

DECEMBER 2020

# first press

A MOORESVILLE FIRST | PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION



IDEAS FOR CELEBRATING THIS ADVENT SEASON!

THE LATEST ON PRESCHOOL & CHURCH HAPPENINGS!

# PASTOR'S LETTER

**"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." - Matthew 11:28-30**

Dear Church Family,

As we enter the advent season, I encourage you to check in with your church groups. Whether that be a Sunday school class, circle group, Bible study, choir members, or simply folks you have formed relationships with over the years, prayerfully consider who might benefit from you reaching out to them with a phone call or a hand-written letter. Out of our 500 active members, at least 2/3 of you are not ready yet to meet in church in person. The live-streamed services are a blessing and give a sense of connectedness, yet they do not replace live, personal contact. Some of our folks are more isolated than others and your personal touch can potentially make a person's day. If you are aware of someone in need of pastoral contact or a Stephen minister, please let us know. Although Pastor Jason and I must be cautious in how we interact with people in the midst of coronavirus concerns, we have a desire to respond to every single ministry request (in person or by phone) and invite you to point us in the right direction.

Meanwhile, your staff continues to provide a variety of ministries both live and online. We are leading corporate worship services, conducting weekly Bible studies and youth groups, coordinating mission opportunities, connecting with elders and deacons, meeting with committees, bridging the gap for open staff positions (music/youth), and helping to facilitate any circle or Sunday school class that would like to meet live or form a group online. Please know that as much as we encourage you to find ways to engage, our leadership and staff respects your judgment as to whether or not you feel ready to meet live and in person. **This year we will provide two Christmas Eve services (5pm and 7:30pm) with social distancing in place in the sanctuary with overflow to the 143 building. The services will be livestreamed as well.** Although our choir is not yet in position to return, Greg Thompson and Brent Lawrence will help coordinate and provide special music.

"Covid-fatigue" is very real and it even has its effect on leadership and staff. So please pray for each other, reach out to one another, and point one another to the One who can carry our heavy burdens and provide rest for our souls. And in the midst of all of this, I want to continue to emphasize that God is in control and with His help and strength, we will get through this together.

Blessings in Christ,

*Pastor Dave Rockness*



# CHILDREN

## Advent and Christmas for Children

Ordinarily, December is one of the busiest seasons at First Presbyterian for children's ministry, with programs, special music, craft projects, Advent Workshop, nativity sets, pageant rehearsals, birthday party for Jesus, gift-giving, service projects, and special emphasis on telling the Christmas story in classrooms. While those activities won't take place this year in person, I hope you are thinking of ways to make some of those activities a part of your family Christmas celebration this year.



**We are providing a variety of resources for families to help make their Christmas preparations meaningful and Christ-centered. Following is a list of resources available to your family:**

**Supplies for making your own Advent wreath-** pie pan with oasis, candles and candleholders, and an Advent devotional. Provide your own greenery.

**Advent Adventures 2020-** An interactive family guide to fun-filled, faith-infused, Christ-centered experiences

**Advent calendars-** a variety of choices to count down the days until Christmas

**Advent chain-** supplies to make your own countdown with a red and green paper chain

**Christmas crafts-** nativity scenes, wooden ornaments, banners, and bead projects



**Advent wheel-** a coloring project that highlights the 4 Sundays of Advent

**Kindness calendar-** 24 ideas for acts of kindness during December

# CHILDREN

In addition to these resources, there are several activity sets and books we can order for you:

## Activity Sets to Purchase



### **“The Giving Manger” - \$30.00**

A set of items that helps form a family Christmas tradition focused on giving and the true meaning of Christmas. A piece of straw is placed in the manger for each kind deed or act of service performed. On Christmas Day, the Baby is placed in the manger filled with service and love. The set contains *The Giving Manger* book, wooden manger, bundle of straw and baby Jesus. Check out [thegivingmanger.com](http://thegivingmanger.com) for more details.

### **“The Shepherd on the Search” - \$23.00**

Finding CHRIST in Christmas- a fun family tradition that celebrates the birth of Christ! This kit highlights the shepherds' journey to the manger. Your family will enjoy moving the shepherd (included in kit) during the advent season, teaching timeless truths through daily activities on [ShepherdontheSearch.com](http://ShepherdontheSearch.com).



