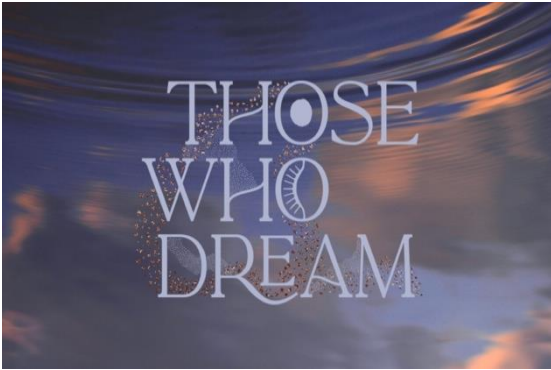


Corbin Presbyterian Church Weekly Update

December 20, 2020



As we begin a new church year, this Advent marks the end of an extremely tumultuous calendar year. COVID-19, civil rights protests, the U.S. Presidential election—these events, among many, many others, are disrupting and reorienting our lives. In the midst of great loss and hardship, new possibilities and realities are being revealed to us. Often, our dreams are wildly disorienting—they don't always make sense. They throw us off kilter. Sometimes they are deeply disturbing, and sometimes they help us uncover our deep knowing. Similarly, Advent is a season of trusting that God's deep wisdom will guide us from disorientation toward the wonder, awe, and praise of Mary, "My soul magnifies the Lord!" (Luke 1:46b)

In this week's text (Luke 1:26-45), we recognize what preceded Mary's song of praise: news that was disorienting and bewildering, possibly threatening her life. Together, Mary and Elizabeth find courage and comfort in spite of their unusual circumstances. We, too, are called to carry, support, and encourage one another's dreams.

As you reflect on today's text:

- What are God's dreams for our world?
- Where and how do we glimpse God's dreams unfolding in our lives?
- What does it mean to be a faithful dreamer—immersing ourselves in God's holy imagination and taking action to make change?

Grace and peace,

Lisa

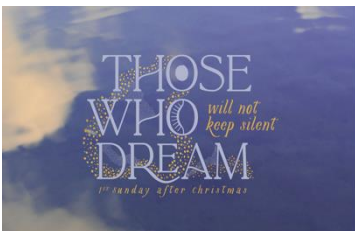
Worship Opportunities for Christmas Eve & the Sundays following Christmas

After prayerfully considering the safety and spiritual needs of the congregation, the Session voted this week to **return to limited in-person worship** in the sanctuary for **Christmas Eve** and **then beginning in the New Year on January 3rd** with all safety precautions in place. Masks, hand hygiene, and social distancing will be required, and congregational singing and responses are still not possible. Worship will continue to be available on Zoom, Facebook, and the church website.



Christmas Eve – December 24 – 6:00 pm

In-person & online/Zoom Service of Lessons and Carols with communion and candlelight. We will gather in the sanctuary and from our homes to hear the Christmas story in scripture and music. We will conclude with the traditional singing of Silent Night outdoors at the conclusion of the service (weather permitting). Those who worship from home are invited to prepare with a candle and communion elements.



1st Sunday after Christmas – December 27

No in-person gathering – 2 options:

1. Join in worship with churches from across the **Presbytery of Transylvania** for a **joint service** on the Presbytery's YouTube page. (Details for accessing the service will be shared as soon as available)
2. **Online Liturgy for Use at Home** | Luke 2:22-40 | Isaiah 61:10-62:3
(Watch your email for a copy of this service or pick up a printed copy on Christmas Eve or from the Church Office after Monday, December 21st.)



Epiphany Sunday – January 3 – 11:00 am

In-person and online/Zoom | Matthew 2:1-12 | Isaiah 60:1-6

We will hear the story of the Magi who follow the star to find the child in Bethlehem and how they bear witness to the divine. We will celebrate the light that comes to all who seek to follow as we share in the tradition of receiving Epiphany Star Words to light our way through the new year,



Homebound friends and family members; Sandra Adams; Dwight Barnett; Chuck Barton; Family of Jim Becker; Charlene & Tom Blair; Mason Jones; Steve Carnes; Aiden Craft; Pam & Rob Hall; Carolyn Henderickson; Philip Martin; Ruth Martin; Jearld Robinson; Donny Seay; Susan Simms; Keats Smith; Jack Taylor; Ed Tye; Karlyle Keith Young; Kathy Zanio; Students, Teachers & Families; Margaret Henderlight; Jean Jacobs; Denise Hinkle; Sheila Milburne; Family of Aileen (Tabby) Tucker – Dianne Lay’s aunt; Family of Margaree Gray (Kathryn Lay’s sister); Thomas Brown; Alberta Irby (Margaret Henderlight’s sister-in-law); Barry Irby (Margaret Henderlight’s brother), Shawn Smith (friend of David & Mary)

With confidence in your love and mercy, O God, we lift our prayers for those in need. Heal them in body, mind, or circumstance, working in them by your grace, wonders beyond all they may dream or hope. Amen

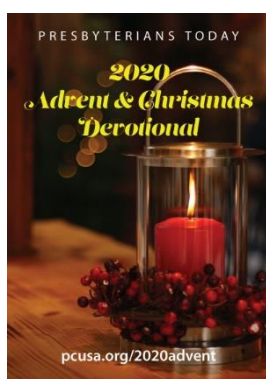


The Church Office will be closed on December 24th and 25th and January 1.

