**Montoursville Presbyterian Church**

900 Elm Street, Montoursville, PA

December 16, 2018 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 “Star Of The East” *Amanda Kenney*

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

**We Praise the Lord**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 12:2-6)

L: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.

**P: The Lord, the Lord Himself is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation.**

L: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

**P: Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His Name; make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His Name is exalted.**

L: Sing to the Lord, for He has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

**P: Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.**

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

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 GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18 (pg. 1028/1563)

THE EPISTLE: Philippians 4:4-7 (pg. 1181/1787)

SPECIAL MUSIC (8:15) “No Eye Had Seen” *Debbie Keller*

CHORAL ANTHEM (10:45)

“The Night That Changed the World” *Chancel Choir*

THE PROPHET: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (pg.945/1439)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord! **People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON On That Day *Rev. David C. Smith*

\*Hymn of Response: 15 “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from the Westminster Confession, 1647, VIII)

**When the fullness of time was come, the Son of God took upon Himself human nature, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, so that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one Person, very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.**

**The Disciples Give Thanks**

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory “Once He Came Among Us” *David Paxton*

\*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 *Paula Shimmel*

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 “How Brightly Beams The Morning Star” *D. Eliot*

\*Please stand, if able

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

Greeters & Ushers: (8:15) *Rob & Barb Hughes*

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

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

Liturgist: (8:15) *Joe LeCrone* (10:45) *Dave Shimmel*

Organist: *Debbie Keller* Choir Director: *Catheal Weiser*

**This Week at MPC**

**Sunday, December 16th**

8:15am Worship Service (S)

9:30am Sunday School (C)

10:45am Worship Service (S)

**Monday, December 17th**  *(Food Pantry/Shep. of the Sts. Delivery)*

8:30am Prayer Group (MCEC)

10:15-Noon Yoga (FH)

**Tuesday, December 18th** *(bulletin announcements due)*

**Wednesday, December 19th**

9:00am-Noon Presbytery Council (FH)

6:30pm Trustee Meeting (MCEC)

**Thursday, December 20th**

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

7:00pm Choir Practice

**Friday, December 21st**

Office Closed

10:15-Noon Yoga (FH)

**Saturday, December 22nd**

1:00pm-5:00pm Building Use (FH)

**Sunday, December 23rd**

8:15am Worship Service (S)

9:30am Sunday School (C)

10:45am Worship Service (S)

4:00pm FISH Youth Group Caroling and Party at Shimmels

Last Week’s Attendance: 8:15am – 41 10:45am – 91

**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)

**MPC is seeking a Chancel Choir Director.** This is a compensated position that requires 2 hours Thursday evening rehearsals and 2 hours Sunday (warm-up and worship service).  Meetings and preparation as needed.  If you or someone you know has the musical gift to lead our wonderful Chancel Choir, please contact Neil Bixler at 570-407-2126 or [nbixler@live.com](mailto:nbixler@live.com).

**Announcements for the week of December 16, 2018**

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 and Owen Casella

**FISH Youth Group**

**December 23rd** - A full day of FISH fun!  We will meet at 4:00 pm at the Shimmels house to drop off our offerings for our Christmas party which will start after we go caroling.  More details to follow!

**The MPC Basketball teams are having a Wendy’s Night Fundraiser.**  All you have to do is eat at the Wendy’s in Montoursville on Monday, December 17th between 5:00pm-8:00pm. The teams will receive 10% of all food and beverage total sales on that date during that time. You do not need a ticket for this fundraiser. Thank you for your support!

**Baked Steak Dinner Report**: The Stewardship Committee offers grateful “Thanks!” to all the volunteers (at least 70 of you) who took on more than 25 different tasks totaling almost 500 hours for the Baked Steak Dinner.  The community received a delicious value priced meal.  We worked hard but enjoyed serving others while fellowshipping in the process.  Our ticket sales were down so our earnings were lower than normal at just over $1,700.  The funds go toward covering a large part of the cost of the Vacation Bible School Day Camp.  Our labor of love perhaps couldn't go toward a better purpose.  So once again, Thank You!

**Cantata!** The Choir will present the Christmas Cantata at the 10:45 am service on Sunday, Dec. 23rd , followed by our traditional cookie exchange. If possible, bring a contribution of cookies to add to our incredibly diverse selection. Not a baker? Come anyway.

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| **Current Expense & Mission Budget** | |
| November giving | $                      14,366.02 |
| November expenses | $                    (15,985.00) |
| Excess(Deficit) | **$                      (1,618.98)** |
|  |  |
| YTD giving | $                    173,002.50 |
| YTD expenses | $                  (182,762.63) |
| Excess(Deficit) | **$                      (9,760.13)** |

**Ushers & Greeters for December 23rd**

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

**Ushers & Greeters for December 24th**

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

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

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

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

**Ushers & Greeters for December 30th**

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

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

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

**Prayer List**

**Illness, recovery and support:** Annetta Almoney, Tom Bailey, Mary Bennett, Nancy Bergen, Harriett Bernier, Sandie Bradley, Joey Braunsberg, Hedi Campbell, Eric Dawnkaski, Diane Damaska, Larry Emery, Ellie English, Janine Fisher, Bob Folmar, Jeff Fowler, Barbara & Bobby George, Ryder Getchis, David Haas, Trista Hackenberg, Sophia Heinbach, Kara Mowery Herr, Tim & Danielle Hess, Robin Cain Holtzman, Tom Hoy, Rob Hughes, Peggy Keller, Liese Kimble, Rob Kline, Gary Koons, Joe Korizno, Myra Kovalak, Marcy Kremser, Gene & Sandy Kurtz, Laura Leonardo, Matt & Ashley Long, Brooke Marshall, Natalie Mathias, Anthony & Trent Mazzullo, Rebecca Merrill, Jim Mexdorf, Joe Mifsud, David & Hester Miller, Eva Moser, Bill Nelson, Don Nibert, Wayne Packard, Colin Prael, Joan Robinson, Shirley Shaner, Bob & Judy Shimp, Jean Shoup, Shelby Simon, Jim Swan, Tom Ulmer, Andrew Venema, Carol Wagner, Keith Wallace, Tom & Vee Weekland, Drew Weiser and family, Virginia Wentzler, Jane Wick, Chris Williams, Glen & Marieva Williams, Priscilla Wirt

**Grief:** Family and friends of Irv Fox

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

Maj. Brady Cillo, Jessie Confer, Capt. Calvin Farrell, Maj. Laurie Fontaine, Caleb Frantz, Julia Glosek, Ben Hepburn, Dani Kline, Sgt. J. Patrick Lawracy, Sgt. Eric Littlefield, Jeremy Loveland, David McCollin, Marissa Patterson, Paul Wenner, Jason Yurek, All military families

**Others:** Nthemba Church (Sister church in Africa), Ministries of MPC, Peace in the World, Camp Krislund, Wildfires in California, Victims of flooding from hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunami in Indonesia.