

Christ Be Our Light



Christ, Be Our Light

We can't see light itself. Instead, we can only catch glimpses of what light illuminates, like the tiny circle of light where the candle glows. We see the reflections – a face looking up to us or the beam of a flashlight cutting through the haze. In John, Jesus says that he is the Light of the World, and this is part of what he is saying. He is beyond our field of vision, but in the darkness where we stand, we see, because of him, the track that leads us forward *is* visible. Our Advent and Christmas theme this year reflects our deep longing for light. "Christ, Be Our Light" is our guiding theme and it flows directly from a lovely, singable hymn written by Bernadette Farrell. At the heart of it we sing our Advent desire:



*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

Worship in Advent

Sunday, December 19 – Nativity Service, 11:15 a.m.

This service is preceded by an outdoor hot cocoa & cookie bar.

Tuesday, December 21 – Longest Night Worship, 7 p.m., Monteith Hall

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5 p.m. & 8 p.m. – Lessons & Carols. Childcare available at 5 p.m. by reservation.

11 p.m. – Worship with Communion

Sunday, December 26 – One Family Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.

No childcare. Families are encouraged to worship together in the Sanctuary. A children's "playground" will be available in the service.

The Glorious Sounds of Christmas

Sunday, December 12, 4 p.m.

A festive Christmas Concert featuring Children's Choir, Sanctus Ringers, and Chancel Choir.

Advent Email Devotional

Receive daily email devotions written by First Pres members and staff during Advent.

Want to sign up? Visit www.firstpresbyterian.org

Honor or Remember Loved Ones with a Poinsettia

Give a poinsettia to beautify worship on December 19 and 24 in honor or memory of a loved one. Poinsettias are \$20 and can be ordered **until midnight on Sunday, December 5**, at www.firstpresbyterian.org or in the Church Office.

Nativity Service

All children are invited to participate in our “come one, come all” Christmas Nativity Service for children ages 3 and older on Sunday, December 19. Older children are invited to sign up as a scripture reader. There are non-speaking parts for a multitude of children: Starbearers, Angels, Shepherds and Magi. All children are also invited to join the choir that will sing on Christmas Eve. Shayla Powell leads our children’s choir in rehearsal every Sunday from 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. Children are encouraged and welcomed to participate even if they didn’t start with the choir in September. The parent information meeting is Sunday, December 5, at 10:45 a.m. in the Family Space, Room 301. Please contact Beca Torres-Davenport, Coordinator for Children & Family Ministry for any questions.



The Wandering Magi Journey and Family Devotional

From November 28 to January 6, children and families will have the opportunity to journey with the three magi during the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany as they follow the light of Christ through Sunday morning worship and weekly ministry emails and recordings.

Advent Faith in Action

Family to Family Christmas and Fostering Families

Sign up online and “adopt” a local family or foster child in need. Donations may be made to purchase gift cards for families not directly adopted. Questions? Contact Julie Morrison at jdornmorrison@gmail.com or 646-5351.

Advent Mission Event

Sunday, December 5 at 6 p.m. in the Social Hall

Join us for an intergenerational food packing event this Advent Season with Rise Against Hunger!

Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 19. 50% of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families who are in financial need. 50% of your gifts make it possible for students who attend Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, equipping communities of color.

Christmas Nativity Service Offering – Children and families are invited to bring a donation of new hats and gloves to the Nativity Service. During the pageant, the children will be invited to bring their gifts forward to the manger. After Christmas, they will be taken to Peace Neighborhood Center and given to those in need.

Christmas Eve Offering – Provide Housing for Afghani Refugees

Our Christmas Eve Offering will focus on resettling refugees from Afghanistan in our Ann Arbor and Washtenaw communities. Working with Jewish Family Services in Ann Arbor and other worthy organizations, our special Christmas offering will provide housing for refugee families. JFS is an experienced and approved refugee resettlement agency, and has a long record of effective resettlement services. Our First Pres Mission Committee is committed to supporting Afghani families by focusing our assistance on providing a safe, dry and warm home. Please give generously!