

December 2022

# Heard on High

FPC Columbia's *Heard on High* is published monthly for all members and friends of First Presbyterian Church

In his book, *Whistling in the Dark*, Presbyterian minister Frederick Buechner paints a familiar scene of the hushed anticipation before a show or concert with this description:

*"The house lights go off and the footlights come on. Even the chattiest stop chattering as they wait in darkness for the curtain to rise. In the orchestra pit, the violin bows are poised. The conductor has raised his baton... The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment."*

What a poignant picture of the season. No doubt, the "performance" we anticipate will be grand indeed – the arrival of a newborn Savior! But still, the hush before the curtains open is pregnant with promise. However, we are often unable to enjoy it, so distracted are we by the trappings of the season. No sooner have we polished off the last of the Halloween candy, are we bombarded with the frantic push towards Christmas.

All of this makes Advent that much more countercultural. As the world is telling us to buy, Advent tells us to give – give of ourselves to God and to others. As the world is telling us to hurry, Advent tells us to wait – wait for the promised Messiah. As the world is telling us to stress, Advent urges us to prepare by pausing and savoring this time of expectation.

I don't know where you are this holiday season. Perhaps your family has had the joy of welcoming a new member through birth or marriage this year. Perhaps you are grieving – a frightening diagnosis, the death of a loved one, separation or divorce, the loss of a job. Or, with the world around us so inundated by division, violence, and fear, perhaps you just feel hollow, hopeless or anxious. Maybe you are looking forward to the warmth of the holiday season or maybe you're dreading the hassle, and ready for January already.

Wherever you find yourself today, I'd invite you to take a moment. Imagine yourself in that darkened theater, chatter hushed, breath bated, heart stilled as we wait for the Light of the World to appear once again center stage. His arrival changes everything. So may we wait actively and intentionally this Advent season.

***For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. (Psalm 62:1)***

Michael, Grace and I are so grateful for the warm welcome we have already received from the FPC Columbia family. We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas, and we are eager to see how God continues to shape our lives together in the new year!

With love in Christ,  
Sarah Bird Kneff

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# Christian Education

## Advent Devotional Books



The Advent devotional book for 2022-2023 was written by members of our congregation. You may pick up a copy of the devotional at church or you can find it on our website [www.1stprescolumbia.org](http://www.1stprescolumbia.org) on the home page.

Thank you to all who participated!

## Summer Camp Registration



Can you believe it?! Summer camp registration is now open at NaCoMe and there are already wait lists! If you would like to sign your child up for summer camp you may visit [www.nacome.org](http://www.nacome.org) to see what is available. To receive the church discount at check out use code Colum23. Please keep in mind the tentative VBS date is June 26-29.

## Sam Moore NaCoMe *Director of Operations*



For those of you who do not know, Sam has been diagnosed with throat cancer. She and Ryan are traveling to Nashville for treatments. Sam stays in the hospital and receives treatment for six days, comes home for a few weeks to recover and will be going back for several more treatments.

We would like to show our love for Sam, Ryan, and Bennie by collecting gas cards, food gift cards or cash to help them out during this time. They all mean a great deal to our church and especially our children who attend summer camp.

If you would like to contribute there is a box in the office to place your contribution. Please keep Sam and her family in your prayers.

# Fellowship



The annual downtown Christmas parade is this Saturday, December 3 at 6:00 pm. The Fellowship Committee will be here at 5:00 pm to make and serve hot chocolate at the parade. Volunteers are needed. Contact Dorothy Duncan if you have any questions.

# Congregational Care

## December Memorials



In **memory** of Nancy Dale by: Sharon & Paul Messick, Linda & James Donaghy, Marilyn & Tom Webster, Jennie & Al Harlan

In **memory** of Will Green by: Brenda Martin, Sharon & Paul Messick, Andrea & Billy Cook,

In **memory** of Bonnie Fleming Wilson (daughter of James Fleming) by: Celia Ridley, Eva & Don Crichton, Argie Satterwhite, Rev. Steve & Paul Thomas

In **memory** of Mary Elizabeth Huettner (mother of Heather Harms) by: Argie Satterwhite

In **memory** of Jean Love by: Mrs. John W. White

## Sanctuary Flowers 2023



The 2023 calendar to sign up to place flowers in the sanctuary is now available. You may save your date by marking the calendar located on the table in the Education wing.

## Thank You!



At the November Session meeting the elders and deacons gathered to thank Rev. Mark Mueller for his service as our transitional pastor. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we were able to present him with a check for more than \$9,000 to be used for the mission work of The Outreach Foundation.

Below is a note from Rev. Mark Mueller about the ways these funds will be used.

*Mexico has done some incredible work planting churches. They have more people wanting to be part of a Presbyterian church than they have pastors. So, some of the funds will be used to develop leaders willing to pastor churches in remote parts of Mexico. Another part of those funds will be used to help refugees who have walked from Venezuela into Mexico and now need help just surviving (food, medicine, etc.)*

*Some funds will also be used in Cuba, where we are. We will be ascertaining ways in which the church can help alleviate the dramatic rise in food insecurity.*

*I am still working on some other applications of the funds.*

FPC, Columbia has been so generous. Of course, they will never know the people that they have touched. I would like to think that at the final banquet feast in our heavenly home, all will be revealed. It will be a great day!

# Christmas Caroling December 18

*Let's Go Caroling  
Sunday, December 18th  
at 4:30*



*Following caroling we will return to the church for soup. We need four volunteers to bring soup and everyone else to provide sides and desserts. Contact Patsy Bridges with any questions. (931) 626-3276*

# Senior Adult Christmas Party

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You're invited for some holiday cheer to  
celebrate this special time of year!

