

The Chimes

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PUYALLUP
412 W PIONEER, PUYALLUP, WA 98371

For it is not you who speak,
but the Spirit of your Father
speaking through you.

MATTHEW 10:20

Advent Reflection

By Katie Wolfe

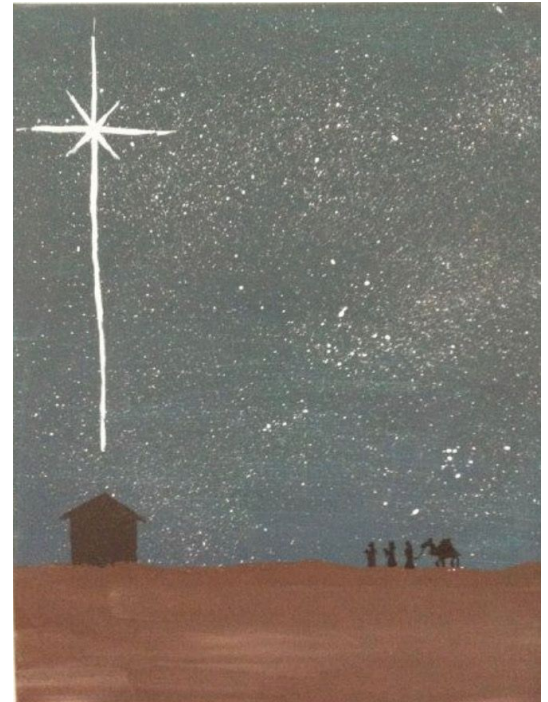
For centuries, Advent has invited us into a period of preparation. This is a time to awaken hope, confront darkness with light, and ready our hearts for the coming of Christ. Around the world, headlines tell stories of conflict, cultural tension, and economic uncertainty. People are feeling overwhelmed by personal pressures, strained relationships, health challenges, financial anxieties, and career transitions. Against this backdrop, the Advent call to “*Prepare the way of the Lord*” feels less like a seasonal slogan and more of a necessary lifeline.

Advent does not ask believers to hide from what is difficult. Instead, it acknowledges that our world hungers for redemption. It speaks to the real human experiences of fear, longing, and disruption. Christians mark these weeks by remembering that God enters into places that are troubled, uncertain, and waiting for renewal. As believers around the globe begin to light the Advent candles, we are challenged to look for Christ’s presence now, in compassion, justice, forgiveness, courage, and acts of kindness.

Consider reflecting on the different themes brought forth by the candles of Advent.

- *Where can you pray for Christ’s Hope to work?
- *Who is someone you can show Christ’s Love to?
- *When can you create Joy for someone who does not know Christ?
- *How has Christ created Peace in your life?

This season encourages us to slow down and make room for the transformation that Christ brings into our life. As we move through the weeks of Advent, may we find comfort in the simple truth—God is near.



Men's Breakfast

Join the men of First Pres every Third Saturday of the month for a time of fellowship. Featuring a new guest speaker each month.. The next meeting is December 20th at 8 am. Each guest pays their own check. We hope to see you there!

Personnel, Stewardship, and Finance Committee

Happy Fall! We are in a busy time of year with many things on our to do lists. The Personnel Stewardship and Finance Committee is working on the end of the year business and making plans for the 2026 budget. Thank you for your participation in the stewardship campaign. The estimated budget for continuing our present ministry and for hiring a new pastor is \$340,000. To date \$187,900 has been promised for next year. If you have not turned in your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible so the budget work can be completed. Contracts for paid personnel have been revised and a Cost of Living Adjustment of 2.8% has been approved by Session.

In just 4 short weeks, 2025 will come to an end. Thank you for completing this year's pledge by December 31.

Giving Tree Gifts Due December 7th

Our church family here at FPC and Bates College Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP) has a long tradition and partnership. Preschoolers in this program are ages 3-5 and at risk for any of a variety of reasons, medical, financial, foster care, ELL (English Language Learners), etc.

This time of year is magical and exciting for most families. Some families have a support system and get through the season well. Other families can provide abundant love but struggle to provide extra items beyond basic needs. The Deacons have requested information for 15 children in the preschool as well as siblings so that all children in a family get 3 gifts - an item of clothing, a toy and a book.

The Deacons will have to wrap all the presents by Tuesday December 9th. We are a generous congregation and I'm sure we can do this as we always have! Thanks in advance for making this a magical time of year for all our children!

Annual Report

It is the time of year that we will compile the accomplishments of our church over the last 12 months! Write up the report for your committee or task force and be ready to submit it to the church office! More information to come.

Blue Advent Service

Are you missing a loved one this holiday season? The Deacons at First Presbyterian are holding a Blue Advent Service. This is a service to honor and remember those who are not with us this holiday season.. All are invited honor or stand in solidarity with those who are grieving or experiencing loss during this Christmas season.

Christmas Caroling!

Our congregation is continuing the annual tradition of Christmas Caroling to our older congregation members! We will be meeting at the church around 3pm and then carpooling to the different caroling locations. The only requirement is the desire to spread holiday cheer! Refreshments will be provided afterwards at the Harrisons home. Connect with Joe or Marj for more information!

Christmas Pageant

With the advent season in full swing, we are inviting the entire congregation to participate in our no practice Christmas pageant! On December 14th, when you arrive for Worship, grab a costume in the Narthex. You could be an Angel, a Wise Man, one of the Farm Animals, or Mary or Joesph! Trygve Hermann is our narrator this year and we are so excited to have him!