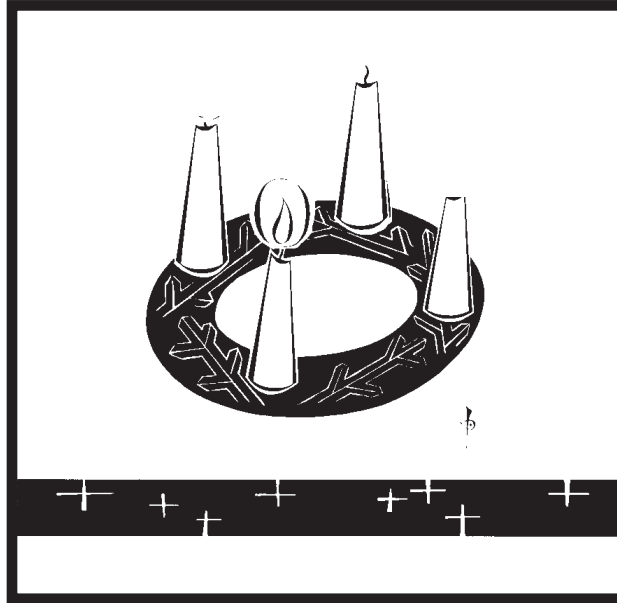


the 5:45



November 30, 2008

PREACHING today is the Reverend Deborah Knott

ASSISTING is the Reverend Jim Monnett.

THE MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANIST is Carol Muehlig.

THE INSTRUMENTALIST is Linda Speck, viola.

THE VOCALISTS are Sally Carpenter and Kristin Eder.

Our mission is to grow spiritually as disciples of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, mission, learning, and prayer. We commit ourselves, in all we say and do, to demonstrate God's grace and love.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC

Procession with Bells
Fanfare and Alleluia

*Moussorgsky
Douglas Wagner*

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**

The candle will be lit by Malcolm and Marion Powers.

Leader: On the first Sunday in the season of Advent, we remember God's promises to us in scripture. The Prophet Jeremiah said, "The days are surely coming, when I will fulfill the promise I made."

People: The prophet Jeremiah also says, "I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. And he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'"

Leader: Today on the first day of Advent we remember to prepare ourselves.

People: The Gospel of Luke tells us to "Be on guard, be alert at all times" for Christ's coming.

Leader: A sign of the season, an Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness. We light the first candle as we remember the promises God has made to us as we prepare for the coming of our savior. Let us pray:

All: God, in this season of preparation and promise, help us to take time to prepare and to remember the promises you have given us in your son, our savior Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Based on Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 21:34,36

OPENING SONG Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

CALL TO CONFESSION


SILENT CONFESSION

SUNG RESPONSE Christ Alone




1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my
2. There in the ground His bo - dy lay, Light of the
3. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

4




light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
world by dark - ness slain; then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious
pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal

7




ground, firm through the fier - est drought and storm. What heights of
day, up from the grave He rose a - gain. And as He
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of

10




love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His

13



cease. My com - fort - er, my all in all, here in the
me; for I am His, and He is mine, bought with the
hand; 'til He re - turns or calls me home, here in the

16



love of Christ I stand.
pre - cious blood of Christ.
pow'r of Christ I stand.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

HYMN Thy Word

Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet, and a light un-to my
path. When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way,
Still you're there right be-side me, And
noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near, Please be near me
to the end. Thy Word is a
(Repeat twice)
lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

I Corinthians 1:3-18 (N.T., p. 167)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON Reflections on the Church

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S PROMISE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC Jubilate

