



# A Voice in the Pines



Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines Newsletter

Volume 60

December 2024

## Pastor Hyde opened minds and hearts to King David

David, Shepherd boy, warrior, giant slayer, king, murderer and adulterer, Yet David was repeatedly described as a man after God's own heart. How can these coexist?

The Four Seasons of David's life grappled with this clashing of character flaws and strengths of David during the recent four-week study. The class was led by author and pastor Randy L Hyde in four sessions focusing on the four seasons of David's life.

Beginning with the life blossoming season of Spring this unnamed shepherd boy was anointed to be the next King of Israel. David with slingshot in hand conquers the Giant Goliath to begin a Philistine rout. From the study guide, class participants were asked

"Why do you think that God often chooses to do that which is not obvious?"

The parched dry season of summer follows with wilderness wanderings in an attempt to evade the political and physical annihilation of the present King Saul. Randy Hyde, course leader, describes this season as among David's greatest moments as a leader particularly with regard to the response of grief and love upon Saul's death. From the study guide participants were asked "When you go through your inevitable wilderness will you seek God there?"

The beautiful and colorful season of Fall follows with the people chanting about their beloved warrior King; "Saul has slain his thousands but David his ten thousands." David strategically moves the Kingdom base to Jerusalem to centrally unify the northern and southern tribes of Israel. This Fall season was a time of peace, strength unification and wise leadership under David's reign. God also uses veto power during this season of David's life to issue a strong NO to David's request to build a House for Yahweh. From the study guide participants were asked to examine personal life experiences to God's perceived NO which oftentimes results in an ultimate Yes.

Finally, the vibrancy of Fall is followed by the waning season of winter. David pursues and consummates a relationship with Bathsheba, Uriah's wife and is implicit in the consequential web of deceit that results in scheming to bring

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More than 40 enthusiastic attendees participated in Pastor Hyde's study of the life of David offered by the Christian Education Committee. *Jamie Federick photo*

### When We Meet

Sunday worship service  
Begins at 10 a.m.

Saturday informal worship  
Begins at 4 p.m.  
in Bailey Hall

For more meeting times see  
[www.kirkinthepines.org/calendar](http://www.kirkinthepines.org/calendar)



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about Uriah's death. From the study guide, participants were challenged to reconcile the character flaws of both murder and adultery during this winter season of David's life with the repeated affirmation of David as a man after God's own heart.

Open the door to further opportunities to strengthen your spiritual knowledge with the next Christian Education course offering in February 2025. Mark Clark, ordained minister and practicing lawyer will teach Religion and the Law. Hope to see you then.

*Contributed by Susan Morrow, Christian Education Committee member*



Pastor Randy Hyde brought to life the heroic but all too human David. *Bob Morrow photo*

## Socks, socks, and more socks..... and shoes, and soups for Jackson House



The generosity of the Kirk comes through again in the success of our second annual Socks, Shoes, and Soup drive. 124 pairs of shoes, 204 soups, and countless pairs of socks were donated by members of the Kirk to warm feet and hearts of the homeless. *Jamie Federick Photo*



Members of the Missions Committee are (from left) Bob Morrow, Marcia Bauer, Norma Stevens, Priscilla Hayek, Daryl Henry, Judith Rosenthal, Richard McPheters, and Vicki Rosenquist. Other committee members not pictured are Becky Wakefield and Nancy Patton.

*Jamie Federick photo*



# *A Child, and yet, A King*

**Presbyterian  
Kirk in the Pines Choir  
December 14, 1 p.m.**



**275 Asturias Drive  
Hot Springs Village**

**Free Admission**

**Food donations of non-perishable items will be accepted to support local food banks**



## Christmas Gathering For All



This is your invitation to join in the Gathering on Dec.9 at 11am in Bailey Hall. Kirk men and women are welcome to attend the festivities.

Our speaker will be Chief Bennett of the HSV Police. A lovely luncheon including dessert will be prepared by the Greenhorns. Treble in the Village will sing Christmas carols.

The lunch will cost \$12, to be collected at the door. Send your RSVP by Sunday 12/1 to Carol : [gcinhsv@att.net](mailto:gcinhsv@att.net) or Rosalyn : [rhalbert@suddenlink.net](mailto:rhalbert@suddenlink.net)

You really don't want to miss this!

