

THE HERALD

December 2023

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

We come to the time of Advent as we enter into December. The weather is turning colder, and we've gotten the first snow of the season. We have hung the greens around the sanctuary and the space is now filled with Christmas festivity and cheer. Looking ahead at the month to come, we will have our Christmas Cantata on the 17th. On December 24th, we will have service for the fourth Sunday of Advent in the morning and then Christmas Eve service in the evening. The Christmas Eve service will also include celebrating the Lord's Supper.

I will be on vacation from December 25th-January 1st. The office will be closed on Monday December 25th and January 1st for the holidays. There will be no worship service on December 31st but we are having a brunch in the fellowship hall starting at 10:30. Bring a dish to share! We will return to worship on January 7th where we will be celebrating Epiphany and the Lord's Supper.

There is a lot going on in the world right now and December can be a hard month for a lot of people. Please know that you are not alone. You are wrapped in the loving arms of God and the community here at Heritage. I leave you with the first verse of the song Carol of the Advent by John Bell.

From a worn and weary nation – Veni Immanuel!
Where and when will come salvation? Veni Immanuel!
In the place you least expect,
In the face of real neglect,
One appointed, unanointed,
God has chosen to perfect.
Veni Immanuel!

Blessings,
Pastor Erica

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

09 – Jenn Dierks
12 – Jemma Mason
12 – Piper Mason
14 – Priscilla Kliewer
16 – Barbara Shaeffer
17 – Bev Traudt



THANK YOU to all who donated hats, mittens or gloves. These items will be shared with Randolph Elementary School or Matt Talbot to keep our neighbors warm this winter!

HERITAGE BIRTHDAY CLUB



Anyone may join or renew their membership in Heritage's Birthday Club. Donations (usually 1 dollar per year of life) is made to our endowment fund.

THANK YOU to all who helped make the Taco Night / Silent Auction a huge success! Over \$1200.00 will be used for a future mission trip and other mission projects.

Thank you for:

- Donating items for the silent auction
- Your purchase of silent auction items
- Eating tacos!

TACO



GIVING TREE

Check out the **Christmas tree** ornaments in the narthex to see how you can share the joy of Christmas with two different neighborhood families. Please bring your unwrapped presents to the church by December 17 – gift cards are always welcome if you don't want to shop! Thank you for your generosity!



FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS

Check out the Equal Exchange items – great for stocking stuffers!

Coffee – Love Buzz, Breakfast Blend, Hazelnut Crème Decaf, Toffee Caramel
Teas –Earl Grey, English Breakfast, Green Tea with Ginger, Hibiscus

Other items include dried mangoes, mini-chocolates and olive oil!



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

And the Word became Flesh and lived among us... – John 1:14

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the “perfect gift”, as well as the gifts of church leaders – past, present, and future. Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. **A perfect gift from a gracious God.**

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Heritage Presbyterian Church</p> <p>Advent Calendar</p>					<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 1</p> <p>God, prepare our hearts for the arrival of our savior, Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Bible Reading: Matthew 1:18-25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 2</p> <p>Act of Kindness</p> <p>Hold the door open for someone today</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 3</p> <p>1st Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Light the HOPE / PROPHET candle</p> <p>Bible Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9 Mark 13:24-37</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 4</p> <p>Pray for the safety of those who are living in areas of violence or warfare.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 5</p> <p>Donate money or a gift to our "adopted families"</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 6</p> <p>Thank God for your loved ones</p> <p>Bible Reading: Luke 1: 39-55</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 7</p> <p>Act of Kindness</p> <p>Check in on a neighbor or a church friend.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 8</p> <p>Donate a food item to the Heritage Pantry</p> <p>Bible Reading: Malachi 3: 1-4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 9</p> <p>Thank God for five blessings He has given you.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 10</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Light the PEACE / BETHLEHEM candle</p> <p>Bible Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-11 Mark 1:1-8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 11</p> <p>Pray for the health of the children worldwide who suffer from malnutrition.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 12</p> <p>Donate to the Christmas Joy Offering.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 13</p> <p>Thank God for our beautiful earth</p> <p>Bible Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 14</p> <p>Act of Kindness</p> <p>Write a note of appreciation to a friend, coworker, or family member.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 15</p> <p>Pray for those facing discrimination or persecution.</p> <p>Bible Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 16</p> <p>Act of Kindness</p> <p>Bake a treat for a neighbor or friend.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 17</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Light the JOY / SHEPHERD'S candle</p> <p>Bible Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 John 1:6-8, 19-28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 18</p> <p>Pray for those affected by natural disasters around the world.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 19</p> <p>Donate to a charity of your choice.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 20</p> <p>Thank God for our church family</p> <p>Bible Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 21</p> <p>Act of Kindness</p> <p>Smile at everybody. It's contagious!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 20</p> <p>Pray for those who suffer in body or mind.</p> <p>Bible Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 23</p> <p>Sing or listen to Christmas carols.</p> <p>Bible Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 24</p> <p>4th Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Light the LOVE candle</p> <p>Bible Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16 Luke 1:26-38</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 25</p> <p>Light the Christ candle</p> <p>Bible Reading: Luke 2:1-20</p>					

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**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**

December 26, 2023

Items received after this date
may not be included!

December 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 10:00 AM Al-Anon	2
3 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	4 <i>Girl Scouts 20306</i>	5 10:00 AM Circle	6 5:45 PM Choir	7	8 10:00 AM Al-Anon <i>Boy Scouts</i>	9
10 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship DUCs following worship	11	12	13 5:45 PM Choir	14 <i>Boy Scout Troop 39</i>	15 10:00 AM Al-Anon 7:00 – 9:00 Boy Scouts	16
17 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Cantata Potluck following worship	18 <i>Girl Scouts 20306</i>	19	20 5:45 PM Choir	21 <i>Boy Scout Troop 39</i>	22 10:00 AM Al-Anon <i>Boy Scouts</i>	23
24 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship w/communion	25 Merry Christmas! Church office closed	26	27 5:45 PM Choir	28 <i>Boy Scout Troop 39</i>	29 10:00 AM Al-Anon	30
31 No Worship service 10:30 AM Brunch/Fellowship						

Please refer to the online calendar for updated/changed events.