



# First Press

A NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR  
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## Dear Friends,

Advent is here! For this four week period, when the world around us is racing to prepare for an orgy of consumption, we Christians are called to prepare in a far different way. We focus on what already has been given us and on what is promised to us, looking both back in time and forward to a time beyond what we can imagine. Advent is a season of preparation. We prepare room in our hearts for an infant -- born to non-descript peasants two millennia ago -- an infant who is God incarnate, holy and divine yet human flesh. To this magnificent mystery we add preparation for Christ's coming among us for a second time, his coming among us as a mighty judge and as the advent of God's perfect reign. The texts we will focus on in worship pick up both of these themes. They call us to watch, to wait, to be ready in a way that does not involve shopping malls, tinsel, or turkey. We are called to wait for the gift that changes everything, the gift that defines who we are, the gift that celebrates our highest hopes. But our waiting is not passive. Instead it demands a concerted effort to live as God's people -- seeking to show love, to model forgiveness, to work for justice.

This Advent, focus on the One who is to come. Read the prophetic texts and the gospels. Come worship each weekday morning from 7:45-8:00 and center yourself in Christ rather than being swept away by the currents of commercialism. Spend extra time in prayer. Reach out to someone who is alone, or cold, or hungry during this time of family and warmth and abundance. And may this season of Advent be a rich time for you in listening for God. Together, let us prepare him room.

Grace and peace,

Fairfax F. Fair, pastor

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## Advent Reflections by Email

Receive our church's advent email devotional, written by various members of First Pres, and start each day of this holy season with a meaningful reflection. To sign up, visit the Advent 2011 box at [www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org), or email Rev. Mel Prentice-Hyers to submit your email address, [mprentice-hyers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mprentice-hyers@firstpresbyterian.org).



# YOUR ADVENT JOURNEY

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## All-church Advent Study - *The Uncluttered Heart*

Journey to Christmas with a small group reading *The Uncluttered Heart: Making Room for God during Advent and Christmas* (\$13). Meet new friends, and deepen your experience of this holy season. Select a group that works for you from the list below and email your choice to Rev. Brennan Pearson at [bpearson@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:bpearson@firstpresbyterian.org). To reserve a copy of the book, email Rev. Pearson. Groups are led by pastors and laypeople, and meet at First Pres unless otherwise noted.

Sundays at 8:00 a.m.

Mondays at 12:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. (at Glacier Hills, non-residents welcome) or 11:00 a.m.

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. (Amer's Deli, for 20's/30s)

## Special Adult Education Class

Join us on these Sundays of Advent at 11:00 a.m. in the Lewis Room, for a three-part series on Advent led by our Resident Ministers.

December 4th - Rev. Mel Prentice-Hyers, "A Protestant Perspective on Mary"

December 11th - Rev. Brennan Pearson, "Advent Through the Eyes of Children"

December 18th - Rev. Evans McGowan, "Joseph: Macho or Misunderstood?"

## ADVENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE FAMILY

### Hanging of the Greens

Before the Advent Happening, help decorate the Sanctuary and Monteith Hall on Saturday December 3, beginning at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome for this annual event. Decorate the church and share in the Spirit of the Advent season. Donuts and cider will be a treat for those who contribute!

### Advent Happening for the Whole Family

The Advent Happening features arts and crafts projects for people from age 3 to 103. Join us on Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 a.m. until noon in the Social Hall. Make gifts and ornaments, decorate cookies, and design Christmas cards. Bring friends! Childcare is provided for infants through age two. Make a reservation for childcare by calling 662-4466, ext. 342.



### Come to the Cookie Explosion!

Don't bake Christmas cookies this year, purchase them at the Cookie Explosion! All morning on Sunday, December 11, you can buy a wonderful array of home-cooked and original recipe Christmas cookies, plated and ready to go home. The proceeds of the sale will support our 2012 Youth New Mexico Mission Trip and other youth mission opportunities.

# YOUR ADVENT JOURNEY

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## ADVENT GIVING TO OTHERS

### Children Bring Gifts on Christmas Eve

At the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant, as is our annual tradition at First Pres, the children of our church come forward during the offering with gifts - new socks or underwear, simply wrapped in tissue paper. All sizes are welcome. After Christmas, these gifts are taken to the House by the Side of the Road and given to those in need. This humble offering is greatly appreciated.

