

# The MESSENGER



December 2021-January 2022



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## **Staff**

the Rev. Jeffrey Lang

### **Amy**

Director of Music and Organist

### **Kate**

Choir Director/Vocalist

### **Paisley**

Videographer

### **Maya**

Vocalist

### **Deborah**

Administrative Assistant

### **Logan**

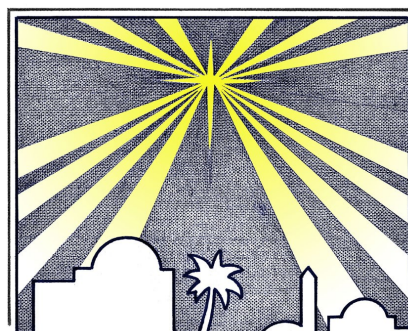
Vocalist

*Items for the February edition  
of this newsletter are accepted  
in the church office  
through 9:00AM, Monday,  
January 24, 2022.*



*Early submissions  
are joyfully accepted.*

*Submitted information will be  
edited for clarity, accuracy,  
and length.*



**the  
Light shines in  
the Darkness**

As we approach the joyous season of Advent, the Worship Committee's activities involve special music in formation for Sunday services. The choir will return, at last, with the start of Advent. Music of the season is planned, and guest instrumentalists will make appearances as they always have done. The traditional Lessons and Carols service will take place on Sunday, December 12.

Adhering to our guidelines of shorter services, Lessons and Carols will also be shorter in duration, but not in quality! You will notice a streamlining of elements: soloist features combined with choir, or choral presentations blending with instrumental works. These modifications are in place to achieve a beautiful, but shorter service.

Closer to January we will make decisions about continuing with choir each Sunday, based on the public health situation at that time and on the insights of Jeffrey, Amy, and Kate.

# Message from our Minister



Isaiah 46:9 declares: “For I am God, there is no other.”

The Bible is clear that there is only one God who is creator and redeemer.

Alongside that message, the scriptures describe as God: Fathers, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. In response, Christians confess in liturgy, creeds, and theologies a robust trinitarian monotheism.

The *Westminster Confession of Faith* provides one description of the triune God: “In the unity of Godhead there be three Persons of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. The Father is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.” (WCF II.3)

In the Advent and Christmas seasons, it is the story of the triune God which we retell and celebrate. In the Nativity story we witness God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit involved in the incarnation of God the Son in human flesh.

The prologue of John’s Gospel 1:1-18 provides a theological context and background for the birth narratives of Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2.

Of the incarnation described by John, it has been said that eternity invades time. The Son, who is God and with God from eternity past, enters human existence for the sake of God’s creatures. Jesus is the word, the discourse of God, to humanity. Jesus reveals the Father to human beings to seek and save those who are lost in sin and alienated from God.

The Nicene Creed confesses: We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

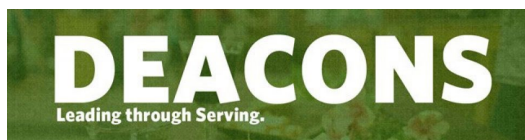
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human.”

The child born in Bethlehem, in his life, death and resurrection, presents to us the good news of God’s saving love. The creator enters his creation to set right what went wrong. The Holy Spirit regenerates us, gifts us faith, and brings us to trust and rest in God’s compassion and grace.

As we consider the Biblical doctrine of the trinity, we do well to remind ourselves that the revelation of scripture is sufficient, but not exhaustive in what it teaches us. The scriptures are accommodated to our human capacities. Finite creatures as we are, we surely cannot entirely comprehend the being of God. If we could, God would not be God. But if the Bible is a self-disclosure of God to human beings, then we are invariably led by it to understand the one God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Though we might not be able to plumb the depths of eternity and the inner being of God, the good news is more than enough— the triune God loves each one of us and all of creation.

