



Kirkwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Christmas Eve Worship

11:00 am
5:00 pm
8:00 pm



**T H E
L A M P L I G H T E R
D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 7**



A View from the Porch...

"It's the most wonderful time of the year..." so begins a popular song of the Christmas season. What makes Christmastime such a wonderful time? Why is there a certain magic in the air? Why are people a little more kind, generous, and caring as Christmas approaches?

As a people of faith, we would say that the birth of Jesus, God's beloved Son and our Savior is the answer to such questions. When the prophet Isaiah foresaw the coming of the Lord's Messiah nearly seven hundred years before his birth he wrote saying,

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." **(Isaiah 9:6 NIV)**

These ancient words were written to a people without hope, barely surviving in the darkness of captivity; a people for whom, "Have yourself a merry little Christmas" would be an almost cold and callous greeting. The message of any of our popular Christmas jingles pales in comparison to the plight of God's people offering little consolation to a people without any tangible hope for their future, a people dejected and feeling God-forsaken.

Don't get me wrong for I enjoy many of the popular traditional Christmas songs as do many of you. "White Christmas", "Silver Bells", "The Christmas Song" and many others are among my favorites. And though they try to capture the "wonder" of Christmas, they fail to fulfill in any way the vision of the prophet to his heart broken people.

Advent is a time of preparation, and as such, its messengers are often digging around in places we would prefer left untouched in our lives. To experience authentic wonder as Christmas approaches may mean that we learn to hear the "good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people" in a new context. We need to hear these words spoken amid the world's most wretched places— in and among the poor, oppressed, and God-forsaken throughout our world. Born in obscurity, born in poverty, born in vulnerability, the Christ is born. And Isaiah tells us...

*Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.*

(Isaiah 9:7 NIV)

And the wonder is just this! And this, the world's greatest joy...

As we prepare to encounter the astounding wonder of Christ's advent; as our hearts grow tender and lives more generous; let's beware the tendency to become sentimental about the season and to get caught up in "being in the Christmas spirit". Rather, let us worship Christ the newborn King. Let us work to bring Jesus' gifts of justice, hope, and the wonders of his love into the far reaches of this weary world to a people just as desperate, dejected, and forgotten as those to whom Isaiah spoke and among whom Jesus was born to save.





Previews from the Pulpit

Christmas time is story time! Some of the most wonderfully written and memorable stories are told and retold as Christmas draws near each year—Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol*, O’Henry’s *Gift of the Magi*, Moore’s *The Night before Christmas*—just to name a few. Such stories delight us while attempting to capture the majesty and mystery of Christ’s Incarnation. And each of them is “birthed” in the story of Bethlehem’s babe told first by St. Luke. Yet, seldom at Christmastime do we hear the stories Jesus told—those timeless and fetching stories we know as parables.

This year’s Advent and Christmas messages will offer us some interesting twists on some of Jesus’ most memorable parables found in Luke’s gospel retold in the language of Christmas. *Christmas Parables* will draw us into our traditional Advent preparations and Christmas experiences with a renewed sense of childhood wonder and familiarity touched by the stories of the One whose own story is being born anew among us all.



Sunday, December 3
 Celebration of Holy Communion
 First Sunday of Advent
 Luke 10:25-37
The Christmas Shoppers

Sunday, December 10
 Second Sunday of Advent
 Luke 5:5-8, 11-15
The Christmas Carolers

Sunday, December 17
 Third Sunday of Advent
 Children’s Christmas Nativity:
The First Christmas

Sunday, December 24
 Christmas Joy Offering Received
 Fourth Sunday of Advent
 Pat Futato Preaching/Rev. Lees assisting
 Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 2:1-14
Angelic Anticipation

Sunday, December 24
 Candlelight Services (5:00 pm and 8:00 pm)
 Christmas Eve
 Luke 15:1-10
The Christmas Ornaments

Sunday, December 31
 Rev. Lees on Vacation
 Pat Futato, Guest Worship Leader
 First Sunday after Christmas
 Isaiah 61:10 Luke 2:22-40
Nunc Dimittis Servum Tuum, Domine

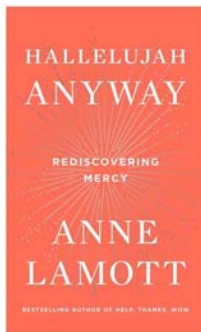


Book Club

Come join us on **Monday, December 11** at 7:30pm in the Kirkwood Conference Room for a discussion about *Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy* by Anne Lamott.