### First Pres Helps Families

In Washtenaw County, 15% of families survive on less than \$22,000 a year, and almost 40% of single moms live in poverty. First Pres can help! Our members give those in need through the Family-to-Family Christmas program. Our Family-to-Family committee matches Department of Human Services clients with members and friends of First Pres. Those who “adopt” a family provide that family with food and gifts, according to their needs. Families range from disabled or elderly individuals to families of six or more. You select the family, then deliver the gifts personally before December 18, or have a volunteer deliver them for you. Adopt a family at our sign-up table at the coffee hour on November 27, December 4 and December 11 in the Social Hall. Consider having your church group, class, or friends “adopt” a family in need this year. Financial donations are welcome, too, and will fund gift cards for families not directly adopted, and families in need who have loved ones and children in the UM Hospitals during the holidays. Donations may be made at the sign-up table or by using the special pew envelopes in the Nave. Volunteers are also needed to help deliver gifts on December 18. To volunteer, or if you miss the sign-up table to adopt a family, contact Julie Morrison at [morrison@comcast.net](mailto:morrison@comcast.net) or 668-0420.



### Remember Your Loved Ones - Give Poinsettias

To remember or honor a loved one this Christmas, donate a poinsettia to worship on December 18. Poinsettias are \$15 each. Sign up in the Church Office by Sunday, December 13. After beautifying our worship, our Deacons will deliver them to shut-ins and those grieving.

Other ways to volunteer your help: – with the Campus Breakfast, see page 5; – at Alpha House during Advent, see page 7.

## SPECIAL ADVENT ADULT FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



### Join the Tradition: Women's Christmas Tea

The annual Presbyterian Women's Christmas Tea is Sunday, December 11, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., at the home of First Pres member Jenifer Martin, 3300 East Dobson Place (off Glazier Way.) Join us for music of the season, wonderful treats, warm drinks, and the gift of friendship with one another this holy season. We will provide transportation from your home or from First Presbyterian church if needed. Contact Jane Kinzinger (994-0444). Men are welcome, too!

### Christmas Soiree for Mature Adults

Come to an evening party, sponsored by Mature Ministries, to celebrate the Christmas season. Join us at the home of First Pres member Bea Kalisch, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Friday, December 16. Enjoy dinner, drink, music, and games. Bring a dish to share (side dish, salad or dessert), a “White Elephant” gift, and new warm winter items such as gloves, hats, or wool socks for the upcoming rotating shelter program. Sign up soon in the Church Office or email Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers at [mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org).

# YOUR ADVENT JOURNEY

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## SPECIAL ADVENT WORSHIP

### Start Your Advent Days with Worship

In the spirit of the Iona community's daily worship service, all are welcome to join us from 7:45 to 8:00 a.m. in the sanctuary each weekday during Advent through Friday, December 24. Services will be short and simple and provide a moment of calm in this busy season.

### Advent Lunchtime Recitals

Advent recitals will be held in the chancel on three Fridays at 12:15 p.m. during December. December 2 will feature bells and readings; December 9 will feature Lorna Hildebrandt's trio presenting music of the season; and December 16 will feature our chancel choir. With the help of our resident ministers, these brief half-hour services will enhance your preparation for the true spirit of Christmas.

### Glacier Hills Lessons and Carols

A special Advent Service will be held in the Glacier Hills Hanson Room (1200 Earhart) on December 12, at 10:30 a.m., led by our pastoral staff, with Dr. Fairfax Fair preaching. A reception will follow hosted by Deacons Dick Rigterink and Sandy Anderson. All are welcome! If you can help us gather the residents, or provide support in other ways, contact Dick at [dr@thecampusstudio.com](mailto:dr@thecampusstudio.com).

### Longest Night Worship Service: December 18, 5:05 p.m.

"Comfort ye my people." The opening words of Handel's Messiah are a familiar sound at this time of year, and a real need. Many struggle through the increasing physical darkness that leads to the winter solstice, our longest night, but also with personal darkness -- feelings of loss as we contemplate Christmas without loved ones, a holiday made uncertain by continuing economic concerns, or the brokenness in our lives that separates us from one another. If you know anyone whose Christmas joy is mixed with pain, please invite them to attend this "Longest Night" service with you. On Sunday, December 18 at the 5:05 worship service in Monteith Hall, we gather to acknowledge this darkness, to share our hurts with God, and to open our hearts to the light God has promised us in Jesus. Stephen Ministers, whose ministry is one of compassionate Christian presence, invite you to join them in a time of fellowship after the service. Mulled cider and Christmas cookies will be served. Come for prayers, scripture, music, communion, and community. We, the people who walked in darkness, shall be the people who have seen a great light. For more information, contact Stephen Leader Kathy Wirstrom, [sministry@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:sministry@firstpresbyterian.org).

