

December 2016 Innovator

News



December 4: Second Sunday in Advent ~ Love

9:15am – Traditional worship in the sanctuary.

9:15am – Sunday School for all ages.

10:10am – Refreshments and Fellowship in the Hall.

10:45am – Our Youth will present an Advent Drama,
“Scooby Doo and the Creepy Christmas Caper!”

Celebration of Holy Communion at 9:15am worship.

December 11: Third Sunday in Advent ~ Joy

9:15am – Traditional worship with special music by the Northern Bells.

9:15am – Sunday School for all ages.

10:10am – Refreshments and Fellowship in the Hall.

10:45am – Praise service in the Hall.

December 18: Fourth Sunday in Advent ~ Peace

9:30am – Refreshments and Fellowship in the Hall.

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

10:00am – Children’s Christmas Celebration





CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

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

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

10:00am ~ Celebrate the birth of Christ with the Sacrament of Holy Communion at one service in the Sanctuary.
~No refreshments will be served this Sunday~



NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

10:00am ~ Celebrate the new year with the Sacrament of Holy Communion at one service in the Hall.
~No refreshments will be served this Sunday~

Kick-off the Holiday Season with your church family at the Hanging of the Greens on Wednesday, November 30th! 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.





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.

You are invited to the Christmas Luncheon to be held on Saturday, December 10th 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 by December 4th or call the church office at 651-777-4044.



Christmas Luncheon

HOLIDAY
Gift
MARKET

WHEN: December 4th from 8:30am—12:00pm

WHERE: The Gathering Area

TO BENEFIT: The Houses for Haiti organization which North supports. There will be gifts you can purchase from Haiti, Africa, and around the world as well as handmade items donated by members of our congregation. You may also want to look over our selection of Christmas treats which will be available for a 'free will donation'.



Advent
DEVOTIONALS

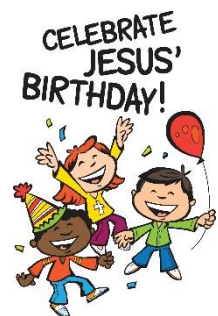
We are Christians on a mission, even in the season of Advent! The daily devotions in *Living the Gospel Life* highlight the concepts of being sent, demonstrating faith in action, and being mission-minded each day of Advent. These themes are applied each day of Advent to the activities and schedules associated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

Each family is invited to pick-up the *2016 Advent Children's Calendar*. Calendars have never been more fun and spiritually enriching! This colorful one-page calendar is filled with Scripture verses, activities, thought starters and Advent images for every day of Advent. Each mini-meditation helps children focus on the coming Savior.

Young children will enjoy *Manger on the Mantel*. This storybook tells the tale of a young child reflecting on the events of the very first Christmas night and the precious gift God put on display in the Bethlehem manger. Create your own *Manger on the Mantel* from the punch-out activity sheet that is stitched into the center of the book. Each day of December the *Manger on the Mantel* becomes a reminder that the good and loving things we do are done because God gives us the good and loving gift of Jesus.

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

Children are invited to a Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 18th, at 10:00am. Please join us for a morning of crafts, games, singing, goodies as we celebrate Jesus' Birthday!





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.

Christmas Flower Program

To honor or remember a loved one or friend and to celebrate Christ's birth, why not order a plant or flower this Christmas Season? The plants you order will first decorate the church, adding special meaning to our celebration of Christ's birth, and second will brighten your home after Christmas! You may pick up your plant or flower on December 24 after the Christmas Eve Service or on December 25 after the Christmas Day Service. Any plants or flowers not picked up by December 25 will be delivered to North members and friends who are sick or homebound.

'MISSION HIGHLIGHTS'

FAITH COMMISSION

By Pat McKisson

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING - THE WONDROUS GIFT IS GIVEN

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." —Matthew 2:6

God comes to us in free and undeserved favor in the person of Jesus Christ who lived, died, and rose for all that we might belong to God and serve Christ in the world. Following Jesus, Presbyterians are engaged in the world and in seeking thoughtful solutions to the challenges of our time.

Presbyterians affirm that God comes to us with grace and love in the person of Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose for us that we might have eternal and abundant life in him. As Christ's disciples, called to ministry in his name, we seek to continue his mission of teaching the truth, feeding the hungry, healing the broken and welcoming strangers. God sends the Holy Spirit to dwell within us, giving us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be Christ's faithful disciples in the world.

An excerpt from the PCUSA website

This Advent and Christmas season, we celebrate the gift of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, we recognize the wondrous gift Christ has given us, not just in Himself, but also in raising up leaders within our church.

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.

On December 2, Christmas packages will be delivered to *Brittany's Place*. The packages include hand-made knit and fleece scarves and hats, knit gloves, and other personal items. These Christmas gifts will make a world of difference to young girls who have been traumatized by the sex trafficking industry and have nothing to call their own. The women of North Church have shown they truly believe that it is better to give than to receive. You all are a joy to know.

The *Sunshine Bag* money will be sent to Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul for their Dept. of Indian Works. They go way beyond their mission of uniting the people, resources, and voice of the faith community to build a more just, safe and livable East Metro for all. We are honored to help them accomplish this mission.

ONGOING P.W. PROJECTS:

- 1) Collect and 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/Interfaith Action.
- 6) Hold semi-annual clothing drives for Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church's clothing center.
- 7) Support Brittany's Place as our 2016 Mission of the Year.
- 8) Honor North Church graduating seniors.
- 9) Support Youth of North Church.



