



MONTEREY and BEULAH

December 2022 eNewsletter

Advent — Early Christians started celebrating Advent around 300 AD as a time of fasting and asking God for forgiveness of their sins. It became a tradition first in the Catholic church.

By the 1830's, the Lutheran Church started using a wreath with candles during the season of Advent. Today, all Christian denominations recognize Advent, although traditions can differ or not be practiced at all.

Last year, pastor Rick Hill focused on the names for Jesus from the "Messiah" during worship. This year we are loosely following the traditional themes used when lighting the Advent candles.

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| ❖ Week 1 – Hope | usually purple |
| ❖ Week 2 – Peace | usually purple |
| ❖ Week 3 – Joy | usually pink or purple |
| ❖ Week 4 – Love | usually purple |
| ❖ Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service | white |

Once again, if a reporter asked me today how I was preparing for Christmas, I'd probably say, "I'm cleaning my house so I can decorate, thinking of a holiday menu and grocery shopping, finishing the gifts I'm making and any last minute shopping, trying to send a few Christmas cards with personal notes, and so on. Just writing that down is a startling reminder that I'm completely missing the opportunity Advent gives me to prepare myself spiritually. How about you, do you feel the same?

Advent means "coming" and is a liturgical season where we can celebrate:

Christ has come into our world.

Christ is coming into our lives.

Christ will come again to fulfill our hope for a new world of peace and love.

As Christians, we know that Christmas is about Jesus, but when I look at the 4 weeks between now and Christmas Day, how many of my days and hours are devoted to preparing for the birth of Christ?

Let's take the opportunity this year to make time to prepare ourselves for Christmas. Here are a few ideas:

- Let's help children understand that waiting and hoping this time of year is more than thinking about Santa.
- Attend a worship service every week. If you can't participate in person, join a service online or via radio or TV.
- Participate in one of the weekly activities or mission projects offered by either church. We draw closer together as a church family when we anticipate the birth of Christ together.
- Really listen to the words of Advent of hymns. This week we will sing the first verse of "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus". Repeat it as a poem or prayer during the week.
- Make yourself an Advent calendar or wreath to help you dedicate time for preparation.
- Set up a nativity in your home and think about, or discuss with family, the journey of Mary and Joseph.
- Sit in the presence of God, even for a minute, and rest your mind, body and soul.
- Pray for those you know, or those you know about, who are suffering.

NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Beginning December 1st,
Read one chapter of
The Book of Luke in the Bible
each evening.
There are 24 chapters.
On Christmas Eve you will have read
an entire account of Jesus's Life
and wake up Christmas Morning
Knowing WHO and WHY
We Celebrate!!

The suggestions above are just a start. Many of you are already doing your own or will come up with new ideas. Please feel free to share them, either in a photo or writing a brief description to share in the newsletter.



PRAYER LIST – Keep Marlene Reynolds, Mike Armstrong, Garland and Lillian Dever, Carlton Hull, and Carole Soukup, sister of Mary Lou Cox. Carole's husband of 56 years, Charlie, passed away last week in Richmond.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 27 – December 18 – We will be collecting the Joy Gift offering.

More information in the article below.

December 4 – Communion served at Monterey. There will be a lunch after church followed by craft making for VPAS bags.

December 15 - Presbyterian Women meet via WebEx and will be studying lesson 4.

December 18 – The bell choir will be playing during the Beulah and Monterey worship services. The Monterey service will be led entirely by the secondary youth. There will be covered dish lunch after church at Monterey and all are invited. They will be assembling VPAS bags that will be delivered on 12/19. Weather permitting, those that wish to go Christmas caroling will walk around Monterey after lunch.

December 24 – Christmas Eve service at 5:00 pm – Monterey Presbyterian. All are welcome.

Live nativity at the Laurel Point at 10:00 pm

December 25 - Christmas Day worship service at Beulah – 9:30 am. All are welcome.



Presbyterian Women are once again creating Christmas boxes to be shared with 12 individuals and/or families in the Mill Gap area. Cookies are needed that will go in the boxes and PW is asking for help providing homemade cookies. Please let Sharon Brock know if you can furnish 5 dozen cookies for this PW/Ruritan project. Cookies will be needed by 12/13.