### Christmas Eve Services

Join us for on Christmas Eve to welcome Christ's holy birth!

3:00 p.m. — Family Service and Christmas Pageant

5:00 and 7:30 p.m. — Service of Lessons & Carols and Candlelight

11:00 p.m. — Service of Communion and Candlelight

Note: The Christmas Eve offering will go to the Peace Neighborhood Center (see page 9).

Please be considerate in parking choices as many visitors join us. We recommend the Forest Street structure, a short walk down Forest Court, for our able-bodied members.

### Special Worship Times - Please Note!

Christmas Day, one service, 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Day, one service, 10:00 a.m.



# Youth Connection

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## Youth Holiday Celebrations

The MIDS Christmas Party will be Wednesday, December 14, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Brinkerhoff home. Bring a wrapped gift costing no more than \$7. The Keystone Christmas Party will be held Sunday, December 18, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the King home. Bring a wrapped, used DVD or a couple of CDs for gift exchange (no homemade cds) and a dessert to share. (Note: MIDS resumes on Wednesday, January 1. Keystones will resume, on Sunday, January 15, after the Florida Mission Trip.)

## December Youth Mission Trip

Keep our high schoolers and leaders in your prayers, January 1 - 8, as they return to the migrant community of Immokalee, Florida to continue doing FEMA trailer rehabbing for IHOPE. Interested in going? Three spots are still available. Thirteen students are currently signed up to go with Rev. Evans McGowan, Grace Lindvall, and Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett (RJ). Trip cost is \$150 plus airfare (as of mid-November, \$304 with luggage free). Contact RJ soon!



## Summer Youth Mission Trip: Sign Up Now

Join us this summer in New Mexico! Keystone Leaders are excited to go to Las Cruces, June 17 - 25, and join with our Boise church friends, as together we rehab homes and lead a Vacation Bible School for immigrant children. The cost is \$500, plus \$270 in fundraising. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and put in RJ's mailbox, or email him ([jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org)) to be added to the list. Scholarships are available. Those new to mission trips need to apply to go on the trips. Freshman and new friends can apply online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/high-school-mission-trips-application/>.

Questions? Contact The Rev. Dr. Jim Monnett at [jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:jmonnett@firstpresbyterian.org), or 662-4466, ext. 376. (Note! For those going, a great way to raise your \$270 is to work at the concession stands in the Big House during home football games. Lots of help will be needed for the UM vs. OSU game. Email RJ to sign up.)



# Campus Ministry

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## Annual Pancake Supper: Flip for University Students

The annual pancake supper for university students is Tuesday, December 13 from 10:00 p.m. until midnight. Planning is underway, and if you would still like to volunteer for this festive event or make a donation for milk, eggs, juice, sausage, biscuits, or other items, please contact Susan Cares ([scares734@comcast.net](mailto:scares734@comcast.net) or 663-8342) or Bill Wolters ([william.wolters@gd-ais.com](mailto:william.wolters@gd-ais.com), or 604-8062).



# Church Life

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## New Webmaster

We welcome Lisa Hadrill as our new First Pres webmaster. If you have an announcement for the website, contact Lisa at [lhadrill@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:lhadrill@firstpresbyterian.org). Help us welcome Lisa to the First Pres staff and family.

## FIRST PRESS: New Deadline and New Info

In the process of evaluating communications at First Pres, changes are being put in place to make information dissemination more accessible and streamlined.

- The newsletter deadline is now the 10th of each month.
- Announcements and articles should be kept as concise as possible so there might be room for a picture or graphic to highlight the information. Articles are subject to being edited by the team that puts First Press together. Some articles may not end up being published depending on space requirements. We are aiming for a 6 - 8 page newsletter.
- Articles will run only once except in unusual circumstances. If an event being publicized is within the first few days after publication, please consider running it the prior month
- Lisa Hadrill ([lhadrill@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:lhadrill@firstpresbyterian.org)) should be contacted for things to be updated on the website.
- Bulletin announcements (also to be kept short) should go to Mary Jones ([mjones@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mjones@firstpresbyterian.org))
- If a group plans to use a poster to publicize an event, it must be approved by Budge Gere.



