**Montoursville Presbyterian Church**

900 Elm Street, Montoursville, PA

December 11, 2016 10:45am

 Third Sunday of Advent

 

**God’s People Gather**

*Please observe prayerful silence when the prelude begins.*

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE “Come All Ye Shepherds” *Lani Smith*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE/CHORAL INTROIT (10:45)

*Carol & Don Peace*

**We Praise the Lord**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 146)

L: Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, O my soul.

**P: I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

L: Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.

**P: Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.**

L: He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

**P: The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind.**

L: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous.

**P: The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but He frustrates the way of the wicked. The Lord reigns forever. Praise the Lord.**

\*Advent Hymn: 2 “2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession: **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us. Because we are so hindered by our sins that we stumble and fall, let Your bountiful grace and mercy come quickly to help and deliver us. Grant us mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord, in Whose name we pray, Amen.** *(Silent Confession)*

Assurance of Pardon

\*Response of Praise: 579 “Gloria Patri”

Passing the Peace

L: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

**Hear God’s Word**

CHILDREN’S CHOIR and Lighting the Advent Wreath

 PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11 (pg. 976/1484)

THE EPISTLE: James 5:7-11 (pg. 1219/1844)

SPECIAL MUSIC “Breath of Heaven” *Debbie Keller*

THE PROPHET: Isaiah 35:1-10 (pg. 713/1072)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON Can You See It? *Rev. David C. Smith*

\*Hymn of Response: 18 “The Desert Shall Rejoice”

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe that Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God and God’s eternal Son, clothed himself in our flesh, so that he is both God and human in one person. He is like us in every way, suffering in body and in soul, except that he remained pure from all stain of sin. As to his humanity, he was truly the seed of Abraham and David, although he was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**The Disciples Give Thanks**

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory “Love Came Down”  *Allanson Brown*

\*Doxology: ***Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise Him all creatures here below;***

***Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;***

***Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

THE SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS  *Diane Casella*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE The Lord’s Prayer (pg. 16)

**We Go Forth To Serve**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*Hymn of Sending: 8 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Light of Lights, Lord of Lords” *Tom Birchwood*

\*Please stand, if able

Worship Leaders Pastor: *Rev. David Smith*

Greeters & Ushers: (8:15) *Steve & Cathy Rush*

Greeters: (10:45) *Mike & Deb Cillo*

Ushers: *J. Lapinski, T. Strein, D. Shimmel, R. McCloskey*

Liturgist:  *Paula Shimmel*

Organist:  *Debbie Keller* Choir Director: *Dennis Carpenter*

 **This Week at MPC**

**Sunday, December 11th**

8:15am Worship Service/Cantata (S)

9:15am Coffee Fellowship (FH)

9:30am Sunday School (C)

10:45am Worship Service (S)

FISH Christmas Party at the Shimmels

**Monday, December 12th** *(Food Pantry/Shep. of the Sts. Delivery)*

8:30am Prayer Group (MCEC)

**Tuesday, December 13th** *(bulletin announcements due)*

**Wednesday, December 14th**

9:00am-3:00pm Rental (FH&K)

6:30pm-8:30pm District 48 AA Meeting (FH)

**Thursday, December 15th**

6:00pm-8:00pm Presby Friends (MCEC)

6:15pm-8:15pm AA Meeting (FH)

7:00pm Choir Practice

**Friday, December 16th**  Office Closed

10:30am Diabetes Prevention Program (C)

Noon Retiree Luncheon (FH&K)

**Saturday, December 17th**

11:00am-3:00pm Rental (FH)

**Sunday, December 18th**

8:15am Worship Service (S)

9:15am Coffee Fellowship (FH)

9:30am Sunday School (C)

10:45am Worship Service/Cantata (S)

Cookie Reception

6:00pm FISH Caroling (MCEC)

S – Sanctuary C – Classroom FH – Fellowship Hall N – Nursery

MCEC – Mendenhall

Last Week’s Attendance: 8:15am – 39 10:45am – 88

**Pastor’s Office** (570) 368-4747 MontourPastor@verizon.net

**Church Office:** Mon-Thur 9:00-noon (570) 368-1595

**E-mail:** Montourpc@gmail.com **Website:** [www.montourpres.org](http://www.montourpres.org)

**Listen to David’s sermons at:** http//www.youtube.com/user/montourpc

**Announcements for the week of December 11, 2016**

Welcome to the Montoursville Presbyterian Church

Visitors: Please complete a Visitor Card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. If you are looking for a church home or membership, please see the Pastor, an Usher, or call the office.

**To assist with your worship experience, we offer:**

**Personal hearing devices** – please see an Usher

**Pew cushions** – stored above the coat racks in the Narthex

**Large print hymnals** – in the Narthex

**Handicap/family restroom** – off the far end of Fellowship Hall

**Worship bags for children** – in a basket in the Narthex

**Nursery care** for children ages up to 5 years old

 **Staff:** Deb Rupert, Mary Strein, Dorothy Casella and Gaetan Casella

**Please note: There will be only one worship service on December 25th and January 1st at 9:30am.**

**Presby Friends** will be meeting from 6:30 to 7:30 on Thursday December 15th in the Mendenhall Center for a Birthday Party for Jesus. All of our children through 4th grade are invited to join us for games, a craft and birthday cake! Please bring as your present for Jesus a non-perishable food item to give to the food bank.

