

MADISON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Trumpet Notes



December 2020

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on December 20. One of four annual special offerings, this offering supports our church leaders' past, present, and future.

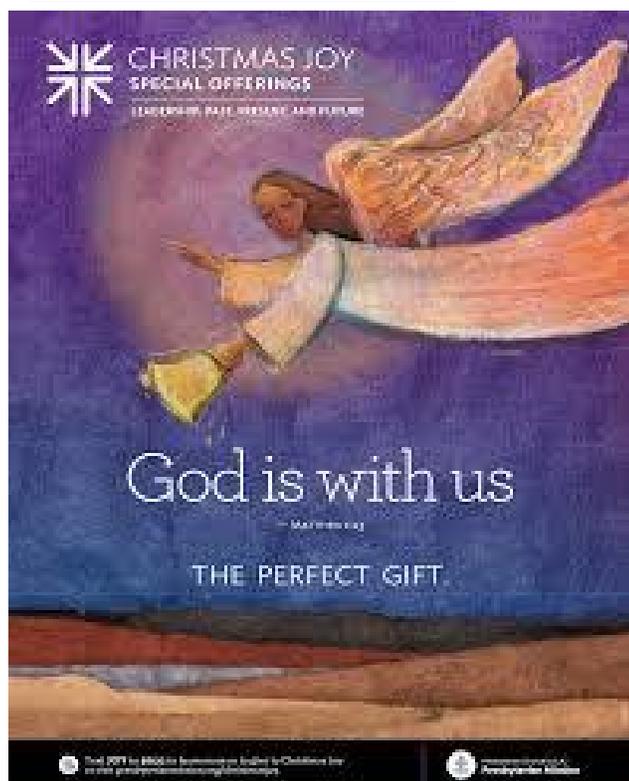
Fifty percent of our gifts to Christmas Joy provides assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial need— a family emergency, a health care crisis or even assistance to pastors affected by natural disasters.

For example, an article in the November-December 2020 issue of *Presbyterians Today* tells about several people whose lives are being affected by Presbyterian giving and support. Each person's story of challenges and obstacles is different, but they all have one thing in common in that their lives have been enriched by the generosity of Presbyterians. One of these is the Rev. Dr. Stewart M. Pattison of Lombard, Illinois, who, when diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, received grant money that helped him secure a scooter.

Fifty percent makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The PC (USA), with its nearly 140 years of commitment to higher learning, has promoted education and leadership development through the establishment and support of schools and colleges. The aforementioned periodical article tells how a grant supported by the Christmas Joy Offering helped Rose Bryant of Dallas, Texas, a single mom, achieve her goal of finishing her degree at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, after a twelve-year hiatus.

Please consider participating in the Christmas Joy Offering that supports our past and present church leaders and prepares the way for future leaders.

To learn more, visit specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy



Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Eve Services at Madison Presbyterian Church are tentatively scheduled for 5:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. pending confirmation.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Friday, December 25, in observance of Christmas.

Finance Report

Account Balances as of October 31, 2020
General Fund ô \$128,454.20
Capital Fund ô \$60,611.10
Youth Fund ô \$7,390.94
Memorial Fund ô \$14,140.65

Please mail your completed 2021 pledge card to:
Madison Presbyterian Church
202 Broadway
Madison, IN 47250

Session Highlights
November 18, 2020 Meeting

From the Pastor

- Approved a transfer of membership to Smyrna-Monroe Presbyterian Church for Sandy Fox to align with her position agreement as Commissioned Pastor of Madison Presbyterian Church
- Approved the October 21, 2020 Session meeting minutes
- Approved the October 2020 General and Capital Fund reports
- Heard a report from Buildings and Grounds that the hail damage repairs are now complete. Approved ceiling repair work in the sanctuary foyer and other spots throughout the church; moving the choir room across the hall to the large double room area and the building of a closet for the choir robes; purchasing battery candles for the windows for Advent to assure safety
- Agreed that the decorating of the sanctuary for Christmas could still take place after worship on Sunday, November 22, 2020, with masks and social distancing
- Heard of the congregation's generosity in helping provide money and gifts for the State Hospital Christmas Party to be held on December 5, 2020
- Received an update on the live-streaming project using the technology obtained with a grant from the Center for Congregations; it should be ready to go in the next couple of weeks
- Approved the baptisms of Luke Andrew Cullens and Eva Eleanor Vaughn for December 13, 2020
- Set the date of December 6, 2020, for the Ordination and Installation of Officers
- Approved the 2021 budget based on a projected income
- Made plans to shorten the worship service for now while we are still able to have in-person worship during COVID-19
- Discussed a self-study under the leadership of Pastor Sandy Fox during this time of transition
- Prayed for our church and congregation, our community, nation and world
- Voted via email vote on November 20, 2020, after much discussion, to suspend in-person worship due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in Jefferson County and throughout the state. With no in-person worship on November 22nd when pledge cards were going to be dedicated, they may now be mailed to the church or placed in the mailbox in the courtyard. Many thanks in advance for your dedication.

November 2020

Greetings and salutations, Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

If you have been getting phone calls from a strange area code (513) and wondered, "Who in the world is calling me?"..... it was probably me. So just to clear things up and to say "Hey" at the same time, I have put pen to paper, as they say, and have asked Jonathan to include a few words from me, your new Commissioned Pastor.

We may have been introduced already, or we may have seen each other over the last year or so, during which I have been attending MPC. And, I have been involved in the worship services most of this year, but it is now official, at least until a permanent full-time pastor is called.

