



The Messenger

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF
SAINT ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TOPEKA, KANSAS



December 2023

Volume 45, No. 12

Advent Worship



Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for

Christ’s return.

Between memory and hope: An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 96)

Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! In Advent, we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord.

In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God’s new world, yet we praise God who raised the “righteous branch” to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land.

You are encouraged to join us in worship this advent season as we light the advent candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, and contemplate and prepare for the arrival of our Savior.



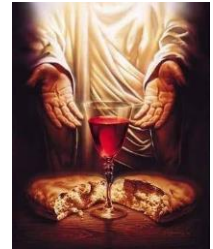
St. Andrews will celebrate its traditional **Candlelight Christmas Eve and Communion service at 5:00 p.m.**

Hopefully this time is accommodating for most people. Join us for this meaningful and inspiring service, and join us in worship each week as we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord.



Communion

Holy Communion will be celebrated on December 3rd during worship and at the Christmas Eve Service.



It is time to order poinsettias for the Advent season. They will be \$9.00. Your contribution will help us decorate and beautify the sanctuary.

Providing for Others



Doorstep

For many the month of December is about the holidays, gathering with friends and family, decorating, baking, and getting gifts ready to share with our loved ones. The executive board decided that going forward we will not have the Christmas Store as it was pre-pandemic. We will continue with a process similar to the past three years operating out of the Doorstep building and preparing everything for each household to come pick up at an appointed day and time. Each household we adopt will receive a food order, health kit, blanket/quilt,

a household item, gifts, games and toys (children), school supplies if appropriate, and a \$20 gift card per person in the household. We have some limited volunteer opportunities available this year! (See Below)

Current Needs for Christmas: Gifts needed by December 8th are:

Toys: Nerf Guns, Legos Toys, Puzzles, and learning toys like Vtech.

Any type of KC Chiefs décor, hoodies, etc.,

AXE sets for men,

Hoodies (Sz Med – 4X, variety of colors),

King size sheet sets

Dish Sets, Silverware Sets, Kitchen Utensil Sets, Skillets and Sauce Pans.

These items should be **NEW** for Christmas.

We also need monetary donations for the gift cards, food, etc. which will total \$35,000 or more. You can mail a check, or go to our website (www.doorsteptopeka.org) to donate by credit card. Please note your member congregation with your donation, and don't forget your year-end, tax-deductible donations!

Please note the following dates in December:

NO DONATIONS of used clothing or household items will be accepted **Nov. 22nd – Dec. 18th**.

Doorstep will be **CLOSED FOR ALL SERVICES AND DONATIONS** December 11th – 15th.

Doorstep Holiday Hours:

- **Closed** from Noon on December 22nd through December 26th & January 1st.
- Open for **donations only** December 27th – 29th, January 3rd, 9am-2pm.
- Closed for **ALL services** December 27th – January 2nd for year-end wrap-up.
- Resume normal operation on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays from the Staff at Doorstep!

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION CHRISTMAS NEEDS LIST Donations can be brought to the Distribution Center at 401 NW Norris, Monday—Friday 8:00AM to 3:45PM. To speak with our Distribution Center, please call (785)357-4285.



2023 CHRISTMAS NEEDS—ALL ITEMS SHOULD BE NEW

Arts & crafts supplies (drawing, coloring, jewelry making, etc.) Backpacks (especially adults) Bath and body care for women and men Bath towels Bedding (sheet sets, comforters, blankets, pillows) for twin or queen Clothing for all ages (especially jeans for men 30-36 waist; underwear for men & women M, L, & XL) Diapers & wipes (especially sizes 4, 5, and 6) Electronics (ear buds, mobile power banks, etc.) Flashlights Games (puzzles, board games, hand-held electronic, etc.) Kitchen items (small appliances, pots & pans, dishes, etc.) Make-up (teens and adults) Perfume and cologne Pet Supplies (food, dishes, beds, toys, etc.) Shoes and slippers for men Sleeping Bags Sports items (team gear, balls, etc.) Sunglasses (polarized) Throw blankets (small) Tools (hand tools, sockets, bits, etc.) Toys for kids (Barbie, cars & trucks, learning toys, dinosaurs, Legos, action figures, dolls, fidget toys, etc.) Winter gear (hats, gloves, hand warmers, etc.)

HOLIDAY FOOD BOXES NEEDS LIST Corn Instant Mashed Potatoes Gravy (packets or jars) Cranberry Sauce Canned Pumpkin Cake Mix (especially yellow)

Holiday Concert



The Shawnee Choral Society Christmas concert, *Gloria*, will be at 7PM on Friday, December 15th, at White Concert Hall. The concert is free (free will donations accepted). Stephanie and Matthew Reynolds sing with this group, and it is always a fun concert for the community.

