

THE HERALD

December 2025

Advent Blessings!

We've finally reached the season of Advent and are quickly approaching the season of Christmas! A hearty 'thank you' to those who stayed after worship on the 23rd and helped us hang the greens; the sanctuary looks splendid in its Advent/Christmas finery. We've just had our first big snow of the season; prayers of warmth and safety as you travel through these icy streets.

Looking at the month ahead, we will have our Christmas Cantata on December 14th, with a potluck following worship to celebrate. On Christmas Eve, worship will start at 5:30 pm. On December 28th, we will not have a worship service; instead, we will have a breakfast fellowship and hymn-sing down in the fellowship hall starting at 10:30 am.

December 14th will also be the day we say goodbye to Evan, our choir director for the last year. We are sad to see him go; he has been such a beloved part of our worship over this last year. But we also are happy to send him off to his next adventures student teaching in Omaha. Please pray for him on this next leg of his journey!

This Advent, I invite you to contemplate where you find Jesus in your own life. Christmas is about the miracle of Jesus Christ being born a baby 2,000 years ago as the son of God but is also about how Jesus Christ is born in our own hearts and lives day after day. Where do you need the miracle of 'God With Us?' Where can you share that miracle with others? May this Advent and Christmas season be one of hope in the promises of God through Jesus and one of warmth and joy.

Blessings,
Pastor Erica



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

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



A Special THANK YOU to Evan for sharing his time and talents with us here at Heritage. You will be missed. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. 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 provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

- 50% supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides critical financial assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need.
- 50% supports Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color to provide education and leadership development.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

There's still time to grab an ornament from the giving tree to help a family during this time of year. Please have all gifts or donations at church by Sunday, December 14th.

CHANGES TO SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Beginning in 2026, the Special Offerings will be represented through three distinct offerings that continue to reflect our values of connection, compassion, and generosity.

These offerings include:

- One Great Hour of Sharing – February 18 – April 5, 2026
- World Communion Offering – September 6 – October 4, 2026
- Christmas Joy Offering – November 29 – December 20, 2026

That means:

1. The **Pentecost Offering** will be discontinued after the 2025 Offering. However, all current recipient causes will continue to be funded through the churchwide Special Offerings. Specifically, ministries focused on children-at-risk, youth, and young adults will now be part of the **Christmas Joy Offering**.
2. The **Peace & Global Witness Offering** will transform into the **World Communion Offering** beginning in 2026. Through 2025, congregations and mid councils are invited to retain a percentage of gifts from their Pentecost and Peace & Global Witness Offerings. In 2026, there will be a new grant-making program to support local and regional ministries. Your congregation or mid council will be able to apply for a grant for your own ministries that align with the causes supported through this new Offering.

The theme for Sunday, December 21 is Ugly Sweater.



December 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 9:30 AM DUCs & Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	1	2	3 5:45 - 6:45 PM Choir Girl Scouts	4	5 10:00 AM Al-Anon	6
7 9:30 AM DUCs & Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	8	9 Boy Scouts	10 5:45 - 6:45 PM Choir	11 Boy Scouts	12 10:00 AM Al-Anon	13
14 9:30 AM DUCs & Sunday School 10:30 AM Christmas Cantata DUCs following worship	15	16	17 5:45 - 6:45 PM Choir Girl Scouts	18 Boy Scouts	19 10:00 AM Al-Anon	20
21 9:30 AM DUCs & Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship <i>Theme: Ugly Sweater</i>	22	23 Boy Scouts	24 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/communion	25 Office closed	26 10:00 AM Al-Anon Office closed	27
28 No Worship service Breakfast fellowship	29	30	31	1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2 10:00 AM Al-Anon	3

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

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**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**

December 30, 2025

Items received after this date
may not be included!