Douglas Wagner

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

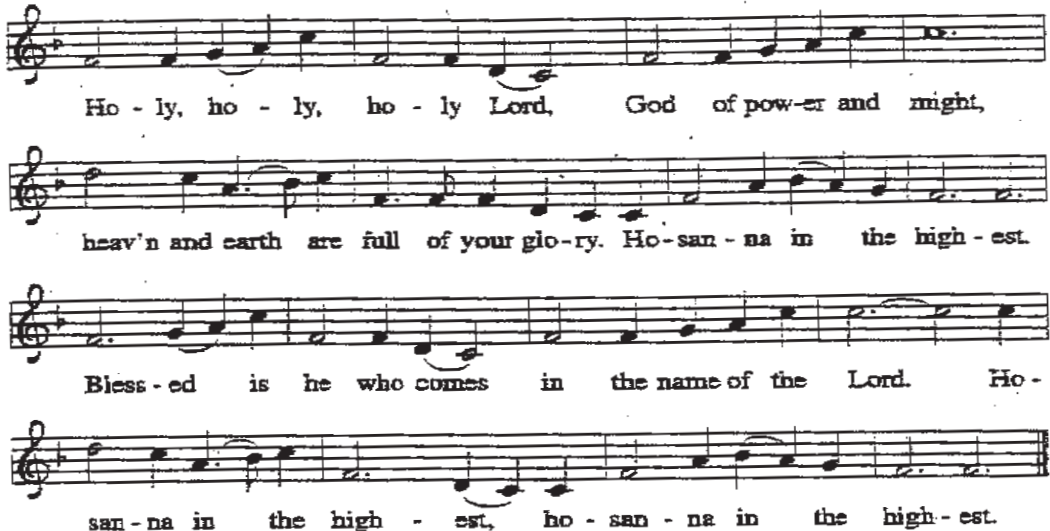
Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the LORD.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the LORD.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

HYMN Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Breaking of the Bread, Pouring of the Cup

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All communion chalices contain only nonalcoholic grape juice. We will partake of the Lord's Supper by intinction. The bread will be passed from one person to the next. We are all invited to take a piece. When the cup is passed we are invited to dip the bread in the cup and partake of both the bread and the juice together. Please use the words, "The body of Christ" and "The cup of salvation" when serving your brother or sister in Christ.

COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

WE DEPART WITH GOD'S BLESSING

SENDING MUSIC Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates *Macht Hoch Die Tür*



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the King of
2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot is hu -
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the rul - er
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a tem - ple
5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to Thee; here,



glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near; The
mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness, His
is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py homes To
set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy, A -
Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di - vine; Thy



Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion
scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of all our
whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less sun of
dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov - 'reign
face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To
woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings. To
joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free. To
en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin. To
guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -



God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

BENEDICTION

CAMPUS MEAL: Students, join us in the Curtis Room after the worship service, for the Campus Meal. All university students and college-aged individuals are invited to attend this time of fellowship and enjoy a free meal! There will be no Campus Meal next Sunday, November 30, due to Thanksgiving break.

The meal will resume Sunday, December 7.

Announcements

A full description of the events listed below can be found in our newsletter, First Press, available in the narthex, at the Welcome Center, outside the Church Office, or online at www.firstpresbyterian.org.

FOR THOSE GRIEVING, First Presbyterian is holding a six-week loss support group on Mondays, from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m., in the Lewis Room. Those who are grieving old or new losses are invited to meet together for mutual support and help during the holiday season. To join the grief group, contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers at 662-4466, ext. 12, or mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org. Note: The grief group will not meet on December 1, but will continue on December 8.

PARENTS – CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REGISTRATION FORMS are in your child's classroom. Pick one up and fill it out today. Return it to Deborah MacVey's mail box in the Church Office.

A FOUR-WEEK ALL-CHURCH ADVENT STUDY, is under way, using *Repentance, Faith, Holiness and Love: An Advent Study*, written by the Rev. Dr. James Howell and Rev. Joyce MacKichan Walker. Study guides are available in the Church Office for \$2. The study groups are listed on a poster in the Sanctuary foyer, and on a sign-up sheet in the Church Office.