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Tuesday, December 13

11:30

Fellowship Hall

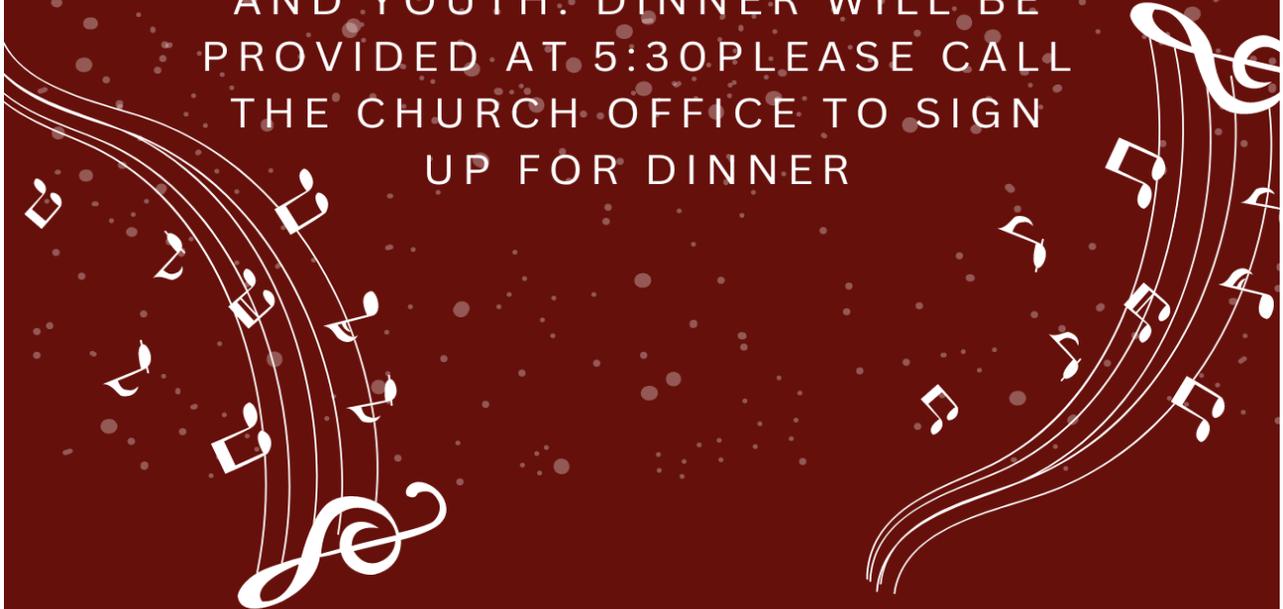
Bring a festive  
dish to share!

Children's Christmas Program

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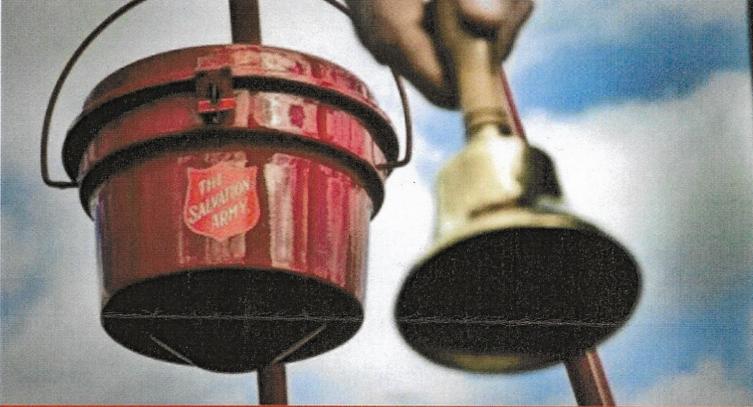
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 14

CHRISTMAS  
THROUGH THE  
CAROLS

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page featuring white musical notes and staff lines on a dark red background. The notes are scattered across the staff lines, which curve across the bottom of the page.

PRESENTED BY THE CHILDREN  
AND YOUTH. DINNER WILL BE  
PROVIDED AT 5:30 PLEASE CALL  
THE CHURCH OFFICE TO SIGN  
UP FOR DINNER

## Deacons



**HOLIDAY VOLUNTEER  
OPPORTUNITY**

Please consider ringing the bells for Salvation Army this year!



Every year, the Family Center rings the bells for Salvation Army, and we use the money to help people pay rent and utilities. It is very easy to do and really helps the community.

Businesses, individuals, Sunday School classes, Youth Groups, Civic groups can all ring! The more who ring, the more people we can help.

As you plan for the holidays, please consider putting us in your schedule, it Go to <http://familycenter.org> and look for the "kettle" to sign up!



Angel Tree gifts should be returned to the Family Center no later than December 9. Please return them unwrapped with the tag attached.



CHRISTMAS EVE  
*Candlelight*  
SERVICE  
December 24  
5:30

*There will be one service on Sunday, December 25 at 10:30 and no Sunday School*



# DECEMBER

## 2022

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1	2	Columbia <sup>3</sup> Christmas Parade 6:00 PM	Early <sup>4</sup> Service 8:15 SS 9:10 Late Service 10:30
5 Session 6:00 PM	6	7 Wonderful Wednesday Activities	8	9	10	Early <sup>11</sup> Service 8:15 SS 9:10 Late Service 10:30
Deacons <sup>12</sup> 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM	13 Senior Adult Lunch 11:30	Dinner <sup>14</sup> 5:30 Children's Christmas Program 6:00	15	16	17	Early <sup>18</sup> Service 8:15 SS 9:10 Late Service 10:30 Caroling 4:30
19	20	21 No Wonderful Wednesday Activities	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:30	25 One Service @ 10:30 No Sunday School
26 Church Office Closed this week	27	28 No Wonderful Wednesday Activities	29	30	31	

NOTES

REMINDER

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