## Books to Purchase

### **Christmas Stories for Bedtime- \$5.00**

30 readings of Bible stories, all centered on Jesus' birth, for children ages 5-8.

### **Countdown to Christmas- \$10.00**

25 stories and family activities for Advent with fun activities, simple crafts, and heart-warming stories.

# CHILDREN

## ***The Wonder of the Greatest Gift: An Interactive Family Celebration of Christmas, By Ann Voskamp- \$22.00***

Reclaim the wonder of Christmas! Beautiful 14" pop-up tree with 24 ornaments, daily family devotional booklet.

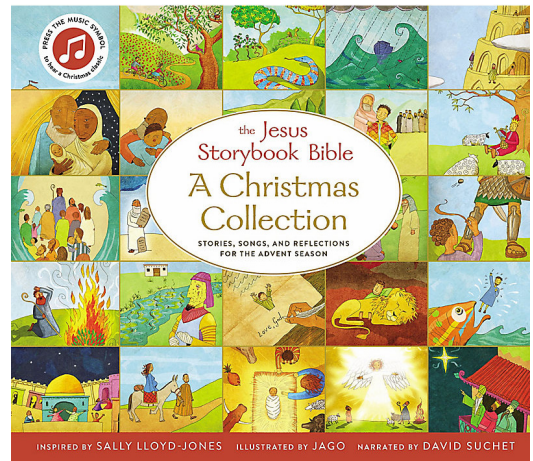
## ***Unwrapping the Greatest Gift: A Family Celebration of Christmas, By Ann Voskamp- \$17.00***

Person by person, story by story, retrace the lineage of Jesus and experience God's plan of salvation for us- from the Garden of Eden to the manger and beyond.

## ***The Jesus Storybook Bible Christmas Collection- \$15.00***

Stories, songs, and reflections for the Advent season with classic Christmas music or narration.

Please contact Ellen Auten at [ellen@moorevillefpc.org](mailto:ellen@moorevillefpc.org) if you would like to purchase any of these books or activity sets.



God bless you and your family during this Advent and Christmas season,

*Ellen Auten*

## **Children's Messages on Website**

Enjoy special Christmas messages each week on the church website. Go to [moorevillefpc.org](http://moorevillefpc.org), click on "Ministries," and then "Children." December's Children's messages include:

- December 6- The Giving Manger
- December 13- A closer look at the Chrismon tree
- December 20- "The Crippled Lamb" book
- December 27- The Christmas Story
- January 3- The Wise Men Visit Jesus

# PRESCHOOL

## Looking Back

Our Thanksgiving celebration feasts were wonderful. Our Pilgrims and Native Americans feasted on delicious food while dressed in their hats and headbands and gave thanks for all their many blessings. We are grateful to all the parents who helped us celebrate!

## Christmas Store

Our Bears, Bunnies and Frogs classes will participate in a gift exchange. Each child will get to "shop" at our Christmas store for a special gift for a classmate. We look forward to each child shopping and making selections while learning the importance of giving. Our younger classrooms have many festive activities planned as well.

## Something Special

The children, teachers and I are working on a special surprise for our families. On December 10th and 11th please send your child dressed in holiday attire. You don't need to buy special dresses or dress pants, but if your child has any holiday attire, please send them to school in those special outfits.

## Frosty's Christmas Village

This year, to bring a little cheer, we will have a Christmas Village set up for the children to visit. They will explore a magical village with table displays and Frosty the Snowman.

The children will enjoy the twinkling lights, Christmas music and Frosty's "Snowman Slide." This slide (chute) will send special gifts to the children to catch at the end of the slide.



# PRESCHOOL

## Holly Jolly Days

On December 17 and 18, we will have our annual Holly Jolly Days. Children will dress in their most festive attire to help us get in the Christmas Spirit! Think Christmas sweaters, silly Christmas socks, etc. No hats please!

We will even have a judging amongst our teachers. Who will be the jolliest of them all? Trust me, car line will be fun to drive through as you see our teachers compete! Wink! We will also have our Classroom Christmas Parties these days.



