



DECEMBER Weekly Update

December 18, 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

A week from today (Wednesday, December 18) will be Christmas Day. We will be celebrating the arrival of the Christ child at His birth. But this means we still have a whole week to prepare during Advent.

Tish Harrison Warren is an award-winning author, Anglican priest and sometimes columnist for the New York Times and Christianity Today – she will also be speaking at January's ECO National Gathering. She has written and spoken a lot about the season of Advent. (here's a link to a 2019 column she wrote in the Times – [“Want to get into the Spirit of Christmas? Face the Darkness”](#)).

Tish talks about how in the season of Advent, we do three different kinds of waiting. First, we wait along with the characters of the gospel stories and the people of the Old Testament, as they anticipate and hope for the coming of the Messiah. As we wait for Christmas, we remember the waiting of those first people of faith, whose waiting was rewarded with the coming of the infant Jesus. This is waiting of the past.

We also wait for the Second Advent of Jesus. During this season we consider and contemplate the promised return of Jesus. We wait with eager confidence that the savior is going to come again, and we long for His work to set all things right, dry every tear, and bring the New Creation we desperately desire. This is waiting for the future.

But there is a third kind of waiting we do during Advent. We are waiting for Jesus to show up in our lives here and now. We need Jesus to come into our everyday circumstances. We need Him to bring wisdom, to bring healing, to bring insight and discernment. We need Jesus to come and bring peace and comfort and hope in hard times. We need Jesus now. And so, we wait for Him in our everyday lives, to make His presence and ministry known. This is waiting in the present.

For this final week of Advent, I would encourage you to consider these different kinds of waiting and to contemplate our need for Jesus. If you haven't yet, set aside some moments this week and talk to God. Tell Him about your thankfulness that He has come in the past, your hope that He will come again in the future, and your desire to see Him work here in the present.

Don't rush into Christmas this week, but invest in the important spiritual work for preparing for the arrival of our King.

You can hear Tish Harrison Warren talk more about Advent on this Trinity Forum podcast episode: <https://share.transistor.fm/s/ea1f7831>

Merry Advent!



VOLUNTEERS FOR DECEMBER 22

Greeters	Beth & Genevieve Miller Bridget Rhamy
Ushers	Danny Brown & Adam Swinehart
Café	Connie Herman
Nursery (Worship)	Kim Morrow
Nursery (2nd Hour)	Vickie Rhamy
Kidz Jam	Shirley Swinehart
Kids 2nd Hour	Shirley Swinehart
Elder Assist	Beth Miller
Safety Team	Duane Wood

December/January Calendar

December 19	7:00 p.m. Session Meeting
December 22	Sunday morning worship and 2nd Hour
December 24	8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
December 25	<i>Merry Christmas</i> 
December 29	Sunday morning worship
January 1	<i>happy new year</i> 
January 5	Sunday morning worship
January 5	Ordination & installation of officers during the worship service.
January 5	No 2nd Hour—instead, join us for a Potluck dinner following worship
January 8	10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
January 8	6:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting
January 8	6:45 p.m. Music Team
January 12	Sunday morning worship and 2nd Hour
January 15	10:00 a.m. G.L.O.W. (Women)
January 15	6:45 p.m. Music Team

The church office will be closed December 25 & 26 and January 1st in observance of the holidays. Pastor Jos will be out of town through January 2.



PRAYER

Please keep these people/situations in your prayers. The prayer needs listed in **BOLD** are new to the list.

Military Service:

- Shannah Swinehart - Army National Guard
- Christa Nelson - Navy
- Rusty King - Army
- Ryan Chabak - stationed in Arizona
- Isaiah Styer - stationed at Camp Lejeune in NC
- Gaven Bee - stationed in Dayton, OH

Prayer Needs

- **Direction & options for someone having financial difficulties**

Health Concerns:

- **Katie Gehring - newborn w/bacterial infection**
- **Aimee Lorentz - surgery complications, and pneumonia**
- Caleb Michaels - pneumonia
- Jenny Miller's Uncle Joe treatments going well. Prayers for regaining strength
- Roger Stroud continued healing
- Julie - health concerns
- Pastor Albert continued healing from accident
- Wendy Scott - health concerns
- Jane Heilman

Battling Cancer

- Susan Halliday - battling cancer
- Janet Lee - lung cancer diagnosis
- Waldo - cont'd prayers for remainder of chemo
- Landon Sommers - Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- David
- Keylee - leukemia
- Dale James

Condolences

- **The family of Jena Evans**
- **The family of Mary Hardesty**

The Deacons encourage you to send cards or notes of encouragement to those in the church family experiencing prayer needs.

Worship with us at our...

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24th | 8:00PM

“For unto us a child is born...” - Isaiah 9:6

FREDERICKSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

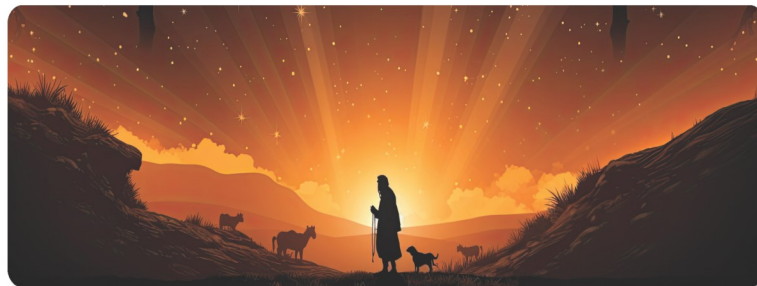
201 N. Mill Street
Fredericksburg, OH 44627



SAVE THE DATE -On Sunday, January 5 we will be ordaining and installing of 2025 church officers and we will be having a pot-luck dinner. The church will supply a meat tray, buns, plates & silverware, and beverage. Please bring a dish to share.



Join us for worship during this Advent Season...



Welcomed from Afar

- December 1st: The Messiah who is a Human (Genesis 3:8-15)
- December 8th: The Messiah who is a King (2 Samuel 7:8-16)
- December 15th: The Messiah who will Suffer (Isaiah 53)
- December 22nd: The Messiah who is God (Ezekiel 34:11-16)
- December 24th: The Messiah who is Jesus (Luke 1:26-38; 2:19)

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

201 N. Mill Street
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Worship Service
begins at 9:30 AM