



December Newsletter

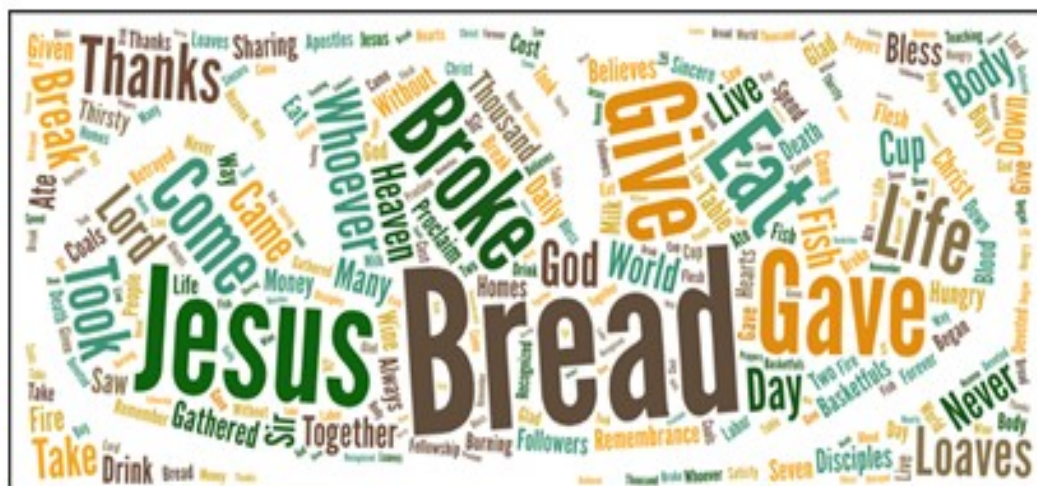
Advent & Christmas Worship

During the four weeks before Christmas, we prepare for the One who has come, whom we expect to come, and who will come again. We prepare our hearts and make room for the Messiah.

- Sunday, November 30 at 10 am, we will introduce a new -to- Rivermont way to celebrate the Hanging of the Greens. Instead of simply putting Chrismon ornaments on the tree, our entire worship service will explore the Scriptures and meanings behind familiar traditions of adding greenery and Christian symbols.
- Sunday, December 7 at 10 am, Rev. Samantha Hudson will lead worship and communion. A festive Table to Table lunch will conclude the day at 11 am in the Commons. Bring your favorite holiday dish or dessert to share with friends.
- Sunday, December 14 at 10 am, Rev. Bill Bond will lead us in how we are to "prepare the way of the Lord."
- Thursday, December 18 at 6 pm in the Commons, Longest Night Service. Shorter days and long, dark nights can deepen the gloom of loss or loneliness. This service provides a space to acknowledge and assuage those feelings. Rev. Bill Bond will lead a simple worship service.
- Sunday, December 21 at 10 am, Choir Christmas Cantata. A joyous orchestral and vocal celebration of Christmas will be our worship for the fourth Sunday of Advent.
- Wednesday, December 24 at 6 pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. We will have an impromptu Pageant, our favorite Christmas carols, readings, a heartfelt message, and candle lighting mark the day before our celebration of Christ's birth.
- Sunday, December 28 at 10 am- Lessons & Carols. This beloved tradition of intermixed scriptures and songs will close the worship season of 2025.



Table to Table	
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The next Table to Table celebration
will be held December 7 at 11 am.

From the Communion table to a shared table, we will break bread together, giving thanks to God and for the ties that bind.

This month we will enjoy our favorite holiday dishes and dessert. While not required, you are invited to prepare a dish or dessert and drop it off in the kitchen prior to the worship service.

Christmas Poinsettias

Christmas Poinsettias may be purchased in honor of or in memory of a loved one this holiday season for \$10. Order forms are available in the Narthex or by contacting the church office (make checks payable to Rivermont Presbyterian Church with Poinsettia in the memo line). The deadline to order is December 19.