Becky Wakefield, PW Moderator



## ***Finding Advent devotional resources is no problem***

It is said that familiarity breeds contempt. In the case of Christmas, contempt may not be the right word. But we are all familiar with the obligations and pressures associated with the season. The observance of Advent, beginning December 1, gives all the chance to pause and focus on the surprising significance of the incarnation, Emmanuel, God with us.

One way to reboot Christmas, so to speak, is by the practice of daily Advent devotional reading, reflection, and prayer. Here are some resources you can use to refresh your observance of the Christ child's coming through the practice of daily devotions. Click on the link to be taken to the website and the devotionals.

<https://d365.org/>

d365, offered by PCUSA are daily devotionals with Advent oriented devotionals beginning December 1. d365 is also endorsed by the  
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Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Episcopal Church.

[Dallas Seminary](#)

Professors and staff of Dallas Theological Seminary offer 14 devotionals for the first 14 days of Advent.

[Luther Seminary](#)

You can download devotionals from Luther Seminary website. PDFs can be read online or printed. These are also available in large print.

[Pittsburgh Seminary](#)

Daily Advent devotionals from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary may be read online, by listening to audio recordings, or by downloading PDFs to read on your computer or to print.

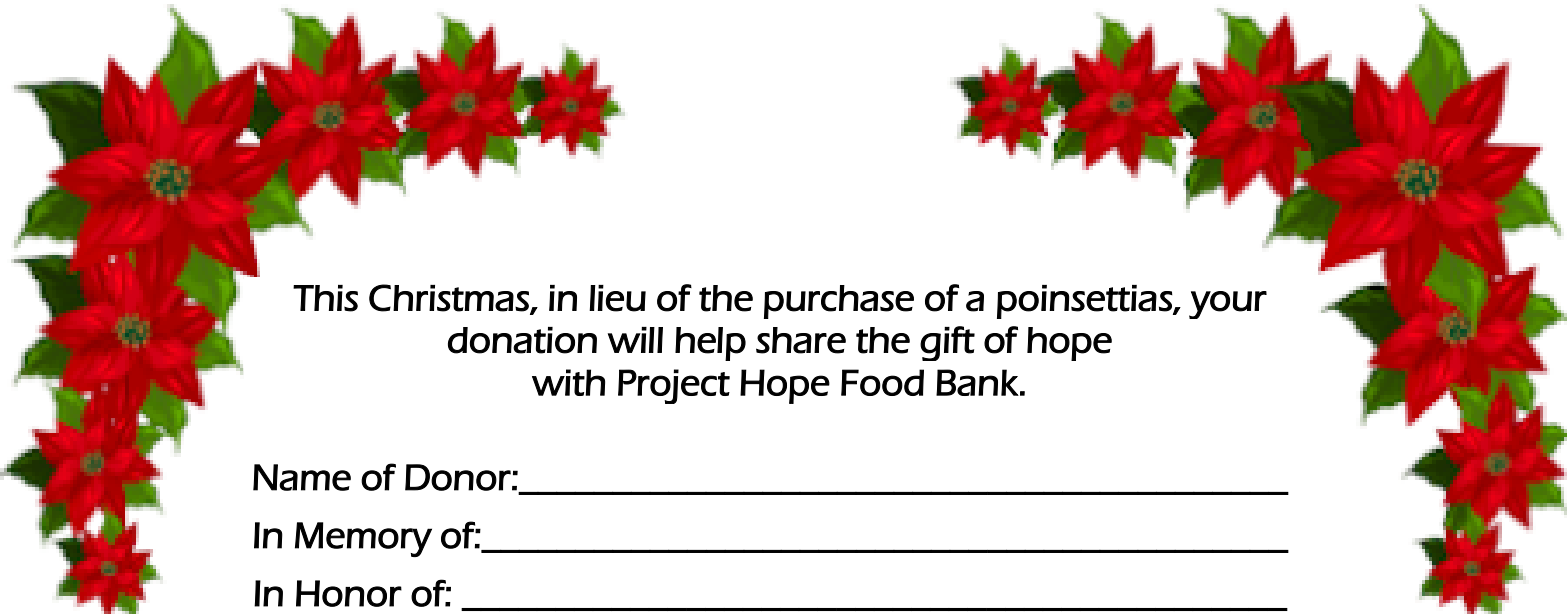
[Kate Bowler](#)

Kate Bowler, Ph.D., a 3 times New York Times bestselling author, award-winning podcast host, and professor at Duke University provides here multiple resources for Advent study and reflection.