Mercy is radical kindness, Anne Lamott writes in her enthralling and heartening book, *Hallelujah Anyway*. It's the permission you give others--and yourself--to forgive a debt, to absolve the un-absolvable, to let go of the judgment and pain that make life so difficult. In *Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy*, Lamott ventures to explore where to find meaning in life.

All are welcome! Please contact Pam Johnson at 703-906-9035 for more information. Our next meeting will be Monday, January 8. We will be discussing *The Soul of an Octopus* by Sy Montgomery.



Support Group on Aging

The Support Group on Aging will meet on **Thursday, December 7** at 1:00 pm. The purpose of the support group is to offer support and education to seniors, those caring for the elderly, and others interested in the subject. The group facilitator is Rev. Dr. Saul Cardona who has extensive experience in working with the elderly and has specialized education in dealing with elderly issues and their families. Invite a friend or neighbor!



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study



The Thursday morning Women's Bible Study will meet in the church parlor in December as we discuss this year's Horizon's Bible Study, *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*. Written by Presbyterian Rev. Melissa Bane Sevier, *Cloud of Witnesses* explores the often overlooked and unique Letter to the Hebrews which is rich in theology and metaphor—such as “stone wall” and “cloud.” Rich in Jewish history and symbolism, the nine themes of *Cloud of Witnesses* delve into the deep sense of community we have with Christ and one another.

If you need a book, or wish to volunteer as the hostess for upcoming studies, please contact Joyce Nelson at jkn4230@gmail.com. The Women's Bible Study regularly meets on the third Thursday of each month at 10:30 am in the Parlor and is facilitated by Pastor Larry. Our next gathering will be on **Thursday, December 14 at 10:30 am** as we continue our study with *Lesson Four*. **New members are always welcome!**

Game Night

On **Saturday, December 9** at 6:00 pm we will be having a Game Night in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage any interested attendees to bring their own game, and there will be games provided as well. There will be pizza provided for dinner. You are welcome to bring friends to share in a night of fun!



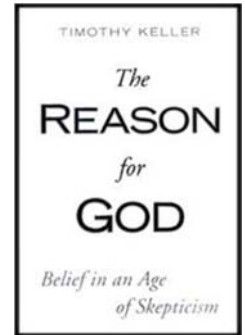
Wednesday Evening Bible Study (WEBS)

Wednesday Evening Bible Study (WEBS) will continue its fall study of *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism* by Timothy Keller.

How could a loving God send people to hell? Why does he allow suffering? Can one religion be "right" and the others "wrong?" Responding to the questions of open skeptics and ardent believers, Keller draws from literature, philosophy, reason, and real-life conversations to explain how faith in a Christian God is a soundly rational belief.

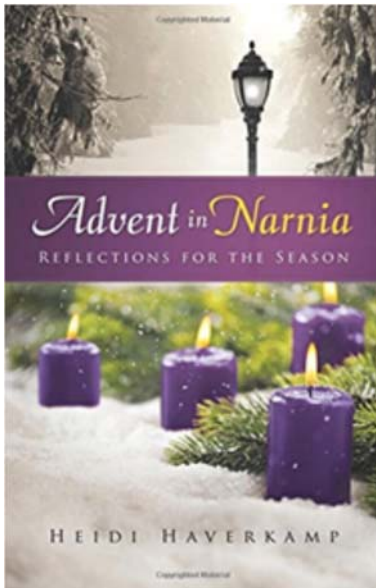
Tim Keller is the founder and Senior Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City. A graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Westminster Theological Seminary, Keller is a highly regarded communicator, minister, and thinker.

WEBS meets every Wednesday evening in the conference room at 7:30 pm and concludes by 9:00 pm.



Adult Christian Education

"Walking into Advent can be like walking through the wardrobe."



Sunday, December 3, the Adult Christian Education class will begin an Advent series based on Heidi Haverkamp's *Advent in Narnia*. This wonderful devotional book contains 28 daily meditations for personal use and four sessions for classroom discussion. Each week we'll view a scene from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* movie, and cover one of the classroom sessions. If you have a copy of C.S. Lewis's classic book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, keep it handy—each devotion has suggested parallel readings in the book.