BIRTHDAYS

12/10 – Ava Frayer

12/16 – Marlene Reynolds

12/18 – Laura Warner

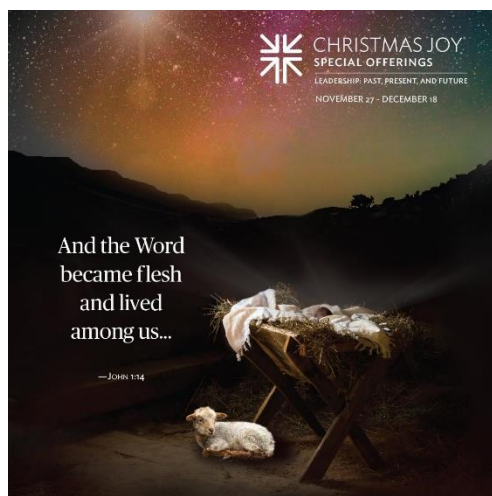


Celebrations!

ANNIVERSARIES

12/24 - Patsy and Dale Simmons

12/30 – Jim and Ruby Swecker



The Christmas Offering Joy has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. We will be collecting the Christmas Joy Offering from **November 27 - December 18th** during the season of Advent. If you'd like to contribute, please make a check out to the church with a memo of "Christmas Joy Offering," or feel free to donate online at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/christmas-joy/>. Thank you for your support!

Opportunities to get into the Christmas spirit!



Spread Some Christmas Cookie Cheer!

Bring homemade cookies, candy and other baked goods to share. Don't bake? Bring decorative supplies such as bows and ornaments.

Platters of cookies will be delivered to the elderly, sick, and shut-ins to help spread Christmas cheer. Contact Connor Minnigh for more information at cminnigh@highland.k12.va.us

Drop off cookies and supplies at 9:30 am on Dec. 17 at McDowell Presbyterian Church.

MPC is collecting items for VPAS Christmas bags through Sunday, December 18: Items needed include: Christmas candy, citrus fruit, and apples. We can also get a better price buying in bulk, so if you want to help by providing a financial donation you can leave cash or a check with Betty Gail Hiner. Please designate in the comments section of your check that it is for "Advent Mission Project". Monies will be used to purchase cough drops, hand lotion and ½ pint canning jars, depending on the amount of contributions.

Worship at Beulah begins at 9:30, followed by Sunday School at 10:30(ish). If you want to participate from home, use this link to log in to Sunday School - <https://pianotuning.my.webex.com/meet/rasimms2000>
In Person Worship at Monterey begins at 11:15

Game night at MPC – November 18



Those who knew Mary Ellenburg, also remember her wonderful smile. Daughter Krista captured that smile again in this picture.

Mary was moved to a nicer facility in November that has a memory care unit, and is closer to Krista's home, so visiting is a lot easier for Krista and Jeff.

Mary made the transition with ease and appears to like her new living space. As was their family tradition, Krista and Jeff just spent Thanksgiving with Mary.

If you would like to send Mary a card you can do so in care of Krista Ellenburg Hill, 6640 Delmar Road, Delmar DE 19940



Our local Girl Scout troop had a great November trip to Savannah, the birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts.

Lucy, Wren, MaryAnn, along with parents, Claire, Jessie and Jennifer, were part of the large group of scouts and chaperones who traveled to Savannah via bus. It was a memorable trip for all.

Do you recognize this handsome guy? Holden Chambers recently cut his hair to donate to **Wigs for Kids**.

This is his third time donating. Holden's aunt is an oncology nurse and has worked closely with **Wigs for Kids**, which got Holden interested in donating. **Wigs for Kids** is different from **Locks of Love** in that it's not exclusive to cancer patients. They also provide wigs for children with alopecia and burn victims.



MONTEREY PREPARES FOR ADVENT on 11/27

Making Thanksgiving bags for VPAS recipients receiving Meals on Wheels



Mike Bedwell sets up the Advent candles.

I was told they were dressing the sanctuary with greens, but it sure looks like they are practicing to be 3 Wise Women following a brilliant star.



If you look right in the middle of the photo you can see a newly planted maple tree, given in memory of Pat Patterson, by his wife, Kathy. Pat and Kathy were former members of MPC and Kathy now lives at the Stuarts Draft Retirement Community. Mike and Donna Bedwell, with little help from Tate Dunn, planted the tree in November, and it is now fenced in because the deer took an immediate liking to it. It has been placed near the tree Mickey Fenn donated in memory of his mother.