If you prefer print resources, try the *Advent for Everyone* series by N. T. Wright. There are three book options: Advent devotionals from Matthew, Luke, and the Apostles. The books and the daily devotionals are scripture based and concise. You can order any of these inexpensive books through Amazon.com or other book sellers. Also, in the Kirk Fran Brown Library (first come first serve) you will find *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas* and *God With Us: Rediscovering the Meaning of Christmas*.

Consider using any or all of these to take a few minutes each day of Advent to refresh your experience of Christmas.

*Contributed by Bob Morrow, Communications Committee Moderator*



This Christmas, in lieu of the purchase of a poinsettias, your donation will help share the gift of hope with Project Hope Food Bank.

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia(s) @\$25.00      Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines. Write "Poinsettia" on the notes line on your check.

Place form and check in the offering plate or return to the Kirk office.

Deadline for your offering: Dec 15, 2024.

***Your heartfelt donation will be acknowledged in the worship bulletin on the weekend before Christmas.***



## Giving Tree

*November 24 2024 - December 15, 2024*

Our Giving Tree is loaded with tags for children from Mountain Pine, Vera Lloyd Children's Home and Ouachita Children's Center.

Gifts for Mountain Pine children should be returned wrapped or in gift bags with the tag attached to the outside of the package.

Vera Lloyd asks for gift cards and candy. These do not need to be wrapped.

Ouachita Children's Center asks for gift cards only.  
The tag and gift card should also be in gift bags.

The deadline for returning gifts will be Sunday, December 15.

Please contact Mary Ann Reynolds (1-870-842-0004 or 501-922-0819) or Vicki Rosenquist (1-706-371-2877) for more information

*Thank you for sharing your love  
with children in need in our community.*



Rich Man

Rich man, rich man, who are you?  
Do you seek the Christ Child, too?  
In your palace and your court,  
Life is busy, life is short.  
Have you time to go away  
To find a baby in the hay?  
Can you get your camel through  
The needle's eye, as you must do?

Rich man, rich man, you've come far.  
Where did you learn to trust a star  
Instead of turning to a king  
To guide you in your wandering?  
Rich man, how did you grow wise  
In spite of all your kingly guise?  
Who taught you to play your part,  
To bring an educated heart  
To the stable in the west  
So you could kneel there and be  
blessed?

Elizabeth Rooney, 20<sup>th</sup> Century

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

John Claypool tells of the young country boy who is given permission by his father to walk into town to see the circus for the very first time. He has been able to think of nothing else since the day he heard the circus was coming. On the night before the first day of the big event, the boy could hardly sleep for his excitement. Though he had never before seen a circus, he had been told stories of how marvelous it was, and he couldn't wait.

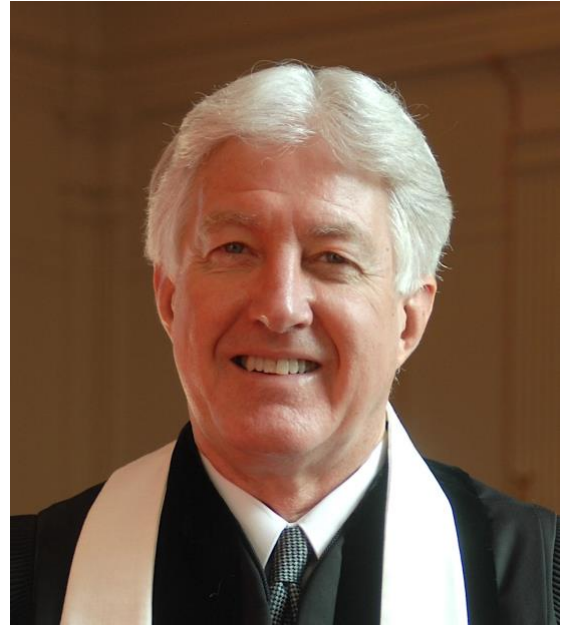
When the time came, his father gave him the money for a ticket, and the young man made his way excitedly toward town, practically running the entire distance. As he approached the city limits, he could hear the sounds of the "Greatest Show on Earth." Sure enough, there were roaring tigers and lions in caged wagons, pretty ladies dressed to perform, acrobats and jugglers and flame-eaters, elephants and horses and other exotic animals. Everything he had been told a circus could be paraded right by his very eyes.

When the young boy returned home earlier than expected, with his ticket money still in his pocket, his father asked why he had not gone to the circus. "Oh, but I did," the boy said breathlessly. "The circus came right down Main Street, but no one ever took my ticket." The boy had only viewed the parade. Thinking that's all there was, he failed to see the circus.

