

# PRESBYTERIAN PRESS

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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## PASTOR'S PAGE

**Sermon: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent — Christmas Pageant Sunday**  
**[Perrysburg, Ohio, December 7, 2003](#) — Ms. Katie Rhoads, MDiv**

Telling the story at Christmas is such an important part of what we do to prepare. As much as lighting the candles on the advent wreath, as much as preparing a place in our hearts for the coming baby, as much as cultivating a sense of awe and wonder, telling the story of the birth of Jesus Christ is what Advent is about. This is THE story. This is the story of when God came down among us and fulfilled the promises and prophecies of old. This is the story of when God came down among us and showed that “God so loved the world he gave his only begotten son so that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” This is the story that promises the kingdom coming. This is THE story.

So dressing our children up, teaching them the lines, and giving them each a part to play has a lot more significance than just the school play. It has the significance of sacred ritual. Through this ritual we teach our children the story and hear it again ourselves each year. Through the strange language and words that we hear only in worship and maybe the Christmas season like: shepherd, and “fear not,” and swaddling clothes – we sharpen our awareness that this is a story of great significance. So significant that believers have cherished it and carefully preserved it by passing it along for generations. And we recognize our own place in that careful preservation and sharing. We watch them and remember that the children teach us wonder anew. We give them a part and say, “This story is for you too. It is for everyone.”

The very first sermon I ever preached was entitled, “I Was a Shepherd Once.” I couldn’t help thinking about it this week. As part of that sermon I talked about my experience as a child of playing a shepherd in a Christmas pageant. I talked about always wanting to be an angel or Mary but how I ended up having to be a shepherd. I wanted to be sublime, even if only in play-acting, yet even in play-acting the director only saw me as a mundane, insignificant shepherder in a bathrobe (or so I thought). But this story is for us, all of us, and we all have a part to play. We don’t pick the parts, we discover them in ourselves. And they are gifts from God.

See, the shepherds were the very first people in the whole world to be told of the great gift God had given the world that night. Even though they were very lowly people, God sent the message to them first and with that message the gift and responsibility of bringing the message of this great act to the world. We Christians, we are to be shepherds in this world: fearing not; proclaiming the good news; caring for and guiding the meek and the helpless.

And the other parts help us see ourselves as well, and remind us of the role we play in this story of God’s amazing love. The wise men, the three kings – we are to be like these learned men who carefully studied the revelations of God, who were ready when the night came. Stay awake, the night is far-gone, the prophets remind us. Do not miss the wedding feast. And the kings brought gifts to Mary and the Christ-child. We continue to bring gifts through our tithes and our offerings. We continue to bring gifts as we do unto others as we would have them do unto us. We continue to bring gifts as we do unto the least as we would do unto Jesus. We continue to bring gifts as we love our enemies.

This is why a pageant is a sacred act. We re-member the Christmas story, and we remember ourselves as part of it. For the story and the reality are for us and done through us as much as the original occurrence was for a poor young couple and some dirty shepherds who didn’t even live within the protecting wall of the city. The story and reality are as much for us and done through us as they were through the far-flung wise men of the world and the local innkeeper who took pity and gave refuge.

This is THE story. This is the remembering. This is our preparation and our ritual. This is promises fulfilled and promises made. This is God among us. Therefore: Rejoice! Rejoice! “To you is born in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” Amen.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

December 4	2:00 p.m.	Perrysburg Christmas Parade
	4:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Advent Dinner
December 11	10:00 a.m.	Children’s Christmas Pageant
	Fellowship Hour	Cookie Exchange
December 21	5:30 p.m.	The Table
December 24	5:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship Service
December 25		Worship Service on the Web only

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*By Julie Lindsey*

We are now in the watching and waiting time of Advent. It is such an exciting time as we prepare for Jesus' birth.

The children participated in decorating the angel name tags for the Angel Tree. The angels have never looked so beautiful. Thank you all for making this wonderful tradition even more special.

Sunday, December 4th will be a very busy day for us as we prepare for the Christmas pageant during Jr. Worship and after the church service. We will be assigning parts and costumes, practicing songs with Steven, and doing a run-through of the pageant script. Lunch will be provided. If you are not able to attend, we will get scripts to you and have costumes ready for the December 11th performance.

After the pageant rehearsal we will get ready to participate in the Perrysburg Holiday Parade which starts at 2:00 p.m. We will be in our costumes and will walk behind our float carrying the nativity scene. Carols will be playing and we will be singing and spreading the joy of this most magical season with our community.

We are planning a movie night at the church on December 30th from 5:30-7:30. Food, games and fellowship will be provided.

January 29th will be our Urban Air outing after the church service. We will start with sub sandwiches in fellowship hall then travel to Urban Air for a fun afternoon of bouncing and flying through the air! We will be using some of the funds raised by the successful push-up contest for this outing.