The main goal for me is to connect with each one of you in one or more of several different ways. This can be a challenge due to the crazy times in which we live. Hopefully, through some effort and a desire to meet and share our love of the Lord and with the help of God, we can overcome.

So, if you get a phone call from **513-505-3998**, please answer it, or, since the phone does work both ways, call me. Or if you see an email from: **sandy-fox505@gmail.com**, this also is me. Let's chat, pray together and share a smile.

I look forward to spending time with you either personally, by phone or through mail of any kind. May God bless and keep you, and may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, be with you now and always.

In His service,

Pastor Sandy Fox



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This letter is being sent to inform everyone that Madison Presbyterian Church is suspending in-person worship for the next few weeks or so.

Throughout this week, there have been several hours of discussion and consideration because of this virus' affect on our community. This decision was made in loving concern for your well-being and health. Your Session came to this conclusion to safe- guard you and to ward off the potential for you to be exposed to the virus, even though extraordinary precautions had already been taken. You could say we are erring on the side of caution.

There is good news.

First and most importantly, God is still God, and God is with us through this whole situation. As we look forward to the Thanksgiving holiday and the beginning of Advent, this congregation has so much for which we can be thankful! I encourage you to stop and take a moment to review your life and the life of your church. We are looking into the future, and the future is bright with the help of God.

Emmanuel cometh. Isaiah 64: 1 - 3

"O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence, as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil, to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence."

Future Services

Moving forward, the audio portion of your worship service will definitely be available through a separate link, which Jonathan sends to you. And Jim Bartlett is putting the finishing touches on making a live presentation of the worship service available; this link will also be shared. So, stay tuned and stay connected by keeping in touch with each other, Jonathan and me. Thank you for your continued support during these challenging times.

With love to you , in His service,

Pastor Sandy

Poinsettias: Poinsettias this year will be \$11.00 per plant. If you would like to order a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form below. Place it, along with your payment, in the same place as you do your regular offering. The last day to order is Sunday, December 6. Early orders are appreciated.

Poinsettia Order

Ordered
by: _____

In memory of/in honor of:

Number of plants ordered: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Will take plant(s) home after Christmas:

Yes _____ No _____



Prayer List

NOTES OF INTEREST

Music Notes

One of the things I miss most from life before COVID-19 is hearing hymn descants sung in worship. A descant is a melody composed to be sung above a hymn melody. Many of you will likely recall the choir sopranos singing quite high, indeed, during the final stanza of "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!" on Trinity Sunday. That line the sopranos sang was a descant. The late Richard Marlow, formerly the conductor of the Trinity College Choir of Cambridge (England), published two collections of double descants. As you might imagine, if a single descant is great, a double descant (two being sung at the same time) must be even better. His setting of "A Great and Mighty Wonder" (tune known to us as "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming") is especially thrilling. On the final stanza of the hymn, the sopranos singing antiphonally (that is, divided between two sides of the church) sing two descants while the other voices present the melody beneath. A link to a youtube video of the piece follows.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6QRV3dZ2YU>

As we prepare for a Christmas unlike any in recent memory, I hope you find ways to reclaim normality. For me, at least part of that will be listening to youtube videos of my favorite Christmas music, since performing it with my friends seems particularly unsafe.

You are in my prayers. Jonathan

PRAYER LIST

Congregation: Mark Andreasen, Sharon Auxier, Dennis and Karen Bessenecker, Larry and Valecia Crisafulli, Shannon Glass, Mary Louise Grimes, Bob and Pat Hughes, Al Huntington, Betty King, Joan Knowland, Susan Ohlendorf, Beth Orrill, Desna Ratcliff, Alicia Ricketts, Jennifer Saroka, Ted Skrypak, Staci Torres, Сонdie Williams, Greg Zieseemer.

Family and Friends: Mark Ashbrook, Karen Ault, Steve Baker, Michelle Barlow, Michael Busching, James Callahan, Becky Chase, children separated from their parents, Marie Cross, Jeff Dagher, Andrew Damm, Angel Dart, Phillip Eades, Steve Facemire, Shirley Griffith, Chuck Hale, Milly Harness, Sarah Hull, Curtis Jacobs, Heidi Kendall and family, Joni Lanham, Jeff Lineburg (Janet Castor's twin brother), James Lutes, Madison Correctional Facility, Madison State Hospital, Shane Mason, the family of Amanda McCurry (Cathy Owsley's niece), Yolanda Modley, Bob Rouse, Jeff, Janna and Rachel Schmidt, Dan Shearer, Laryssa Smith, Jody Sullivan, Trey Taylor, Kenneth Thompson (Harriette Parton's grandson), Rodney Thompson, Jean Trillet (Jim Grant's sister), Warren (friend of Bob and Judith Glass), Dawson Whitaker, Laurel Lyn Wiest, Kyle Wilson.



MPC Rotating Prayer Calendar

December 6

Dave and Kay Lou Adams
Dennis and Karen Bessenecker
Annie Orrill
Ellen Eckert and Tony Harrell

December 13

Jonathan Stanley
Pam Sandoz
Stephen Goldsmith and Becky Chase

December 20

Kathy and Kenneth Joyce
Abigail Adams and
Emmanuel Gutierrez-Marquez
Luca Marquez-Adams

December 27

David Robbins
R. J. and Anne Brown
Dylan and Amelia



December Birthdays

2. Sharon Daghir
3. Caroline Grier
5. Sandy Freeman
7. Crystal Dashiell
8. Rian Andreasen
11. Ted Skrypak
12. Brett Corbin
17. Annie Orrill
18. Nate Adams
24. José Hernandez
26. Joyce Ashbrook