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

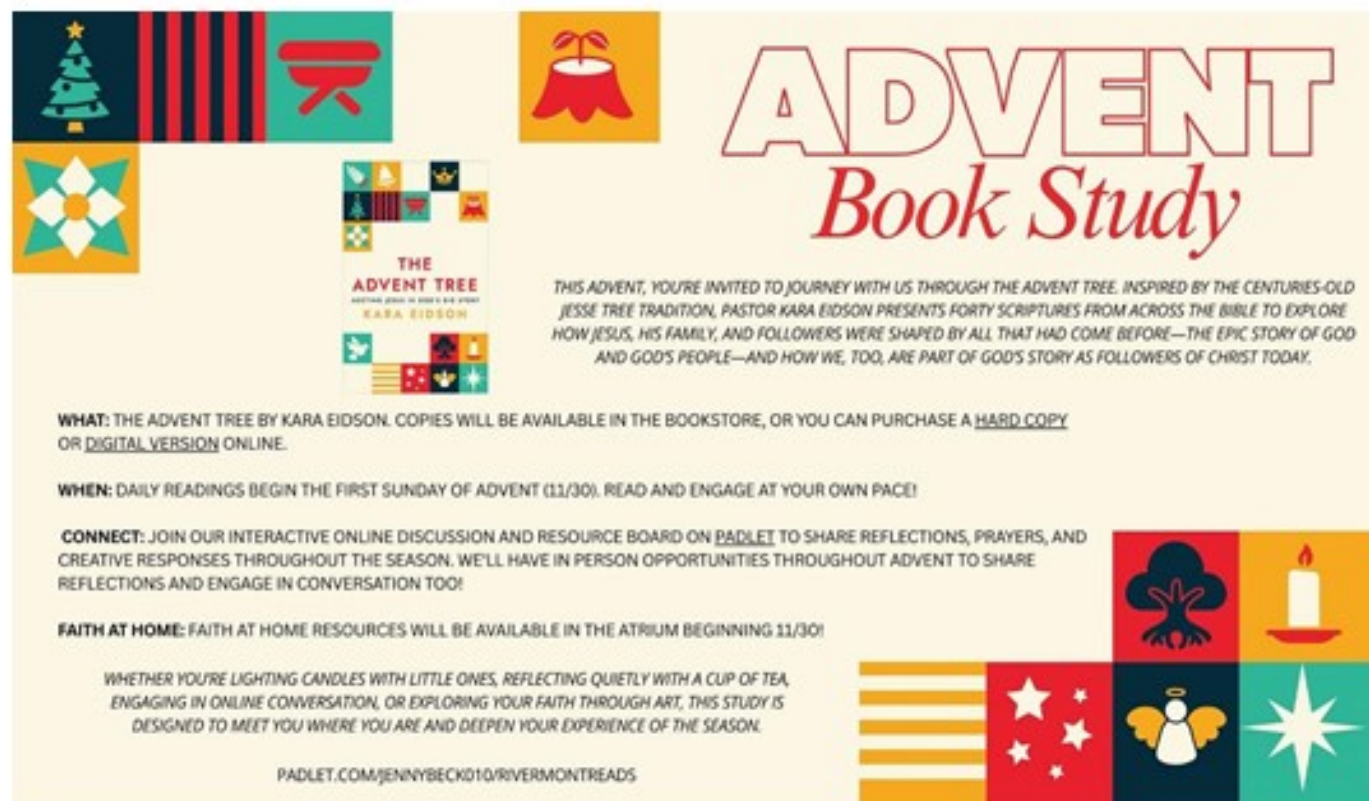
In Memory of _____

In Honor of

Given by _____

#No. of Poinsettias @ \$10

Advent Book Study



ADVENT
Book Study

THIS ADVENT, YOU'RE INVITED TO JOURNEY WITH US THROUGH THE ADVENT TREE. INSPIRED BY THE CENTURIES-OLD JESSE TREE TRADITION, PASTOR KARA EIDSON PRESENTS FORTY SCRIPTURES FROM ACROSS THE BIBLE TO EXPLORE HOW JESUS, HIS FAMILY, AND FOLLOWERS WERE SHAPED BY ALL THAT HAD COME BEFORE—THE EPIC STORY OF GOD AND GOD'S PEOPLE—AND HOW WE, TOO, ARE PART OF GOD'S STORY AS FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST TODAY.

WHAT: THE ADVENT TREE BY KARA EIDSON. COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE BOOKSTORE, OR YOU CAN PURCHASE A [HARD COPY](#) OR [DIGITAL VERSION](#) ONLINE.

WHEN: DAILY READINGS BEGIN THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (11/30). READ AND ENGAGE AT YOUR OWN PACE!

CONNECT: JOIN OUR INTERACTIVE ONLINE DISCUSSION AND RESOURCE BOARD ON [PADLET](#) TO SHARE REFLECTIONS, PRAYERS, AND CREATIVE RESPONSES THROUGHOUT THE SEASON. WE'LL HAVE IN PERSON OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT ADVENT TO SHARE REFLECTIONS AND ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION TOO!

FAITH AT HOME: FAITH AT HOME RESOURCES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE ATRIUM BEGINNING 11/30!

WHETHER YOU'RE LIGHTING CANDLES WITH LITTLE ONES, REFLECTING QUIETLY WITH A CUP OF TEA, ENGAGING IN ONLINE CONVERSATION, OR EXPLORING YOUR FAITH THROUGH ART, THIS STUDY IS DESIGNED TO MEET YOU WHERE YOU ARE AND DEEPEN YOUR EXPERIENCE OF THE SEASON.

PADLET.COM/JENNYBECK010/RIVERMONTREADS

ADVENT BOOK STUDY: *THE ADVENT TREE*

This Advent, you're invited to journey with us through *The Advent Tree*. Inspired by the centuries-old Jesse Tree tradition, pastor Kara Eidson presents forty Scriptures from across the Bible to explore how Jesus, his family, and followers were shaped by all that had come before—the epic story of God and God's people—and how we, too, are part of God's story as followers of Christ today.



