



The Good News December 2020



From the desk of...Pastor Nancy Pearson

I love Christmas! I love decorating our home, putting ornaments on the Christmas tree, listening to beautiful Christmas music, coming to church on Christmas Eve. This year, we'll be cutting a tree from our own mountain property, and we have quite a bit less space to put up decorations inside the house! But no worries...it'll be a festive season!

My favorite Christmas tradition when I was growing up was our Family Christmas Carol Sing. My dad was a skilled pianist, and so when I was just two years old, my parents began inviting friends to their home to sing Christmas carols and enjoy refreshments. The Carol Sing expanded over my growing up years, and later my brothers and I brought our spouses and our children to this special family event. There were traditional carols (We Three Kings, The First Noel, Silent Night) and fun holiday songs (Jingle Bells, We Wish You a Merry Christmas) and the evening always ended with a great feast of desserts, punch and finger foods. As my parents and their friends got older, I remember thinking that this is what heaven must be like—all of these old and young loved ones gathered around that living room singing beautiful heavenly songs about our Jesus. It was a wonderful family tradition that I will always cherish.

I know that all of you have traditions from Christmas' past. Some of those special times will have to be set aside this year because of the pandemic. Maybe it will be a good time to establish new traditions: maybe a special food that you'll enjoy, a special "gift" that you could drop on the doorstep of someone you know, a quiet time daily reading from your Bible and your Advent devotion booklet. (special thanks to Dana Covey for putting the booklet together) Perhaps you'll buy yourself a poinsettia or a holiday candle to put on a table. All these things can center our thoughts, hearts and prayers around our celebration of our Lord Jesus' birth.

Some of you will venture out to Christmas Eve services at 5 and 7 p.m. We'll enjoy special music, an inspirational message, lighting of the Advent candles and candlelight singing of Silent Night. We will all wear face coverings and will social distance in the pews. Communion will be celebrated at the 7 p.m. service.

I pray that you will enjoy this sacred season, as we look forward to the birth of our Lord Jesus as a baby in the manger, and to his coming again in glory one day as King of Kings.

Pastor Nancy

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Community Presbyterian
Church

2279 N Wedgwood Ln

Cedar City, UT 84721

Cedarpres.org

Community Presbyterian Church Youth Newsletter

December 2020

(Youth Group is from 11:30-1:00 on Sundays)

Tuesday, 12/1 HS Girls Group

Saturday 12/5 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 10am-11am

Sunday 12/6 Youth Group: St Nicholas Day!

Saturday 12/11 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 10am-12am

Sunday 12/13 Christmas Pageant (arrive 9:00) and Youth Group; Christmas theme

Tuesday 12/15 HS Girls Group

Sunday 12/20 Youth Group: just a holiday hangout and play games

Sunday 12/27-1/10 NO Youth Group, have a great Winter Holiday Break!



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High School Girls Group! Tuesday Dec 1 and Dec 15, 6:30pm-7:30pm

At Bristlecone Coffee & Yoga, 67 W Center St. Call/Text Pr Robyn if you need a ride!

THANK YOU FOR AN AWESOME "SUB FOR SANTA SERVICE" & FRIENDSGIVING DINNER!

Thanks especially to Stachia Brindley for helping drive and using her employee discount for our delish dinner from Chili's and thank you to our very generous Missions Committee for pitching in \$200 towards Holiday Assistance gifts that the youth got to pick out.



No Youth Group during the Holiday Vacation (Dec 20-Jan 3).

Pr Robyn will be on vacation until Jan 10, so everything will start up again after that (hopefully!)

Have a wonder-filled Christmas and a blessed New Year!





Christmas Pageant! Sunday Dec 13

with rehearsals Saturday Dec 5 10-11am and
Saturday Dec 11 10am-12noon.

Thanks to all of you awesome actors for being a part of this annual tradition and celebration of our kids' leadership in worship!



SUB FOR SANTA

Christmas Eve worship

We are excited about our plans for worship on December 24, Christmas Eve. Though we will be wearing face coverings and social distancing, we will be holding two candlelight Christmas Eve services at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Both services will feature live music as well as special recorded inspirational music. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at the 7 p.m. service.

Seating will be limited because of COVID restrictions. We can accommodate about 60 people in the sanctuary and another 20 or so in the Welcome Center at each service.

Please plan to come early to be seated. We hope to be able to seat everyone that would like to worship with us in person on this special evening. The 5 p.m. service will be live streamed and recorded so you may also worship with us online.



Session, November 18, 2020

Session met via Zoom on Wednesday November 18th at 3pm. Excused was Linda Stetzenbach, all other members were present.

Pastor Nancy opened the meeting with prayer and a devotional by Stan Ott.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

Thank you notes from the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and PCUSA Hunger relief were read.

A Deacon resignation letter was read from Rita Osborn.