## December Hilltoppers

Join us December 8 to hear about "Innocence." David Sanders, a retired planner from Detroit, will talk about his organization, Proving Innocence, which helps free those wrongly convicted. With him will be Ken Wyniemko (shown at left). Ken, who is a Christian, spent almost 10 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit and was finally exonerated through DNA evidence. Together, we'll discuss the problems of the criminal justice system and how so many false convictions occur. Ken will share how his faith helped sustain him. A fascinating discussion! Sign up in the Church Office for the \$5 hot lunch and program.

## Mature Singles December Programs

Join us on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. in the Curtis Room. New members welcome!

- December 4 Clark Charnetski, the Vice-Chair of the AATA Local Advisory Council, and a former Chair of the Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, will speak about the future of trains and transit in Michigan.
- December 11 Elizabeth Breneau, St. Joe's Hospital dietician, will speak about healthy eating.
- December 18 Mature Singles will meet for a festive potluck to celebrate the Christmas Season.
- January 1 New Year's Open House at Marcy's at 1 PM. Call her at 995-2519 if you would like to attend.

## All-church potluck coming soon!

The third Sunday potluck is December 18, at Noon in the Social Hall. Bring a simple dish to share and enjoy a relaxing potluck with old and new friends. We are saving you a seat!

## Stewardship 2012- Everyone Counts!

As of November 11, our flower garden now has over 545 flower commitments growing! Thank you to everyone who has turned in their completed Financial Commitment Card, Commitment to Serve Cards, and flower bulb to plant. If you have not returned them yet, please do so soon. Stewardship Committee members and Church Elders will soon contact all member



## Church Life (continued)



households who have not returned their commitment cards. Remember that your gifts include prayer, time and talents, and financial resources, and that all gifts, great and small, will sustain and grow the ministries and mission of our church. For those who prefer, make both your financial commitment and commitment to serve online by going to: <http://firstpresbyterian.org/content/stewardship-2012> and <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/q7x0z9/>. If you have questions concerning how to make your financial commitment, please call the Church Office (662-4466) and ask for John Sampsel, Finance Manager.



## Church, Community and World

### **Volunteer at Alpha House in Advent!**

First Pres will serve as congregational host at Alpha House (IHN's family shelter on Jackson Road), November 28 to December 4. Volunteers can cook, shop, or help with childcare. Look for our yellow sign-up poster located near the Welcome Center or in the Social Hall during Coffee Hour on Sundays. Contact Nancy Vander Kuyf (741-1814, [nanspan@gmail.com](mailto:nanspan@gmail.com)), for more information. New volunteers are welcome!

### **Haiti Medical Mission Team in Leogane**

First Pres sent seven team members to Hopital Ste Croix (HSC), Leogane, Haiti in October to provide mobile medical clinics and work at the hospital. We provided medical care to 748 patients, treating a variety of medical conditions. A team dentist pulled over 120 teeth. On Sunday morning, we worshipped with Ste Croix church on the hospital complex site. It continues to be housed in a temporary structure on the basketball court of the old school site. After services, we again posed for a group photo on the steps of the old church, now destroyed post earthquake, at the same spot many of us had posed 2 years ago. We toured the progress on the HSC school site, as well. In addition, Rev. Brennan Pearson also traveled to Jacmel to visit PaZaPa. He observed the school, made a home visit, and delivered 6 months of seizure medication to the facility for the children who suffer frequently from these disorders. The team was able to make a visit to Faculty of Science in Nursing-Leogane (FSIL), with a short tour and meet Hilda Alcindor, Dean. We used their new van, purchased with a Seeley grant from First Pres. Progress can be seen throughout Leogane. Much rubble has been removed around the city, many of the tent cities are now gone, and new construction can be found. HSC itself continues under construction and upgrades from PC(USA) funds. We



thank First Pres member and the mission committee for their continued donations, prayers, and support of the Haiti Medical Mission Task Force. Come to our December 6 meeting at First Pres, for an in depth sharing about the mission trip and plans for a mid-May 2012 trip. You need not be a medical professional to make a HUGE difference in Haiti and assist the medical team. For more information on the upcoming meeting or trip, contact Lisa Kerr Johnson, team leader, [drj8@juno.com](mailto:drj8@juno.com).



