



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Shelbyville, Tennessee  
December 6, 2020  
Second Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

I hope this weekly email finds you all doing well.

Normally I would be saying I hope you all had a wonderful and meaningful Thanksgiving celebration with your friends and family, but if your Thanksgiving was like ours it was significantly pared down from our normal gatherings. I expect Christmas won't be much different. Not happy about that!

That is certainly the case here at FPC. So many of our cherished traditions have had to either be cancelled altogether like our children's Christmas program or reduced to a bare minimum to keep our members as safe as possible such as our Backpack ministry this weekend.

You won't hear me say this very often, but I was glad to see fewer folks in church this past Sunday. While the number of infections and deaths continue to rise in our county and across the nation, we need to redouble our efforts to do what we can to ward off this virus.

As long as these numbers continue to rise, I feel it is incumbent on your leaders to take the necessary precautions to protect our congregation from becoming the source of a super-spreader event. I wouldn't want FPC to go from being "the best kept secret in Shelbyville" to being known as the COVID Church.

We are fortunate that we are able to Livestream our worship services Sunday morning. This is due in large part to Ginger Shofner. Thank you Ginger. We are working on getting the volume worked out. I understand this continues to be an issue.

Speaking of worship, it seems clear to me that Livestreaming the worship service is going to stay with us even after we are able to congregate in larger numbers. Your property committee is looking into the necessary technology and equipment we need to do a better job in Livestreaming our services.

I hope you find the daily devotionals we are sending out each day during this season of Advent helpful. Again, I want to thank Ginger for spearheading this ministry. It is another example of how we can and will continue to use technology as a tool for ministry.

Though we are not able to meet as we have in past years and many of our traditions have had to either be cancelled or reduced, we are still actively involved in the work and witness of the church.

Cindy is putting together Advent bags for our children and their families. The PW Night Circle is spearheading a tennis shoe drive for Clothes for Kids of Bedford County.

***This coming Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> is our Pledge Sunday*** when we will dedicate your offerings of time, talent and treasure. Many of you have already sent in your pledge cards and time and talent sheets. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

As I mentioned earlier our Backpack program will be in full swing this weekend. Brown offering envelopes have been placed in the pews in case church members would like to donate to help defray the church's cost of purchasing the food for this important ministry.

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Next Sunday, December 13th we will be taking up our 5 cents a meal offering as well as collecting your monthly offerings of food for the Good Samaritan food pantry. By the way, last month's offering of foodstuffs was one of the largest we have collected. Thank you for your generosity.

We are still collecting coats for our winter coat drive. This ends December 14<sup>th</sup> so there is still time to donate if that's still on your gift list this year.

So, you see, while COVID-19 might be keeping us from meeting in person it hasn't kept us from keeping our ministries from moving forward. That is a testimony to your stewardship and your discipleship.

It is also in keeping with the themes of Advent, purposeful and productive waiting. The best way to celebrate the gift of Jesus and to prepare for his return is to be faithful in our duties as children of the New Covenant. Let's continue to keep up the good work that God has placed in our hands.

Grace and Peace,  
Taylor



## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY ~SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020

### Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements	Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd
Youth and Children's Announcements	Cindy Lamb
Prelude	Jim and Inge Wood
Advent Greeting	
Advent Readers & Candle Lighters	
Liturgy of the <b>Peace</b> Candle	John, Bea, Mary Ruth, & Evie Marsh
Call to Worship	Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd
*Prayer of Preparation	Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd
*Call to Confession	

\*Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, You are rich in mercy to all those who call upon You. Hear us as we come to You, humbly confessing our sins, and imploring Your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken Your holy laws by our deeds and by our word and by the sinful affections of our hearts. We confess before You our disobedience and ingratitude, our pride and willfulness; And all our failures and shortcomings towards You and towards one another. Have mercy upon us, most merciful God; And of Your great goodness grant that we may hereafter serve and please You in newness of life; Through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Time for Silent Confession*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Gloria Patri (Instrumental)

Jim and Inge Wood

\*Passing of the Peace

Leader: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A Time for Young Christians

Kate Canady

Children's Church

Cindy Lamb

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading:

**Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-8**

Sermon:

**"Behold Your God"**

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

Music:

**"Christmas Selection"**

Jim and Inge Wood

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*Profession of Faith

**"Fully human, fully God,' Jesus Christ came into the world to show God's love, to save us from sin, and to offer eternal, abundant life to all. Jesus is God's Word: spoken at creation, promised and revealed in Scripture, made flesh to dwell among us, crucified and raised in power, interceding for the redemption of the world, returning in glory to judge and reign forever. Scripture is God's Word: the Old and New Testaments together testify to Jesus Christ. Proclamation is God's Word: we bear witness in word and deed to the good news of Christ our Savior.**

**"Jesus Christ is the embodiment of God's gracious action in history and the model for our grateful response to God. In Jesus we find the full and clear revelation of who God is; in him we also discover who God is calling us to be. Therefore, we worship Jesus Christ as Lord, even as he leads us in the worship and service God desires."**

(The Book of Order: Directory for Worship, Chapter One W-1.0104)

## SEALING OF THE WORD

\*Doxology (Instrumental)

Jim and Inge Wood

Prayer of Dedication

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

#### Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks and praise.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution (Minister continues)

**All: Christ is the bread of life: When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim Your death, Lord Jesus, until You come in glory.**

Leader: Great is the mystery of faith.

**People: Great is the mystery of faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ shall come again.**

Communion of the People

#### Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

*All: 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. Thine is the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*Charge and Blessing

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

\*Postlude

Jim and Inge Wood

THE SECOND SUNDAY  
IN ADVENT:

PEACE



THE PROPHET ISAIAH DECLARES,

“A young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and  
shall name Him 'Immanuel'  
(which means God Is With Us)”



## ANNOUNCEMENTS <sup>AND</sup> EVENTS

**\*\*PLEASE WEAR A MASK OUT OF RESPECT <sup>AND</sup> CONCERN FOR OTHERS\*\***

### **Sunday, December 6th**

- We welcome Jim and Inge Wood as they will be providing the music, including a Christmas selections.
- Pledge Offering, Time, Talents & Service forms are due.
- Backpack assembly at 5:00pm.

### **Tuesday, December 8th**

- The Night Circle is asking for donations of a pair of tennis shoes for *Clothe Our Kids of Bedford Co.* Any size shoe, for a girl or boy. You may bring your donation by the office.

### **Winter Coat Drive**

You may leave them at the Church Office, Monday-Friday, 8am-1pm.

Winter Coat Drive: Gently worn or new coats of 'all' sizes. Bring to Shelbyville 1st United Methodist Church on Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm by **December 14th.**

### **Sunday, December 13th**

**The children's performance has been cancelled.**

**5 Cents A Meal Banks are due.**

### **Thursday, December 24th~ Christmas Eve Services**

- 12:15pm
- 5:00pm



Serving   
from the  
Heart



### **Sunday, December 6th**

**Greeters Adrian Bomar & Melanie Hamilton**  
**Advent Readers & Candle Lighters**  
**John, Bea, Mary Ruth & Evie Marsh**  
**Hall Monitor Leo Skelton**  
**A Time for Young Christians Kate Canady**  
**Children's Church Cindy Lamb**  
**Nursery Pat Thomas**

### **December 13th**

**Greeters Pat Marsh & Kristin Wilhelm**  
**Hall Monitor John Marsh**  
**Advent Readers & Candle Lighters**  
**James, Lori, Jacob, & Susanna Smith**  
**A Time for Young Christians Kate Canady**  
**Children's Church Cindy Lamb**  
**Nursery Lisa Turner**