What: *The Advent Tree* by Kara Eidson. Copies will be available in the bookstore, or you can purchase a [hard copy](#) or [digital version](#) online.



When: Daily readings begin the First Sunday of Advent (11/30). Read and engage at your own pace!



Connect: Join our interactive online discussion board on [Padlet](#) to share reflections, prayers, and creative responses throughout the season. We'll have in person opportunities throughout advent to share reflections and engage in conversation too!



Faith at Home: Faith at Home resources will be available in the Atrium beginning 11/30! Whether you're lighting candles with little ones, reflecting quietly with a cup of tea, engaging in online conversation, or exploring your faith through art, this study is designed to meet you where you are and deepen your experience of the season.

Finding Alice

Our most recent production was another huge success! Not only did we have the largest cast to date (including our first four-legged cast member!), we had an overwhelming group of volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes and the set truly was right out of Wonderland! Congrats to all!





Worship and the Arts Presents. . .

We will have a bonus production in December! Join us for *The Nutcracker Christmas Carol*, a popular musical that has delighted Chattanooga audiences for years at Chattanooga State. Rivermont is thankful to be the next venue.

Performances are Saturday, December 12, 13, 19, 20 at 7:30 pm or Sunday, December 14 & 21 at 2:30 pm in the Chapel. Tickets are available by visiting our website or Facebook page.



Choir Cantata



You are invited! Sunday, December 21st at 10 am:
Sing Joy to All the World! - A Christmas Celebration
by Lloyd Larson



Children's Ministry



DECEMBER YOUTH SCHEDULE

December 7- Candy Caning!



DECEMBER 14- CHRISTMAS PARTY!

December 21- No Youth Group

December 28- No Youth Group

Mission Opportunities



Northside Neighborhood House thanks you for your generous donations of canned and dry goods during the time SNAP benefits were discontinued. We will continue to collect, but will change distribution to Rivermont Elementary School. The school is preparing food boxes for school families for Christmas.



Spreading Christmas Cheer!

Let's share the Christmas spirit with the children at Rivermont Elementary School! The Mission committee has partnered with Rivermont Elementary on behalf of our congregation to help support 5 of their FIT families at Christmas this year. These families do not have permanent housing. The student support coach has suggested that the families would most benefit from gift cards and food boxes. So, while shopping in December, please consider purchasing a gift card or two from local stores so these parents can shop for gifts for their children. Additionally, consider putting together a Christmas dinner box with non-perishable food items and maybe a gift card for a ham or turkey. If there are additional food donations we will supplement the boxes or donate to Northside Neighborhood house.

All donations need to be received by December 15 so they can be given to the school prior to the Christmas break.

Congregational Care

Fred Rogers' mother told him to "look for the helpers." At Rivermont helpers are everywhere! The faithful members of Rivermont's Congregational Care Ministry care for the family and friends of Rivermont. Thank you to Phyllis Belcher, Pat Buffaloe, Ruth Ann Honeycutt, Dawn Palmer, Karen Hart, Linda Hill, Gay Sakich, Barbara & Syd Tindall, Liz Grant, Charlotte B Sargent, Charlotte P Sargent, Toria Williams, the entire Rivermont staff, and so many others! We seek opportunities to provide encouragement and serve others.

This year the Congregational Care Ministry monthly teams provided many meals, sent gift cards, bought baby gifts, and mailed cards and calls. Congregational Care along with the Seekers of the Spirit, 4th and 5th graders, made Thinking of You gift bags for our homebound/nursing home members. The Stephen Ministry sends a series of grief booklets to those who have lost a loved one and provides one-on-one care when requested.

We are called to be helpers. ALL of us taking care of ALL of us as time and resources allow. Thank you for the privilege to tend the flock that is Rivermont Presbyterian Church in 2025. We are so blessed. Join us as we serve. Contact Gay Sakich, 423-269-8667 or gsakich@aol.com.

Church Office Holiday Schedule



Presbyterian Women

The PW Day Circle will meet on Monday, December 8 at 11 am in the Commons. All women of the church are invited to our meeting and to lunch. Hope to see you there!

The PW Night Circle will not meet in December and will begin a new study in January. We can't wait to meet again!



It's Time to Update our Directory

In order to have a correct and up to date directory we need to update any information that may have changed. Do you have a new phone number? New email address? Did you move or something other change has occurred? Let us know! Send our Church Administrator, Allison Janis, any changes so she can update everyone's information.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Layla Kershaw	14	Gordon Hart
3	Jane Kaplan	15	Deacon Pittman
3	June Hyett	17	Elaine Boncutter
4	Sherrell Hayes	17	Tyson Geren
7	Rachel Fisher	20	Steve Hines
9	Matthew Carroll	26	Linda Woolson
11	Michael Andrews	31	Helen Aiken
12	Sharon Johnson	31	Jesse Thompson