**Montoursville Presbyterian Church**

900 Elm Street, Montoursville, PA

December 15, 2019 8:15am & 10:45am

**Third Sunday of Advent**



**God’s People Gather**

*Please observe prayerful silence when the prelude begins.*

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE “Come, O Wondrous Child” *G. F. Handel*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (10:45)

**We Praise the Lord**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Luke 1:46-55)

L: My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

**P: His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation.**

L: He has performed mighty deeds with His arm; He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

**P: He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.**

\*Advent Hymn: 9 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

**God of our salvation, our hearts are crooked, and our lives filled with rough places because of our sin. Make straight our winding ways, and smooth the paths made uneven by sin. Keep our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good You have begun in us. We ask this through Him Whose coming is certain, Whose day draws near, Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. 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 LESSON Lighting the Advent Wreath

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

(8:15) “Breath of Heaven” *Debbie Keller*

(10:45) “O Holy Night” *Kindred Spirits*

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

Leader: This is the word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON Coming to Save  *Rev.* *David C. Smith*

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

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Scots Confession, 1560, VI)

**When the fullness of time came, God sent His Son, His eternal wisdom, the substance of His own glory, into this world, Who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the “just seed of David,” the “Angel of the great counsel of God,” the very Messiah promised, Whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one Person.**

**The Disciples Give Thanks**

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory (8:15) “Pastorale Symphony” *Debbie Keller*

(10:45) “Silent Night” *Kindred Spirits*

\*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!*

\*Prayer of Dedication

THE SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

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

**We Go Forth To Serve**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* Hymn of Sending: 40 “Joy to the World!”

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “The Angel’s Trumpet” *Dennis Eliot*

\*Please stand, if able

**Worship Leaders** Pastor: *Rev.* *David C. Smith*

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

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

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

Liturgist: (8:15) *Doc Shearer* (10:45) *Diane Casella*

Organist: *Debbie Keller*

**This Week at MPC**

**Sunday, December 15th**

8:15am Worship Service (S)

9:30am Sunday School

10:45am Worship Service (S)

4:00pm FISH Youth Group Caroling & Christmas Party

**Monday, December 16th** *(Food Pantry/Shep. of the Sts. Delivery)*

8:30am Prayer Group (MCEC)

10:00am-Noon Yoga (FH)

**Tuesday, December 17th** *(bulletin announcements due)*

6:00pm Deacons Meeting (C)

**Wednesday, December 18th**

9:00am-Noon Presbytery General Commission (FH)

6:00pm-7:00pm Cub Scout Meeting (FH)

**Thursday, December 19th**

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

**Friday, December 20th** Office Closed

10:00am-Noon Yoga (FH)

**Sunday, December 22nd**

8:15am Worship Service (S)

9:30am Sunday School

10:45am Lessons and Carols Worship Service (S)

Noon Cookie Reception (FH)

Last Week’s Attendance: 8:15am – 36 10:45am – 87

**Pastor’s Office** (570) 368-4747 presbysmith@gmail.com

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

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

**Ushers & Greeters for December 24th**

Ushers: (5:00) *G. Casella Jr., G. Casella, O. Casella, G. Casella Sr.*

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

Ushers: *D. Konkle, F. Konkle, T. Frantz*

**Ushers & Greeters for December 29th**

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

Greeters*:* (10:45) *Bill & Tammy Schlachter*

Ushers: *G. Conrad, N. Bixler, L. Keller, D. King*

**Liturgists for December 29th**

*Carl Fulton/Winnie Kremser*

**Announcements for the week of December 15, 2019**

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, Dorothy Casella, Owen Casella, Gabby Shearer

**FISH Youth Group**

**TODAY** - A full day of FISH fun!  We’ll meet at 4:00 pm at the Shimmel’s house (Spruce St.) to drop off your offerings for the Christmas party which will start after we go caroling for a bit.  Please bring a dish to share (appetizer, side dish, dessert) and a $10 gift card for a fun Christmas exchange game. Families are all welcome!  We’ll plan for dinner about 6:00 pm so if you can’t make caroling, please come to the party.  Ask a FISH leader if you have questions.  
**December 29** - As 2019 comes to its close, let’s celebrate with a lock- In at the church!  Please come at 5:00 pm - bring your favorite game, a favorite G or PG movie, a snack to share and something to sleep on - yes there will be sleeping!  We’ll eat pizza, play games, watch movies and enjoy a fun evening together.  We’ll cook breakfast in the morning and be finished by 9:30am.  FISH alumni are welcome as well!  Please let us know if you have any questions.