That's always the danger during this season of the year, isn't it? Our world gives us a colorful and vibrant parade at Christmas, and there's nothing inherently wrong with that. But if we're not careful, we will come away from the season thinking that's all there is to it. It lends enjoyment to our celebration. However, let us not lose sight of the fact that the incarnation is the main event. *Emmanuel*, God has come to be with us, and that is why everything we do during Advent is designed to lead us to the manger.

**Behold! He Comes!**

Appreciatively,  
R. Hyde



**Pastor Randy Hyde**

### Sermons in December:

December 1, First Sunday in Advent  
*The Days Are Surely Coming*  
Jeremiah 33:14-16

December 8, Second Sunday in Advent  
*All Flesh*  
Luke 3:1-6

December 15, Third Sunday in Advent  
*Even the Tax Collectors*  
Luke 3:7-18

December 22, Fourth Sunday in Advent  
*When Company Comes For Christmas*  
Luke 1:39-55

December 29, Fifth Day of Christmas  
*Timing is Everything*  
Galatians 4:4-5, John 1:14, 14:6-11  
(Dr. Bob Morrow preaching)

It's been a busy month at the Kirk. In addition to our inspiring weekly worship services, we've had the opportunity to attend an informative 4-week Bible study on the life of David. And also enjoy a fun-filled and delicious Chili Supper in Bailey Hall. Thank you, Rev. Hyde, Martha Nielsen, and Pat Kuntz—your pastor and elders at work. Your Revisioning Team is also busy looking into "good practices" such as giving appreciation and recognition to all who serve at the Kirk, communications within and outside the Kirk, understanding more about our Kirk membership, and thinking through how we incorporate new members into the Kirk.

But the most exciting thing is that you, the congregation, have elected new Elders for the Session, Class of 2027, a Kirk Nominating Committee for 2025, and a Pastor Nominating Committee to begin the search for our new called pastor. Please join me in prayer for all these servant leaders. (See their names below).

I'd also like to ask you to be in prayer for Rev. Bill Bailey and his wife, Anne. It's been a year now that we've been without them, and they are still very much missed.

#### Highlights of the November Stated Session Meeting:

- Communion was held at the worship services on November 2/3, 2024. Communion servers in November: Bob Morrow, Darell Fisher, Ruth Hamilton. Gail Salmen, Bill Worthley, Priscilla Hayek.
- Liturgists in November: November 3—Jerral Johnson; November 10/17—Linda Hommema; November 24—Judy Corwin
- Saturday Worship Pulpit Supply in November: November 2/9/23/30—Rev. Bill Seitz; November 16—Rev. Randy Hyde

## The Clerk's Corner

**Ruth  
Hamilton**



- Deaths since October 11, 2024: None
- Motion: move to welcome and support Wendy Gage as the point person for Membership Outreach.

Motion seconded and passed.

#### Highlights of the November Congregational Meeting:

- Motion: move to approve the following names for a Pastor Search Committee—Priscilla Hayek, Arnie Holtberg, Ron Lovett, Mary Ann Reynolds, Vicki Rosenquist, Randy Toney, Nell White. Motion passed.
- Motion: move to approve the following names for new Elders, Class of 2027—Jane Moore, Susan Morrow, Robert Sonnen. Motion passed.
- Motion: move to approve the following names for the 2025 Kirk Nominating Committee—Ruth Hamilton, Martha Nielsen, Gary Rector, David Rosenquist, Blair Stroud. Motion passed.

## **December 3 "Giving Tuesday"- Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage's fundraising**

Giving Tuesday, the day dedicated to non-profit organizations that follows Black Friday and Cyber Monday, falls on December 3rd this year. This is the only fundraiser that Arkansas Presbyterian Pilgrimage does all year. Please prayerfully consider donating to this important ministry. You can go to [www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org](http://www.pilgrimage-arkansas.org) and click on the "Give" tab. All donations are tax deductible.





## Hearty Thanksgiving meal warmed by fellowship



54 Kirk family members and friends enjoyed a sumptuous Thanksgiving feast provided by Home Plate restaurant and organized and served by the Fellowship Committee *Bob Morrow photo* (continued on page 10)



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Servers Jim and Della Reimers, Mel and Pat Kuntz, Jean and Darell Fisher, Mike Crouch, and Judith Rosenthal filled plates with delicious food. From left, Eve Webb is served by Della Reimers.