VOLUNTEER AT ALPHA HOUSE: As we prepare for the upcoming holidays, please consider those in our community in need and sign up to volunteer for Alpha House, the family shelter on Jackson Road. Our next assigned week is December 1-7. Volunteer duties include hosting/babysitting, meal preparation, and overnight stays at the shelter. Look for the sign-up poster in the Welcome Center or in the Social Hall after the 9:30 service. Contact Lucie Audette (998-0152) or Nancy Vander Kuyl (741-1814) for more details.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS: Join us on December 3, from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. for an informal Campus Ministry dessert/game night hosted by university students Katie Jozwiak and Robin Snyder. Come to hang out and relax before finals start. All students are invited, especially if we've never met you before. Feel free to bring a sense of humor and a dessert to share. To RSVP and get directions, contact Katie (kjozwiak@umich.edu) or Robin (robinms@umich.edu).

THE ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS TEA, sponsored by the Presbyterian Women, will take place Sunday, December 7, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Curtis Room. Special music will be provided by the AAUW Recorder Ensemble, and Jan Warner's creche collection will be on display. ALL members of the church, newcomers, friends, family members, and visitors are welcome to attend.

THE POINSETTIAS THAT WILL DECORATE THE CHANCEL on December 21 and on Christmas Eve may be given in memory or in honor of a loved one or family member. To recognize someone in this way, please sign up in the church office by December 15 so the person's name may be listed in the December 21 and Christmas Eve bulletins. The suggested donation is \$14. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church, with "poinsettia" in the memo line. Following worship, the poinsettias will be delivered by the deacons to our shut-ins, those who are ill, and those who are grieving.

ORGAN CLUB PRESENTS "CHRISTMAS PLUS" CONCERT at First Pres on Tuesday, December 2 at 8:00 p.m. The concert, performed by seven U – M student members, will include music by Bach, Buxtehude, Dupré, Widor, Andriessen and others. Admission is free, donations will go towards the church's music fund. For more information, contact Aaron Tan, aaron@fpcy.org, or 763-5871.

A TWO-CLASS BAPTISM WORKSHOP will be held Wednesdays, December 3 and 10, at 7:00 p.m., for parents who are considering having a child baptized at First Presbyterian. **These two one-hour classes are a requirement for parents before children are baptized.** If you are anticipating a baptism, call Jennifer Sansbury, Executive Administrative Assistant, at 662-4466, ext. 16, to register for the workshop and discuss possible dates for baptism.

WE NEED YOUR SHINY BUTTONS AND PINECONES! The annual Advent Happening will be Saturday, December 6, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If you have shiny, metallic buttons to donate or have access to pinecones, please give them to Deborah MacVey, Director of Children's Education and Family Ministries, or drop them off in the Church Office.

USHER IN THE SEASON AT ADVENT HAPPENING on Saturday, December 6, in the Social Hall from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Bring the whole family to enjoy making crafts and gifts that help us understand the meaning of the season. Childcare is provided for infants through age two.

FIRST COUPLES WELCOMES DR. JAY SANDWEISS, Ann Arbor's renowned alternative, holistic, integrative healer, to speak on December 7, at 9:30 a.m., in the Curtis Room. Dr. Sandweiss, a renowned and respected practitioner of integrative medicine in Ann Arbor, is extensively trained in the fields of Osteopathy, Applied Kinesiology, Applied Nutrition and Chinese Medicine. He has maintained a highly successful, wellness-oriented osteopathic medical practice in Ann Arbor since 1989. All are welcome to attend this.

