

PETERSBURG PRESBYTERIAN PRESS



CHRISTMAS 2023



A DESCRIPTION OF OUR ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET:

While the world tries to rush us into Christmas, decorating the day after Halloween and packing it all up once the gifts are opened on December 25, Advent is a season of preparation that—like our holiday gatherings themselves—takes time and care. Think of the anticipation that comes with hosting loved ones for Christmas dinner: We begin by extending an invitation. We make plans, and as the event draws closer, we begin our preparations. Ultimately, we open the door and welcome our guests, and that is when, finally, we celebrate. Advent should feel the same way, a time to make ready for the long-awaited event of Christ's birth. In *Stay Awhile*, pastor Kara Eidson presents a banquet table of inspiration for Advent, including weekly reflections for personal and small group use, brief daily devotions, and ideas to involve the whole congregation. The author states:

In the Midwest, there is a common invitation when you come to visit and someone wants you to stick around: "Why don't you pull up a chair and stay awhile?" In a fast-food, packed-schedule, stay-busy culture, the notion of staying awhile has grown a little bit foreign. But sometimes, slowing down and staying awhile is exactly what we need. It is the only way to form deep relationships with others; it is the only way to form a deep relationship with God.



SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT

- November 28: Decorating Event beginning with light meal at 5:00 followed by the "Hanging of the Greens."
- December 3: First Sunday Worship in Advent
- December 5: Session Meeting at 6:30
- December 6: Presbyterian Women's Circle Bible Study 10:30
- December 10: Second Sunday Worship in Advent
- December 17: Third Sunday Worship in Advent
Christmas Cantata by the Choir
- December 24: Fourth Sunday Worship in Advent
- December 24: Candlelight Communion at 8:00
- December 25:



THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE PROVIDES ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



The Worship Committee selected an Advent Devotional Booklet for each family to use at home. It is entitled *Stay Awhile, ADVENT LESSONS in Divine Hospitality* by Kara Eidson. These will be distributed on December 3, the first Sunday in Advent. In addition, the Worship Committee has purchased four Advent banners to be placed in the alcoves in the sanctuary.



MISSION AND MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Mission and Ministry Committee is seeking families who may be in need this year for food at Christmas. We like to help those that may be down on their luck and do not receive assistance from other sources. Please let Betty Inskeep or Beth Hannum know if you have names and addresses of people who could use some extra love this year.

We are collecting **canned fruits and vegetables, pancake mix and syrup and peanut butter** for the Petersburg Interfaith Food Pantry. Items may be left in the basket in the vestibule of the church.

Backpacks for the Homeless : Now it's time to fill more backpacks. A basket containing slips of paper with single items needed for the project has been placed at the back of the church. Everyone is encouraged to take a slip or two, purchase the item, pray for the recipient and place it in the collection box at the back of the church.



NEW OFFICERS WERE ELECTED ON NOVEMBER 19

The annual congregational meeting for the election of officers was held after worship on November 19. The following were elected for the Class of 2026:

Ruling Elders: Jane Bensenhaver, Mick Cooper, and Lila Frye

Trustees: Robert Harman and Robert Spanswick
Bonnie Hogbin was elected for the unexpired trustee term in 2024 and Patti Wolfe was elected for the unexpired trustee term in 2025.



