



Sunday, December 1, 2024

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
*of* **BELLA VISTA**

1880 Forest Hills Blvd.  
Bella Vista, Arkansas 72715

(479) 855-2390 [www.pcbv.org](http://www.pcbv.org)  
E-mail: [pcbvoffice@pcbv.org](mailto:pcbvoffice@pcbv.org)

## LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

### MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

### LITURGIST

Bev MacDonald

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Bud Clark

### ORGANIST/PIANIST

Gail Knudsen

### Chancel Choir

Sandy Bachelder, Betty Bennett, Arlene Biebesheimer, Jerry Biebesheimer, Marcia Beard,  
Bud Clark, Christy Clark, Lon Cross, Dick Francis, Gail Knudsen, Sharry McGuire,  
Peggy McMenus, Jean Nichols, Mary Nimis-Tysk, David Riter, Florence Riter, Gary Harris,  
Edie Harris, Nancy Shriner, Martha Stout, Karen Watson

### WELCOME DESK

Delores Jennings

### HEAD USHER

Karen Schneider, Buddy Needham

### USHERS/GREETERS

Delores Jennings, Barry Owen, Frank Taylor, Bill Bennett

### COFFEE HOSTS

Shepherd Group 3

Nancy Ortman, Buddy Needham

### AUDIO/VISUAL

Carolyn Cross, Tom Hackleman,

Steve Little, Jim Watson

# A SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

*An asterisk (\*) indicates that those who are able may stand;  
**Bold type** — please respond in unison.*

## WE GATHER AND PREPARE OUR HEARTS

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*“O Wondrous Star”*

C.H. Rinck

### CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Luke 21:25-28)

Christ is coming!

**We see the signs!**

Christ is coming!

**We will be ready!**

Christ is coming! Raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near!

**Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.**

**\*HYMN #93**     *“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Preparing for Christ’s coming requires honest examination of our lives and our hearts. Let us turn to God in prayer to confess our sins.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace in the midst of our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.

*(Moment of silence for personal confession)*

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (2 Corinthians 5:17; Book of Common Wor- ship)

“Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.” Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

## THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

*(Please take this opportunity to “pass the peace” to those around you.)*

## \*GLORIA PATRI #581

## WE ENCOUNTER THE WORD

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Savior God, guide us by your word and Spirit, that we might hear your truth, heed your call and be prepared for Christ’s coming this Christmas. Amen.

## RESPONSIVE READING

*Psalm 25:1-10*

<sup>1</sup> To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

<sup>3</sup> Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> **Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

<sup>6</sup> **Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

<sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake,  
O Lord!

<sup>8</sup> **Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the  
way.**

<sup>9</sup> He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

<sup>10</sup> **All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

**ANTHEM**

*“Every Heart Prepare Him Room”*

*Lloyd Larson*

## SCRIPTURE READING

*Luke 21:25-36*

<sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.

**SERMON**

*“Reciprocity and Hope”*

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

**\*HYMN #119**

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

## WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39, Book of Common Worship)

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please fill out a prayer card or speak directly into the microphone.*

### 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (2 Peter 3:8-15)

“All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation.” Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

**OFFERTORY**

*“Come to the Living Well”*

M. Shea

**\*DOXOLOGY #606**

*“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

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

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives. Take these gifts we offer today, O God, and use them to the fulfillment of Christ’s ministry. May these gifts help to free the captives, heal the sick, comfort the lonely, feed the hungry, heal the wounded. As Christ’s hands and feet, use us too, in service to building your beloved community. Amen.

## **WE GO FORTH TO MINISTER**

**INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*HYMN # 123**

*“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear!”*

*(v.1,2,5)*

**\*CHARGE & BLESSING**

**\*GOING FORTH #128**

*“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*

*(v.1)*

**\*POSTLUDE**

*“Poeme de Noel”*

L. Van Beethoven







# Weekly Vista

## WELCOME!

*We hope you will find your time of worship with us to be very meaningful. We are an open faith community.*

Please visit [www.pcbv.org](http://www.pcbv.org), or call the Church Office at 855-2390 if you would like to learn more about us and inquire about membership.

## OFFICE HOURS

MON- THURS:  
9 am to 3 pm  
FRIDAY: CLOSED

For pastoral emergencies, please call or text Pastor Judi at 248-688-8736. Pastor's day off is Friday, she will return calls later. To schedule an in-person appointment, please email her at [jmcmillan@pcbv.org](mailto:jmcmillan@pcbv.org) stating your need.

Deacons: December  
Mary Hackleman  
Gail Knudsen

11/24/2024 Attendance:  
Members: 104 Guests: 14 Online: 16



You are invited to refreshments and a time of fellowship after the service.