## Mark Your Calendars

December 3 & 4: Bears, Bunnies and Frogs Classes Visit Christmas Store

December 10 & 11: Dress your child in holiday attire

December 15 & 16: All Classes visit the Frosty's Christmas Village

December 17 & 18: Christmas Parties in Classrooms, Holly Jolly Days

December 21-January 4: Christmas Break

January 5: Preschool Resumes

Week of January 5: 2021-22 Enrollment forms will be sent home

# CALENDAR

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

		1 2pm Dave's Bible Study	2 6:30pm Men's Bible Study with Dave
<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> 6 9:30am Contemporary Worship-143 Broad 11am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 5pm MS PYF 7pm HS PYF	7 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Scouts BSA Troops	8 10am Circle 4 12pm Circle 5 2pm Dave's Bible Study 7pm Circle 3	9 1pm Youth Service Project 6:30pm Men's Bible Study with Dave
<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> 13 9:30am Contemporary Worship-143 Broad 11am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 5pm MS PYF 7pm HS PYF	14 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Scouts BSA Troops	15 Preschool Frosty Christmas Village 2pm Dave's Bible Study	16 Preschool Frosty Christmas Village 6:30pm Men's Bible Study with Dave
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 20 9:30am Contemporary Worship-143 Broad 11am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 5pm MS PYF 7pm HS PYF	21 Preschool Closed 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Scouts BSA Troops	22 Preschool Closed 2pm Dave's Bible Study	23 Preschool Closed 6:30pm Men's Bible Study with Dave
9:30am Contemporary Worship-143 Broad 11am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 6:30pm Stated Session Meeting 5pm MS PYF 7pm HS PYF	27 Preschool/Office Closed 7am Men's Bible Study 7pm Scouts BSA Troops	28 Preschool Closed 2pm Dave's Bible Study	29 Preschool Closed 6:30pm Men's Bible Study with Dave

# CALENDAR

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>3</p> <p>7pm Pilgrim's Progress Bible Study with Jason 8:30pm College Group</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> 
<p>10</p> <p>7pm Pilgrim's Progress Bible Study with Jason 8:30pm College Group</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Preschool Holly Jolly Days 8:30pm College Group</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Preschool Holly Jolly Days</p>	<p>19</p>
<p><b>Christmas Eve</b> 24</p> <p>Preschool Closed Office Closed (Noon) 5pm Christmas Eve Service 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p><b>Christmas Day</b> 25</p> <p>Office/Preschool Closed</p> 	<p>26</p>
<p>31</p> <p><b>New Year's Eve</b> Preschool Closed</p>		

## Birthdays:

**12/1-** Alyssa Moore  
 Evan Riefner  
 Charles Robinson  
 John Weaver  
**12/4-** Dean Washburn  
**12/5-** Jason Garvin  
**12/6-** Janice Pluer  
 Addison Carpenter  
 Tyler Carpenter  
 Nancy Omohundro  
 Adrianna Whalen  
**12/7-** Jean Coates  
 Larry Putnam  
 Anne Telford  
**12/8-** Jamie Brooks, III  
**12/10-** Mark Auten  
 Walker Culler  
 Jayne Rider  
 Ron Nott  
 Jon Sands  
**12/11-** John  
 Westmoreland  
**12/12-** Josh Schaeen  
 Karen Watson  
**12/14-** Taylor Jordan  
**12/16-** Andy Jordan  
 Sherry Leslie  
**12/17-** Cathy Irwin  
**12/18-** Sarah Deese  
 Leeann Decastro  
**12/20-** Kaitlyn Nelson  
**12/21-** Evan Dame  
**12/23-** Mark Vaughan  
**12/24-** Connie Brawley  
 Chas Rader  
**12/26-** Dot Nelson  
**12/28-** Sandra Harris  
 Valerie Mauney  
**12/29-** CJ Simmons Jr.  
**12/30-** Althea Nelson  
**12/31-** Amy Williams

## Letter to the Church

Please convey, in some way, how thankful I am for my church family. And all of them are in my thoughts and prayers. I am truly blessed.

Your Sister in Christ,

Joan Gibson



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If you would like to be added to or deleted from  
our mailing list, please send an email to  
[office@moorevillefpc.org](mailto:office@moorevillefpc.org) or call 704-664-5275

9:30 am Contemporary Worship

11:00 am Morning Worship

December 2020



# ECO

A Covenant Order  
of Evangelical  
Presbyterians