



Open Minds and Faithful Hearts
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church
December 6, 2023

Worship:

READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

[Second Sunday of Advent \(December 10, 2023\)](#)

- First reading
 - Isaiah 40:1-11
- Psalm
 - Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
- Second reading
 - 2 Peter 3:8-15a
- Gospel
 - Mark 1:1-8



The advent season –

The season of Advent began on the first Sunday of December, when we celebrated with the Holy Sacrament of Communion and the Lighting of the Advent Wreath candle representing HOPE. We will light the second candle as we continue our waiting for the coming of the new king.

Please check the calendar in the Communication section for the complete December/Advent schedule.

Liturgist's Schedule:

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 or call 615-473-3510.

Prayer and Praise:

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:

¹Oasis:

The assembly of the goody bags will be done as part of the regular service on **Dec 17**. Delivery will be Dec 20th. 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.

²Maple 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.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#) under [CC BY](#)



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

³Red 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

4Joy offering:

THE PERFECT GIFT

When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace and salvation to his people. This child, God's Word made flesh — fully human and fully God — became one of us. One with us. One among us. In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles and triumphs, Jesus became one of us —leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life. The perfect gift.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

Jesus' example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.

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 or 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.**



2024 Generosity/Stewardship Campaign: Lets Grow EPC Together!

On December 3rd the budget will be presented to the congregation with a congregational vote taken to approve any changes to Pastor Jane’s compensation changes f needed.

Fellowship:

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

Mark **Sunday December 17** on your calendar as we share the holiday spirit with cookies and carols. Bring some to eat and some to share. We will be making our last 2023 visit to the residents

of Maple Village as we deliver some Christmas Cookie cheer! The Caroling part of this event is a loosely based function of nibbling on cookies while we remember our favorite Christmas carols and sing loudly to spread the holiday spirit.

Communication:

Welcome Visitors! We are excited to call your attention to, and encourage you to visit, our upgraded website! Go to www.epcnashville.com or 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 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 (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
- Email announcements for the Sunday bulletin to janemherring@gmail.com
- Email Information or corrections for the weekly newsletter to frhanchey@gmail.com

December Calendar:

December 3 – December 24: Joy offering collections

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 24th as both teachers will be out of town.

Building and Grounds:



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

+++++

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!

9770 Hwy 96 W

Nashville, TN 37221

Phone: 615-440-2037

Email: epcnashville@gmail.com

www.epcnashville.org www.epcnashville.com

FB and you tube at epcnashville