- Pastor Nancy-Stewardship Campaign is underway, with dedication Sunday scheduled for Nov 22. Advent starts on November 29th. The Christmas tree will be put up on the 22nd after worship with the help of the Childers-Garrison family, the Montoya family and Matthew Eddy. Thank you for all of the help!
- Pastor Robyn-Pastor Robyn is planning on taking some Continuing Ed. Time. The youth had a very successful Pumpkin Patch outing with over 30 people attending. October 25th was a special Sunday for the third-grade children with the presentation of Bibles. The Eddy's will be in town thru Christmas Eve, then away until the middle of January.
- Personnel-Thanks were given to Dana Covey who has been the interim Admin Asst. Jody Nowak has been interviewed, a contract has been written, and a motion was heard to hire Jody Nowak as the new admin assistant for CPC. MA. Pastoral reviews will be held in January.
- Worship- As of now, the Christmas Eve services will be held in-person at 5pm and 7pm, and the 5pm service will be live-streamed.
- Mission-\$6000.00 from Treasures was dispersed to our Community partners. Holiday assistance is going on, the due date is Dec 1. A motion was heard to give \$200.00 from fund 957 to the youth to help out with their Holiday Assistance plan. MSA.
- Finance- the current budget was reviewed and a preliminary budget for 2021 was reviewed. The finance report was approved. MA.
- New Business- ICAMA has asked to use the sanctuary for a January 15th concert for a total of 60 people. After much COVID discussion the request was denied.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm with prayer offered by Pastor Robyn.

Dana Covey Clerk of session

Stewardship for 2021: Our Abundant God

God has blessed us in great abundance, and we worship him by giving of the resources that we have in our lives: our time, our talent and our treasures.

Some of you have returned your pledge cards with faith commitments for 2021. Thank you! If you have not had an opportunity to make a financial pledge for the next year, we hope that you will consider doing so. We have been blessed by the faithful giving of our church family this year, and pray we can continue to support God's mission and ministry in the year ahead.

Please plan to bring or mail your pledge card to the church office in the next two weeks. This will help the Session as we shape the budget for 2021.

Treasures' December 2020 News

After working hard for over two months, all of our Christmas merchandise is out on display. We had one side of a 40-foot long container full from top to bottom. There were 13 large Christmas trees that were assembled and some were fully decorated and we sold them just as they were. It sure feels good to have some empty shelves in the "Holiday Container." If you have been in the church lately, some of the lovely Christmas décor came straight from the Thrift Store. Sales are still booming and we thank the Lord for the support of our local community.

Need a New Year's Resolution? Try volunteering a few hours each week at Treasures. You will be glad you did.

Happy December birthday to:

Letha Houts

Gordon Goslin

Ruth Kinney

Des Penny

Jim Peveler

Scott Burns

Gaylene Knoke

Jan Hite

Amanda Ruhr

Bill McKinney

Blessings to you on your special day!!

Klaus and Linda Stetzenbach
temporary address:

81 S St #1. SLC, UT 84103

Thank you for your faithfulness in praying for our church family, for our community and for our world.

Please keep these members and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

Klaus & Linda Stetzenbach: pray for Klaus' continued treatment at Huntsman Cancer Center. Pray for successful procedures and for continual recovery. Pray for Linda as she supports and cares for Klaus.

Jan Hite: pray for Jan recovering at home after a fall and hospitalization. Pray for strength for her body.

Bonnie Blakely: who is now living in California with her son and family. Pray for strength and health for her.

Mike Nowak: for upcoming testing for multiple medical issues including his heart.

Kathie Duca: who is hospitalized with pneumonia and COVID-19. Pray for strength and recovery.

Josephine Beale: pray for comfort for her in the sudden death of her husband Don.

Karen: Jeff Thorpe's sister, in the hospital diagnosed with brain and spinal cancer.

Please pray for all of us as we continue to take precautions to stay safe from the virus. Pray that we would not get so weary of the restrictions that we take unnecessary risks.

Pray that our case count in Iron County stays low. Pray for other Utah areas that are experiencing a surge in cases. Continue to pray for health care workers and those who are on the frontlines of care giving.

Pray that the COVID vaccine would be widely available soon and that we would feel confident receiving it.

Pray for our world: for peace in places of conflict and for food & medical shortages in many countries.

Pray for our president, president elect and all members of our country's leadership. Pray for wisdom and direction for them.



ADVENT SERMON SERIES

November 29

Christmas in the Gospel Homes

Mark: Prepare the Way

Mark 1:1-8

December 6

Christmas in the Gospel Homes

Matthew: Emmanuel, God with Us

Matthew 1:18-25

December 13

Children's Christmas Pageant

Jesus Calling: The Story of Christmas

December 20

Christmas in the Gospel Homes

Luke: The Savior: Christ the Lord

Luke 2:1-14

December 24

Christmas in the Gospel Homes

Christmas Eve

John: The Word Made Flesh

John 1:1-14



Iron County Holiday Assistance program

Our thanks to all of you for your generous giving to the Iron County Holiday Assistance program. Pastor Robyn delivered a van full of toys and gifts to the SUU Community Engagement Center on December 1. We were able to provide gifts for at least 75 children and teens!

Thanks for your generosity!



Seasons of the Church Year

(excerpted from “Reinventing Sunday” by Brad Berglund)

Did you know that the church has a unique way of telling time? There are six seasons in the Christian year, each allowing us to remember and celebrate a different chapter in the life of Jesus.

