

PREPARING FOR

# Advent



## Claiming A New Story in Advent: How God Reorients Our Lives

God's Advent and Christmas stories reorient our lives around the truth that God wishes to be with us and to save us. The scriptures for Advent and Christmas will reveal how God prepares God's people to reorient their lives to welcome a child that will further reorient our lives. Our call this Advent and Christmas Season is to claim a different story and we've got a preaching series that will offer guidance on how best to claim God's story – but beware, it'll completely change your life!

## Advent Preaching Series

**Dec. 1: Luke 21: 25-36** *This Story Will Change Everything* – Rev. Ben

**Dec. 8: Luke 3:1-6** *The Localness of God's Transformative Story* – Rev. Ben

**Dec. 15: Luke 3:7-18** *Pointing to the Author of Our Story* (Big Music Sunday) – Rev. Ben

**Dec. 22: Luke 1: 39-56** *Why? The Question of Advent* – Children Leading

**Dec. 24: Luke 2:1-20** *Expectations Meet Reality* – Rev. Ben

**Dec. 29: Luke 2:41-52** *They All Grow Up, Even Jesus* – Rev. Alisa

## Celebrate Christmas Eve

AT SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**FAMILY SERVICE 3:30 PM**

**CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION SERVICES**

**5:30 & 7:30 PM**

LIVESTREAMED AT  
[WWW.SECONDPRESLR.ORG](http://WWW.SECONDPRESLR.ORG)

600 PLEASANT VALLEY DR.  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72227

# LEARN AND CONNECT

Connect, grow, and deepen faith together this Advent season



## **REJOICE IN HOPE** - Family Devotionals

A verse, a prayer, and an action. That may be all we can commit to each day to mark the season of Advent. Lives are busy and kids are scattered. Let's start small and commit to what brings our families close and gives us focus for the day. Pick up a copy of Rejoice in Hope from the Parent Resource Board near the north west entry. Each day read the verse, the prayer, and the act. Use the act portion to drive conversation and actions. Then, come together as a family to talk about how it shaped your day. If you want more, read the reflect portion as well. Take home a table tent or a placemat and use them to guide your family practices of faith this advent. *Supplies are limited.*



## **JAM Kids Caroling**

December 18, 5:15 - 7pm. JAM will go caroling to homes of those connected to the church who may need a little Christmas cheer.



## **Birthday Party for Jesus**

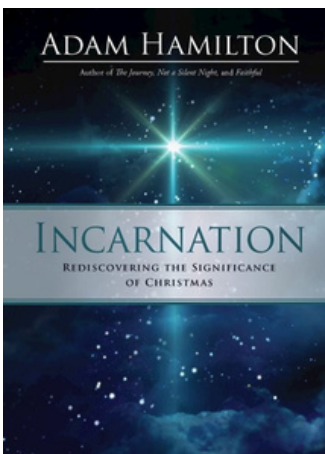
Sunday, December 15, 9:45 - 10:45am in the Great Hall. Children will enjoy crafts, games, and create a snack during our celebration of the coming Christ in the Great Hall. Join us for a fun Sunday morning party with music, cookies, and singing Happy Birthday to Jesus.



## **A Ferncliff Christmas**

December 13-15

Experience the Nativity story in a whole new way! Interactive Nativity Experience, Festive Food and Drink, and more! Scan the QR code to reserve your time slot with a ticket.



## **Second Hall Short Series**

**December 8, 15, 22 and January 5 at 9:45 a.m.**

**Second Hall Sunday School Class:** *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*

Learn the meaning behind the many names of Christ and the difference He makes in our lives this Advent season. His parents gave him the name Jesus. But the prophets, shepherds, wise men, and angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh. This four-week series will be based on *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, in which best-selling author Adam Hamilton examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth. Session Leaders: December 8, Chris McDaniel; December 15, Jennifer Chilcoat and Dianne Campbell; December 22, Lydia Wingo Kane; and January 5, Steve Dunnagan.



# WORSHIP, PRAY, AND SERVE

Embrace the spirit of Advent

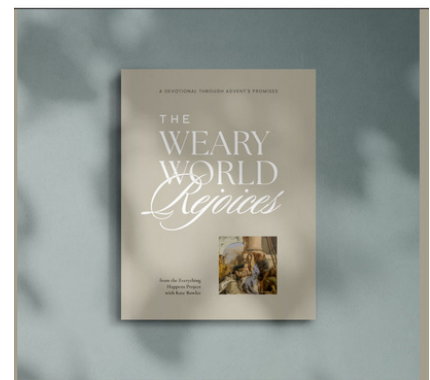
## Big Music Sunday December 15

A favorite Advent tradition at Second Presbyterian Church is *Big Music Sunday*. On Sunday morning, December 15, our sanctuary will be filled with the joyous music of the season. Alexandra Rose Vigil will be our featured harp soloist, and will also accompany various ensembles and soloists from the Adult and Youth choirs. Blythe Keating, soprano and Lila Cross, mezzo soprano, will offer solos and duets from Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*. The Jubilant Ringers will present a special Christmas program beginning at 8:20am and 10:50am, preceding our traditional worship services and, of course, we will hear amazing organ music from Adam Savacool. Please come be part of this special worship experience that will help us all prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.



