SESSION

Class of 2017
Chris Wells

Class of 2018
Melissa Barton
Bill Ring

Class of 2019
Nancy Pienta
Chuck Shattenkirk

Moderator: Rev. Kathi L. Jones
Clerk of Session: Melissa Barton

DEACONS

Class of 2017
Laurae Hoffmann
Hertha Matuszek
Lynn Seftner

Class of 2018
Alicia Albertson
Tina Coons
Karen Leffingwell

Moderator: Rev. Kathi L. Jones

Church Treasurer: Sandra Hohneker
Financial Secretary: Bill Ring

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Pastor – Rev. Kathi L. Jones
Pastor’s Email – revkathi@jones.com
Organist – Ardelle Stewart
Secretary – Naomi Handley
Sexton – Ginny Becker
SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Gathering in the Name of the Lord
(In silence and meditation prepare yourself for worship)

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a small congregation, part of God’s larger family, teaching and living God’s Word, and sharing God’s love throughout the community.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

PRAYER

Loving God, as we remember and anticipate the arrival of Jesus in the world, we rejoice in the gift of hope. Help us today and every day to be grateful, to hear your word, and do your will by sharing hope with others. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wake up, people of God! Our salvation is near! We have been asleep and did not know it. Christ comes to awaken all our potential.

God’s law of love summons us away from actions that hurt and destroy.

We seek to know the ways of God and to walk in the light where Christ leads.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

TODAY
9:30am. Sunday School and Adult Education
11:00am. Worship
12:15pm. Coffee Hour
Alternative Christmas Finale

MONDAY
12:00pm. Food Pantry Open

TUESDAY
7:00pm. Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY
6:00pm. Food Pantry Open

THURSDAY
11:00am. Presbyterian Women Meeting and Christmas Luncheon
5:30pm. Dinner and Advent Bible Study
Handel’s Messiah and the Bible

Looking Ahead – NEXT SUNDAY – December 4, 2016

Second Sunday of Advent

9:30am. Sunday School
Adult Education
11:00am. Worship in Fellowship Hall
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Birthday This Week
11/30 Ardelle Stewart
Minute for Mission

My Father’s Affairs

In Luke 2:41-52, Joseph and Mary search desperately for their young son Jesus. There is a certain irony here: Jesus’ parents think he is lost, when at a deeper level he has found his calling, which is “to be about his father’s affairs.” In Luke’s Gospel, the “father’s affairs” entail expanding people’s understanding of family and community. It starts in this story itself. Jesus’ parents have a particular understanding of his place in the family, and he challenges that notion by envisioning for himself an identity that reaches beyond his family. Throughout the third Gospel, Jesus subverts the narrow identities attributed to him and claims for himself a more expansive identity.

Luke’s gospel was instrumental in my discipleship and calling from early one as I saw my horizons expanded and community constantly redefined. Indian society, and in some ways the American society too, is structured around exclusive identities. Luke’s Jesus challenges us to re-imagine ourselves and our sense of who our “neighbor” truly is. As Christians, we are to watch faithfully for a God who is on the move, transforming our view of God and the world in which we live, and embrace identities that are inclusive and liberative.

Columbia Theological Seminary is “educating imaginative, resilient leaders for God’s changing world.” We do not fully know how God will use us in the future or what that future will look like. We move from fences that are limiting and destructive to bridges which liberate, heal and expand our communal vision.

Raj Nadella, Assistant Professor of New Testament

Let us enter this season of preparation, expecting to be changed as we worship and serve.

We will watch and ready ourselves for the coming of the One whom God sends.

*HYMN 2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(Unison)

God of peace, we have lifted up swords against our enemies and violated the trust of our sisters and brothers. We have used people for our own ends and misused the riches of your grace in destructive ways that threaten our well-being and that of others. We are not ready for you to visit us and call us to account. O God, we would cast off the works of night and live anew in the light of your day. Decide for us, not against us, we pray, as we ask your forgiveness and seek to put on Christ.

SILENT PRAYER FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE 22 (v.3) Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Proclaiming the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(Unison)

As you draw especially near to us, O God, through these words we call holy, equip us to fulfill your law of love. Move us beyond quarreling, jealousy, and self-centered pursuits that we may come to understand and appreciate those other individuals and other nations with whom we share your planet Earth. Grant that a larger view of who we are and whose we are will move us to beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks. In Christ’s name. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5 (O.T. pg. 618)
Menaul School’s academic excellence, diversity, and values inspire achievement

Mari Duran is a happy seventh grader who wants to be a judge when she grows up. Right now, however, she is enjoying life as an honor student, a cheerleader, a volleyball player, and a budding actress at the Presbyterian-related Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Mari did not coast to the achievement she is now experiencing. She was born to a drug-addicted mother and taken directly from the hospital into foster care. Her maternal grandmother, Debra Duran, gained custody four months later and eventually adopted Mari.