Advent is the first season of the church year. Advent begins on the Sunday nearest November 30 and includes the four Sundays before Christmas. In 2020, Advent began on Sunday November 29. The word advent means “coming.” During the season of Advent, Christians prepare themselves for the coming of Christ. The Advent color is **purple**, suggesting the royal nature of Jesus.

Christmastide. Christmas, the second season of the church year, begins on December 25, Christmas Day, and lasts 12 days. **White and gold** express the joyous nature of this season.

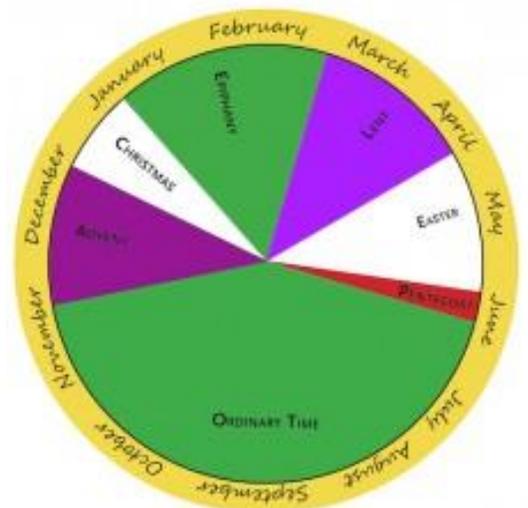
Epiphany begins on January 6 and continues until Ash Wednesday. The Greek *epiphaneia* means “appearing into.” During Epiphany, Christians remember the story of the magi who gave gifts to the infant Jesus and then took the good news of his birth across the world. It also commemorates the beginning of Jesus’ ministry. **Green**, the color of this season, expresses the timeless nature of growth.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 17, 2021) and continues for 40 days (not including Sundays) until Easter. During Lent, Christians remember how Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness and how the ancient Hebrew people wandered for 40 years in the desert. The word Lent comes from the Middle English for “spring.” In the midst of the wilderness, we anticipate the joy of resurrection and new life. The traditional color of this season is **purple**.

Eastertide. Easter is the season where we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection from the dead. This season begins on Easter Sunday (April 4, 2021), which is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox. **White** is the traditional color for Eastertide which lasts for 50 days.

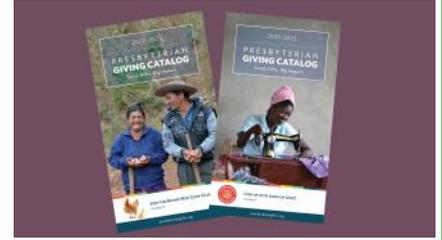
Pentecost is the day on which Jesus’ disciples received the Holy Spirit. Coming from the Greek word that means “fiftieth day,” Pentecost is celebrated on the 50th day after Easter. (May 23, 2021) **Red**, symbolizing the tongues of fire, is the color of the day.

Ordinary Time (also known as the season of Pentecost) is celebrated from Pentecost Sunday to the first Sunday of Advent. **Green** is the color for this season.



Presbyterian Giving Catalog

Coming soon is your opportunity to give gifts that bless the world through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Your small gifts can have a big impact in the lives of people around the globe. Catalogs are available on the Welcome Center desk. Please take one and see how your gift can bless your loved ones and help those in need. Examples of gifts you can give are: Sewing machine (\$50), Fishing nets (\$15), Wash stations (\$25 a share), Water filter (\$50), Garden well (\$50 a share) and many more!



Check this out! A great gift to honor the person who has everything.

“Christmas Joy Offering.”

Our tradition at a Presbyterian Church is to donate to the Christmas Joy Offering. Collected annually during Advent, this offering helps in two ways.

50% of our gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

50% of our gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

Watch your mailbox for more information about the Christmas Joy offering, and a special purple envelope to use for your contributions. And thank you for your giving.



CAIFA (Cedar Area Interfaith Alliance) Women’s auxiliary encourages our area churches to donate to **Homeless and At Risk Children and Youth Foundation**.

- Did you know there are several hundred homeless children in Iron County? An agency has been formed to help these students so that they can stay in school. You can help by donating money or gift cards. Gift cards to grocery stores, Walmart, fast food, gas stations in small amounts (\$10-25) are all helpful. Checks are also welcome, made payable to Iron County School district specifying “Homeless & At-Risk Children and Youth”. Donations can be mailed to Stephanie Hulet, ICSD Homeless Liaison, 2077 W Royal Hunte Dr, Cedar City, UT 84721.
- Our offerings on Christmas Eve will be donated to this Homeless Youth Fund.

Community Presbyterian Church
2279 North Wedgewood Lane
Cedar City, UT 84721

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Dated Material

We are especially thankful for...

The Board of Elders

2021 Dana Covey, Brad Phelps, Linda Stetzenbach

2022 Jane McCoy, Rich Bontadelli, Jeff Smith

2023 Jeff McCoy

The Board of Deacons

2022 Rita Osborn

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