

Oh Christmas Tea

Please join us for our
First Annual Christmas Tea



Saturday
December 14th
2:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church
1600 Winchester Ave
Ashland, KY 41101

All ladies of the church are invited (grades K and older).
RSVP by 12/8 in the Narthex or text Kelly: 606.923.7826



HEARTBEATS

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O Come, O Come, EMMANUEL

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Church Office Hours
Monday — Thursday
8 a.m. — Noon
office@fpcaky.org

STAFF

Rev. Bill Pollack
Minister

Max Jackson
Choirmaster/
Organist

Nanette Pollack
Administrative
Assistant

Glen Thomas
Facilities Manager

Kara Adkins
Nursery Attendant

SESSION MEMBERS

Mitch Hall
President of
Congregation

Kelly Hanni
Secretary of
Congregation/
Clerk of Session

Cathy Wilson
Treasurer

2025

Kelly Hanni
Kim Whitman
Geri Willis

2026

Mitch Hall*
Jan Holbrook
Ryan Whitman*

2027

Lee McCloud*
J.T. Norris*
Jimmy Hall

*2nd term of service

"I waited patiently for the LORD; He inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD." (Psalm 40:1-3)

Waiting is not my strongest virtue. I tend to look at things that I hope will turn out exactly like I envision them...RIGHT NOW! Sometimes, they work out accordingly; sometimes they do not. It is all chance when I attempt these things in my own wisdom and understanding. I know there must be a better way to accomplishing my goals. I just need the patience to wait for the right time.

Advent is a lot like this to me. I am looking forward to the day when Jesus comes and makes things as they were intended to be. I am looking forward to the day when everything is made right; when everyone gets along and we can actually have conversation and respect each other's opinions. What a glorious day that will be!

Advent is a time when we can all look to the future horizon and imagine a better world. A world that defies evil and infuses our lives with love and peace. It is a day that is promised throughout the pages of scripture. When wrong will be made right, darkness will become light and love will overcome the effects of hate that exists in the world today.

Advent can be seen in the hopefulness of the Psalmist. In our scripture the psalmist shares, "I waited patiently for the Lord..." He was in trouble. He was experiencing a lot of the trials that we

face on a daily basis. There was a recognition of the difficulties that one faces. Sometimes, they are thrust upon us by circumstances beyond our control. Many times they are of our own doing. Nevertheless, he was calling on the Lord for help. He was waiting patiently for deliverance and restoration. Oh, to have that kind of resolve.

Still, this is the assurance of Advent. We can wait. We can imagine. We can hope. We can look forward to a new day that will promise a new way. The early prophets, along with our forebearers, did these very things. They looked with expectancy for a better day. They believed the promises of God. They understood God was good on His word and a better day was approaching. May we, as well, follow in their faith.

O come, O come Emmanuel! Put a new song in my mouth. Fill me with a praise hymn that will glorify You. Help me in my waiting to inspire others to trust You. Draw them closer in a relationship with You. Let me be like the Psalmist who waited patiently to see Your glory revealed. O come, O come Emmanuel. Come be with us. Come walk beside us. Come live inside us! Make our advent waiting be rewarded with You!

Pastor Bill



Merry Christmas

FROM THE STAFF!

Kara, Glen, Max, Nanette & Pastor Bill

2024 Christmas JOY Offering

We will receive the JOY Christmas offering during morning worship on **Sundays 1, 8, 15 & 22**. This offering is collected each year through the PCUSA and is divided between assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Offering envelopes are located in the pew racks and the Narthex. Thank you for your prayerful response to this special offering this year!

Advent Devotionals

Welcome to Advent—this special season of preparation for the coming of Emmanuel, God-With-Us. This year's Advent devotional is *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* with depth and insight by the late Henri Nouwen. He invites you into a deeper intimacy with Jesus amid the busyness of the weeks leading up to Christmas. Pick up your Advent devotional and a magnet on the table in the Narthex.

**Family Night/Advent Kick-Off**

Please join us on **Sunday, December 1 from 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.** in the Bethesda Hall for a Family Night of CHRISTmas FUN!! We will make Family Advent crafts, and Christmas Bingo!! Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please contact Kelly Hanni, 606.923.7826, with any questions.

