

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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LAUREL HILL PRESBYTERIAN
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Pastor: Rev. Mark R. Broadhead



NEWS FROM THE HUB AND THE HILL

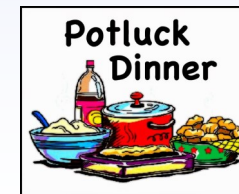


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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, we will have our Christmas Pot Luck after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We will go caroling after the Pot Luck, to help spread the Christmas cheer.



And



CHOIR PRACTICE
 Choir practice is on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30. We are thoroughly enjoying preparing for the Advent and Christmas seasons!

JUBILEE CIRCLE
 Will meet Thursday, December 19, at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.



The Crestview Session will meet on Monday, December 9, 2019. It will be held in the choir room at 6:30 p.m. Please have your reports submitted by Friday, December 12, at 12pm.

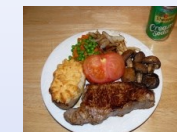


PROPERTY MINISTRY MEETING
 Will meet in the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, December 1.

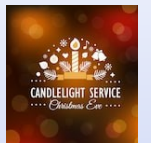
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE will meet on Sunday, December 15, in the fellowship hall after worship.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP DINNER

This will be held on Tuesday, December 10, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Men, see Louis Becker to sign up. Steak, baked potato, salad and dessert all for only \$12!



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
 Once again we will have two worship services on Christmas Eve: 6:00 p.m. designed especially with all ages in mind, and 11:00 which is more reflective in nature. Both services are candlelight and communion.



SPECIAL DATES

- First Sunday of Advent, *December 1, 2019*
- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 8, 2019*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 15, 2019*
- First day of winter, *December 21, 2019*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 22, 2019*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2019*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2019*
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2019*

THE MINISTER'S MUSINGS...

Dear Friends,

The season of Advent has arrived! We now begin the season of watching and waiting for the arrival of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

In case you didn't know, the word "advent" comes from the Latin word "adventus" which means "coming." This is the season during which we wait for the coming of our Lord into the world. This may seem kind of strange since Jesus has already come into the world. So, what is it we are actually waiting for?

This is a time we prepare our minds and hearts to remember and celebrate the birth of our Lord. But equally important (if not more so), this is the season we focus on the second coming of our Lord. That is the advent – the coming – we await.

The prescribed scripture readings for this season remind us that Jesus will come again. And when he does, he has promised there will be no more sorrow or pain or death, no more war or disease or poverty. He has said that all things in heaven and earth will be made one.

This is a hope and dream many long for – right now! With so much turmoil in the world and in personal lives, I keep hearing people say, "I wish Jesus would hurry up and get back here!" Honestly, I've thought that myself.

At the same time, it is not easy to focus on his second coming when the world is decorating, shopping, rushing to cram in glad tidings in preparation for the celebration of his first coming – that is, Christmas.

Yes, remembering the birth of a tiny baby centuries ago, born to bring salvation to humankind, is a tremendous reason to celebrate. It touches our hearts on so many different levels. But remember to reflect on what it means to you as you think about what the return of our risen Lord will bring.

Let me encourage you to change your focus for a day or two, this Advent season. Turn your attention to what it means for you that the Christ Jesus will come again; this time, not as a baby, but as our risen Lord who says, "Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20 NRSV)

Sursum Corda,
Mark



LIVING NATIVITY 2019

About two-thousand years ago, a young couple named Mary and Joseph — the lady being "great with child," we are reliably informed — made a spiritual journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

The world hasn't stopped talking about what happened next ever since.

Since 2010, members of our two congregations have invited their friends and neighbors to take a spiritual "Journey to Bethlehem" of their own, following a candlelit path that winds through the Laurel Hill church's spacious grounds.

This year's Living Nativity runs continuously from 5:30 to 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14. Visitors, assembled in small groups, embark every few minutes on their "journey." Along the way, they encounter the people to whom what has been called "the greatest story ever told" unfolded, portrayed by actors from several area churches.

Ultimately, the journey takes participants to a stable in Bethlehem, where awaits a baby in a manger who transformed — and saved — humankind. Refreshments and fellowship follow in the historic, 121-year-old Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church.

Unlike most live nativity tableaux, our living nativity is an interactive experience, an opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, and for a short while, a chance to eschew the frenzy and commercialism and instead, cleanse your minds to focus on what is most important about the season.

Take time amid the frenzy and clutter of this time of year to pause, reflect and remember what the holiday is all about. It's a journey worth undertaking.

MORE HELP IS STILL NEEDED

Your assistance is still needed to help make this year's Living Nativity a success. There is a need for actors (Mary, Joseph, a couple Shepherds, a king or two.) We need help setting up, several to be guides who will escort guests from site to site, more baked goods to serve our guests are needed. Would you care to help park cars, serve refreshments?

There is something for everyone. Please look for the sign-up sheet on The Cube in the back of the Crestview Church, or speak with Brian Hughes or Mark Broadhead.





BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES



4 Anna Hufer
4 Catherine Spears
6 Jeff Clack
10 Faye Maye
12 Katelyn Barton
13 Ashley Mizak
19 Sarah Myers
23 Jerry Williams
24 Chelsea Clack
27 Sally Griffin
27an Hufer

17 Greg and Jamie Machmiller

“BE BORN IN US TODAY”

In 1865, Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal preacher from Boston, went on a Holy Land pilgrimage. Riding horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem for Christmas Eve worship at the Church of the Nativity was so moving that he wrote “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” The hymn’s final stanza addresses the town’s most famous newborn:

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!



Worship Leaders for December

Head Usher/ Crestview

Laurel Hill

Crestview

Sarah Myers

1 Jake Peoples

Greg Myers

8 Celia Broadhead

Jim Gaylord

15 Brian Hughes

Bobby Barton

22 Henry Givens

Remy Kublik

29 Jo Kublik

Jo Kublik











ADVENT

Advent, which marks the beginning of the church year, is “the first gleam of Christmas,” writes W.E. Sangster. “It heralds the entrance of the Divine into human history; it is heaven descending to earth; it is a great event casting its brilliance before it.” Sangster adds: “It is as though a trumpeter had taken his stand upon the turrets of time and announced the coming of the King. ‘Get ready,’ he seems to say. ‘Get ready. He is coming!’”



December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Property Ministry 	2	3	4 Choir 7pm	Bible Study 6:30 (FH)	6 Community Chorus 7pm 201 Stillwell Blvd.	7 Crestview Christmas Parade 5:50 pm 
8 Christmas Pot Luck and Caroling 	9 CV-Session 6:30 pm Choir Room	10 Men's Dinner 6:30 pm (FH)	11 Choir 7pm	12 Bible Study 6:30 (FH)	13	14 Living Nativity 5:30 pm – 8pm 
15 Congregational Life Meeting 	16	17	18 Choir 7pm	19 Jubilee Circle 11 am (FH)	20	21
22 Joy Offering 	23	24 Worship 6 pm Worship 11 pm 	25 	26 Bible Study 6:30 (FH)	27	28
29 2Cent A- Meal Offering	30	31		Bible Study 6:30 (FH)		