

Sunday December 15, 2024
The Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE
PASTORAL WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janesta Williams
Rev. Carson Montgomery
Mona Baker

THE LIGHT OF ADVENT JOY Nancy Law & Sue Fullerton

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

All: Let us start small. Let us begin with what is right in front of us. Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy!

One: Yes, let us begin with joy. Today we light the candles of joy, peace, and hope.

All: May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy.

One: May it be so! Amen.

*HYMN NO. 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

CALL TO CONFESSION Mona Baker

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Liberating God, there are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling. There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference.

I ask myself, *What could these two hands do? What could this one voice say?* Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt.

Remind me that I am not called to fix everything. I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do. With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, no matter how many times we lose momentum, doubt our own ability, or tell ourselves that the problems of the world

are simply too big, God sees what we cannot. God calls us by name, surrounds us in grace, and invites us to begin again. Trusting in this good news, join me in proclaiming these words of forgiveness:

All: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are invited to do the good that is ours to do. Thanks be to God for this new beginning. Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Pat Oglesby

ANTHEM One Star Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Carson Montgomery

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING (p.688) Isaiah 58:9b-12

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING (p. 60) Luke 3: 7-16

SERMON **Do the Good that Is Yours to Do**

THE JOINING OF NEW DISCIPLES (INSERT)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles' Creed)
I believe in God the Father Almighty maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost;

the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAISES AND PRAYER CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

THE CALL FOR THE OFFERING**
OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below; praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Isaiah 58:10)

All: Eternal God, we are holding onto your Advent promises of hope, peace, and joy. With grateful hearts we give to you our time, passions, and treasures. Bless our giving to satisfy the needs of the afflicted within our community and the wider world. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 113 Angels We Have Heard On High

*BENEDICTION Rev. Carson Montgomery

Liturgy today is written by The Rev. Sarah Are Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

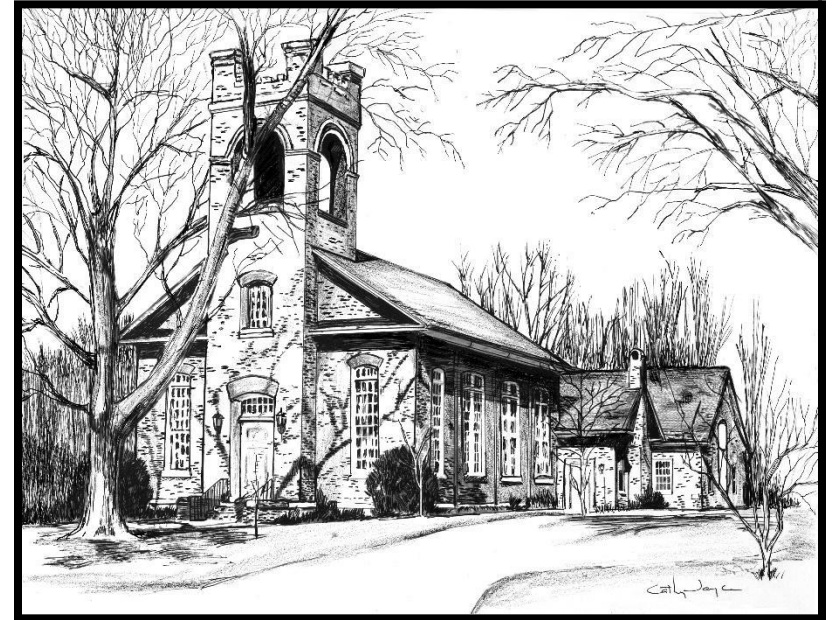
Prayer of Dedication written by Rev. Carson Montgomery

Elder of the Day

This Week: Holly Massey Next week: Craig Denton

Van Wyck Presbyterian Church

Established 1884



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The Joining of New Disciples

Introduction of New Disciples

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

New Disciples:

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **(I do)**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? **(I do)**.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love? **(I will, with God's help)**.

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, sharing in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? **(I will, with God's help)**.

Congregation:

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture our newest disciples by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church?

Members: We do.

Prayer

Announcements

Today we welcome our newest disciples into the family of faith:

Abigail Fox (Reaffirmation of Faith)

John and Danielle Greene (Transfer of letter from Woodlands United Methodist Church, Woodlands, TX)

Jim and Mimi Harkrider (Reaffirmation of Faith)

Doug and Linda Sobey (Transfer of letter from Faith Presbyterian Church, Indian Land, SC)

Daniel and Rebel Strohmeier (Transfer of letter from First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, PA)

The Strengthening Ministry Team is hosting a reception after worship to welcome these new disciples (Fellowship Hall).

