



Sunday, December 8, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of **BELLA VISTA**

1880 Forest Hills Blvd.
Bella Vista, Arkansas 72715

(479) 855-2390 www.pcbv.org
E-mail: 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

Mack Bean

HEAD USHER

Karen Schneider, Buddy Needham

USHERS/GREETERS

Delores Jennings, Barry Owen, Frank Taylor, Bill Bennett

COFFEE HOSTS

Shepherd Group 4

Mary Nimis-Tysk, Peggy McMenus

AUDIO/VISUAL

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

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

PRELUDE

“To Follow the Star”

Franklin Ritter

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, “The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

Congregation: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God’s grace already at work in our midst.

Liturgist: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kin-dom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Luke 1:76-79)

Zechariah sang to his newborn son:

“You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

You will tell his people how to be saved through the forgiveness of their sins.

Because of our God’s deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us,

to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide us on the path of peace.”

***HYMN #113**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Scripture reminds us that repentance is part of our preparation to meet Christ. Let us therefore confess our sins together, trusting in his mercy and love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess we prefer the crooked paths where we think we can hide from you. We’d rather you didn’t examine us too closely, all we do and fail to do. Yet you are coming not to judge, but to save us from our sins and our love of sinning. So come, Lord, by crooked path or straight, to enter our aching hearts. In the certainty of your grace we make our prayer. Amen.

(Moment of silence for personal confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news! Christ is our peace. Through him we have forgiveness and new hope.

**He comes to break the power of sin and set us free again. Alleluia!
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

Jesus Christ, Word of God, dwell in us as we turn to these pages, holy ancient stories that proclaim your truth. In the Spirit, give us ears to hear and hearts to believe. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

ANTHEM

“Light the Advent Candle”

Brad Nix

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Canticle Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of
all who hate us.
⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our
enemies,
might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.
⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.
⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break
upon us,
⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

SERMON

"A Canticle to Guide Us All"

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

*HYMN #133

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

What is the chief end of humanity?

Humanity's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy God forever.

What is sanctification?

Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in our whole selves after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin and live toward righteousness.

What are the benefits which, in this life, accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

The benefits which, in this life, accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification are: assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Spirit, increase of grace, and persevering in all these to the end. 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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

With gratitude for all God has given us, let us return our offerings to God, passing the plates along the aisle as we remember that it takes all of us together to make this church strong.

OFFERTORY *“The Sweet Baby Jesus”* Colin Curtis

***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

Generous God, we thank you for all our blessings, and offer these gifts back to your service, that this church might continue to shine your light into the world. Amen

WE GO FORTH TO MINISTER

INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN #132** *“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”*

*CHARGE & BLESSING

***GOING FORTH #147** *“The First Noel”* (v.1)

***POSTLUDE** *“There’s a Star in the East”* Afr. Amer. Spiritual



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, 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 stating your need.

Deacons: December
Mary Hackleman
Gail Knudsen

12/1/2024 Attendance:
Members: 104 Guests: 14 Online: 15



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

We are looking for volunteers to be ushers. Please contact Karen Schneider if you are interested in becoming one. Also the sign up for 2025 Ushers and Greeters is in connector hallway.

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.

BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 10 Nina Berger

Dec 14 Martha Stout

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 8

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

Monday, December 9

9:30-10:30—PWCT Meeting
1-2pm—Operations (A)
2-3pm Book Study (Parlor)

Tuesday, December 10

8am-1pm—PEO Chpt BR (F/H)
5:30pm-6:30pm Men's AA (A)

Wednesday, December 11

10:30-11:30am—Staff Meeting (A)
5:00pm Bell Choir
6:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 12

12-2pm—PW Meeting (F/H)
2-3pm Book Study (F/H)

Friday, December 13

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

Saturday, December 14

8am-12pm Art Group (F/H)
9am—Stated Session (A)

Sunday, December 15

9am Christian Ed Class
10am Worship—Advent 3
Collect Christmas Joy Offering
3-4pm—Caroling at the Cottages

Upcoming Holiday Events:

Advent Continues:

Sunday, December 15th, 3-4pm: Christmas Caroling at the Cottages. Meet at church at 2:45pm

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.

PW Christmas Tea is this Thursday at 1pm in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dozen cookies to share. All Women are invited.



Peace of Advent

F G S O C E V I L R O L V T A F L R T N
O T I L V L E I J N V A T A F A I D D A
R D R T L E D A T E N R O E F I J E A O
E H A W D S H R O V U R R V N R R R I F
V R E A A D O F D S I J E T R G A D T I
E S R R T U S S T L V E E I U E L I E A
R B V T B E I S D E R L U R V V O G D N
E V C L A N L O T R F A L I F F U O W T
E V E L O E D V D O T E G P S U E O E A
R D D W P A E V H E F O D S L S R A D N
R Y V O L S A B G U D D C Y P L S W A S
J E S U S S S E I A H V W L D V C V N A
F U E F E R H S E E E A O O A W V F A P
E N V Y G S L R I S L Y T H P E T I F W
J N H O J F N O L S F L P L E R H E T P
H P T R H U L E T L S T I W A T S R T F
D D R H O O E R D E V D E O C E O E A A
A A S P R S A V V E V E I L E B D E E U
E D S E T E V U E V N G O G I D D P O E
E O E I H N E G C A D V E N T A R I I V

JOHN
LEAVE
WORLD
ADVENT

HEARTS
HOLY SPIRIT
JESUS
NOW

BELIEVE
FOREVER
TROUBLED
GIVE

PEACE
TRUST
AFRAID
GOD