Debra, a widow, vowed to care well for Mari, teach her moral values, and afford her a good education. When the time came to choose a middle school, she found Menaul School’s mission reflected her goals for Mari. “It provides a good education and they teach values, so it’s not just me teaching them at home,” Debra says. “She’s learning them at school; she’s also learning about Jesus and about God.” Debra likes the diversity of cultures, races, and ethnicities Mari experiences at Menaul. It is one of the Presbyterian racial-ethnic institutions supported by gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering. The schools receive half of the offering’s receipts, while the other half goes to help current and retired church workers and their families who are in need. Mari, whose ethnicity is Native American and Hispanic, is among the 60% of Menaul students who come from racial-ethnic groups. Mari has no reluctance to recommend Menaul to prospective students. “It’s a great school,” she says. “If they’re worried about their studies, the teachers will be with them. There’s diversity like they have never experienced in any other school. Overall, it’s wonderful.”

Debra sees Menaul offering her granddaughter opportunities she never had. Debra grew up in an impoverished family and had to leave high school before graduation. She earned her GED and attended college later in life, and now sells real estate. But Debra enjoys thinking about Mari attending prom, taking college preparatory classes, and selecting a college. While Mari still has much time to choose a career, she’s clear why, at this point, she wants to be a judge. Her ambition stems not from a desire to dispense justice, but from a longing to help people resolve problems. Demonstrating a precocious understanding of the judicial system, she would like to preside in family court. “I want to help people and families work things out,” Mari explains.

The critical funding from the Christmas Joy Offering enables Presbyterian racial-ethnic schools to provide Mari and students like her opportunities to overcome obstacles and excel.

Your generous gift will help these schools continue their transformative ministries.
JOIN US FOR THE
ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR!

Too many things to buy for Christmas? Everyone already has too much?

Try a new way of celebrating Christmas this year!

Through the Alternative Christmas Fair you can honor someone with a gift that keeps on giving and is in the spirit of what Christmas means.

Make donations to help purchase items for families around the world in a loved one’s name and present to them a full color card to explain to them what has been done in their honor.

We are working with:

CWS
Church World Service

Giving Tree

Heifer International

Serrv
Christmas Stockings for Back Packs

Join us today!

Alicia Albertson is assisting in worship this morning.
Lighting the Advent candle today is Rosalie Hemingway and Ardelle Stewart.
Greeting at the front doors this morning is Rick Jacker and Ricky Jacker.
Tending the nursery today is Karen Leffingwell.
Wally Brough is head usher for November.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY
Dee Gilmore
Lucy Haemmerlein
Mary and Charles Heermance
Hertha Johnson
Laura Kinnicutt
Geraldine and Bruce McCrum

EXTENDED FAMILY, FRIENDS
Joanne, a friend of Nancy Pienta’s
Ashlynn Keller
Katy Smith
Caren Stewart
Our government’s transition
Haiti
Iran
Iraq
Aleppo, Syria
ANNOUNCEMENTS

NURSERY CARE DURING WORSHIP is provided for infants and children through the second grade. Parents are asked to take their child(ren) to the nursery during the hymn just before the sermon. The nursery is found through the door to the left of the pulpit, down the hall on the left. Children who are in the third grade and older should remain with their families during the worship service.

THE ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY continues to meet a growing need in the Ichabod Crane School district. They are grateful for all donations of non-perishable foods (that have a future expiration date) and are asking particularly at this time for mac and cheese, tuna, pasta and spaghetti sauce. If you have any questions about the Food Pantry or how you might get involved, speak with Dorothy Johnson or Carol Matthews, our representatives on the Food Pantry Committee.

If you would like to honor someone or make a gift in memory of someone, consider giving flowers for a Sunday worship service. A sign-up sheet is in the back of the sanctuary for you to give the information necessary for the bulletin and a form to fill out and put in the Secretary’s box. You may bring any flowers you want – from the garden or store arranged. We all appreciate the beauty of creation!

Our Annual Alternative Christmas Fair ends TODAY. It is a wonderful way to honor someone at Christmas or for some other occasion. There are several opportunities for helping others through mission! Congregation and Community Committee is sponsoring the fair. Please see the displays during coffee hour.

The December – February edition of Our Daily Bread is available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Consider picking up a copy of this helpful devotional and making it a part of your daily time of prayer and Bible reading.

We have received several 2017 Pledge Cards, and thank you to those who have returned them, however, there are more yet to come. If you have not yet returned yours, please do so this week. The committee has to know what they have to work with in order to prepare a 2017 budget for the session. Thank you for your help with this.

Our Advent study begins Thursday, December 1, with our first session of studying the scriptures of Handel’s Messiah and listening to the parts of the music that contain those scriptures. We begin at 5:30pm, with a light supper and start our study by 6:00pm. All are welcome to join us on this journey through Advent using familiar music and its texts.