# Church, Community and World (continued)



## Shelter the Homeless this Winter at First Pres

First Pres will be hosting the Rotating Shelter January 2 - 16, in the Social Hall. We will provide sleeping space for about 35 homeless men, pre-screened by the Washtenaw County Shelter Association, for a two-week period. Many volunteers are needed, Check your schedule and pick night(s) and/or morning(s) that work best for you. Minimal training is needed and given if you are first-timer, and we'll have many past participants to help. Each night, we need four overnight hosts (from 8:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.), morning and evening drivers, home-baked goodies and

fruit, and donations of hats, gloves, socks, and gently used backpacks. Evening volunteers do get sleep! Contact Sue Chandler (suechandler@comcast.net) with questions or to sign-up. Sign-ups begin November 27. We look forward to your help.

## How First Pres Shares at Delonis

How does First Pres help at the Delonis Center, the shelter for homeless men and women in Ann Arbor? Many First Pres volunteers help on Wednesday nights with the meal or card program. Many help at First Pres when the shelter expands to add the rotating shelter in January (see above.) But for Christmas, yet another way we support men and women who are homeless in our community is with the gift of warmth. As part of our Christmas tradition, our card program volunteers purchase and disperse 130 hats and packages of socks to the shelter guests. Guests welcome this gift during these harsh winter months. Thanks to First Pres members for their ongoing generosity!

## Friends In Deed Needs Your Used Furniture

Friends In Deed operates the only free large-scale furniture program in Washtenaw County. Their inventory is low and they need our help! Do you have something you no longer use but still has life left in it? Donate it to the Furniture Program at Friends In Deed, and make a difference to a family in need. Contact the Friends In Deed Furniture Line, Tuesdays through Fridays, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, at (734) 484-7607.



## 2011 Leaf Raking Extravaganza

Thanks to the 64 members and friends of First Pres who came to the Leaf Raking Extravaganza on November 20. A great time was had by all and our grounds look wonderful!

Many thanks from your property committee, and Rev. Gere, Executive Associate Pastor.





# Opportunities for Women

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## Women's Evening Bible Study (WEBS)

Join us on December 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Curtis Room. Betty Anderson will lead Lesson 3, "Greatly Honored are the Humbled." Contact Jennie Lombard, 663-7244 for information.



## Women's Reading Group

Join us on December 14, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Meg Brown to study "Does God Get What God Wants" in *Love Wins* by Rob Bell. Contact Barbara Black, 663-6289, for details or book information.

## Presbyterian Women of the Detroit Presbytery - Advent and Christmas Gathering

Join us on December 7, 2011 at 9:45 a.m. at Northbrook Presbyterian Church (22055 W. Fourteen Mile Rd., Beverly Hills) for a special Christmas program, the recognition of honorary memberships for June-December 2011, a "Small Change for Hunger" collection, and the Ingathering full report. Lunch is at 12:30 p.m., for \$10, and reservations are due to Barb Paulson, Northbrook church secretary, at (248) 642-0200. For information or directions, contact Ruth Barnard, [rbarnard@umich.edu](mailto:rbarnard@umich.edu).

## Women's Christmas Tea

Join us on Sunday, December 11. See page 3 for more information!



# The Healthy Church

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## Walk for Yourself - Walk for Others

On a Sunday morning, have you thought about walking to church from your home, or parking on nearby streets? If you park at the Forest Avenue parking structure and walk to church down Forest Court, you will walk about 250 steps in just a few minutes. Parking at the parking structure and on the side streets is free on Sundays, and is considerate gift to many in our church family. Our visitors, the elderly, and those who have difficulty walking will appreciate having more parking spaces available in our church parking lot.

Walking is a low-impact exercise that can ease you into a higher level of health and fitness. Walking can help you manage your weight, lower blood pressure, improve cholesterol levels, manage type 2 diabetes, and improve mood. For maximum health benefits, try to walk 30 to 60 minutes a day, most days of the week. You don't need to do it all at once. Walking for 10 minutes on a lunch break, or at the mall or to school or work add up. Why not start on Sunday? For more information on how to get started with a walking program, see [www.mayoclinic.com/health/walking](http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/walking), or contact Martine Blogin, parish nurse at 662-4466 ext 350, [mblogin@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:mblogin@firstpresbyterian.org).