



December 2015 Innovator

News

9:15 Traditional Worship

9:15 Sunday School

10:10 Refreshments and Fellowship in the Hall

10:45 Christ Connection Praise Worship

Worship on December 27 is at 10:00 am.
Refreshments will precede the service at 9:30am

~Office hours will be limited December 28 – 31.~



Advent Schedule

SUNDAYS IN ADVENT

November 29: First Sunday in Advent ~ Hope

9:15am – Traditional worship in the sanctuary.

10:45am – Praise service in the Hall.

December 6: Second Sunday in Advent ~ Peace

9:15am – Traditional worship in the sanctuary.

10:45am – Praise service in the Hall.

Celebration of Holy Communion and special music
by the Northern Bells at both services.

December 13: Third Sunday in Advent ~ Joy

9:15am – Traditional worship in the sanctuary.

10:45am – Our Youth will present an Advent Drama, “Love – the Final Frontier!”

December 20: Fourth Sunday in Advent ~ Love

10:00am – Traditional worship with carols by the Sanctuary Choir.

10:00am – Children’s Christmas Celebration



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00pm ~ Celebration of the Christmas Story, Candlelight Worship, the Sacrament of Holy Communion and special music by the Sanctuary Choir.

9:00pm ~ Celebration of the Christmas Story, Candlelight Worship, the Sacrament of Holy Communion and special music.

Kick-off the Holiday Season with your church family at the Hanging of the Greens on Wednesday, December 2nd! Bring the whole family! We'll begin with a meal at 5:30pm followed by crafts for children and the Hanging of the Greens at 6:00pm.



Christmas Luncheon

You are invited to the Christmas Luncheon to be held on Saturday, December 12th at 11:30am. Join us for fellowship, lunch, and singing Christmas music! The cost is \$13 per person. Please sign-up in the Gathering Space or call the church office at 651-777-4044 by December 6th.

The Mitten Tree will be in the Narthex/Gathering Space during December. Please help fill the tree with mittens, gloves, scarves and hats for the Union Gospel Mission. All donations will be packed up and delivered on December 20th.





We are Christians on a mission, even in the season of Advent! The daily devotions in *Living the Gospel Life* highlight the concepts of being sent, demonstrating faith in action, and being mission-minded each day of Advent. This devotional applies these concepts to the activities and schedules associated with preparing our hearts, souls, and minds to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Children will enjoy the *Let Heaven and Nature Sing Christmas Tree Sticker Book and Poster*. A Christmas Tree can point our eyes to the Savior, just as its shape points to heaven above. Each day of December, add a sticker ornament to the garland that circles the tree. Read the Bible verse for the day and learn about the symbols on each ornament.

Devotionals for adults and children can be picked up in the Gathering Space.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKETS
Help support two of North's missions.



When: December 6 from 8:30 am until noon.
Where: North Church in the Gathering Area

Come join us and do a little early Christmas shopping.



ALTERNATIVE GIVING

Presbyterian Giving Catalog

Please give a gift of hope: from a mule to a well; from seeds to scholarships; from ending slavery to bunk beds, your gift will make a life-changing difference.

Remember Niger

Your gift could provide education resources, scholarships or school lunches. Donations can be made in the name of someone you love.

Houses for Haiti

All gifts are used to build houses for homeless people in Cite Soleil, Haiti, the poorest slum in the Western Hemisphere.

North St. Paul Food Shelf

Bring food items for the grocery cart in the Gathering Space or make a monetary donation through the church. Your donations satisfy the hungry that may live just down your street.

Mitten Tree

Help fill a tree with mittens, gloves, scarves and hats for the Union Gospel Mission.

Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering is distributed equally providing racial-ethnic, educational opportunities and support for church workers.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all who donated to Operation Christmas Child. Fifty-four boxes were packed on Nov. 15th and are on their way to brighten Christmas for children in need.

Christmas Flower Program

Your gift will provide plants and flowers to decorate the church and to be delivered to North members and friends who are sick or homebound. An offering of \$15.00 is suggested. Any proceeds beyond cost of the flowers will be added to our Christmas Joy Offering. The flowers you order and donate will be done so In Memory or Honor of a friend or loved one of yours. Forms are available in the church office and should be turned in by Sunday, December 13. Names will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 20, 2014.



'MISSION HIGHLIGHTS'

FAITH COMMISSION

By Pat McKisson

2015 CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Promises Made – Promises Kept

In this Advent season, we remember the promise made and kept by God in Jesus. We reflect on the influence a promise can have on our lives. God promised each of us salvation, and kept that promise with the birth of Jesus. That promise sustains and uplifts us, during good times and challenging ones.

When we understand this deeper meaning of a promise, we also understand each of us has a special responsibility to make, and keep, faithful promises of our own. The Christmas Joy Offering is one way to do that. Each gift received equally supports two vital promises for our faith. Through the Christmas Joy offering, we respond by making and keeping our own promises to:

- church workers through assistance in their time of need and
- racial ethnic education and leadership development.

WHO BENEFITS FROM THIS OFFERING?