The Senior Box Program will resume with distribution of the food boxes on December 30th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. If you have additional questions or can help in any way please contact Sam Tye at (606) 524-1521 or Karen Nies at (606) 344-0229. All safety guidelines will be in place.

Thank you, again, to those who were able to donate to Buckhorn this year. We were able to send \$625 in gift cards to the young ladies in Midway Cottage. The staff at Buckhorn was very grateful to receive the gift cards!

Thinking of becoming a member of Corbin Presbyterian Church? We have a number of people who have expressed a desire to become new members in the new year! If you wish to join them or would like to know more, please contact Pastor Lisa Eye at pastor@corbinpres.org.



The Presbyterians Today 2020 Advent & Christmas Devotional is based on the words of Howard Thurman’s poem, *“I Will Light Candles This Christmas”*

*I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.*

**Contact the church office if you’d like a printed copy.*

Here is the link to the online devotional:
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/advent-2020/>

General Fund Financial Update through November. Here is a summary of the Church's financial status through November (the last month for which information is currently available).

	<u>Year-to-Date Budgeted</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Budget Receipts	\$ 139,840.36	\$ 134,078.61*#	(\$ 5,761.75)
Offerings	\$ 102,234.22	\$ 96,532.95*	(\$ 5,701.27)
Expenses	\$ 139,840.14	\$ 125,963.10&	(\$ 13,877.04)
Actual Receipts – Actual Expenses			\$ 8,115.51

* Does not include Building Fund receipts of \$295.00.

Includes only the monthly prorated portion of an annual pledge paid in January.

&Includes \$2,814.92 in repair expenses paid through General Fund rather than Building Fund

Overall, the Church's general fund receipts and expenses to date are tracking appropriately with the budget.

Through November, the Church's general fund receipts were roughly \$5,762 less than budgeted. An analysis of general fund offerings in November shows \$7,740 received, including one prorated annual pledge. Offerings through November have averaged about \$8,775 per month. For the past two months, offerings have lagged behind the year-to-date average.

Expenses for the year through November have been roughly \$13,877 less than budgeted. About \$5,500 of this difference came from not having an office assistant for several months. Had we had this personnel expense, the excess of receipts to expenses would be about \$2,600.

In November general fund expenses totaled nearly \$11,167, while general fund receipts for the month totaled nearly \$14,127. Thus, monthly receipts were about \$2,960 more than expenses.

Altogether actual year-to-date receipts continue to exceed year-to-date expenses, currently by \$8,115.51.

It would appear that total receipts for 2020 may be around \$144,000 and total expenses around \$137,000.



Stewardship Pledge Update: As of December 18, we have received 11 pledges, totaling \$ 39,820 toward our 2021 Operating Budget of \$152,363.25. If you have not yet had the opportunity to make a pledge toward our mission in the coming year, please prayerfully consider doing so now. For questions or additional information, please contact Tom Fish or the Church Office.



POINSETTIAS

“In Honor Of...”

<i>Margaret Keith</i>	<i>Karlyle Keith Young</i>
<i>David & Mary Begley</i>	<i>Ora Begley</i>
<i>Anne Hoskins</i>	<i>Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren</i>
<i>Harold & Susan Davis</i>	<i>Our Blessings</i>

“In Memory Of...”

<i>Margaret Keith</i>	<i>Luke Keith</i>
<i>Margaret Henderlight</i>	<i>Mark Henderlight</i>
<i>Margaret Henderlight</i>	<i>William & Mildred Irby</i>
<i>Margaret Henderlight</i>	<i>Bonnie & Charles Miles</i>
<i>Susan Williams</i>	<i>Charles “Chuck” Williams</i>
<i>David & Mary Begley</i>	<i>Bob & Martha Sizemore</i>
<i>David & Mary Begley</i>	<i>Carl Begley</i>
<i>Lisa Eye</i>	<i>William B. Eye</i>
<i>Lisa Eye</i>	<i>Dwight & Elsie Foote</i>
<i>Lisa Eye</i>	<i>Joseph & Arbutus Eye</i>
<i>Anne Hoskins</i>	<i>Springer Hoskins</i>
<i>Anne Hoskins</i>	<i>Jim Hoskins</i>

Poinsettias may be picked up after worship today.



Richard Sadler ~ 12/03

Madison Bricker ~ 12/10

Mary Begley ~ 12/17

Ruth Martin ~ 12/20

Lisa Black ~ 12/21

Brayden Nies ~ 12/22

Katherine Hoskins ~ 12/27