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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
PENDLETON, OREGON – DEC. 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2024  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, PEACE



*PASTOR: REV. JONATHAN MITCHELL*  
*MUSIC LEADERS: CARLY ELDER, STEVE MULLER*  
*LITURGIST: THERESA ULRICH*

- **BOLD** words are spoken together
- The nursery is open for children aged 0-5
- There are children's activity booklets available to keep!
- Theresa Ulrich provided the beautiful flowers in loving memory of her sister, Molly Johnson, who loved vibrant colors!

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION    *Christmas Joy Offering*    BOB BLANC

GATHERING PRAYER

\*HYMN #143                      *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*Judy Witte and Luann Soderstrom*

CALL TO WORSHIP

FROM LUKE 1 AND LUKE 3

A voice cries in the wilderness:

**“Prepare the way of the Lord!”**

A challenge is uttered from on high:

**“Make straight the paths of our God.”**

Every valley will be lifted up.

**Every mountain will be made low.**

The winding path will be made straight,

**and every rough way will be made smooth.**

Come, let us worship the LORD!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We need the tender mercy of your grace, Holy One, as we seek to comprehend the light of your love.**

**Disperse the shadows in our lives and release those who sit in darkness that they may find peace and hope in the places where fear holds sway.**

**Come to us like a refiner’s fire and fullers’ soap, for we long to be purified in body and soul and made ready to see the light of your salvation.**

*(time for silent, personal confession)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...Join me in these words of forgiveness:

**By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

## \*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

FROM PHILIPPIANS 1

...May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you!**

*Greet one another with the peace of Christ*

## ANTHEM

*Angel Carols  
(No Applause Please)*

BELLS OF JOY

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

## FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

OT P. 838

MALACHI 3:1-4

## SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

NT P. 185

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

## GOSPEL LESSON

NT P. 56

LUKE 3:1-6

## SERMON

Prepare the Way

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Prepare the Way*

COMBINED CHOIR

## OFFERING

## \*DOXOLOGY GTG #607

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise Christ all people here below;***

***Praise Holy Spirit evermore;***

***Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen***

PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER  
**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. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN #100      *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

\*BENEDICTION

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please sign and pass the fellowship pads at the end of the pews. It is a great way to determine who sits in the pew next to you. Please join us for coffee hour following worship.
- Presbyterian Women meet for Bible study on the second Wednesday of each month, 9:30 am at the church.
- Today is the last day for the fair trade crafts sale, December 8th. You may shop following worship and advent event. Feel free to call Judy Wilkins at (541)3790442 if you have any questions. Thank you for supporting artisans and small farmers around the world.
- Church-Wide Advent Celebration 4:30 – 6:30 PM in the Rogers Room. Fun for all ages. Caring Connection will provide a meal. We will make decorations, enjoy each other's company, and decorate the tree in the sanctuary.
- Thrill of Hope - The Living Nativity. A non-profit called Thrill of Hope now organizes the living Nativity at Roy Raley Park. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, contact either Cate Reynolds or Doreen Matteson. See the flyer at the back of the bulletin.
- All quilters invited to a community-quilting group at Peace Lutheran Church 9 AM to Noon on Thursdays.
- The longest night service will be on Dec. 19th at 7 PM. The flyer below provides more information.
- Starting in January there will be a 40 days bible study. More information is on the flyer below.

# BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**There are several opportunities this Fall and Winter to study and grow in spiritual discipline. Choose one, or try them all!**

1) From Horizons, the Presbyterian Women magazine, “Let Justice Roll Down: God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation.” This is an in-depth examination of how we respond with justice and equity to God’s call to care for the nations and our earth. Join us the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am, beginning in October. ***For questions, please call Lori Powell, 541-278-6738.***

2) Pastor Jonathan will be offering “Feasting on the Word: furthering our understanding of the sermon texts.” Pastor will be offering this as a time to deeply engage with the Word, as preached and taught from the pulpit. The study will be happening this fall. Details about dates/times will be forthcoming

3) The Congregational Vitality Commission is pleased to offer “Forty Days with the Gospel of Matthew” starting in the New Year. This unique study is in a prayer journal format, outlining 40 days of Bible study and reflection, with Bible text, thoughtful comment, challenging questions and space for you to think, write, draw and pray. ***The person to call for questions is Darcey Ridgway.***

**Three different kinds of Bible study, Three different times and places.  
Three ways to connect your spiritual questions with informed  
direction, discussion, laughter and love. Three ways to grow closer to  
God’s will and purpose for your life. See you there!**



## **THE THRILL OF HOPE PRESENTS**

### The Living Nativity

When: December 21st

Where: Roy Raley Park

Time: 6pm-9pm



Scan above to volunteer or  
donate



# The Longest Night

A nondenominational contemplative service that focuses on Christ as the Light of the World overcoming the darkness of loss, suffering and loneliness. We recognize that this season is not always joyous and offer this special service designed to provide hope and healing. All are welcome!

**7:00 pm Thursday  
December 19**

**St. Clare Chapel  
St. Anthony Hospital**

For more information please call 541-278-6574



# 40 DAYS

*with the*



**Please join us for “40 Days with the Gospel of Matthew (Volume 1)” Bible study! The first part of this study will start on January 6, 2025 and end on February 14, 2025 (40 days). This daily devotional journal will take you through Matthew 15:20.**

**The second part of this study (40 Days with the Gospel of Matthew, Volume 2) will begin with Matthew 15:21-28 and will start on March 5, 2025 and end on Easter. This “40 Days” series is intended to be both devotional and journal that encourages the reader to study, reflect, discern and pray about that day’s Scripture reading.**

**There is space after each daily Scripture entry to write about the key words or phrases that resonate with you and a place to write your insights.**

**Group discussions will be led by Pastor Jonathan on the following dates:**

**(Part 1): January 12, January 26 and February 16.**

**(Part 2): March 16 and April 6.**

**Books will be provided by the Congregational Vitality Commission and are also available at Brett’s Books. Please let Darcey Ridgway know if you are interested so the correct number of books can be ordered. She can be reached at (541) 310-0951.**

*Any and all questions about this Bible study can also be directed to Darcey.*



**2024**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 1 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Worship at 10:00 AM. Lighting the candle of hope in the Advent Wreath

**SUNDAY, DEC. 8 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Worship at 10:00 AM. Lighting the candle of peace in the Advent Wreath

Church-Wide Advent Celebration 4:30 – 6:30 PM in the Rogers Room  
Fun for all ages. Caring Connection will provide a meal.  
We will make decorations, enjoy each other's company, and  
decorate the tree in the sanctuary.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 15 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Worship at 10:00 AM. Lighting the candle of joy in the Advent Wreath  
Children/Youth Christmas Pageant during worship  
All kiddos are invited. No preparation necessary.  
Arrive at 9:15 for "rehearsal."

**THURSDAY, DEC. 19 LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE**

7:00 PM at St. Anthony's Hospital Chapel

**SUNDAY, DEC. 22 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Worship at 10:00 AM. Lighting the candle of love in the Advent Wreath

**TUESDAY, DEC. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE**

Lessons and Carols at 7:00 PM . Lighting the Christ candle in the Advent Wreath.

This is a service of readings that begin in Genesis and end with the birth of Christ. Beautiful music is interspersed throughout worship.

The service culminates with the singing of "Silent Night" and passing the light to one another.

**JOIN US FOR THESE WONDERFUL EXPERIENCES!**