Through the *Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions*, the Christmas Joy Offering assists church workers and their families during times of need, giving back to those who have spent their lives in the service of the church. The program provides grants for housing supplements, income assistance, and pastoral vocational leadership needs.

The Christmas Joy Offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders at *Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges*. These schools are dedicated to nurturing opportunity and creating environments where diverse students can succeed from a foundation of Christian values. The Offering benefits the following schools, two secondary schools that ready students for a path of higher learning, as well as a college where graduates are prepared for lives of leadership and service.

MENAU SCHOOL: a multicultural, independent college-preparatory institution, with a day school for grades 6–12 and a boarding school for grades 9–12. It exists to live out its motto, “Sea La Luz,” or “Let There Be Light.”

PRESBYTERIAN PAN AMERICAN SCHOOL: a coeducational college-preparatory school preparing students from the Americas and beyond for lives of Christian leadership.

STILLMAN COLLEGE: an institution where students could “enter to learn and depart to serve.” This four-year liberal arts college prepares students for careers in Christian ministry and other professions.

When you give to the Christmas Joy Offering, you help sustain these promises and uplift our brothers and sisters in Christ by reducing their burdens and opening new paths of opportunity.



Presbyterian Women News

by Pat McKisson, P.W. Moderator

A huge thank you goes out to all who gave to the *P.W. Thank Offering* last month. Your generous gifts will help P.W. continue to support the mission of the church worldwide and keep our legacy alive in our communities and our world.

The *Sunshine Bag Ministry* collected \$97.48. Have you turned in your 'Sunshine' money yet? If not, please give to Beryle Zimanski as soon as possible.

P.W. will start a new mission for 2016. We will be supporting Brittany's Place, A Safe and Sound Shelter for Girls Ages 13-17 in St. Paul which was established in Aug. 2014. This is a residential care facility that also does follow up for girls' age 10-17 that have been trafficked and found. Did you know 'Each month, more than 200 girls are victims of sex trafficking in Minnesota, according to a study done by the Women's Foundation of Minnesota? Brittany's Place aims to give a helping hand to those who try to escape that life.

Another new addition for 2016 is a 'Fireside Chat with Pat'. As you may have heard in my message given at the Praise Service: As we move forward with P.W.:

- We understand that the legacy of devotion to the church and dedication to God are a strong foundation for continuing mission and taking Christ into every area of life.
- We know that Presbyterian Women exist today because women are and have been adaptable, determined, proactive, charitable, generous, and dedicated to God.
- We realize that the women of today are not the women of yesterday and our organization must change in order to keep the legacy of P.W. alive.
- We can only keep the legacy of P.W. alive if all women, not just circle members, of the Presbyterian Church USA work toward moving the organization forward.

With that in mind, I ask all women in our church to ponder these questions:

- 1) How can we, together in Christ, continue the legacy of P.W.?
- 2) How can we find the common ground between generations?
- 3) How can we learn to communicate better with each other?
- 4) How do we determine what currently is important as we move forward and what needs to be changed?



It would be devastating if the Presbyterian women's organization did not continue because of lack of trying to bring about the changes needed. As women in Christ we must all continue to make a difference by using our time and talents for those causes we hold closest to our hearts. Together, with God's help, we can embrace one another for who we are and continue the great work of P.W.

The Fireside Chats with Pat will be held on 4 Wednesdays. At each session, one of the above questions will be discussed so as to get a better understanding of our church women's thoughts and ideas. Dates will be determined early in 2016.

Ongoing P.W. projects:

- 1) Assemble Church World Service baby care, hygiene, and school kits.
- 2) Knit baby caps.
- 3) Make dresses and britches for Little Dresses for Africa and Haiti,
- 4) Support Fellowship of the Least Coin,
- 5) Support Sunshine Bag collection for Church Women United of Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul for the Native American Christmas Party.
- 6) Hold semi-annual clothing drives for Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church's clothing center.

If you have questions about any of these missions, please contact Sharon Nowak or Pat McKisson.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

North Church will host the next Red Cross Blood Drive Monday, January 25, 1-7 p.m. If you are able, please plan to donate. Inventories are low as we go into winter. Please contact Kathie Johansen at 651-271-9342. Walk-ins are always welcome!

The North St. Paul Area Food Shelf is run by all volunteers, and we are presently in need of additional individuals who can come once a week or every other week. We especially need men who can lift up to 40 pounds. The food shelf is open Monday through Friday 10am-1pm. Please contact Ron at 651-210-6840 if you are interested in volunteering.





Birthdays

Kim Wirka	December 1	Jeff Sandager	December 14
Roy Ginn	December 3	Charles Brabender	December 15
Shelly Willar	December 3	Betty Achtering	December 16
Vicki Carvelli	December 4	Tom Clark	December 17
Juanita Etter	December 5	Scott Zoya	December 18
Lorraine Riebe	December 6	Chuck Williams	December 19
Mark Tiffany	December 7	Jason Wirka	December 19
Marion Owens	December 10	Chase Burkhart	December 20
Bruce Beck	December 11	Anna Yust	December 21
Mia Ruiz-Lennertson	December 11	Keira Knapp	December 23
Clark Kristensen	December 12	Beth Haukom	December 23
Laura Etter	December 12	Allison Etter	December 31
George Smith	December 13	Susan Patel	December 31
Sharon Nowak	December 13	Amelia Hanna	December 31
Susanne Meyer	December 14		



Thank You!