Along with our regular lessons each Sunday we are going to work on memorizing The Lord's Prayer. The children will learn the words and meaning of a line each week. We hope this will be a lifelong gift for our children.

## TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

*By Selinda Schultz*

During the four weeks of Advent our Tuesday Group will use the daily adverb readings in [Adverbs for Advent](#). Each day is focused on an adverb that answers, "How then shall we live?" during this season.

Join us to be guided on this Advent Journey!

We will meet November 29<sup>th</sup>, December 6, 13 and 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be no class on December 27<sup>th</sup>.

Watch for news about our next study starting in January.



Randy Phillips, Team Leader

By Mary Beth Gilts

“The beauty of **Christmas** is not in the presents, but in **His Presence.**”



Matthew 1:23

DECEMBER'S PCU COLLECTION ITEM: Soup

PERRYSBURG HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER:

Hygiene & Cleaning Products. Drop off site: Church vestibule. Donate when you can.



**PCU UPDATE:** Total of 174 clients last month. Perrysburg Rotary will be donating again this year Thanksgiving turkeys. “Crisis Assistance” helped 27 clients. January 20, 2023, PCU's Blood Drive will be held at Zoar.

**PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS MISSION:** Total donation amount \$737.00. (Congregation: \$487 and Mission \$250) Thank you for all your gifts for this special offering!

**CHRISTMAS JOY:** A cherished tradition since the 1930s. This special offering is currently in progress and ends Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. Your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. It also helps students at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

**ANGEL TREE:** This mission, a wonderful idea of Jan Martell's started about 20 plus years ago. Each year the Wood County Children Services shares 30 children, ages ranging from infancy to 18 years old. Our 30 angels will be ready for adoption in Fellowship Hall Sunday, November 26. The youth will be decorating the angels during The Hanging of the Greens. Let's clear the tree! More information will be posted by the Angel Tree. **Gifts need to be returned by Dec 14th.**

**THE TABLE:** Thanksgiving dinner was a successful evening. Thank you Selinda Schultz for donating \$250.00 from Thrivent “Action “card to help defray the cost of the meal. A total of 43 people attended. The Christmas dinner is December 21st. at 5:30pm. The main entrée is ham. There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board.

**NOSA CARDS::** In October, we broke a new record high – \$3,230.00. Wow, this is outstanding!!

A huge THANK YOU to all my loyal customers, you guys are AWESOME!

## **WORSHIP/MUSIC**

**By Marty Sloan**



During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and we watch with expectant hope for his coming again. During this Advent, what if we seek to be the builders of that peaceable kingdom foretold, boldly committing to build a community that cares for the unloved, the unseen and the unheard? Such a gloriously busy time of the year!

The theme this year for the Advent Season is "Living Advent". Pastor Katie will be blessing us all with a daily prayer message during Advent. There are also Advent devotionals for any age group available in the church vestibule. On November 27<sup>th</sup>, we will begin singing a new Gathering song during the Advent Season – "*Lord, Prepare Me*".

**Our Christmas Eve service promises to be a memorable experience. We will gather on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.** in the church sanctuary to celebrate and worship the birth of our Lord Jesus. This will be a Lessons & Carols service including especially joyful music and talented musical guests. Music Director Steven Naylor ensures a heart-warming Christmas experience including a special music performance. Please consider stopping by Fellowship Hall after Christmas Eve service for a Christmas snack and brief fellowship to thank all of our musical talent!

Since Christmas falls on Sunday this year, Pastor Katie is delivering a Christmas Day message which includes Steven Naylor offering worship music on a recorded video. You can easily access this video at your convenience on the church website.

Thanks to all who placed orders for Christmas Poinsettias! Please remember to pick up your flowers after the Christmas Eve service and take them with you! The plants will be marked with name tags!



## SERVING CHART FOR DECEMBER, 2022

	<b>HEAD USHER</b>	<b>GREETERS / USHERS</b>	<b>LITURGIST</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S MESSAGE</b>	<b>POWER POINT</b>	<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>
4	Stephen Potts	Marty Gluth / Marty Sloan	Gretchen Downs	Sarah Magoun	Nancy Gates	Julie Lindsey & Margot Quick / Jon & Chelsea Grimm
11	Don Youel	Carol Sprague / Lowrie Gilmore	Mary Beth Gilts	Christmas Pageant	Kathy Jarosz	
18	Stephen Potts	Sarah Crawford / Lizzy Crawford	Fay Mitchell	TBD	Gretchen Downs	
25	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	

If you have a conflict with assigned date, please try to trade with another volunteer and inform Marty Sloan. Call 419.973.0623 or email [mssloan107@me.com](mailto:mssloan107@me.com). If unable to resolve conflict, contact Marty as soon as possible. Thank you for your service to FPC.