**Lessons and Carols Service will be** Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 10:45am followed by our traditional cookie reception. If possible, bring a contribution of cookies to add to our incredibly diverse selection. Not a baker? Come anyway for a treat and a time of fellowship!

**The Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services are at 5:00pm and 7:30pm.**

**If you would like to support one of MPC’s missions, Hugs from God Shawl Ministry is asking for monetary donations to purchase supplies.** **If you know of anyone in need of a shawl or lap robe, please call the office, we will wrap it and put it in a gift bag for your delivery.**

**COOKBOOKS -** PW Circle 1 cookbooks would make a wonderful Christmas present at a new reduced price of $15! Not only do you get a collection of tried-and-true recipes from members of our congregation, but you get 8 pages of beautiful original artwork from M.P.C.’s own Carol Wagner.

**Baked Steak Dinner Report** - “Thank You!” to all the volunteers (almost 80), to all the ticket sellers, to the cake bakers, to ticket buyers and ticket donators, giving hundreds of hours for the Baked Steak Dinner.  The community ate well, and we worked, served and fellowshipped for a good cause: Vacation Bible School Day Camp.  A special thanks and blessing to those who bought tickets for the purpose of giving them away.  Special Kudos to Donnie K for his usual yeoman's work in selling.  Ticket sales went decently well as we sold just over 500 tickets.  In a strange (surely Providential) twist, it's good that sales were down a little as we did not receive the number of steaks ordered (for which the vendor is crediting us).  Our earnings totaled just over $2,500. So once again, Thank You!

**Elizabeth Maule’s new phone # and address: 570-601-8247**

**Aristacare Room 121**

**1445 Sycamore Rd.**

**Montoursville, PA 17754**

**Current Expense & Mission Budget**

November giving $ 15,332.00

November expenses $(20,229.46)

Excess(Deficit) **$ (4,897.46)**

YTD giving $ 175,266.24

YTD expenses $(179,229.29)

Excess(Deficit) **$ (3,963.05)**

Operating Fund Balance **$                8,439.71**

**Prayer List**

**Illness, recovery and support:** John Albertini, Peggy Alison, Annetta Almoney, Dawn Armstrong, Paula Auten, Tom Bailey, Mary Bennett, Bode family, Sandie Bradley, Joey Braunsberg, Cathy Brendle, Jenn, Chance and Gideon Butler, Hedi Campbell, Hobart Campbell, Carmela Carr, Frank Cipra, Barbara Darby, Diane Damaska, Barb Dincher, Raymond Dincher, Joyce Dotts, Ellie English, Noah Fagnano, Gary Finn, Janine Fisher, Bob Folmar, Janet Frantz, Terry & Peggy Fry, Barbara & Bobby George, Elaine German, Ryder Getchis, David Haas, Trista Hackenberg, Donna Hall, Andrea Hanna, Joanne Hartman, Sophie Heinbach, Margaret Hopper, Tom Hoy, Rob Hughes, Skip Hungerford, Karschner family, Peggy Keller, Doug Killian, Rob Kline, Pat Korizno, Myra Kovalak, Kremser family, Marcy Kremser, Gene Kurtz, Shirley Livermore, Brooke Marshall, Natalie Mathias and family, Elizabeth Maule, Brian McCormick, Chaz Merrill, Jim Mexdorf, Wayne Misselbeck, Mason Morrow, Don Nibert, Owen Packard, Wayne Packard, Carol Peace, Brantley Phillips, Joyce Pittenger, Buzz Platt, Colin Prael, Curt Rakestraw, Larry Rider, Bob Schild, Doris Schwab, Aliete Sesler, Shirley Shaner, Bob & Judy Shimp, Dave Shipton, Arlene Skelston, Phillip Smith, Kelly Snyder, Harry Southwell, Judy Stanley, Tootie Starr, Dana Stettler, Donna Strein, Teagan, Newell Thompson, Sue & Tom Ulmer, Barbara Wagner, Keith Wallace, Jake Waybright, Vee & Matt Weakland, Barbara Wells, Chris Williams, Marieva Williams, Priscilla Wirt, Bobbi Wirth.

**Military:** Duane (DJ) Burleigh, Ryan Burns, Joe Cardone,

Maj. Brady Cillo, Capt. Calvin Farrell, Maj. Laurie Fontaine, Caleb Frantz, Julia Glosek, Dani Kline, Sgt. J. Patrick Lawracy, Sgt. Eric Littlefield, Jeremy Loveland, David McCollin, Marissa Patterson,

Jason Yurek, All military families

**Others:** Nthemba Church (Sister church in Africa), Ministries of MPC, Peace in the World, Camp Krislund. People in the Bahamas and Carolinas after hurricane Dorian. Haiti and Rosie and Vila