FEELING ADVENTISH? Hilltoppers will host a special program and presentation on December 11 at noon. Come for a lovely \$5 hot lunch, provided by our staff. Stay for the program, including sharing Christmas memories, singing Advent carols, and thinking about Advent with the Rev. Eldon Beery. Sign up to attend in the church office by December 9 at noon. You can “adopt” a table by bringing in your Christmas china, linens, glasses, and decorations (or any combination of those). If you would like to share your “goods,” please let email the Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers at mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org. Use your holiday china more than once a year! New friends are welcome!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING! Shop at Ten Thousand Villages, 303 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, December 8 -14, and 15 percent of the proceeds from your purchase will benefit the Mission Committee. Pick up a flyer at the Welcome Center and present it at the store with your purchase (flyers will also be available in the store). Ten Thousand Villages is a nonprofit fair trade organization that carries handcrafted items from 36 countries including places the Mission Committee has a special interest in - Peru, Haiti, the Philippines and Israel/Palestine.

PANCAKE SUPPER TIME AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH! Between 250 and 300 students will show up from 10:00 p.m. to midnight on Tuesday, December 9, for a delicious pancake supper on the last day of classes of the fall term. We give them a taste of First Pres hospitality, food for their spirits and for their bodies to help them study for final exams. Holiday decorations, good music, great food, and lots of chatter make the Social Hall a festive place. Want to volunteer? There is a job for everyone! Be a part the team ... like the the decorating team, or the team that passes out invitations to the neighborhood. Help out the team that cooks, one that serves, one that greets, one that distributes study snacks/desserts in the dining room, or the team of “nightowls” that cleans up. If you are unable to work but want to be a donor for the milk, the eggs, or the biscuits, for example, that’s possible and appreciated too. Join us good fellowship, lots of fun, a chance to see the campus ministry in action and a chance to contribute to this important ministry of the church! To volunteer, call Ginny Rezmierski, 971-6221, or send email to ver@umich.edu. It will start your holiday off with a bang and a smile.

A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PARENT INFORMATION MEETING will be held at 11:00 a.m., Sunday, December 14, in Monteith Hall. At this meeting, you will learn more details about costumes and rehearsal schedules. The family Christmas Eve pageant and worship service will be presented by the children of the congregation at 3:00 p.m. on December 24.

PRAYING THE PSALMS, our weekly prayer group, meets Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m. You are welcome to attend a meeting to receive prayers, or inform us of them so we can add them to our prayers. Pew cards can be completed and dropped in the offering plate. For information, contact Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers at 662-4466, ext. 12, or mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.

CAMPUS MINISTRY MID-WEEK WORSHIP, conducted in partnership with YoungLife College, is held Tuesdays at 9:00 p.m. at the U-M Student Union. Questions? Contact Julie Marks, Director of Campus Ministries, at jmarks@firstpresbyterian.org, or 662-4466, ext. 14.

Calendar for December 1- 6

MONDAY:

Body and Soul, 9:00 a.m., Curtis Room
Triangle Parent Coffee, 9:00 a.m., Room 204
Liturgical Dance Rehearsal, noon, Monteith Hall
Advent Study, noon, Vance Room
Advent Study, 6:00 p.m., Founders Room
W.E.B.S., 7:00 p.m., Curtis Room
Stephen Ministry Supervision, 7:00 p.m., Youth Room
Stewardship Committee, 7:00 p.m., Vance Room
Campus Core Group, 7:30 p.m., French Room/Library
Boy Scout Troop 7, 7:30 p.m., Monteith Hall
Sanctus and Gloria Ringers, 7:30 p.m., Room 403

TUESDAY:

Prayer Group, 7:30 a.m., Founders Room
Bible/Support Group, 10:00 a.m., Vance Room
Advent Study, 10:30 a.m., Glacier Hills
ESL, 4:00 p.m., 100 Level Classrooms
Campus Ministry Committee, 5:15 p.m., Vance Room
Haiti Medical Mission Task Force, 5:30 p.m., Curtis Room
Young Life College Leadership, 6:30 p.m., Vance Room
Campus Core Group Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Hillegonds Chapel
Evangelism Committee, 7:00 p.m., Vance Room
Campus Ministry Mid-Week Worship, 9:00 p.m., U-M Student Union

WEDNESDAY:

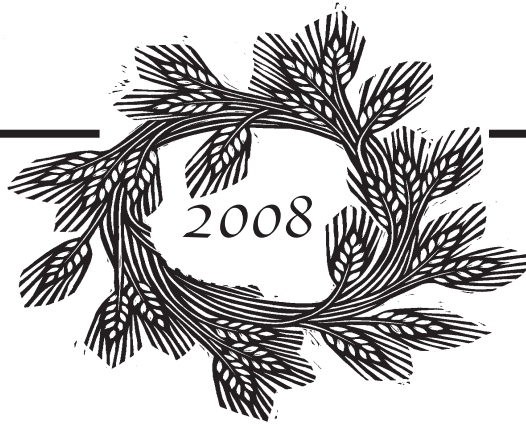
Triangle Nursery, 8:00 a.m., Monteith Hall
Advent Study, 1:00 p.m., Vance Room
Wednesday Night Meal, 5:00-7:00 p.m. (volunteers), 5:30 p.m. (meal),
Delonis Center
Hosanna Choir, 5:00 p.m., Russell Room
Alleluia Choir, 5:00 p.m., Room 404
MIDS, 5:00 p.m., Youth Room
Youth Choir, 6:00 p.m., Russell Room
Mission Committee, 6:00 p.m., French Room/Library
Advent Study, 6:30 p.m., Youth Room
Baptism Class, 7:00 p.m., Monteith Hall

THURSDAY:

Advent Study, noon, Vance Room
Vision and Strategy Committee, 6:00 p.m., Vance Room
Abide, 7:00 p.m., Founders Room
YEMC, 7:00 p.m., Youth Room
Chancel Choir, 7:00 p.m., Russell Room
Adult Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., French Room/Library



*A Stephen Ministry
Congregation*



Family-to-Family Christmas

Dear First Presbyterian Families:

Every year our congregation generously provides Christmas gifts of food, clothing, and toys for approximately 150 families in the Washtenaw County area. As many of those who have participated in the program will attest, the act of reaching out to others in need adds a poignant reminder of the meaning and celebration of our Lord's birth. This year, we again ask you and your family to consider giving from the heart by participating in the program in any of the following ways:

Adopt a Family. The names of families who have requested assistance are available at a sign-up table in the Social Hall between and after morning services on November 30, December 7, and December 14. These families range from elderly or disabled individuals to family groups of up to eight and sometimes ten people. The recommended minimum amount to spend per family member is \$25. Once you have received the information about the family, we recommend that you call the head of the household to find out what is needed, and then buy and wrap the gifts. We encourage you to deliver the gifts personally, or you may have a Family-to-Family volunteer either accompany you or deliver your gifts on your behalf. As an alternative, you may wish to purchase a gift card at an appropriate store and mail or deliver it to the family. One fun way to create a service project for your group or class is to work together as a group to adopt a family or take a collection to make a donation to the project.

Donation. Make a donation of any amount by using the special pew envelope and placing it in the offering plate, or by mailing a check made out to First Presbyterian Church (with Family-to-Family in the memo area) to the church office. You can also stop by the table in the Social Hall and deliver the donation. We will combine your donation with those of others and use them to purchase gift cards for families not directly adopted through our program. Financial contributions are also used to assist a number of families with loved ones at Mott Children's Hospital and U-M Hospital during the holidays.

Volunteer. You can make a gift of your time by helping to buy and mail gift cards, deliver gifts, or work the sign-up table. Volunteers are especially needed to help deliver gifts on the afternoon of Sunday, December 21st. For more information about adopting a family, volunteering, or joining the Family-to-Family Christmas team, contact Julie Morrison at 668-0420, or morrison@comcast.net. We thank you for all of your past support and hope that you will again join us in helping to make this a blessed Christmas for needy families in our area.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas,

The Family-to-Family Christmas Committee

Julie Morrison (668-040 or morrison@comcast.net)

Sarah Glinka-Endicott

Lisa Johnson

Paul Morrison

Wendy Rampson-Gage