Christmas Cookie Exchange

We are happy to announce that our cookie exchange is scheduled for **Sunday, December 8** following Morning Worship. Please bring your cookies individually wrapped and/or in baggies. We look forward to this festive time of sharing our favorite cookies with one another. Rumor is that we will have "special" visitors who will delight the hearts of children of all ages. Questions, see Mary Patterson.

**It's Time to Order Your Poinsettia for Christmas**

If you would like to order a poinsettia for Christmas in memory or honor of someone, order forms are available in the Narthex or online at fpcaky.org. The cost for each poinsettia is **\$15**. Please have your order forms in by **Sunday, December 15**. You may take your poinsettias home following the Christmas Eve service.

All-Church Christmas Caroling

Warm up your voices and join us for a time of caroling **Sunday, December 15** beginning at **3 p.m.** We will meet at the Church and we will travel in our vehicles to visit our shut-in's at their homes and share the joy of the Christmas songs we love to sing! We will fellowship at the Wheeler's home following the caroling.

Parents' Night Out

Parents, this night is for you. Parents' Night Out is **Friday, December 20, 5:30–8 p.m.** Come, drop off the kids here at Church and then go shopping, out to eat or just go home and rest! We have planned for fun activities for the kids. There will be crafts, snacks and a whole lot of fun. Take advantage of this opportunity as you prepare for Christmas. Questions, see Lee McCloud (606.331.1017).

**Lessons and Carols**

Join us on **Sunday, December 22** during Morning Worship for a service of scripture and song as the choir presents our annual Lessons and Carols beginning at **10:50 a.m.** This is a service that inspires our hearts to prepare for the birth of Jesus. What a wonderful way to begin Christmas week!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

The tradition continues with another evening of Candle lighting and Communion. We will gather **Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30 and 11:30 p.m.** for a time of worship and celebration as we remember the birth of Jesus. Invite your friends and family to join you (and us) on this special night.



Sunday Morning Study: Sundays, 9:28 p.m.
Armchair Theologians: Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Harmony of the Gospels: Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:50 a.m.
Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays, 7 a.m., Bob Evans
Bells Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.
Family Night/Advent Kick Off: Sunday, Dec. 1, 5:30 p.m.
Open Chapel: Wednesday, Dec. 4, 5:30–8 p.m.
Paper Angels: Thursday, Dec. 5, 1 p.m.
Cookie Exchange: Sunday, Dec. 8 following worship
Ministry Teams Meeting: Monday, Dec. 9, 5:30 p.m.
Session Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 10, 5:30 p.m.
Men's Lunch Bunch: Thursday, Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m.
Horizons Bible Study: Thursday, Dec. 12, 5:15 p.m.
Ladies Christmas Tea: Saturday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m.
Christmas Caroling: Sunday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m.
Sew Blessed: Monday, Dec. 16, 6 p.m.
Paper Angels: Thursday, Dec. 19, 1 p.m.
Parent's Night Out: Friday, Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m.
Empty Nesters: Monday, Dec. 23, 5:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: Tuesday, Dec. 24 6:30 p.m. & 11:30 p.m.
Men's Lunch Bunch: Thursday, Dec. 26, 11:30 a.m.

MERRY
Christmas

CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE

Thanks to Kim Whitman and the Membership Ministry Team for this fun idea. You may exchange Christmas cards with your church family by dropping them off in their church mailbox. Kelly has provided a Christmas card list, it is available in the Narthex.



Kris Adkins—December 8
Gerri Willis—December 13
Dewitt Goodman—December 13
Garry Lewis—December 14
Kay Ferguson—December 15
Brett Gehringer—December 27
Kent Wheeler—December 31
Will Goodwin—December 31



John & Kay Ferguson—December 16

**Advent Readers & Candlelighters**

Sunday, December 1:

Carol & Scott Sanderson

Sunday, December 8:

Rachel & Michael Adkins

Sunday, December 15:

Jessica Goodwin & Family

Sunday, December 22:

Kay & John Ferguson

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:

Pastor Bill & Nanette

Let's Read the Bible Together in 2025!

"Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)

As we begin a new year together; let us make it a priority to read from the Bible every day. It is most certainly a good thing to spend time in God's word. As we read, we will experience the familiar and the new. To help in this endeavor, a yearly Bible reading plan will be made available to us. A copy of this plan will be available in our Church mailbox by mid December. Let's covenant to read the Bible in 2025! What a difference it will make in us!

