**Sunday Worship Services are at 11:00 AM**

***Lectionary Readings for our Services***

*December*

Dec 03 Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 1:68-79

Dec 08 Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6

Dec 15 Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18

Dec 22 Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-55

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-14

Dec 29 Psalm 148; Luke 2:41-52

**Congregational News**

***Birthdays***

December 13 Jane Hall

December 23 Jane Knickle

***Anniversaries***

December 1Basil and Evelyn Church

December 20Tom and Deborah Summers

***Important December Dates***

**Saturday, November 30** Decorating the Sanctuary for the Christmas Season, 10:00 AM

**December 1** 1st Sunday of Advent and White Gift Sunday

**December 1** Annual Poinsettia Fundraiser begins. All requests for Poinsettias must be received by Thursday, December 18. The names of donors and those being remembered will be read during the worship service on Sunday, December 22.

Copies of “Journey to Christmas – an Advent Devotional” from the Presbyterian Church in Canada are available on the back table in the Sanctuary.

The 2025 Presbyterian Church in Canada Calendars are available in the back of the church. The cost is $5.00 each.

**Friday, December 20**

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On the longest and perhaps darkest night of the year, you are welcome to a service of comfort and hope at St. Andrew’s Church. We hope that in this time of worship, you will find the peace which the Christmas story offers. The Longest Night Service will be held at 7:00 PM.

**Tuesday, December 24**

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On Tuesday, December 24, all are invited to celebrate the Birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ in a Worship Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at 7:30 PM.

**Sunday, December 29** Worship at 11:00 AM.

 Dear friends,

As I sit down to write this message today, we are about to enter the season of Advent, a time in the Christian year when we prepare for the coming of a Saviour, Jesus Christ our Lord.

As I work on planning worship and preparing sermons for our Sunday morning services, I can’t help but think of one promise that is repeated often in Scripture, especially in the stories of Christmas. A message that is clear: “Do not be afraid!”

The Prophet Isaiah brings comfort and courage to people who are languishing in exile. Mary hears “don’t be afraid” as she ponders the surprising announcement from God that will turn her life- and the world- upside down. The angel tells Joseph, worried about betrayal and scandal, not to be afraid to take the pregnant Mary as his wife. And to terrified shepherds, tending their animals on a hillside outside of town, the heavenly host brings good news of great joy, singing God’s glory and earth’s peace.

The message of Christmas is ever and always a reminder to us that our God says, ”fear not! Take heart!” For us, God risks coming among us as a poor and vulnerable child: Emmanuel, God with us.

This season of Advent is a time to hear again the stories of hope and promise, the dreams and visions of the prophets, and most of all the good news of a child born for us.

It is a time to hear and sing the familiar carols and hymns of Advent and Christmas.

Please join us as in worship on Sunday mornings during Advent. This is also a wonderful time to invite friends and family members to experience the hope we find in Christ Jesus,

Deborah and I wish you hope, joy and peace in this holy season.

**Pastor Tom and Deborah**

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