



Open Minds and Faithful Hearts  
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church  
November 29, 2023

## Worship:

### READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

[First Sunday of Advent \(December 3, 2023\)](#)

- First reading
  - Isaiah 64:1-9
- Psalm
  - Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- Second reading
  - 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
- Gospel
  - Mark 13:24-37



### The advent season –

The season of Advent begins next week on the First Sunday of Advent, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, with Communion Sunday and the Lighting of the Advent Wreath. Please check the calendar in the Communication section for the complete December/Advent schedule.

### Liturgist's Schedule:

11. 26 ...Jan

12.3 ... Ginia

12-10 ... Barb

12.17 ... Diana

12.24 ... Darrell

12.31..... Sandra



If you are available to serve as liturgist in January, Barb has the open schedule and can help you pick the date most suitable for you. Email [EPCbusiness9770@gmail.com](mailto:EPCbusiness9770@gmail.com) or call 615-473-3510.

## Prayer and Praise:

### Hebrews 5:7

7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

The whole reason why we pray is to be united into the vision and contemplation of God to whom we pray. - Julian of Norwich

**You are invited...**



The EPC prayer group is a small but dedicated group that meets on Wednesday evenings from roughly 6-7pm. It is a time to open your heart to offer God the praise and prayers of our congregation and those of your own. Barb sends out email requests for any prayers you would like lifted up in the belief that all prayers matter, all prayers are important and all prayers will be heard.

All prayers are kept confidential unless you specify otherwise.

If your request is private or sensitive, you may request that your prayer be limited to Pastor Jane and Barbara. Confirmation emails will be sent affirming that your request was lifted.

As a small church, offering praise and prayers for those who are struggling, no matter the reason, sends a powerful message about the love we share and express for each other. If you feel called to do so, come **join us on Wednesday night at 6.**

It is our fervent prayer that this ministry is a blessing to the rest of our EPC family and beyond.

EPC prayer group



## Missions:

### <sup>1</sup>Oasis:

The assembly of the goody bags will be done as part of the regular service on **Dec 17**. Delivery will be Dec 20<sup>th</sup>. Let Barb know if you are able to help with set up or deliver.

If you wish to contribute financially to this mission, submit your contribution with “Oasis Project” in the memo line.

### <sup>2</sup>Maple Village:

We will be delivering Christmas cookies on Dec 17. This is the day of the “Carols and Cookies” celebration after service so bring cookies to eat and cookies to share with our friends at Maple Village. Cookie delivery will take place when the fellowship time has ended.



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### <sup>3</sup>Red Cross:

**Volunteers needed** — believe it or not, we are already planning for our annual Blood Donation Drive to be held in May 2024. We want to build on the last two years of successful Blood Drives and your help is needed. We are seeking volunteers for a variety of tasks in the months leading up to and on the day of the Blood drive, including:

- People with social media savvy to help make a plan for getting the word out;
- People with creative skills to help develop flyers, messaging, and thank you tokens;
- People with extensive networks that can help recruit donors;
- People willing to help on the day of the drive to check in donors, make sure donors are offered thank you tokens, help place signage and help with clean up.

If you are willing to lend a hand, please contact Barb Halverstadt at 615-473-3510 or via email at [epcbusiness9770@gmail.com](mailto:epcbusiness9770@gmail.com)

**<sup>4</sup>Joy offering:** PC(USA) collects offering to help church's past, present and future leaders

#### LOUISVILLE



The Rev. Nikki Cooley and Sharon Connole-Key at First Presbyterian Church in Liberty, Missouri. —*Photo courtesy Nikki Cooley*

Helping our fellow humans improves the health, happiness and often the longevity of those who volunteer. However, the blessing can work both ways, as Sharon Connole-Key can attest as both a recipient of and donor to the [Christmas Joy Offering](#).

“The experience of receiving generosity has empowered me to do for others,” Connole-Key says. Battling advanced thyroid cancer since 2001, she was facing the growing medical bills that come with treating long-term diseases. Like so many Americans, she didn’t know where to turn. “No one should have to choose between food and medicine.”

Sharon sought counsel from her pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Liberty, Missouri. “It is hard to ask for help,” says Connole-Key. Together they found help through the Board of Pensions matching grant and the Income Supplement and Housing Supplement programs, funded by the Christmas Joy Offering.

“This is more than a physical blessing, but a deeply spiritual one for me,” says Connole-Key. Retired after serving as a lay worker for 24 years, she considers her gift a blessing to be shared. “I believe in paying forward by giving and tithing to the Christmas Joy Offering to help someone else. It is truly a gift from God.

”If you are donating with a check, please put “Joy Offering” in the memo line.

## **Finance:**

If you are in the habit of making year-end charitable donations, please consider giving to one of EPC’s ongoing missions:

- The Oasis project—our year-round, multifaceted mission to assist the Oasis Center with special needs as they arise and goody bags that are distributed to Nashville’s homeless youth.
- The Community Garden
- The Gateway to Higher Education Scholarship Fund

## **Financial Support:**

If you are not able to attend worship service and still wish show your support for Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, you can contribute in the following ways:

- Online—send an electronic payment, your bank can help you set this up if you have questions.
- By Mail – our mailing address is EPC, 9770 Hwy 96, Nashville, TN 37221
- Through EPC’s website [www.epcnashville.com](http://www.epcnashville.com) or [www.epcnashville.org](http://www.epcnashville.org) Simply click on the “GIVE” button, then the “Donate” button, to donate via PayPal or debit/credit card. This can be a one-time donation or can be set up as a monthly donation.