Church Calendar

Sunday Dec 15 Advent Week 3	10:00am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Worship and Welcoming of New Church Members 12:00pm Light Welcome Reception **Cookie Exchange Following The Welcome Reception
Monday Dec 16	*10:30am Presbyterian Women at Mona Baker's House 7:00pm Bible 101
Tuesday Dec 17	10:00am Sisters of the Heart
Wednesday Dec 18	6:30pm Choir
Sunday Dec 22 Advent Week 4	10:00am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Worship
Monday Dec 23	7:00pm Bible 101
Tuesday Dec 24	5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wednesday Dec 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS!

****Cookie Exchange!** The strengthening Committee is hosting a Cookie Exchange right after the New Member Welcoming Reception. If you would like to participate, bring at least 4 dozen of the same cookie! If you have any questions, please contact Laura Clark.

*Mona Baker will be hosting a Presbyterian Women's Luncheon at her house on Monday, December 16th, at 10:30am. Women are to bring a dish to share. Lesson and meeting at 10:30 followed by the luncheon at Mona Baker's home. Contact Mona if you plan on attending.

Christmas Card Post Office - The Presbyterian Women will sponsor the church Christmas Card Post Office again this year. Each family will have a designated file with their name. The post office will be located in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall (three large plastic tubs). Cards do not require anything but the name on the outside and filed in each file. Cost per card is \$.10 (honor system) and the proceeds will be forwarded to The Thornwell Children's Home. Individuals are responsible for picking up their cards each week. If you have questions, please contact Claudia Thompson.

A poinsettia was purchased in honor of Donald and Mary Baker from their children.

Hosting Community Groups @ VWPC

Tuesday Dec 17	7:00pm Integrity Group (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday Dec 18	7:00pm Planning Commission Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Thursday Dec 19	7:00pm Integrity Group (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday December 21	10:00am Integrity Group (Fellowship Hall)
Tuesday December 24	7:00pm Integrity Group (Fellowship Hall)

Happy DECEMBER Birthday to YOU!!!

3 – Charles Moss	17 – Jeremy Sinclair
4 – Julie Singh	21 – Dennis Williford
5 – Logan Helms	27 – Carol Leedy
9 – Carson Helms	30 – Linda Pelletier
16 – Rosa Sansbury	

December Prayer Requests

Disciples: William Sims, Gail Stogner, Carol Johns, Dianne Moore, Shirley Cauthen, Donald Baker, Claudia Thompson

Friends: Chip Oglesby, Susan (Mother of Teri Currie), April Young (sister of Laura Clark), Daniel and Robyn Adams, David Adams, Nancy Quick, Daniel Quick, Ann Hurley, Kate Steinkamp (Dianne Moore's sister), David Adams, Daniel and Robyn Adams, the Foster family, Patti Harris, John (Mary Baker's brother), Bernard Bagley, Charlotte (Rosa Sansbury's niece)

Community: Van Wyck and Lancaster communities, our teachers and students

Providence Presbytery: Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church (Chester, SC) (Vacant)

Wider World: Israel and Gaza, Libya, Maui, Turkey, Syria, Ukraine, Russia, our country and elected leaders

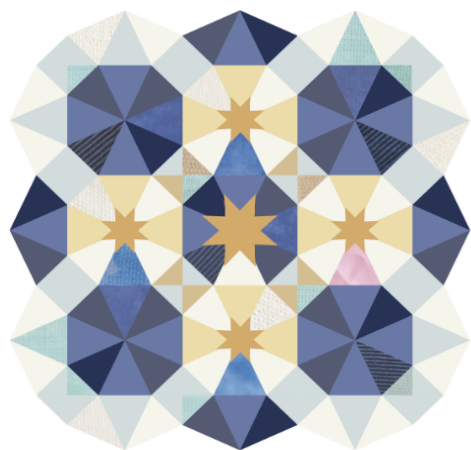
Youth: Cody Campbell, Harrison Cargill, Rachel Graham, Stuart Graham, Charlie Haynes, Alena Massey, Kate McCalmont

Vocational and College Students: Genevieve Cook, Carson Helms, Christian Moss, Ashley Overstreet, Devon Overstreet, Fritz Walker

Homebound Disciples: Vicky Lott

Session: Class of 2024: Linda Pelletier (Clerk), Laura Clark; Class of 2025: Holly Massey, Craig Denton; Class of 2026: Janet Campbell, Julie Graham

Staff: Donna Fox, Stuart Graham, Barbara McAfee, Janesta Williams, Rev. Carson Montgomery



WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

**Advent Sermon Series
Sundays @ 11:00am**

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings.
As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year rushes in.
Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving.

Dec 1 **You Are a Blessing** (Luke 1: 26-38; Isaiah 43: 1-7)

Dec 8 **We Can't Go Alone** (Ruth 1; Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12)

Dec 15 **Do the Good That Is Yours to Do**
(Luke 3: 7-16; Isaiah 58: 9b-12)

Dec 22 **Hope Is Worth the Risk** (Matthew 1: 18-25; Luke 1: 46-55)

Dec 24 5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service
Love Knows Your Name (Luke 2: 1-20)