Ron and I want to thank all of you for the concern, prayer, phone calls, cards, visits and meals. We are so blessed to be a part of such a caring church. This journey of ours has been a rough road, but we know we are headed in the right direction at last. But with God's help and all of you, our family – especially, our daughter, Kris – close friends, we have gotten this far. Ron and Kris are doing very well after their surgeries. The next three months will be very crucial for Ron, but God has brought us this far. We are so blessed! Thank you again! ~ Porg and Ron Andrus

Thank you to everyone during my healing process from all my "ups and downs". I really appreciate how the people at North show their care and concerns. I hope I am on the permanent recovery list. Blessings to all for a safe and happy holiday season.
~ Virginia Pleban

Thank you very much to the North Church families for all your donations to the silent auction and Vikings/Packers game. We are truly blessed by a generous and giving congregation. Thank you for supporting the 2016 Work Camp Mission Trip. We raised over \$1400 towards our goal. ~ North Presbyterian Church Youth

Thank you for your donation of 29 pounds of food items to the North St. Paul Area Food Shelf. In October we served 262 families and distributed over 27,000 pounds in food. Your gift will enable us to continue serving families in North St. Paul and Oakdale. Thank you again and may God bless you. ~ Dave and Linda Zick, North St. Paul Area Food Shelf

Thank you for supporting the cub scouts and letting us set up a popcorn booth. ~ Pack #188, North St. Paul

Thank you for over 40 boxes of clothing that your congregation donated to our Clothing Center. Your annual clothing drive is a real asset to our efforts. As we enter the winter season, they will be put to good use. Thank you again for your abundant kindness. May God continue to bless you and your ministry at North Presbyterian Church. ~ Chuck Neve, Minister of Administration, Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church

Thank you for your recent gift to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Your gift helps foster peaceful solutions to conflict and assists in creating a culture of respectful dialogue in the world and in our communities. With sincere gratitude ~ Bryce Wiebe, Presbyterian Mission Agency.



Tuesday, December 1

9:00am Crafters
 1:00pm Rachel Circle
 7:00pm Northern Bells

Wednesday, December 2

5:30pm Youth Group Fellowship
 5:30pm Dinner
 6:00pm Hanging of the Greens
 6:00pm Youth Drama Rehearsal
 7:00pm Choir Practice
 7:15pm Youth Band
 7:30pm Praise Band

Thursday, December 3

6:00pm El Shadai
 6:30pm Faith Commission
 6:30pm Music Sense Garage Band
 7:00pm Deacons
 7:00pm Life, Stewardship, & Nurture

Friday, December 4

4:00pm Carol Mathey's Christmas Program

Saturday, December 5

3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, December 6

9:00am RNC/HFH Global Market
 9:15am Bell Choir Worship
 9:15am Sunday School
 10:10am Refreshments
 10:45am Kerygma
 10:45am Praise Worship
 1:30pm El Shadai

Tuesday, December 8

9:00am Crafters

Wednesday, December 9

5:30pm Youth Group Fellowship
 6:00pm Sarah Circle
 6:00pm Youth Drama Rehearsal
 7:00pm Choir Practice
 7:15pm Youth Band
 7:30pm Praise Band

Thursday, December 10

6:00pm El Shadai
 6:30pm Music Sense Garage Band

Friday, December 11

9:00am Christmas Party Set-Up
 6:00pm Boy Scout Lock-In

Saturday, December 12

11:30am Christmas Party
 3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, December 13

9:15am Sunday School
 9:15am Traditional Worship
 10:10am Refreshments

10:45am Christmas Youth Drama

10:45am Kerygma
 1:30pm El Shadai

Monday, December 14

8:00am ARM Breakfast
 9:30am Ruth Circle
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, December 15

9:00am Crafters

Wednesday, December 16

1:00pm El Shadai/Staff Meeting
 5:30pm Youth Group Dinner
 5:50pm Youth Fellowship at Skyzone
 7:00pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 17

6:00pm El Shadai
 6:30pm Music Sense Garage Band
 7:00pm Session

Friday, December 18

7:00pm El Shadai Choir Practice

Saturday, December 19

9:00am Choir Rehearsal
 9:30am El Shadai
 3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, December 20

9:30am Refreshments
 10:00am Children's Christmas Party
 10:00am Choral Worship
 1:30pm El Shadai

Monday, December 21

3:00pm Guild Meeting
 6:00pm Quilt Guild
 7:00pm Boy Scouts

Wednesday, December 23

7:00pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 24

5:00pm Christmas Eve Service
 6:00pm El Shadai
 9:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 25

~Merry Christmas~

2:00pm El Shadai Set-Up

Saturday, December 26

6:00pm El Shadai Celebration

Sunday, December 27

9:30am Refreshments
 10:00am Traditional Worship
 12:45pm El Shadai Leadership Meeting
 1:30pm El Shadai

Monday, December 28

Innovator Articles Due

Thursday, December 31

8:00pm El Shadai