



Sunday, December 7, 2025

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2nd 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)

MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

LITURGIST

Sharon Warner

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Bud Clark

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Gail Knudsen

Chancel Choir

Sandy Bachelder, Betty Bennett, Arlene Biebesheimer, Jerry Biebesheimer,  
Marcia Beard, Bud Clark, Lon Cross, Rosie Floyd, Dick Francis, Gail Knudsen,  
Sharry McGuire, Peggy McMenus, Jean Nichols, David Riter, Gary Harris,  
Edie Harris, Martha Stout, Karen Watson, Brenda Works, Jim Works

Bell Choir

Arlene Biebesheimer, Lon Cross, Gail Knudsen  
Florence Riter, Cathie Whittenberger, Sharon Warner, Karen Watson,  
Brenda Works, Fran Zimmerman

WELCOME DESK

Deloris Jennings

HEAD USHER

Buddy Needham

USHERS/GREETERS

Dan Dovell, Deloris Jennings, Eddie Taylor, Nancy Ortman, Buddy Needham

COFFEE HOSTS

Shepherd Group #1  
Ron & Kay Burroughs

AUDIO/VISUAL

Tom Hackleman, Steve Little, Michelle Schall, Jim Watson

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# 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

*“Song of the Watchman”*

Edward Grieg  
(arranged by George Blake)

### CALL TO WORSHIP

A shoot shall come forth from Jesse’s stump,  
**And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.**  
He will judge the poor with righteousness, and the meek with equity;  
**He will be clothed with righteousness and faithfulness.**  
The wolf and the lamb will live peacefully together,  
**The leopard and the kid will lie down side by side.**  
The cow and the bear will graze together; the lion will eat straw like the ox,  
**And a little child will lead them all.**  
They will neither hurt nor destroy on God’s holy mountain,  
**For the earth will be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters fill the sea.**

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

First Reader: Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth. We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.” (Isaiah 11:6)

**All: Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.**

Second Reader: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

*Light the second candle of the Advent wreath.*

**\*HYMN #119**

“Hark! The Herold Angels Sing”

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

We hear the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord and make God’s paths straight.” Let us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ as we confess our sin together:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another. Amen.

*(Moment of silence for personal confession)*

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, hear the good news: God’s mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Before we repent and change our ways, God’s love has already claimed us as God’s own. Proclaim with me the good news of the gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

**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 share the sign of “peace”.)*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

## WE ENCOUNTER THE WORD

### RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

<sup>2</sup> **May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.**

<sup>3</sup> May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> **May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup> May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

<sup>6</sup> **May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup> In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

<sup>18</sup> **Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.**

<sup>19</sup> Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

### ANTHEM

"Give Thanks"

Vicki Courtney

### SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs <sup>9</sup> and that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name"; <sup>10</sup> and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; <sup>11</sup> and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; <sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord of all that is peaceful and hopeful, may we hear your word and receive it as a sweet gift. Let it change us into those who rejoice for all that is good and right and true. Amen.

**SERMON**      “*Cookies are Baking—be welcoming*”    Dr. Rev. Judi McMillan

## WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

**\*HYMN #123**                      “*It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*” vs.1-2, 5

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God’s redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes our natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. God wills that God’s purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ, and all evil be banished from God’s creation. Already God’s reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please fill out a prayer card and give to the pastor or an usher.*

## 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

God is the giver of every good gift, pouring out grace upon grace on us and our world. Let us give back a portion of those gifts as we receive the morning offering.

## OFFERTORY

*"The Gentle Shepherd"*

Sylvia Riggs

## \*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

"What can I give him, poor as I am? ... If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him: give my heart."

## WE GO FORTH TO MINISTER

## INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \*HYMN #114

*"Away in a Manger"*

**\*CHARGE & BLESSING**

Go now in hope to bear Christ's light into those places shrouded with darkness.

**Go now in peace to extend hands of friendship to those who feel lost and estranged.**

Go now in joy to proclaim release to the captives and good news to the poor.

**Go now in love To welcome the birth of God's own Love into the world.**

And as you go, may Christ's grace uphold you, God's love empower you, and the Spirit's light guide your way, now and forevermore. Amen.