The women of north church SEND BEST WISHES TO ALL OF OUR NORTH FAMILY
for A JOYOUS AND CHRIST-FILLED CHRISTMAS!
May the Lord bless you and keep you always!



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

A **Congregational Meeting** will be held January 8th to approve Pastor James' Terms of Call. The schedule for this Sunday will be the following:

- 9:30am** Refreshments
- 10:00am** Blended Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:00am** Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00am** Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary
- 12:00pm** Lunch in the Hall

Thank you everyone who donated items for Operation Christmas Child. We assembled 52 boxes on November 20th, and they are now on their way to children around the world.



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		



I would like to thank all the people who sent me cards, called me, or brought a meal over to our home while I was recovering from hip surgery. I appreciated all those items of concern. I am doing really well, started driving again, and am pain free, also. Amazing! It was so nice of all of you who remembered me during this time. Thanks, so much! Have a Blessed Holiday Season!
~ Porg Andrus

I want to thank everyone for all the care and concern given to me. It has been so appreciated. Well I have good news, the procedure I had done seems to have worked and I am pain free. It has taken too long, but I am on my way to recovery and hope it continues. As I say to people, God is always on my shoulder giving me encouraging words. Thank you Pastor James for always having a listening ear. ~ Ginny Pleban

Thank you to the North Church Deacons, Members and Friends who provided much needed assistance during Darrell Brink's memorial luncheon. I am amazed how this church graciously responds when called upon to provide the needed salads and desserts for these luncheons. Also, a special thank you to Nancy Gerhardson for always coordinating the meat, buns, relishes, condiments, etc. Thank you all very much for providing the needed food, set-up, serving, and clean-up. And to deacon Mike Gerhardson for his extra effort in getting us started. Being Darrell's deacon, I know he would have been pleased and very appreciative with this celebration. Another special thank you to Pastor James and Renee Kristensen for their communications and to Don Schroeder for always exceeding expectations in assisting with the set-up, clean-up and all the extras. Our church staff always steps up as needed! Rejoicing in His Grace! For by His grace we have been saved through faith! ~Rod Collins, for the Deacons

Thank you for supporting our boy scout troop by purchasing wreaths and popcorn. ~Troop #188

Thank you for your donation of \$650.80 in October to the North St. Paul Food Shelf. Your gift will enable us to continue serving families in North St. Paul and Oakdale. God bless you. ~ Dave and Linda Zick, North St. Paul Area Food Shelf



Thursday, December 1

12:00pm CPR Training
6:00pm El Shadai
6:30pm Faith Commission
7:00pm Deacons
7:00pm Life, Stewardship, Nurture

Friday, December 2

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

Saturday, December 3

3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, December 4

9:15am Sunday School
 9:15am Traditional Worship
 10:10am Refreshments
 10:30am Kerygma
 10:45am Youth Drama
 12:45pm El Shadai Leadership Meeting
 1:30pm El Shadai

Monday, December 5

9:30am PW Coordinating Team

Tuesday, December 6

9:00am Comforters
 7:00pm 12-Step Program
 7:00pm Northern Bells

Wednesday, December 7

1:00pm El Shadai/Staff Meeting
 5:30pm Parents' Night Out
 5:30pm Youth Group Fellowship
 6:00pm Adult Ed
 6:00pm Children's Fellowship
 7:00pm Choir Practice
 7:00pm Youth Band
 7:30pm Praise Band

Thursday, December 8

5:30pm Great Rivers District Meeting
 6:00pm El Shadai

Friday, December 9

4:00pm Carol Mathey's Christmas Party
 7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

Saturday, December 10

11:30am Holiday Luncheon
 3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, December 11

9:15am Sunday School
 9:15am Worship with Choral Bells
 10:10am Refreshments
 10:30am Kerygma
 10:45am Praise Worship
 12:45pm El Shadai Leadership Meeting
 1:30pm El Shadai

Monday, December 12

8:00am ARM Breakfast
 9:30am Ruth Circle
 1:00pm Rachel Circle

Tuesday, December 13

9:00am Comforters
 12:00pm RPR
 6:00pm Wednesday Women
 7:00pm 12-Step Program
 7:00pm Northern Bells

Wednesday, December 14

5:30pm Youth Group Fellowship
 6:00pm Adult Ed
 6:00pm Children's Fellowship
 7:00pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 15

6:00pm El Shadai
 7:00pm Session

Friday, December 16

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

Saturday, December 17

9:00am Choral Practice
 9:30am El Shadai
 3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, December 18

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

Monday, December 19

3:00pm Guild Meeting
 6:00pm Quilt Guild

Tuesday, December 20

9:00am Comforters
 7:00pm Northern Bells

Wednesday, December 21

5:30pm Youth Group Fellowship
 6:00pm Children's Fellowship
 7:00pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 22

6:00pm El Shadai

Friday, December 23

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

Saturday, December 24

3:00pm El Shadai
 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25

10:00am Christmas Day Service
 12:45pm El Shadai Leadership Meeting
 1:30pm El Shadai

Monday, December 26**Innovator Articles Due****Thursday, December 29**

6:00pm El Shadai

Saturday, December 31

3:00pm El Shadai New Year's Worship

Sunday, January 1, 2017

10:00am Traditional Worship
 1:30pm El Shadai