**Montoursville Presbyterian Church**

900 Elm Street, Montoursville, PA

December 4, 2022 9:30am

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Morning Worship**



**God’s People Gather**

*Please observe prayerful silence when the prelude begins.*

PRELUDE: “The Star in the East"  *Esther Higgins*

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

CHORAL INTROIT

**We Praise the Lord**

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 72:1-2, 4-7)

L: Endow the king with Your justice, O God, the royal son with Your righteousness.

**P: May He judge Your people in righteousness, Your afflicted ones with justice.**

L: May He defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may He crush the oppressor.

**P: May He endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.**

L: May He be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.

**P: In His days may the righteous flourish and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.**

\* ADVENT HYMN: 3 “Comfort, Comfort You My People”

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 all.

**P: And also with you.**

**Hear God’s Word**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE PROPHET: Isaiah 11:1-10 (pg. 690/1032)

THE GOSPEL: Mathew 3:1-12 (pg. 967/1470)

CHORAL ANTHEM “Steal Away” *Chancel Choir*

THE EPISTLE: Romans 15:4-13 (pg. 1139/1727)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON Those Advent Themes. . . *Rev. David C. Smith*

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE:

10 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

\*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 SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and Lord’s Prayer

**We Go Forth To Serve**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*HYMN OF SENDING: 300 “Down to Earth, as a Dove”

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*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!*

POSTLUDE: "Lift Up Your Heads"    *David Paxton*

\*Please stand, if able

**Worship Leaders**

Pastor: *Rev. David C. Smith*

Liturgist: *Cheryl Hopple*

Greeters: *George & Diane Casella*

Organist: *Debbie Keller*

Director of Music Ministries: *Ryan Neidig*

**This Week at MPC**

**Sunday, December 4th  - Second Sunday of Advent**

9:30am Worship Service (S)

10:45am-11:30 Sunday School (C & MCEC)

**Monday, December 5th**

9:00am Prayer Group (MCEC)

10:00am-11:30am Yoga (FH)

1:00pm Circle 1 Cookie Gathering (FH)

6:00-8:00pm Girl Scouts (FH)

**Tuesday, December 6th** *(bulletin announcements due)*

6:00-8:00pm Brownies (FH)

**Wednesday, December 7th**

**Thursday, December 8th**

6:30pm-8:30pm AA (FH)

7:00pm Choir

**Friday, December 9th**

Office Closed

10:00am-11:30am Yoga (FH)

**Saturday, December 10th**

**Sunday, December 11th - Third Sunday of Advent**

9:30am Worship Service (S)

10:45am-11:30 Sunday School (C & MCEC)

Last Week’s Attendance: 68

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

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

**Mailing Address:** 205 Tule St. Montoursville, PA 17754

**E-mail:** [montourpc@gmail.com](mailto:montourpc@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.montourpres.org](http://www.montourpres.org)

**Announcements for the week of December 4, 2022**

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

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

**Staff:** Deb Rupert, Emilia LeCrone, Hannah Means, Gabby Shearer, Elizabeth Wanner

**Greeters for December**

12/11 Tim & Luann Frantz

12/18 Bradley family

12/24 Sue Prindle

12/25 Dale & Catheal Weiser

There is a copy of the greeter list on the bulletin board at church.

At MPC, masks are now optional. If you are unwell, if you’ve been around someone who is ill, if you’re unvaccinated, or if you are simply more comfortable wearing a mask, please continue to do so.

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Description automatically generated Presbyterian Women Circle 1 will be collecting non-perishable food items from December 4th through December 18th to benefit The United Churches Food Pantry. There will be a table in the narthex, just beyond the Christmas tree, to receive your much needed donations. THANK YOU and may you have a blessed Christmas!

**Cookie Reception:**  All are invited to meet in Fellowship Hall after the worship service on **December 18th**.  Please bring a plate of cookies to share. You can drop them off in the church kitchen prior to the service.  Not a baker? Come anyway. Hope to see you there for a great time of fellowship!

**Upcoming FISH activities**

**December 4** — FISH will go Christmas caroling to spread some holiday cheer!  Please meet at the MCEC @ 5:30 pm for a quick dinner and then we will go caroling.  We’ll be back to the MCEC for treats after we are finished.  Hope to see you then!

**December 18** — **Christmas Party** at the Means’ house

(422 N. Montour St., Montoursville).  FISH members are asked to bring a wrapped $10 gift card for a present exchange.  There will be food and there will be games — a wonderful night of FISH fun.  More details to follow!

**Prayer List**

**Illness, recovery and support:**  Jimmy Bender, Marge Bieber, Paul Blickley, Scot Bower, Donald Burleigh and family, Koen Butler, Hobart & Hedi Campbell, George Casella Sr., Harriet Cillo and family, Elaine Cressman, Diane Damaska, Bernadette Davis, Jackie DeAngelo, Joyce Dotts, Terry Early, Betty Edkin, Ron Edwards, Ellie English, Maddy Fausnaught, Janine Fisher, SueLane Fisher, Margaret Fox, Luann Frantz, Kevin Gardner, Marcelyn George, Dick & Fran Grugan, Jean Haas, Jamie Hahn, Sophie Heinbach, Gayle Herron, Winifred Hess, Jeff Hoff, Pat Korizno, Doug & Tanga Killian, Kevin Little, Robert M. Lomison, Michael Lozano, Greg Lucas, Jim Lyttle, the Maciejewski family, Brooke Marshall, Vicki Matlack, Ester McLaughlin, Doris & Bill Messersmith, Mary Ann Merrill, Don Nibert, Mary Lou & Rick Odell, Don Peace, Buzz Platt, Mary Prigitano, Sandy Ravert, Peggy Rennick, Wayne Rockey, Doug Rupert, Cathy Rush, Bob Schild, Aliete Sesler, John & Penny Shaw, Doug Sherry, Bob Shimp, Ronald Skelston, Bob Smith, Phillip Smith, Arlene & Gary Smithgall, Harry & Kathy Specht, Judy Stanley, Dana Stettler, Marian Stuempfle, Joyce Stugart, Jim Sunderland, Jaymen Swygert, Fran Tallini, Lois Thomas, Ruth Thompson, Carol & John Wagner, the Walker family, the Weber family, Pam Weiser, Marianne West, Bobby Wheeler, Deb Wilcox, Marieva Williams, Priscilla Wirt, Mike Yourish.

**Military:**  Duane (DJ) Burleigh, Ryan Burns, Maj. Brady Cillo, Caleb Frantz, Julia Glosek, Gabe King, Dani Kline, Sgt. J. Patrick Lawracy, Sgt. Eric Littlefield, Jeremy Loveland, David McCollin, Jason Yurek, All military personnel and their families.

**Others:**  Nthemba Church (Sister church in Africa); Ministries of MPC; Peace in the World; Camp Krislund; Health Care Workers; Schools and Colleges and Universities; the more than 1 million Americans and more than 6 million worldwide lost to the coronavirus; Doctors Without Borders, Ethiopia; Haiti; Ukraine; Iran; and all victims of violence; those affected by the recent hurricanes, earthquakes, and mudslides.