The final stanza of ‘Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming’ rings out: *“This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels the glorious splendor of darkness everywhere. True man yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.”*

(continued on next page)



The Deacons offer prayer, companionship, rides, or meals, but don't always know where care is needed. If you know of a need (your own or another's), call the church office or any of our Deacons: Susan, Marianna, Jane , and Susy (Moderator).



William  
Levi  
Amy  
Dottie  
Fern  
Dolores  
Jacquie  
Lila  
Carolyn  
Jim



*With Deepest Sympathy*

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... to Amy upon the death of her husband John, Saturday, November 13.  
John's memorial service was held Monday, November 22.  
Please keep Amy in your prayers as she transitions to life without John.

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### *Message from our Minister* continues

The final stanza of 'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming' rings out: *"This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels the glorious splendor of darkness everywhere. True man yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load."*

Christmas is an occasion to be attentive to the redemptive work of God in the birth of Christ, the incarnation of the Son, for our salvation. In Bethlehem's manger Emmanuel, God with us, arrives for the salvation of the world. We can be mindful that we celebrate in this season the affirmation of John 1:18, that, "No one has ever seen God, but God the One and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the father, has made him know." (NIV)

### *A good time was had by all!*

Twenty-one people enjoyed an evening of good food, good service, and good fellowship during the Fellowship Dinner at The Grand Finale Wednesday, November 17.

"Open Table" rated The Grand Finale in the top 100 Neighborhood Gems in America in 2021. A good choice for Presbyterian Gems!

Watch for another Fellowship event to be announced soon.



# Spotlight on

... to the folks who filled 25 Thanksgiving Boxes for Glendale families in need. Your Mission committee added a gift card for a turkey and perishables. A special thank you to Chief Craig Walsh and to his fellow officers who delivered the boxes in time for Thanksgiving dinner.



... to the folks who filled 20 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. They will be shared with children in need in the United States and abroad. Thank you for helping children around the world know they are not forgotten this Christmas.

... to everyone who made monetary donations to provide grape jelly to Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center (VICRC) for their "Holiday Baskets".



*There are many opportunities to share with our neighbors during the holidays. We know that it may be difficult or impossible to contribute to all the needs in our community and in the world. Instead, we ask you to give as you are able to the opportunities that speak to your heart. Every gift—large or small—is used to create a better world for all of God's children.*

# Missions



GLAD House is gratefully accepting donations of hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves for the children they serve. You can place these items on the tree in the Narthex.

GLAD House is also accepting gift cards of any value from Target or Wal-Mart so the staff may shop for the children.



As Covid continues to play a role in our lives, VICRC is again asking for \$25.00 Target gift cards instead of gifts for the children they serve.

*Hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and gift cards are accepted through December 5.*



Specially marked baskets are available near the Mitten Tree for your gift cards.



When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church—past, present, and future.

50% of your gifts support church leaders and their families, retired and present, with critical financial needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

50% of your gifts support the new leaders God is calling for our Church and world. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges are equipping communities of color—offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the church, and the world for years to come.

*The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected on Sundays, December 12 and 19. Special offering envelopes will be available in the Narthex each of those Sundays.*





## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

Leslie .....	1
Tim .....	5
Ken .....	10
Pat .....	11
John .....	13
<i>Jane and Bob</i> .....	16
Susy .....	19
Gary .....	20
<i>Susy and Richard</i> .....	27



*Thursdays, December 2, 9, and 16*

Gather in the church library—10:00AM

No experience necessary



*Music Live at  
Christ Church!*

Sunday, December 12  
at 3:00PM in the Historic Church

The Canterbury Brass

A seasonal favorite, this Cincinnati professional brass quintet returns to Christ Church to play a concert of Christmas and holiday favorites. Due to the popularity of this event, passes are required (no charge).

To request your free pass, visit  
<https://christchurchglendale.org/concert-series>  
and scroll to the link under The Canterbury Brass.



*The taste of Cincinnati!*

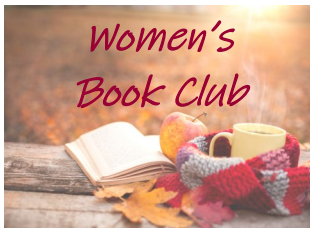
All men are invited to gather  
for lunch at Gold Star Chili  
on Springfield Pike in Springdale, Wednesday,  
December 8.

