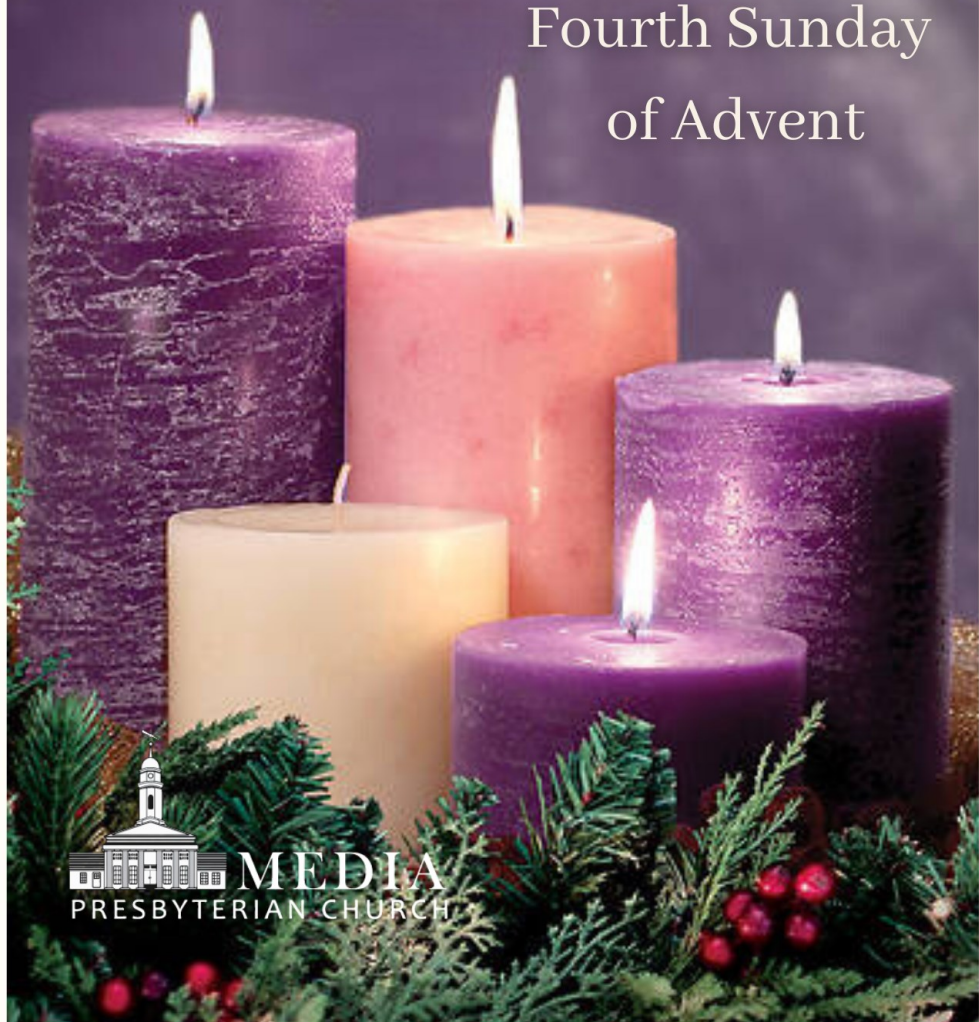


Sunday, December 24, 2023
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Love

Fourth Sunday
of Advent



MEDIA
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Our Mission is to love God and love our neighbor. Our Vision is to be a Christian Community that worships together, serves together, and grows together in faith.

Welcome

VISITING TODAY?

If this is your first time worshipping with us, we hope you will feel welcome. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us by phone at 610-566-3944. We also invite you to visit our website at www.mediapresbyterian.org.

Leading worship this morning...

Reverend Dr. David Cagle, Transitional Pastor

Reverend Rose Sparrow, Parish Associate

Lisa VanHeldorf, Director of Traditional Music

Eric MacDonald, Worship Leader

Emily Barth, Organist

The Chancel flowers are donated by Dave and Judy Sharbaugh, "may good health and happiness be with us during the coming year."

GATHERING

Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Congregation: *We are easily distracted by the darkness of isolation and fear.*

All: *Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your unending love.*

Advent Candle lighting

The Cunningham Family

Advent Prayer

All: *Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love, and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen.*

Advent Song

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*O Come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace
Rejoice, Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Opening Worship (Led by Worship Team)

(Music Sheets available)

Light of the World

Bergthold & E, F, M, and S Cash

Great Are You Lord

All Sons & Daughters

**please stand in body or in spirit*

Blessing of the Children (*All*)

“Almighty God, from whom we receive our life: We thank you for blessing us with the joy and care of children. Give us calm strength and patient wisdom, that we may teach them to love you, and to love whatever is just, true and good. Protect them from danger and hold them safe in your arms. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Call to Confession

Leader: Again, in this Advent Season we are summoned to prepare for God’s coming to us in a form we can begin to understand. Jesus accepted all our human limitations yet remained faithful to the Eternal law of love. We who have taken this saving action for granted are called to repent and be watchful.

All: *Let us confess our disobedience.*

(Now, take a few moments of honesty before God in silent confession)

Prayer of Confession (*All*)

All: *Great God of All Worlds, we have denied your rule and ignored your purposes. We have forgotten what it means to live as a covenant people, for we have gone our own way, viewing others of your children as enemies. Break down our resistance to the leading of your Spirit. Forgive our waywardness, and give us courage to pray that all may be done to us according to your will. Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: You have found favor with God, who, in steadfast love and faithfulness, claims you even when you go your own way. God calls you by name and, with discipline and protection, restores you to the family of faith. Renew for yourselves the covenant vision by which our spiritual ancestors have lived. Amen.

All: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

***Advent Song of Praise, Hymn #13 (Blue)**

Prepare the Way

Fling wide your gates, O Zion

Your Savior's rule embrace

And tidings of salvation

Proclaim in every place

All lands will bow rejoicing

Their adoration voicing

O Blest is Christ that came

In God's most holy name

***Sharing the Joy of Our Faith**

EQUIPPING

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Eric MacDonald

First Reading: II Samuel 7:1-11, 16 (pg.245)

Eric MacDonald

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Luke 1:26-28 (pg. 831)

Rev. Dr. David Cagle

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "A Peaceful Assurance of God's Love"

Rev. Dr. David Cagle

RESPONDING

***Affirmation of Faith (All)**

John 1:1-5, 10-14, 16

Leader: Brothers and sisters, what do you believe?

All: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it... He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth... From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Stewardship

Offering Song (Led by the MPC Choir)

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Traditional

***Song of Praise and Dedication**

Hymn #23 (Blue)

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee Christ,
the Lord, the newborn King
Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo*

***Prayer of Dedication**

CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

There are prepackaged communion cups located in baskets at the back of the sanctuary if you prefer not taking communion by intinction.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

The prayer continues...

Sanctus (All)

Holy, Holy, Holy

Richard Proulx

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer (All)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer of Affirmation

SENDING

***Closing Hymn #1 (Blue)**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Charge and Blessing

***Postlude**

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

GENERAL INFORMATION

Restrooms -A restroom is located in the parlor at the back of the sanctuary. Handicap-accessible restrooms are located through either side door at the front of the sanctuary, then around the corner.

Nursery -Our Nursery is available for infants and children up to 3 years old during our 9:00 a.m. Sunday School hour and the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Sunday School -Adults meet at 9:00 a.m. in Room 102 and via Zoom. Children's Sunday School is in the Children's Wing. Youth Sunday School is in the Youth Room.

Prayer Chain -If you are in need of prayer or would like to receive prayer chain updates, please email Reverend Rose.

Attention Mothers of Infants -The parlor at the back of the church is available for privacy during church services.

Church Office Hours are Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. During inclement weather, please call to make sure staff is present before coming to the office.

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Sign up to receive our weekly digital newsletter by going to our website or by emailing rebecca@mediapresbyterian.org.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Like and follow us on Facebook (Media Presbyterian Church).

ONLINE GIVING

Visit MediaPresbyterian.org/GiveOnline or scan the QR code to give your tithes & offerings.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Celebration**
 - ◆ Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Celebration will occur this evening, December 24, beginning at 5:30 p.m. This is a family-friendly service of lessons and carols celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. All are welcome!
- **Holiday Office Hours**
 - ◆ The office will be closed from Friday, December 22, 2023 to Monday January 1, 2024 and will reopen for regular hours on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

- **MPC Missions-Alternative Gift Cards**

- ◆ Please help support our Global and Local Missions of MPC by purchasing gift cards. They will be on sale every Sunday through December in Hassler Chapel. This year we are supporting Compassion for Life in Liberia, and the Greenhouse Project in Chester, PA. For questions or more information, don't hesitate to contact Cindy McPeak (cindymcpeak101@gmail.com).