Thanksgiving Dinner

A good time was had by all as we shared good food and friendship following worship at our Thanksgiving dinner on November 19th thanking God for our many blessings. A big thank you to all those who brought the delicious food, the colorful decorations and to those who helped with the cleanup. We look forward to being able to celebrate together again next year.

From Thanksgiving Dinner



DECEMBER 2023 LECTIONARY READINGS

First Sunday of Advent—December 3 Isaiah 64:1–9 Psalm 80:1–7,
17–19 1 Corinthians 1:3–9 Mark 13:24–37

Second Sunday of Advent—December 10 Isaiah 40:1–11 Psalm
85:1–2, 8–13 2 Peter 3:8–15a Mark 1:1–8

Third Sunday of Advent—December 17 Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 Psalm
126 or Luke 1:46b–55 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 John 1:6–8, 19–28

Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 24 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16 Luke 1:46b–55 or Psalm 89:1–4,
19–26 Romans 16:25–27 Luke 1:26–38



Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Eve)—December 24 Isaiah 9:2–7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11–14 Luke 2:1–14 [15–20] Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Dawn)—December 25 Isaiah 62:6–12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4–7 Luke 2:[1–7] 8–20

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)—December 25 Isaiah 52:7–10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1–4 [5–12] John 1:1–14 Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 2

First Sunday of Christmas—December 31 Isaiah 61:10—62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4–7 Luke 2:22–40



Peanut butter cups

1 stick butter
1 cup smooth peanut butter
2 cups powdered sugar

1 sleeve (9 full rectangles) crushed Graham Crackers

1 cup chocolate chips plus 1 Tbs peanut butter (or melting chips or almond bark)

Melt butter in microwave bowl. Add 1 C. peanut butter. Stir until smooth. Stir in powdered sugar until well blended. Mix in Graham cracker crumbs. Pack mixture tightly into a buttered 9x9 pan. (I personally like to pack the mixture into muffin tins with cupcake liners)

The recipe says to Melt the chocolate chips and stir in the Tbs peanut butter and spread on top of peanut butter mix. Let cool and serve.

I find that the chocolate chip topping will get soft unless you keep it refrigerated. I have used both, chocolate melting discs and chocolate almond bark (with a little coconut oil). Either one will stay solidified well.

Contributed by Sharon McDaniels

Merry Christmas



December Birthdays

Jeanette Luedke, December 1st
Sue Aschenbrenner, December 2nd

Bill DeShazer, December 10th

Randy Luedke, December 16th

Megann Reynolds, December 23rd

Richmond McDaniels, December 27th

Kelly Carr, December 31st

December Anniversaries

Bill and Betty DeShazer, December 4, 1966

Tad and Gail Estes, December 25, 1986



Caring for our Members and Friends



Pastor Stacey, Jan Rice, Betty DeShazer, Tad Estes, Kaylin McDaniels, Karen Beckley, Don and Suzie Marker, Dana McDaniels, Kathy Fuller, Dolores Wilmers, Rita Kelly, Cheryl Kelly

Remember all who serve-our service men and women, firefighters, EMTs, police officers, and medical personnel.

Prayers for the hungry and the homeless.

Prayers for the victims of the Israel-Palestinian War and war in Ukraine. Prayers for the release of hostages and aid to the suffering.

SESSION



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS-Sunday, November 12, 2023

[P] '25 Dean Robinson	[P] '24 Sharon McDaniels	[A] '23 Betty DeShazer
[A] '25 Larry William	[P] '24 Linda Ozaki	[P] '23 Bill DeShazer
[P] '25 Jan Rice	[A] '24 Stephanie Reynolds	[A] '23 Charles Frank

[P] Session Moderator- Rev. Dr. Stacey Shaffer Jones

[P] Clerk of Session-Bill DeShazer

[A] Treasurer-Stephanie Reynolds

Income and expenses normal for month of October

Poinsettias will be \$9.00 this year.

Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:00 pm

Next session meeting is December 17th following worship.

Communion will be celebrated on December 3rd and the Christmas Eve Service

December 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Jeannette Luedke B'day	2 Sue Aschenbrenner B'day
3 Communion	4 Bill & Betty DeShazer Anniv.	5	6	7	8	9
10 Bill DeShazer B'day	11	12	13	14	15	16 Randy Luedke B'day
17 Session	18	19	20	21	22	23 Megan Reynolds B'day
24 Christmas Eve Svc. 5:00 pm	25 Merry Christmas Tad & Gail Estes Anniv.	26	27 Richmond McDaniels B'day	28	29	30
31 Kelly Carr B'day						

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December 2023

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**WELCOME TO
SAINT ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Dr. Stacey Shaffer Jones, Pastor
Worship 11:00 AM
Bible Study 10:15 AM**

Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Service 5:00 PM