*Fellowship begins when you arrive;  
lunch begins at 12:30pm.*

# JANUARY

*Birthdays and Anniversaries*

Robert .....	7
Mary .....	7
Gene .....	12
Diane .....	13
Mark .....	16
Frank .....	18
<i>Leslie and Gary</i> .....	18
Anthony .....	20
Diane .....	30
Bill .....	31



**Wednesday, January 5**  
**10:00AM-11:30AM**

Bring your favorite beverage and gather in the church library for discussion of *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Held Evans.

Fellowship continues with lunch at The Blue Bird Café.



***It's Skyline Time!***

All men are invited to gather for lunch at Skyline on Kemper Road, Wednesday, January 12.

*Fellowship begins when you arrive;  
lunch begins at 12:30pm.*



***Thursdays, January 6, 13, and 20***

Gather in the church library—10:00AM

No experience necessary



***Music Live at  
Christ Church!***

**Wednesday, January 12**  
**at 12:05PM in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit**

**Dr. Michelle Conda and Bob Conda**

Husband and wife pianists Bob and Michelle Conda offer a dedicatory recital on the church's recently acquired Yamaha C7 semi-concert-grand piano.



**First Presbyterian Church, Glendale**

155 East Fountain Avenue  
Glendale, OH 45246

513-771-6195  
glenpres@fuse.net  
firstpresbyterianglendale.org

the Reverend Jeffrey Lang

Worship begins at 10:30AM  
Sunday, September 12, 2021 through  
Sunday, June 5, 2022.

***Church Office Hours***

Monday, 9AM-3PM, Tuesday, 9AM-1PM  
Wednesday, 9AM-1PM, Thursday, 9AM-3PM  
The office is closed every Friday.

Shared with you in Christian love





Sunday, December 12; 10:30AM







This calendar is a living document subject to frequent changes.  
Check the website ([firstpresbyterianglendale.org](http://firstpresbyterianglendale.org)) for the most accurate calendar.  
Please call the church office with calendar updates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 10:00AM- Gentle Yoga 6:30PM- Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5  10:30AM - Worship Sharing Tree Mitten Tree Christmas Memorial Flowers 	6 9:00AM- Session reports due	7	8 12:30PM- Men's Lunch at Gold Star 6:00pm- Session meeting	9 10:00AM- Gentle Yoga 6:30PM- Choir Rehearsal	10	11 TBA- Choir Rehearsal
12 10:30AM - Worship (Lessons and Carols) Sharing Tree Mitten Tree Christmas Memorial Flowers 	13	14	15	16 10:00AM- Gentle Yoga 6:30PM- Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 10:30AM - Worship Food Offering 	20	21 	22	23	24 5:00PM -  Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 
26 10:30AM - Worship	27	28	29	30	31	

# JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 
2  10:30AM - Worship	3 3:00PM- Mission Mtg.	4	5 10:00AM- Women's Book Club	6 10:00AM- Gentle Yoga 6:30PM- Choir Rehearsal	7	8
9 10:30AM - Worship	10 9:00AM- Session reports due	11	12 12:30PM- Men's Lunch at Skyline 6:00pm- Session Mtg.	13 10:00AM- Gentle Yoga 6:30PM- Choir Rehearsal	14	15
16 10:30AM - Worship Annual Congregational Mtg. Food Offering	17	18	19	20 10:00AM- Gentle Yoga 6:30PM- Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23 10:30AM - Worship	24 9:00AM- February newsletter items due	25	26	27 6:30PM- Choir Rehearsal	28	29
30 10:30AM - Worship	31		<p>This calendar is a living document subject to frequent changes. Check the website (<a href="http://firstpresbyterianglendale.org">firstpresbyterianglendale.org</a>) for the most accurate calendar. Please call the church office with calendar updates.</p>			