



THE PRESBYTERIAN NEWS



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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NO. 615

DECEMBER 2018

Friends,

As I was growing up, my family always shared the story of how we were related to John Adams (which turns out to be true)! It gave us a sense of pride to share a little bit of DNA with someone so important to the history of our country. "Adams" is still a common family name to this day – my grandfather, an uncle, and a cousin all share it as a middle name.

Do you have stories of important people in your family tree? Maybe it's the first person who journeyed to America. Maybe it's someone famous. Maybe it's someone who was particularly brave or courageous in some way. I think families share these stories as a way to inspire one another toward greatness, to remind one another of our roots, to give one another a sense of place in the world.

Early in the Gospel of Matthew, we hear about Jesus' genealogy – the way he fits into the story of Israel, and especially how he descends from David and Abraham. Among the names listed in Jesus' lineage, there are five women: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. In many ways, each of these women is an 'unlikely' character to have included. Not sure about you, but I've never met anyone named after Bathsheba!

This Advent, we will be hearing the stories of each of these women, and considering why she might have been important to Matthew's Gospel, and to the story of Jesus. Join us every Sunday in December, to learn about these 'unlikely' figures in Jesus' family tree, and to consider the ways that the Spirit calls each one of us to participate in the family of God – no matter who we are or where we have come from.

Peace,

Melissa McNair-King

NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

From Day Circle by Phyllis Vice:

Day Circle will meet on Monday, December 10th, at 11 a.m. in the Manse. We will be on lesson four, *God With Us When We Seek God*. The focus of this lesson is God summons God's people, and especially God's leaders, to walk in God's ways and to seek God. Scripture for this lesson is: I Chronicles 28:1-21; I Kings 11:1-13, 29-39. Each lesson is independent of the others, so if you have not joined us yet you will not be lost. All are welcome. Bring a sack lunch and stay for fellowship after the meeting.

From Night Circle by Dianne Wallace:

Night Circle will meet on the third Monday, December 17th, at 6:30 p.m. at Ginza Asian Fusion Restaurant in Pulaski for a Christmas celebration. Day Circle is invited to join us and each member's husband, relative or friend is invited. Please respond to Dianne Wallace with the number attending for reservations.

For our December project, circle members are encouraged to assist or select light bulbs from The Christmas Store project to help bring joy to area children.

Presbyterian Women -
Praying, Studying, Loving, Serving



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING has been called for Sunday, December 2nd, at the conclusion of worship, for the following purpose: to elect officers for the upcoming year. The following persons have been nominated to serve as elders in the class of 2019: Violet Nash; the class of 2021: Barry Long, Peyton Phillips, Laura Slaughter, Ernie Wallace.

YOUTH GROUP: Mark your calendars for the first Sunday of each month! Join us on Sunday, December 2nd, 5:30 - 7 p.m. in the Manse, for dinner, study and fellowship.

CONCERT: The New River Valley Community Chorus will be presenting their Christmas Concert: *Be Our Light*, Sunday, December 9th, at 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Pulaski and again on Monday, December 10th, at 7 :30 p.m. at Dublin United Methodist Church. Benefiting the Emergency Needs Task Force, admission is your generous gift of nonperishable food items.

WE ARE NOW TAKING orders for poinsettias in memory or in honor of someone to be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas. Poinsettias will be \$12.50 each. Please fill out the order form in the church bulletin and give it to the office with your check made out to the church. The deadline to order is December 9th.



PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS to the church office for the January newsletter no later than Monday, December 17th.

A SERVICE FOR THE LONGEST NIGHT: We will join with our neighbors from First United Methodist and Trinity Lutheran for a "Longest Night" worship service on Thursday, December 20th, at 7 p.m. The service will be in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church, and is a time to slow down from the rush of the holiday season. It is especially geared toward anyone who may be struggling with grief or loss this Christmas. Please invite a neighbor and join us for a time of peace and hope.

DAILY BREAD will have their annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 21st.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: The Youth Group will be hosting Christmas Caroling on Friday, December 21st. Any church members are invited to join us as we caravan around Pulaski, singing for our elderly and/or homebound members. Meet us at the Manse at 4:30 p.m. After singing, we will return to the Manse for dinner, and finish around 7 p.m.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed December 21st, 24th and 25th during Christmas.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be at 7 p.m. and Communion will be served.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: A cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem

and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. This church will receive the offering on December 23rd.



The days are shorter and colder. What is more enjoyable than reading a good book all snuggled up in a warm blanket with a warm drink in hand? Maybe re-reading an old favorite Christmas story or perhaps reading a new one that becomes a favorite. The following books will be on display during the month of December. Check them out.

263.9 LUC Because of Bethlehem by Max Lucado - Explores the story and meaning of Christmas for believers, and how it marks the beginning of a hope that endures forever.

263.9 LUC One Incredible Savior: Celebrating the Majesty of the Manger by Max Lucado - The author combines warm, personal stories with the ultimate story - one that has reformed the world since Christ was born in a manger more than 2,000 years ago.

814 VAN Even Unto Bethlehem: The Story of Christmas by Henry Van Dyke.

CH FIC HAY Happy Christmas Gemma by Sarah Hayes - Little Gemma and her family prepare for Christmas all week and have a happy celebration on the day.

CH FIC MAR Pablo's Christmas by Hugo C. Martin - Young Pablo has become the "man of the house" since his father has gone to America for work. How can he make Christmas a happy time for his family?

CH FIC MER The Christmas Box by Eve Merriam - It was very early on Christmas morning. The whole family was awake and eager to see all the presents Santa left under the tree. But under the tree was a long, thin box. That was all. What was Santa thinking?

CH FIC RAN One Christmas Dawn by Candice F. Ransom - When her father has to leave their mountain home to go to work in the city one cold winter, a ten-year-old girl sees a special sign as she waits for his return on Christmas.

FIC KAR Shepherds Abiding: A Mitford Christmas Story by Jan Karon - Father Tim finds a derelict nativity scene that has suffered the indignities of time and neglect. Can he give the small assembly new life? In trying he begins a small journey of faith that touches everyone around him.

FIC VAN The Story of the Other Wise Man by Henry Van Dyke.



Join us for Wonderful Wednesdays!

6:00-7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

Plan to make Wednesday church nights a part of your regular routine! It is a special time of learning and growing together as a church family. The suggested "offering" for dinner is \$4/person or \$15/family. This is anonymous, and give-as-you-can. Everyone is welcome regardless of your ability to give.

Thank you to those who are serving in December:

Date	Cooking Team	Clean-Up Team	Program
December 5	Chasity, Melissa, Julie	Larry, Mike, Joe	Parables: The Widow and The Judge
December 12	Christmas Dinner	Congregational Life Committee	Music of First Presbyterian Church
December 19	N/A	N/A	OFF – CHRISTMAS
December 26	N/A	N/A	OFF – CHRISTMAS

Christmas Dinner & Program

Join us for our annual Christmas dinner on December 12. The meat is provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to share. After dinner together, we will head to the sanctuary to enjoy a variety of musical offerings from church members of all ages.

Come and celebrate the birth of our Savior!



**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS WILL BEGIN FOR THE NEW YEAR ON
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9**



DATE:

LAY READERS:

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:

12/2/18

Bonnie Spivey

Kathy Hale

12/9/18

Ernie Wallace

Lynn King

12/16/18

Chasity Stevens

Doreen Latimer

12/23/18

John Hunter

Violet Nash

12/30/18

lessons and carols