot use, please bring them to the church during church office hours, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or and place them in the basket outside the office marked “Items for Refugees” during Sunday Worship service.

Calendar

Sunday, November 29
 9:30 Worship (Sanctuary) In-Person, Live Streaming, & Facebook Live
 10:00 Refugee Worship (Rm 204)
 10:45 Journey’s Class (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 1
 2:00 Pastoral Staff Mtg (MS Teams)
 4:30 Camp Committee Mtg (Zoom)
 5:30 CE Commission Mtg (Zoom)
 6:30 Evangelism & Hospitality Mtg (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 2
 6:30 Brent’s Advent Book Study (Zoom)

Sunday, December 6
 9:30 Worship (Sanctuary) In-Person, Live Streaming, & Facebook Live
 10:00 Refugee Worship (Rm 204)

2021 Stewardship Campaign Drive
 We have received \$292,218.00 in pledges so far. If you have not sent in your pledge card with the ACH debit sheet, please get that to us as soon as possible. If you need another pledge form mailed to you, please contact the office at 263-0248. The finance committee is working on the budget for 2021. Thank you.

Kansas Leadership Classes
 Through an arrangement with the Kansas Leadership Center, we will be having classes that will outline the skills needed as the church faces the challenges and opportunities for the future. Future class dates and enrollment information will be announced soon.

RAISE FUNDS FOR FPC USING AMAZON SMILE

You can also help earn money for FPC when you make purchases from Amazon. Amazon Smile is a program that donates 0.5% of each purchase to the charity of your choice. When you are ready to shop, go to <http://smile.amazon.com>, choose FPC as your charity, then shop!

