

First Presbyterian Church



December 12, 2021
9:30 a.m. In-Person & Live Streaming

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

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Gabriel's Oboe

Mission Ennio Morricone

Greetings

*Call to Worship-adapted from Isaiah 12:2-6

Leader: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

People: Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

Leader: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

People: Let us worship God.

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1-3)

No. 9

Advent Reading

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. Advent means coming. As we wait for the Second Coming of Christ, patience is called for if we are not to become discouraged or easily distracted from the ways of the world and the busyness of the season. As the world gets prepared for Santa Clause, may we get prepared for your Second Coming. Let us not forget that patience is still a much-needed virtue in sorting through what is truly important, so as not to fret over the small stuff. Just as You have patience with us help us to have patience with each other.

Light the third purple candle.

Let us pray: O God of Advent, give us patience this time of year when it seems that we have too much to do to get ready for Christmas. Help us to sort out the truly important from the trivial from the perspective of eternity. Give us grace and permission to drop old traditions to start new ones if they connect us more deeply with You and the Good News. Amen.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Leader: The Lord is near.

People: In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance.

We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

Silence

Choral Response

Assurance of Pardon

*Song of Joy *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (vs. 1) No. 8

*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.

Kids Connection

Liz Norris

First Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Anthem

There Shall a Star from Jacob

Felix Mendelssohn

Second Reading

Luke 3:7-18

Sermon

"Caught in the Middle: What to do?"

Rev. Dr. Brent O. Johnston

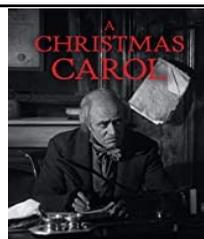
*Affirmation of Faith - Scots Confession

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory. Amen.

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 15 at 6:30 p.m.**

Church Key Card System Update

We have installed a new access system and the old key cards will no longer allow you access into the building or copy room. If you have an immediate need for accessing the church, please send an e-mail to Roy ASAP. There are two options with the new system. The first option and preferred option is smart phone app-based entry which is an app that is download to your smart phone and then it is registered to our system. Option two is a white card similar to the one we use now but there will be a \$5.00 fee for the access card due to the expense. We understand that not everyone has a smart phone, and some will need a card. We are doing everything possible to make this transition go smoothly.

If you have a need for access to the church, please email me with the below information:

- Full name
- Email address
- Group you are with (if applicable)
- How quickly do you need access?
- If you want the phone app (which is free) or the card (\$5.00 fee)

Thank you for understanding. ~ Roy Yarborough

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING ENDS DEC. 19th

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Thank you for your gift!

~ Patrice Cummings-Mission Commission



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.**

Buy a FPC 150th Anniversary Cookbook 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.



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 today's worship service.**

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

Shhh! 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. Thank you for supporting your church family!

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



First
Presbyterian
Church
of Wichita, Kansas

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.

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: Laci & Cole Haas and family, Charles Hoke, Dylan Warner, Alexandra & Steven Washburn, and Tom & Gerry Winters.

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, December 12

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

Monday, December 13

4:30 Personnel Mtg (Zoom)
6:00 Mission Comm. Mtg (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 14

1:00 Staff Mtg (*The Well*/MS Teams)
2:30 Pastoral Staff Mtg (*The Well*)
5:30 Finance Comm. Mtg (Zoom/Hobbs)
6:30 Stewardship Comm. Mtg (Zoom/Hobbs)

Wednesday, December 15

9:00 Dorcas (C105)
6:30 Adult Advent Study Group (*The Well*/Zoom)
7:00 Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 16

5:00 Project Laundry (Offsite)

Sunday, December 19

9:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
9:30 Worship (Sanctuary) In-Person, Live Stream, & Facebook Live
10:00 WRCC Worship (C204)
10:45 Journey's Class (Hobbs/Zoom)
10:45 Worship & Music Comm. Mtg (McComb/Zoom)

Soup Needed for Epiphany 2022

We are serving soup and bread during the Epiphany Silent Bingo event on January 9. We need volunteers to donate soup for this event. Please contact Alice Price at 841-7942 for details. Thank you.



EPIPHANY BINGO 2022- 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!