Pat Futato and Pastor Larry welcome you to join us as we enter C.S. Lewis magical world through the eyes of Heidi Haverkamp as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's incarnation. Join us on C.S. Lewis' imaginative adventure as we make our way through the Wardrobe into the magical world of Narnia where, until the spell of the White Witch is broken, *"it is always winter and never Christmas."*

Because we will not convene on either Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve, this class will conclude in early January. Pat Futato and Larry Lees are the class facilitators. Contact either Larry Lees (pastor@kirkwoodpres.com) or Pat Futato, (pfutato@cox.net) if you will be joining "Advent in Narnia" this December so we can make sure we order you a book, or, if you prefer, you may order the Kindle version at www.amazon.com.

Northern Virginia Chorale Concert

The Northern Virginia Chorale, accompanied by professional soloists and orchestra, will present selections from Handel's *Messiah* on **Saturday, December 9** at St. Mark's Lutheran Church (5800 Backlick Rd, Springfield) at 8:00 pm. Tickets may be purchased from members and online at www.northernvirginiachorale.org. Kirkwood's own Clydetta Lobred and Susie Yancey will be performing with the chorale!



MISSION

Kids Helping Kids

All kids of Kirkwood, get ready to help assemble weekend food packs for hungry students at Newington Forest Elementary after service in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, December 10**. Donations of boxed mac & cheese, ramen noodles, instant oatmeal, canned chicken or tuna, cheese and crackers, and granola bars are always welcome. Bring your items with you to the Fellowship Hall or place them in the ECHO box labeled *Kids Helping Kids*.



So Others Might Eat

S.O.M.E. Sandwich Making



This month's making of sandwiches to feed the homeless will be in Fellowship Hall immediately after worship service on **Sunday, December 10**. Donations of bologna and sliced cheese are welcome and should be placed in the kitchen refrigerator. Please come and join others who are giving of their time to relieve hunger in our metropolitan area. This mission project is scheduled each month and takes only 30 to 45 minutes to complete.

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is in our Narthex to help students from Lynbrook Elementary School at Christmas. The ornaments on the Giving Tree will have items listed on them for you to contribute.

The Family Liaison at Lynbrook has requested these items for the children:

- wooden puzzles
- matchbox cars
- sets of hats and gloves
- board games for ages 8-10
- hooded sweatshirts
- crafts for girls age 6-10



The clothing is for elementary age children. These items must not be wrapped. They must be at the Church no later than **Sunday, December 10** so we can get them to the school before they close for winter break on December 15.

ECHO Collection

This month's communion Sunday food collection for **ECHO** will be on **Sunday, December 3**. As you prepare your list for grocery shopping, please remember to pick up a few items for ECHO to give to the hungry in our community. The ECHO box will be waiting for your contributions at the entrance to the sanctuary. Most urgent food item needs can be found at

www.echo-inc.org



Christmas Joy Offering

“Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!” 2 Corinthians 9:15

The Christmas Joy Offering, a Presbyterian tradition since the 1930’s, celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the truly “indescribable gift,” as well as the gifts of church leaders – past, present and future. Through the work of the Christmas Joy Offering, we seek the living of this truth: that God’s generosity is the source, the support and the outcome of our own. We give because God has freely given. We give to support the needs of our church leaders.

This year Kirkwood will celebrate the Christmas Joy Offering on **Sunday, December 24**. The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four special offerings for the Presbyterian Church (USA). Gifts contributed to this offering provide financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian Church workers and support leadership and education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. What does this look like?

- \$1.1 million of gifts from 2016 are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.
- Supplements from the Board of Pensions (BOP) helped more than 211 households remain in their homes, afford assisted living, or long-term care.
- Income supplements from the BOP helped nearly 291 households, assisting retired church workers and surviving spouses with the means to provide for themselves.
- Shared and Emergency Grants from the BOP helped more than 110 households facing times of great financial need or uncertainty due to unforeseen circumstances.
- \$1 million of gifts from 2016 are being used to provide education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.



If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Arnold, the Mission Elder.

Children’s Christmas Pageant

Children of all ages are invited to participate in this year’s Christmas Pageant during the worship service on **Sunday, December 17**. We ask that if your child is interested that you commit to attending all of the practice dates listed in the commons area, on the main page of the website, and in the upcoming December Lamplighter Newsletter. As you will see, many of them will take place conveniently during Sunday School however, there are a few times that we will need to rehearse outside of the worship hour. If you have any questions or would like to have your child(ren) participate, please contact Merissa Larson (merissaklarson@yahoo.com) or Pam Johnson (pbjfairfax@gmail.com).