Flowers today are provided by Susan Foster in memory of Craig's birthday.

Shepherd Group 4 serves coffee and on Sunday, December 8

Missions would like to thank everyone for their gifts to Peace and Global Witness. We sent \$765 to Peace & Global Witness at PC USA and then \$255 for Canopy in Bentonville. (Total of \$1,020).

## BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 2 Julea Bell

Dec 3 Dale Judson

Dec 6 Bev MacDonald

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, December 1

9am Christian Ed Class  
10am Worship—Advent 1

### Monday, December 2

1-2pm Operations (A)  
2-3pm Book Study (Parlor)

### Tuesday, December 3

9:30am-12:30pm Decorating for Christmas  
10:30am—1pm— Writing Group (Parlor)  
5:30pm—6:30pm Men's AA (A)

### Wednesday, December 4

9:30am—Deacons (A)  
3pm— Congregational Life (C)  
5:00pm Bell Choir  
6:00pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday, December 5

2-3pm Book Study (F/H)

### Friday, December 6

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
1:00pm Busy Hands (Lobby)

### Saturday, December 7

9:30-10:30am Presbyterian Men's Group (F/H)  
3-4pm Singing Men of Arkansas (Sanctuary)

### Sunday, December 8

9am Christian Ed Class  
10am Worship—Advent 2  
11am-12pm— Congregational Meeting for Election of Officers and Pastor's Terms of Call.

Please come to join us in decorating the church for the Advent Season on Tuesday, December 3rd at 9:30am. The more the merrier. Please contact Shirley Olson (479-855-9505) for more information.

We will also be having a Christmas Tree in the Narthex. We would love for people to bring an ornament to place on it. You will be able to collect it after Christmas.

### Upcoming Holiday Events:

ADVENT Begins on December 1st.

Tuesday, December 3rd—Decorate church for Christmas/Advent.

Saturday, December 7th, the Singing Men of Arkansas will be performing a public concert at 3pm in the Sanctuary.

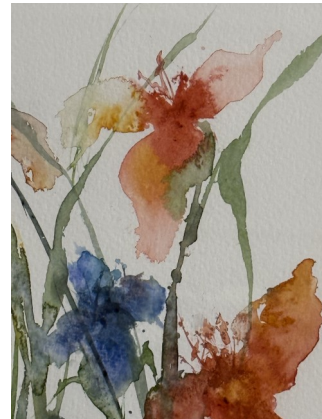
Sunday, December 15th, 3-4pm: Christmas Caroling at the Cottages.

Sunday, December 22nd, Worship will be a Christmas Music Celebration.

Tuesday, December 24th—Christmas Eve, Candlelight/Communion Service at 5pm

Wednesday, December 25th— Christmas Lunch at noon in Fellowship Hall.

Come view recent watercolor paintings by Judi McMillan in our gallery located in Fellowship Hall. Trees, flowers, and a few feathers may dazzle your eyes with a variety of colors and textures. Showing now through Christmas.



## 12 STEPS to Building Resilience

### 1. Practice Gratitude

Remember a time you felt grateful for your faith community. What details resonate with you as you bring this memory to mind?



### 2. Identify Your Gifts

List 5 gifts you and/or your congregation have to offer a neighbor today. Think of gifts both physical and intangible.



### 3. Make a New Connection

Attend worship with a neighboring faith community. Invite someone you've met there to worship with you in the weeks ahead.



### 4. Gain Insight

Remember a past hardship you and/or your congregation faced. Retell the story of that time and include the lessons learned.



### 5. Align Your Values

Select an organization connected with your church or find a potential new partner. How does their mission align with your values? Can you get more involved?



### 6. Listen for God's Promise

Take 5 minutes to read some of today's news stories. Read Psalm 121 or your favorite psalm. What do you hear from God?



### 7. Make Time to Laugh & Play

Engage in an activity or spend time with someone (or a pet) that brings you laughter and joy!



### 8. Rely on Coping Skills

Regularly incorporate a moment for deep breathing into your day and/or worship service. Breathe in. Breathe out. Repeat.



### 9. Become an Advocate

Connect with a local leader and listen to their goals for strengthening the community. Which goals spark your passion? How can you join this work?



### 10. Engage in Self-Compassion

Practice speaking to yourself with kindness and grace today. Write down 5 qualities you appreciate in yourself.



### 11. Overcome a Fear

Pick an obstacle standing in your (or your congregation's) way. What steps can you take to face these fears? Take them.



### 12. Stand Firmly in Hope

Name a hope you hold for yourself, your church, and for the next generation. Imagine standing firmly in the future where those hopes are realized.