**\*\*We are currently having a problem with the online donation function.** We hope to have it corrected as soon as possible. Any year-end donations should be made by mailing a check to the church or sending an online payment through your banking payment function.\*\*

*Sorry...*  
**TEMPORARILY  
OUT OF  
SERVICE**

## 2024 Generosity/Stewardship Campaign: Lets Grow EPC Together!

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> the budget will be presented to the congregation with a congregational vote taken to approve any changes to Pastor Jane's compensation changes if needed.

### Fellowship:

- **Sunday, December 3** we will have the opportunity to bond over some good-natured fun while we come together to decorate our Christmas Tree. Plan to stay after church to get things set up "just right"!
- Also mark **Sunday December 17** on your calendar as we share the holiday spirit with cookies and carols.

### Communication:

Welcome Visitors! We are excited to call your attention to, and encourage you to visit, our upgraded website! Go to [www.epcnashville.com](http://www.epcnashville.com) or [www.epcnashville.org](http://www.epcnashville.org) for all your questions. Cut and paste one of these sites in your browser. If you can't find it there, try the options below.

- Visits with Pastor Jane Herring must be by appointment.
- Reach out to Pastor Jane on her church phone (call/text) 615-818-9727 or email at [janemherring@gmail.com](mailto:janemherring@gmail.com) about what it means to be baptized, to be confirmed in the church (if you have already been baptized), to join the church or any other questions you might have.
- General EPC email can be sent to [epcnashville@gmail.com](mailto:epcnashville@gmail.com) (be aware that multiple people have access to this email account).
- If you ever have any questions about anything dealing with EPC's finances or other business topics, email your question or request to [epcbusiness9770@gmail.com](mailto:epcbusiness9770@gmail.com)
- Email announcements for the Sunday bulletin to [janemherring@gmail.com](mailto:janemherring@gmail.com)
- Email Information or corrections for the weekly newsletter to [frhanchey@gmail.com](mailto:frhanchey@gmail.com)

### December Calendar:

**December 3 – December 24:** Joy offering collections

**December 3:** Communion Sunday, First Sunday of Advent, Service of Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath, 10 am

**December 3:** Stay and decorate the Christmas tree after service.

**December 6:** Wednesday evening contemplative Advent practice, 6-7 pm

**December 10:** Worship committee meeting after church

**December 10:** Second Sunday of Advent, Service of Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath, 10am

**December 13:** Wednesday evening Blue Christmas Service of Hope and Healing, 6-7pm

**December 16:** Saturday Advent Workshop with Dean Victor Judge on Claire Keegan's Small Things Like These, 9-2 (RSVP to Jane for lunch).

**December 17:** Third Sunday of Advent, Service of Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath, 10 am

**December 17:** Fellowship/Mission/Congregational Care committee meeting, 9:30 am

**December 17:** Assembly of Goody bags during worship service

**December 17:** Cookies and Carols after service, bring some to eat and some for Maple Village.

**December 17:** Cookie delivery to Maple Village

**December 18:** Session meeting, 6:30 pm

**December 20:** Wednesday evening contemplative Advent practice, 6-7 pm

**December 24:** Fourth Sunday of Advent, Service of Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath, and Lessons and Carols, 10 am.

**December 24:** Sunday evening Candlelight Christmas Eve service of Christmas Readings and Song, 4:30 pm

**December 25:** Christmas morning (Monday) brief, contemplative service and lighting of the Christ candle on the Advent Wreath, 8-8:30am, coffee and breakfast items served at 8:40am

January 1: Happy New Year, 2024

## **Christian Education:**

**Inquirers of all ages:** Please reach out to Pastor Jane about what it means to be baptized, to be confirmed in the church (if you have already been baptized) or to join the church.

## **Children's Services:**

At Emmanuel we offer a "kid's message" during the early part of the worship service, followed by a "children's church" in the kid's classroom for those up to 10 years old or still in elementary school. The message is a short story that usually has some sort of lesson related to it and in children's church we usually discuss the story in more depth and follow it with a craft or activity that helps the story (and the lesson!) sink in. A nursery is also available for those under 3. We always have two adults with the children and their safety and education is our top priority.



**Special Note:** There will not be any kids message reading or children's worship service offered on December 24<sup>th</sup> as both teachers will be out of town.

## **Building and Grounds:**



**Give thanks to God**

**Presenting Your Slate of Elders**

**Class of 2023**

Theresa Denton, Worship and Polity & Procedure

Jan Russell,

**Class of 2024**

Ginia Wood, Fellowship and Mission

John Denton, Building and Grounds

**Class of 2025**

Greg Burlison, Personnel

John Sevier, Director of Music

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**EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

We are located on Highway 96, near the intersection of Highway 100. We are close to Bellevue, Fairview, Franklin, Leiper's Fork, Pasquo, Westhaven and West Nashville. We look forward to seeing you!

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