PRACTICE SCHEDULE

#	DATE	TIME	NOTES/FOCUS
1	November 19 th (Sunday)	11:15 – 12:00	Reviewing Lines & Music
2	November 26 th (Sunday)	11:15 – 12:00	Reviewing Lines & Music
3	December 3 rd (Sunday)	9:30 – 10:45	Stage and Movement Practice
4	December 3 rd (Sunday)	11:15 – 12:00	Reviewing Lines & Music
5	December 3 rd (Sunday)	12:30 – 1:30	Costume Fitting and Stage Practice
6	December 10 th (Sunday)	11:15 – 12:00	Reviewing Lines & Music
7	December 16 th (Saturday)	9:00 – 10:30	FULL Dress Rehearsal on stage
8	December 17 th (Sunday)	9:00 – 10:30	FULL Dress Rehearsal on stage





December

- 1 Cecilia Wu
- 10 Jean Larson
- 10 Mark Wessman
- 12 Sylvia Kelty
- 16 John Webster
- 17 John Wherry
- 19 Lynn Gearhart
- 20 Claire Runger
- 21 Susanna Campbell
- 23 Keith Harding
- 26 Jo Anne Collins
- 26 Jim Heidenreich
- 31 Lars Larson
- 31 Andrew Furth
- 31 Lexy Hickey



December

- 4 Art & Dani Schwalb
- 4 Elizabeth & Jess Moose
- 8 Jim & Susan Lister
- 11 Bob & Maggie Snyder
- 18 Saul & Aida Cardona
- 19 Erik & Becca Larson
- 24 Dave & Pat Johnson
- 26 Cliff & Jo Anne Collins
- 26 Kristen & Peter Scott



Special Concerns:

- Dustin & Sherri Ellington and family, mission workers in Zambia

Health & Personal Concerns:

- Bob Flory
- Dick Pape
- Joan Reynolds
- Dani Schwalb
- Ann Oldenkamp, friend of Joyce Nelson
- Dick Glymph, father of Amy Jennette
- Hez Spinner, brother-in-law of Clydette Lobred
- Jerrold Ross, brother of Joe Ross
- Carolyn Wood, friend of Dan Larson
- Nancy Kimberly, friend of Linda Pierce Knutson

Please email Clydette Lobred (tclobred@aol.com) with Prayer Ring requests and also if you would like to update, add or remove your email address.

Christmas Open House

Please come celebrate the Christmas season with your Kirkwood family on **Sunday, December 17** with an Open House at the Larson's (5785 Ladues End Court, Fairfax) at 4:00 pm. Drop in for heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks provided by the Larsons, Bring a sweet treat to share if you want. Open to all Kirkwood family and friends!



KIRKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Springfield, VA 22152

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www.kirkwoodpres.com
703-451-5320

Pastor, Rev. Larry C. Lees
pastor@kirkwoodpres.com

Director of Music
Christopher Smith

Organist/Accompanist
Hongju Lee

Office Manager
Anne Myers

Treasurer
James Lister



*Concerts from Kirkwood
presents*



Christmas in Brass

featuring the

Barclay Brass Quintet

Sat., Dec. 2, 3:00 PM



Kirkwood Presbyterian Church
8336 Carrleigh Pkwy. Springfield, VA 22152.
www.kirkwoodpres.com. 703-451-5320.

One block north of the intersection of Old Keene Mill Rd. and
Carrleigh Pkwy., in Springfield.

Free
Donations
welcome

Christmas at Kirkwood

Make plans to celebrate Christmas Eve at Kirkwood!

Since **Christmas Eve** falls on a Sunday this year, we will have a special worship service at 11:00 am on Christmas Eve!

At 5:00 pm on **Christmas Eve**, we will have a family service. This less formal service will feature music from our handbell choir and soloist. It will conclude with the traditional candlelight singing of *Silent Night*, accompanied by handbells.

The 8:00 pm service on **Christmas Eve** will be a candlelight service with violins and choir. The prelude, beginning before the service, will feature violin and organ. We will feature Christmas works from around the world. The service will conclude with the traditional candlelight singing of *Silent Night* accompanied by violins and guitar.

***The nursery will be available for all three services.**

*The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25, Tuesday, December 26,
and Monday, January 1.*

*Monday, December 18 is the deadline for articles and/or photos to be included in the
January Lamplighter. Please send content to Anne at office.manager@kirkwoodpres.com*