ONGOING MINISTRIES

- **MPC Youth Ministry**

- ◆ Youth Sunday School meets from 9-9:45 a.m. in the Youth Room. Youth Group meets on Thursdays from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. There will be no Youth group the rest of 2023!

- **Cornerstone Kids Children's Ministry**

- ◆ Building Lives on Christ (BLOC) is available most Sundays for children in 2nd grade and younger. The children are dismissed after the Children's Moment and should be picked up from Room 201 when the service is over. Contact (fuselloj@gmail.com).

MISSION STUDY TEAM UPDATE

Dear Church Family,

The Mission Study Team is thankful to everyone who participated in the Hartford Survey. We continue to meet weekly to pray over this time of opportunity in the life of MPC and synthesize the data from the survey. We look forward to meeting in small focus groups in the New Year to discuss the important themes we are learning from the survey results. Please stay tuned!

"For surely I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plan for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Faithfully, the Mission Study Team-Rev. Dr. David Cagle, Suzanne Beaumont, Robin Kauffman, David Layton, Eric MacDonald, Betsy Podrebarac, Janis Richards.

MPC IS HIRING

- **Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries**

- ◆ This is a full-time, non-ordained position that is responsible for developing and leading our ministry to children, youth, and families. Qualified candidates may contact employment@mediapresbyterian.org. See the website or newsletter for more information.

Elders & Deacons

	<u>ELDERS</u>	
<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Sandy Campbell	Jim Gatch	LuAnn Crosby
Art Kalemkarian, Jr.	Julie Havel	Jeanne Cunningham
Cindy McPeak	Jessica Johnson	Mark Gibble
Elizabeth Rohr	Eric MacDonald	Susan Kassab
Robin Smith	Kate Meehan	Eileen McLaughlin
Jo Snead	Paul Tutton	
	John Walton	
<i>Moderator:</i> Reverend Dr. David Cagle	<i>Clerk of Session:</i> Joe Hare	
	<u>DEACONS</u>	
<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Elaine Fetterman	Suzanne Beaumont	Jim Archambo
Jeanne Furey	Doug Crosby	Kim Gilchrist
Karen Gibble	Susan Hare	Michael Kaskey
Dave Layton	Dave Heckman	Alex Moore
Lynne McCone	Robin Kauffman	Sharon Riley
	Jill Lardon	
	Betsy McKeone	
	Pamela Orr	
	Belle Patton	

FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2023

Sunday, December 24

8:30 a.m. Choir Practice, Sanctuary
8:45 a.m. Nursery opens for drop-off
10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service 4th Sunday of Advent,
(no BLOC), Sanctuary

Monday, December 25

Office Closed, *Merry Christmas!*

Tuesday, December 26

5:30 p.m. Office Closed
SFC Meeting, Zoom

Wednesday, December 27

Office Closed

Thursday, December 28

7:00 a.m. Office Closed
Men's Bible Study Breakfast, Court Diner, Media
10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Zoom

Saturday, December 30

6:00 p.m. NA Meeting

Sunday, December 31

8:30 a.m. Choir Practice, Sanctuary
8:45 a.m. Nursery opens for drop-off
10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship (no BLOC), Sanctuary
Happy New Year!

Transitional Pastor	Reverend Dr. David Cagle	David@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1001
Parish Associate	Reverend Rose Sparrow	Rose@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1002
Business Administrator	Jack Schoen	Jack@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1006
Office Administrator	Ro D'Angelo	Ro@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1007
Church Administrator	Rebecca Peak	Rebecca@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1005
Facilities Manager	Scott MacDonald	Scott@mediapresbyterian.org Ext. 1008
Director of Traditional Music	Lisa VanHeldorf	Lisa@mediapresbyterian.org
Organist	Emily Barth	Emily@mediapresbyterian.org
	Receptionist	Ext. 0
	Main Kitchen	Ext. 1021
	Parlor <i>(back of sanctuary)</i>	Ext. 1022
	Nursery	Ext. 1023
	Benevolence Hotline	Ext. 2000



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