**Bob Morrow photo**



Above, from left, Susan Pendergrass, Bob Newlin, Bill Stanley, and Sheila Stanley wait patiently for their turn in line.

On the right, Eve and Don Webb (front) enjoyed the company of their son James and his friend Hueilan Chen. **Bob Morrow photos**

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Special thanks goes to the able set up crew for the Thanksgiving meal, (from left) Pat Kuntz, Mike Crouch, Mary Ann Reynolds, Mel Kuntz, Vicki Rosenquist, and Robert Sonnen (not pictured). **Robert Sonnen photo**



Special table decorations added to the festive spirit of the gathering. **Robert Sonnen photo**







## December Birthdays

|   |                |    |                    |    |                 |
|---|----------------|----|--------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Ruth Hamilton  | 11 | Christine Hoagland | 22 | Peggy Sowers    |
|   | Gary Rector    | 12 | Pat Mershon        | 28 | Robert Sonnen   |
| 3 | Cheryl Boehmke | 14 | Jack Bullard       |    | Becky Wakefield |
| 7 | Daryl Henry    | 15 | Pat Rea            | 29 | Susan Morrow    |
| 8 | Wendy Gage     |    | Della Reimers      | 30 | Ellen Marshall  |
| 9 | Carolyn Kane   | 18 | Arnie Holtberg     |    |                 |

## December Anniversaries

|    |                      |        |    |                           |       |
|----|----------------------|--------|----|---------------------------|-------|
| 1  | Sissy & David Wilson | 40yrs  | 21 | Barbara & Dan Chambliss   | 7yrs  |
| 5  | Gail & David Salmen  | 54yrs  | 23 | Susan & Bob Morrow        | 49yrs |
| 17 | Debbie & Jim Cordell | 41 yrs | 29 | Becky & Harry Wakefield   | 52yrs |
| 19 | Jan & Arnie Holtberg | 54yrs  | 31 | Barbara & Jerry McAnarney | 13yrs |

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Even the Memorial Garden got in on the celebration of Thanksgiving with this beautiful blooming azalea.  
*Tom Hayek photo*



Friends and family enjoyed visiting before the meal was served. From left, Ruth, Dave, and Tyler Hamilton, Bill Morrow, Beverly and Mike Carpenter, and Denny Zymboly. *Bob Morrow photo*





(Changes may occur – check with Kirk office)

### **KIRK OFFICE CLOSED**

**Dec. 25-27, Jan. 1-3**

**Kirk Choir Christmas Concert-**  
**Dec. 14, 1:00 pm**

**Lessons and Carols- Dec. 24,**  
**5:00pm**

Ageless Grace/Tai Chi- Dec.  
3, 10, 17 - 3:30 Bailey Hall

Pilgrimage Renewal-Dec. 7,  
10:00, Smallman Parlor

Helping Hands-Dec. 10 -9:00

Choir Rehearsal- Wed. 2:30,  
Dec. 4, 11, 18,

**PW Program (all invited)-**  
**Dec. 9, Bailey Hall, 11:00**

### **Committee Meetings**

Session- Dec. 13, 9:30

Administration- Dec. 10, 10:00

Christian Ed- Dec. 19, 9 :00

Communications- Dec. 4, 1:30

Fellowship- Dec. 10, 10:00

Finance- Dec. 12, 10:00

Missions - Dec. 12, 3:00

## **Kirk Staff**

**Randy Hyde-** Pastor

**Randy Toney-** Music Director

**Donna Toney-** Organist/Pianist

**Ruth Manweiler-** Pianist (informal worship)

**Carol Clark-** Pastoral Care Coordinator

**Chris Taylor-Wilmoth-** Secretary

**Beverly Schaumburg-** Business Administrator

**Arthur “Chip” Johnson-** Sexton

### **Session**

**Clerk of the Session:** Ruth Hamilton

Dave Hamilton- Administration

Bill Worthley- Building

Martha Nielsen- Christian Education

Bob Morrow- Communications (Trustee)

Susan Pendergrass- Congregational Care

Pat Kuntz- Fellowship (Trustee)

Sharon Gardner- Finance

Priscilla Hayek- Grounds/Memorial Garden

Judith Rosenthal- Missions

Gail Salmen- Worship (Trustee)

**PW Moderator-** Becky Wakefield

***A Voice in the Pines*** is a monthly publication of Presbyterian Kirk in the Pines. It is produced and edited by the Kirk’s Communication Committee, Bob Morrow, Moderator.

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