## SERVING CHART FOR JANUARY, 2023

	<b>HEAD USHER</b>	<b>GREETERS / USHERS</b>	<b>LITURGIST</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S MESSAGE</b>	<b>POWER POINT</b>	<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>
1	Stephen Potts	Marty Gluth / Marty Sloan	Kathy East	TBD	Nancy Gates	
8	Don Youel	Carol Sprague / Lowrie Gilmore	Rusty Phlegar	TBD	Kathy Jarosz	Jay & Jo Salvage / Matt Hollar & Michelle Chavez
15	Stephen Potts	Cecilia Richardson / Marty Sloan	Randy Phillips	TBD	Gretchen Downs	
22	Don Youel	Mary Beth Gilts / Eileen Phillips	Rick Gilts	TBD	Stephen Potts	
29	Stephen Potts	Sarah Crawford / Lizzie Crawford	Allison Mackin	TBD	Marty Sloan	

If you have a conflict with assigned date, please try to trade with another volunteer and inform Marty Sloan. Call 419.973.0623 or email [mssloan107@me.com](mailto:mssloan107@me.com). If unable to resolve conflict, contact Marty as soon as possible. Thank you for your service to FPC.

# December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 3:30 pm Worship/ Music Team Mtg.	2 10:00 am Diabetic Session in Fellowship Hall	3
4 10:00 am Worship/ Communion 2:00 pm Perrysburg Christmas Parade 4:30 pm Advent Dinner	5	6 10:00 am Bible Study	7 6:00 pm Mission Team Mtg.	8	9	10
11 8:30 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Worship Children's Christmas Pageant Cookie Exchange @ Fellowship Hour	12	13 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Session Meeting	14	15	16	17
18 10:00 am Worship	19	20 10:00 am Bible Study	21 5:30 pm The Table	22	23	24 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service
25 Worship Service on the Web only	26	27 No Bible Study	28	29	30	31





*It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas*



# Birthday Wishes

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 2	David Sloan
December 12	Sarah Crawford
December 12	Pat Hayden
December 12	Megan Greek Matthews
December 14	Sue Williams
December 17	Rick Gilts
December 20	Tom Mackin
December 22	Eileen Phillips
December 22	Cathy Robinson
December 23	Abigail Youel
December 23	Lizzie Crawford
December 24	Walter Celley
December 28	John Jarosz
December 28	Beau Merrell
December 28	Kate Merrell
December 29	Rick Modrzynski
December 30	Nancy Gates

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1	Alexandria Hope
January 2	Amy Konz
January 3	Delbert Duckins
January 12	Ross Martin
January 14	Kay Traver
January 16	Margot Quick
January 18	Martha Gluth
January 18	Melinda Gallant
January 21	Helen Haas
January 23	David Traver
January 25	Patrick Sheridan
January 27	Matthew Hollar

If you have a birthday that is not listed, please contact the church office so that we can update our records.

## PARISH CONCERNS

**Please remember these members and friends in your daily prayers:**

**Joe Brainard  
Jim & Helen Haas  
Geraldine McGue  
Rick Modrzynski  
Pat Sheridan  
Ed & Sue Williams**

**Dorothy Darr  
Eva Lengel  
Barb Modrzynski  
Mary Ellen Pratt  
Chris Stuart**

# December 2022 Newsletter

## Service Time:

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Children are excused during the worship  
service to attend Sunday School

Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month

## *Session Members*

### Jo Salvage – Clerk

Nancy Gates, Co-Clerk

Jack Simmons, Co-Clerk

Kathy East

Mary Beth Gilts

Jon Grimm

Allison Mackin

Randy Phillips

Stephen Potts

Jay Salvage

Marty Sloan

## *Staff*

Pastor .....

Rev. Katie Rivera Torea

Adult Education Director .....

Selinda Schultz

Youth Director .....

Darcy Metcalfe

Music Director .....

Steven Naylor

Treasurer .....

Don Youel

Secretary .....

Linda Bristow

Financial Secretary .....

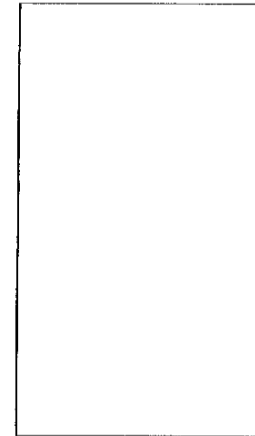
Tom Connolly

Custodian .....

Kristin Burgoon

Nursery Attendant .....

Kate Magoun



This Newsletter has been specifically prepared for:

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Perrysburg, OH 43551