**\*GOING FORTH #121**      *"Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" (v. 1)*

**\*POSTLUDE**      *"Fantasia on Adeste Fideles"*      Lani Smith





## WELCOME!

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

**You are invited to  
refreshments and a time  
of fellowship after the  
service in Fellowship  
Hall**

11/30/2025 Attendance  
Members & Friends: 58  
Visitors: 1  
Online: 19

Please visit [www.pcbv.org](http://www.pcbv.org),  
or call the Church Office at  
479-855-2390 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 479-403-9082.  
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 on Call  
for December:**  
Frank Taylor  
Betty Bennett

# WEEKLY VISTA CALENDAR

## Sunday, December 7

9:00 Christian Ed Class  
10:00am Worship (Joy Offering Minute for  
Mission  
11am-12pm Fellowship Time (F/H)

## Monday, December 8

9:00am PW Coordinating Team Meeting (C)  
1-2pm Operations

## Tuesday, December 9

8-2pm PEO Chapter BR (F/H)  
5:30pm Men's AA (A)

## Wednesday, December 10

4:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
5:00pm Chancel Choir

## Thursday, December 11

1-2pm PW Christmas Tea (F/H)

## Friday, December 12

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
1:00pm Busy Hands (Ruth Cozad's)

## Saturday, December 13

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

## Sunday, December 14

9:00am Christian Ed Class  
10:00am Worship (Collect Christmas Joy  
Offering)  
11am-12pm Fellowship Time (F/H)  
3-4pm Caroling at the Cottages

**Birthdays &  
Anniversaries**

Nina Berger

Martha Stout  
Brenda Works

# 2025 Advent Plan

## “Advent Unfolding—Candles, Cookies, Carols & Gifts”

November 30—1st Sunday of Advent

Sermon Title: “Candles are Lit—be watchful”

December 7—2nd Sunday of Advent

Sermon Title: “Cookies are Baking—be welcoming”

December 14—3rd Sunday of Advent

Sermon Title: “Carols are Delightful—be the gospel, in song”

December 21—4th Sunday of Advent

Music Sunday

December 24—Christmas Eve

Sermon Title: “Gifts and THE Gift! - be a gift”

December 28—Lessons & Carols



## DIRECTORY UPDATE

It is time to update the church directory. Please take a minute to verify your information and let the office know of any changes. Email Morgan at [pcbvoffice@pcbv.org](mailto:pcbvoffice@pcbv.org) no later than January 9th. There will be an announcement when new directories are available. Thank you!

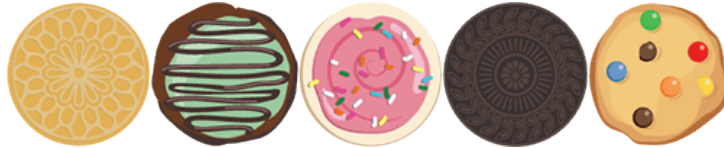


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PW Coordinating Team Meeting  
Monday, December 8  
9:00am  
Classroom C

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There is a PW Christmas Tea on December 11th at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite cookies!



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## REMINDER

Stated Session Meeting  
December 13th  
9:00am  
Classroom A

PCBV is currently working on a new Facebook page. Please be on the lookout in the coming weeks for that announcement and how to find us.

## WHY DO WE NEED A FACBOOK PAGE?

- ♦ It helps us reach people who have never walked through our door. Many visitors today look online before choosing a church. A Facebook page lets us greet them with warmth, information, and encouragement.
- ♦ It keeps our members connected during the week. People can see upcoming events, worship & memorials, service opportunities, pictures, reminders, and more!
- ♦ It shares the PCBV message far beyond our walls. When someone shares a post or livestream, it can reach more people than we ever could in one room.
- ♦ It's another ministry tool. Just like newsletters, bulletins, and phone calls have always been beneficial tools in earlier generations, social media is one of today's biggest tools for communication and outreach.

If you don't use Facebook, no worries! All information will still be available on our regular announcements and bulletins. We are simply adding one more way to stay connected as a church family.