

*GATHERING*

Prelude: "Sleepers, Awake" – Variations I, II and IV  
Announcements Robert Lau

First Sunday of Advent – The Gift of Hope

"Light of Hope" Chancel Choir Joel Raney

*Responsive Litany*

Leader: We begin the season of Advent with expectant and believing hearts.

**People: We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.**

Leader: During Advent we confront the darkness that so often exists around us.

**People: We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.**

Leader: During Advent we confront the doubt that so often resides within us.

**People: We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.**

Leader: During Advent we confront the division that so often occurs between us.

**People: We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.**

*Advent Candle Lighting* – 8:00 - Huffman Family & 10:30 – Carney Family

*Congregational Response* – "Light of Hope" (see insert)

*Prayer*

\*Hymn: #5 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Merciful God, in our need, you promised redemption. In Christ, your promise is fulfilled. Christ came to save; Christ will come again to finish the work of healing. Christ commanded that we love one another as he has loved us. And claiming him as Lord, we promise to obey him. Yet we break our promise, to him, to each other. We do not love as we should. We do not bear with each other. We hurt and do not heal. Forgive us, Lord. Renew in us the will to keep our promises. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

\*Gloria Patri (p. 579)

Anthem: 8:00 – O Come, O Come, Immanuel Natalie Sleeth  
Solo – Karen Homsher

10:30 – "A Shoot Shall Forth Out of Jesse" Richard Horn  
Chancel Choir

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

First Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (p. 694); 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (p. 192)

\*Hymn: #20 "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

Children's Sermon

Children may leave for God's Place for Boys and Girls

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 21:25-36 (p. 80)

Sermon: **PROMISES TO KEEP**

*RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD*

Passing the Peace of Christ

\*From the Confession of 1967

**In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with man. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became man and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, man, and the world. Therefore, the church calls men to be reconciled to God and to one another.**

**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.**

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Please sign and pass the Friendship Book

Offertory: "Sleepers, Awake" – Variation III Robert Lau

\*Doxology (p. 592)

\*Hymn: #53 "What Child Is This"

\*Benediction

Silent Prayer (be seated)

Postlude: "From Heaven Above"

Gordon Young

The End of Worship  
The Beginning of Service

\*Those who wish may stand

Rev. Robert W. Birch, Minister

Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

VISITORS AND MEMBERS: WELCOME! During the offertory the Friendship Book will be passed from the end of the pew. Please sign it and indicate other information as appropriate. Pass the book back down the pew and notice the names of the other worshippers. Greet one another warmly after the service.

**WORSHIP HOUR INFORMATION:**

It is an ancient Scottish custom for the pulpit Bible to be brought into the sanctuary and placed by a layperson before the service begins.

8:00 a.m. Janet Huffman

10:30 a.m. Edwin Margerum

IN THE NURSERY (babies through 4 yrs.): 8:00 – Karen Boyer

10:30 – Charlene Boas & Craig Keenan

The Poinsettia is in Loving Memory of

F. Marvin and Ethel S. Rice

Given by Dale and Mary Ellen Rice

**PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION:**

PRAYER FAMILY THIS WEEK: Lori Ann Leitch

6077 Carpenter Street

East Petersburg, PA 17520

**TODAY: Poinsettia orders due**

8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Services of Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for infants through adults

**MONDAY:**

7:00 a.m. PW Walk

7:30 a.m. PW Sunrise Bible Study & Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry

**TUESDAY:**

7:00 p.m. Congregational Life Committee Mtg.

7:30 p.m. Christian Education Committee Mtg.

**WEDNESDAY:**

6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY:**

7:30 Community Outreach Committee Mtg.

**SATURDAY:**

12:00 p.m. Crossroads Class Mtg. @ home of the Sowers' – bring covered dish

**NEXT SUNDAY:**

8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Services of Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School for infants through adults

11:30 p.m. Carolers will be served a light lunch before they head out

IN THE NURSERY: 8:00 – Janet Huffman

10:30 – Donald & Christy Fieldsa

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Last week's offering total was \$3,581.00

Total in Organ Fund is \$64,929.04

**Today is the last day for poinsettia orders.** If you would like to place an order please find a red order form at the back of the church.

The December/January issue of the **LEACOCK COMMUNICATOR** is available at the back of the sanctuary for anyone not on our mailing list.

**Pequea Valley High School** would like to invite the senior citizens to a special concert on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The concert is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. in the high school auditorium. After the concert a free lunch will be served in the cafeteria. In order to reserve a lunch, we are asking the senior citizens to call 768-5500 by *Monday, December 3*. In the event of inclement weather, please tune in to the local television and radio stations.

**Christmas Caroling:** For those caroling, a light lunch will be served at 11:45 on Sunday December 9, after which we will depart for caroling. The number of people we can visit depends on the number of carolers who participate, so please join us for a rewarding experience. No singing skills are required.

**Christmas in the Woods** – Annual Live Nativity at Camp Donegal: Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. For a Christmas experience you are not likely to forget, pack up the family and bring them to enjoy Christmas in the Woods, the live nativity that has been taking place at Camp Donegal for the past 13 years. This event takes place between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, with nativities at 5:15, 6:00, 6:45 and 7:30. Live music by area musicians and choirs will take place in the dining hall at 5:35, 6:20, 7:05 and 7:50. While there is no charge for this event, there are opportunities to purchase seasonal crafts and baked goods. Donations are also always welcomed to support the ministry of Camp Donegal.

The December issue of ***Presbyterians Today*** is available free at the back of the sanctuary.