**Retiree Luncheon:** The next luncheon will be December 16th

at noon in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help, please see

*Faye Konkle* or *Judy Shimp****.***

**Cookie Reception:**  All are invited to meet in Fellowship Hall after the 10:45 Worship Service/Cantata on December 18th.  Please bring a plate of cookies to share. You can drop them off in the church kitchen prior to the 10:45 worship service.  Hope to see you there for a great time of fellowship!

**Geisinger Health Plan** is offering a diabetes prevention program for those at risk of developing diabetes. There is no-cost and it is open to the public. The one hour meetings are held Fridays at 10:30am at MPC in Don King’s classroom for 16 weeks and then monthly through Feb 24. For more info or to sign up, call Pam at 570-214-6539

**Holiday Christmas Baskets:** A variety of canned vegetables are being collected for the Food Pantry through December 12th. There will be a table set up in the narthex for the canned goods. Thank you for your generosity.

**The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank Turkey Drive** - We are accepting turkeys or taking a donation of $25 for a family of 4 until December 17th. If you would like to take part, please check our website: [www.centralpafoodbank.org](http://www.centralpafoodbank.org/). Drop-off or donate times are: Monday-Friday 8am-4pm.

 **THANK YOU** for your amazing support of Operation Christmas Child!!  We were flooded with items from shoppers and with folks who donated funds for shopping and shipping.  God provided through you and met our goal - **we were able to assemble 50 boxes!**  Praise the Lord!  Please remember to pray for the children who will receive these gifts, given in the love of Christ.

Thank you again for all your support!

 **FISH Youth Group**.
**TONIGHT** - Christmas Party at the Shimmels from 5:00 -7:30pm.  Please bring a side dish to share and your family or a friend to this well-loved FISH tradition.  Please bring a wrapped $10 gift card to play a fun game.  Please join us!

**December 18** - Caroling.  Come to the MCEC at 6:00 pm to join with others who like to make a joyful noise and bring some holiday cheer to folks from our congregation.  Bring along any family or friends who might like to come too! We’ll return to the MCEC for hot chocolate and cookies afterwards.

**December 25** - Celebrate Jesus’ birthday with your FISH friends at the short worship service on Christmas morning.  See you then!

**A children and youth choir** is being organized to sing a few songs during the holidays, especially at Christmas. All children and youth from pre-school through high school are invited to join us in the Kindergarten classroom at 10:15 on Sunday mornings.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

**Haiti Mission Trip**:  Mike Cillo is going to Haiti with the Espwa Foundation team in early January.  His goal is to raise funds for the New Hope Hospital Ambulance.  He is asking for financial support and prayers from his church family. Thanks!

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

December 18 – *Mona Rundio & Autumn Bigger*

January 8 – *Elizabeth, Carmen and Gabriel Moores*

**Usher and Greeters for December 18th**

(8:15am) Ushers and Greeters: *Doc & Kay Shearer*

(10:45am) Greeters: *George & Lois Conrad*

Ushers: *B. Messersmith, M. Bradley, M. Bogart, M. Cillo*

**Ushers and Greeters for December 24th**

(5:00pm) Greeters: *Don & Carol Peace*

Ushers: *G. Casella Jr., G. Casella Sr., G. Casella, O. Casella*

(7:30pm) Greeters: *Steve & Cathy Rush*

Ushers: *D. Konkle, T. Dougherty, I. Fox, L. Platt*

**Ushers and Greeters for December 25th**

(9:30am) Greeters: *George & Lois Conrad*

Ushers: *B. Messersmith, M. Bradley, M. Bogart, M. Cillo*

**Current Expense & Mission Budget**

November giving $ 14,933.56

November expenses $ (14,260.58)

Excess (Deficit) **$**   **672.98**

YTD giving $ 174,103.22

YTD expenses $ (180,235.70)

Excess (Deficit) $  **(6,132.48)**

**Prayer List**

**Illness, recovery and support:** Eleanor Anderson, Kathy Butkofsky, Rose Marie Beamer, Harriett Bernier, Marge Bieber, Doug Bird, Carol Black, Colleen Bolton, Dave Bower, Robert Bozart, Hedi Campbell, Diane Chestnut, Mary Christie, Saundra Cillo, Audrey Dochter, Joanne Drake, Danny, Jody and Noah Fagnano, Betty Farley, Tad Fiser, Bob Folmar, Jodi Fraser, Tim Garman, Trista Hackenberg, Olivia Haley, Tom Hoy, Rod Husted, Victoria Johnson, Kathleen Keller, Liese Kimble, Susan Lantz, Tina and Scott Lawrence, Roberta Lombardi, Dick Mason, Jim Mexdorf, Miriam Miller, Angela Mitchell, Buzz and Sandy Platt, Leigh Purdy, Joshua and Henry Reinsburrow, and Danny Wagner, James and Shirley Shaner, Jim and Lois Thomas, Stella Walmer, Marieva Williams, Sandy Wright.

**Thanks:** From Sandy and Buzz Platt for all well wishes from the congregation and to the Hugs group.

**Military:** Duane (DJ) Burleigh, Ryan Burns, Joe Cardone, Capt. Brady Cillo, Jessie Confer, Maj. Laurie Fontaine, Caleb Frantz, Julia Glosek, Ben Hepburn, Ethan Jones, Dani Kline, Sgt. J. Patrick Lawracy, Jeremy Loveland, David McCollin, Marissa Patterson, Paul Wenner, Jason Yurek

**Others:** Nthemba Church (Sister church in Africa), Ministries of MPC, Peace in the World, Camp Krislund, Flood victims in Louisiana, Victims of Hurricane Matthew.

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