## Advent Devotionals

Our adult advent devotional for this year will be *The Weary World Rejoices* from the Everything Happens Project with Kate Bowler. Dr. Kate Bowler teaches at Duke Divinity School, has authored several best-selling books, and hosts a popular podcast that wrestles thoughtfully and faithfully with life's hardest questions. This resource can be found online for free at [http://katebowler.com/seasonal\\_devotional/the-weary-world-rejoices](http://katebowler.com/seasonal_devotional/the-weary-world-rejoices) or with the QR code and we will have printed hard copies in the narthex for those who prefer to use a non-electronic version. Each day is designed to take around 20 minutes and includes scripture, a short devotional, reflection questions, and a blessing. We hope you will join us during this Advent season as we once again prepare our hearts and minds for the good news of Christmas.



## Outreach Trees for the Christmas Season



Join us as we help make the season brighter for our partner organizations in the community. Our Outreach trees in the narthex (main lobby of the sanctuary) are decorated with ornaments listing donation requests that will help our community members in need. This year we will be supporting Immerse Arkansas, El Zocalo Immigrant Resource Center, and Youth Home. Visit the organizational tree that you are interested in supporting, take an ornament with the donation request listed, and return it to the church with your donation. Please contact Lindy Vogado ([lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org](mailto:lindyvogado@secondpreslr.org)) with any questions or for more information.

## Blue Christmas: A Service of Hope and Healing

Wednesday, December 18 at 6:00pm in the Chapel

Advent and Christmas are often seasons of joy and hope, but for many of us these seasons are hard because of death, loss, and sadness. Join us for a worship service that'll include scripture, prayers, the lighting of candles, instrumentalists, and music that seeks to proclaim God's presence in the midst of all aspects of life.





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# Hanging of the Greens December 1

*Welcome Advent with a festive breakfast, decorating the church, and communion worship.*

**Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.  
Decorating the Church at 9:45 a.m.  
Single Worship Service 11:00 a.m.**

Scan QR Code  
to Register



Please register for breakfast  
\$10 per adult  
\$5 for kids over 3



# December 2024

# ADVENT CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><u>Hanging of the Greens</u></p> <p><b>1</b> Advent Week 1 Hope</p> <p>9:00 AM - Breakfast 9:45 AM - Decorate the Church 11:00 AM - One Worship Service (S) 4:30 PM - Youth Group: Hope &amp; Peace (YB)</p>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<p><b>8</b> Advent Week 2 Peace</p> <p>9:45 AM - Second Hall Advent Series 4:30 PM - Family Dinner: Cookie Swap @ The Barr House 4:30 PM - Youth Group: Joy &amp; Love (YB)</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Stephen Ministry Christmas Party, <i>offsite</i></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>10:00 AM - Presbyterian Women Social (SH) 10:30 AM - Presbyterian Women Christmas Program</p>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<p><u>Christmas Joy Offering</u></p> <p><b>15</b> Advent Week 3 Joy</p> <p>Big Music Sunday 8:30 &amp; 11:00 AM Worship 9:45 AM - Second Hall Advent Series 9:45 AM - Birthday Party for Jesus (GH) 5:00 PM - Youth Progressive Dinner, <i>offsite</i></p>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<p><b>22</b> Advent Week 4 Love</p> <p>8:30 &amp; 11:00 AM- Children Lead Worship 9:45 AM - Second Hall Advent Series 11:00 AM - JAM Sings in Worship (S) 4:30 PM - Youth Christmas Party (YB)</p>	<b>23</b>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><i>Pastor's Discretionary Fund Offering</i></p> <p><b>Christmas Eve Services:</b> 3:30 PM - Family Service 5:00 PM - Communion Service 8:00 PM - Communion Service</p>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:45 AM - Second Hall Advent Series 11:00 AM - One Worship Service (S)</p>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<p>Key: (S) Sanctuary (GH) Great Hall (SH) Second Hall (L) Library (YB) Youth Building</p>			
		New Year's Eve				



**Second**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH