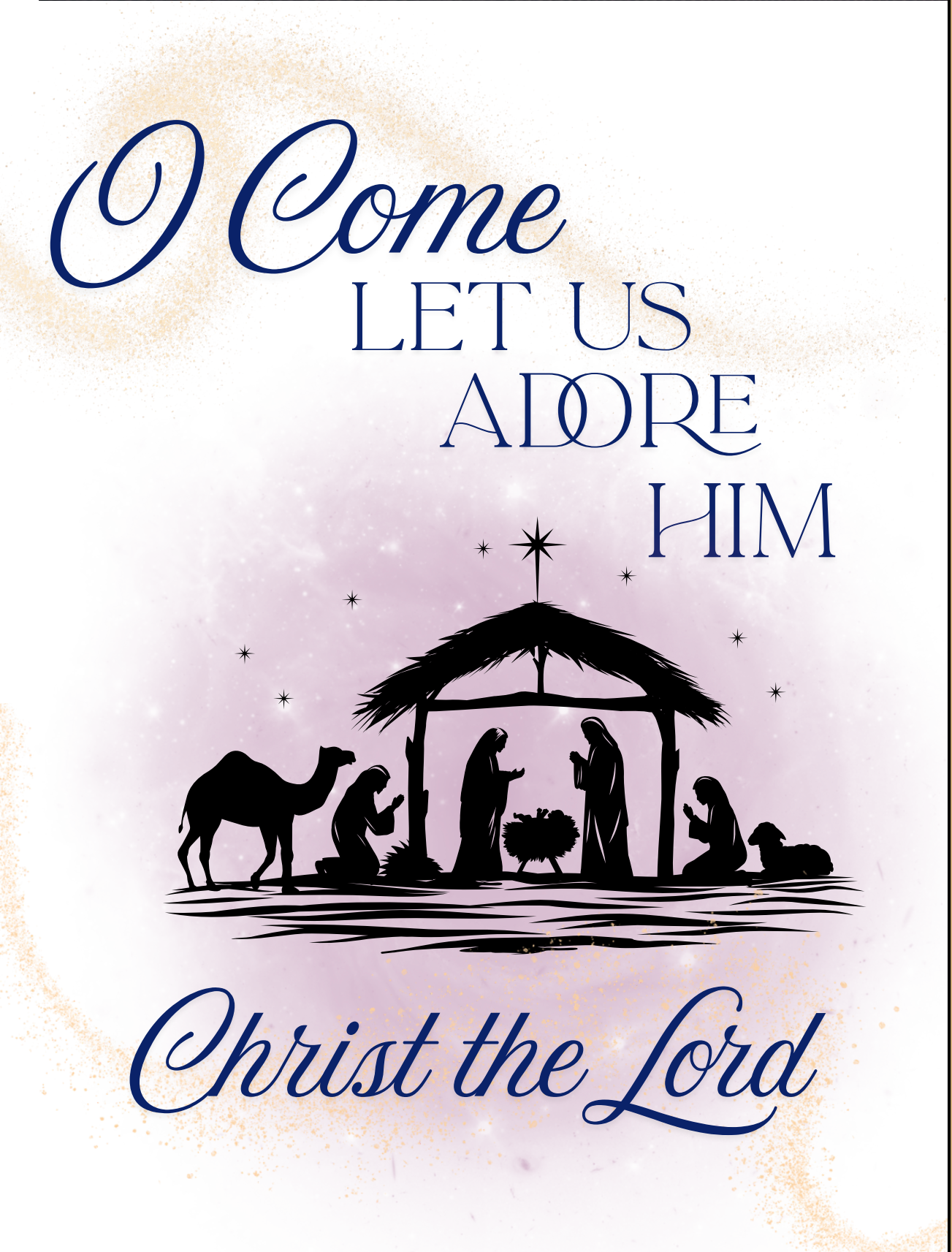
December 2026

# The Good News

*A newsletter from Community Presbyterian Church*






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# Welcome to Community

***Building*** *authentic Christian community.* ***Serving*** *God's people.*
***Inviting*** *all into the Way of Christ.*




## Silent Nights: Contemplative Worship

Longing to leave behind some of the noisy bustle of the holidays and take a moment to breathe in the sacred quiet?

All are invited to experience a calming, restorative time of worship each Wednesday night during the Advent and Christmas season. Candlelit and prayerful, these gentle gatherings weave together simple, soothing prayer-songs from the international Taize Community, short Bible readings, and times of silent reflection.

Whether you are not sure what you think about religion, or looking for an ecumenical community that welcomes all into shared sacred space, Silent Nights Contemplative Worship is open for participants to simply sit and observe, or participate to the extent they feel comfortable.

Songs and readings will include English, Spanish and Latin.

## January in Worship

As we enter a new year and the vast potential of new life that is before us, we do so, first and foremost, as a people of the Spirit. So it is that we are planning a month of worship and preaching that is rooted in our spirituality.

Spirituality is a many faceted thing within the Church. It is shaped by one's experience, both of life and God. It is tempered and formed by our community and by our location within the culture. So it is that we view Spirituality from many different perspectives as we receive God's call to live into the Holy Spirit.

***Here is a list of our forming plans for January:***
Sunday, Jan 3 "The Spirit as Light" Isaiah 60:1-6
Sunday, Jan 10 "What Does it Mean to 'Receive' The Spirit? Acts 19:1-7
Sunday, Jan 17 "The Spirit of Justice that Comes from Unexpected Places" John 1:43-51
Sunday, Jan 24 "Waiting on the Spirit" Psalm 62:5-12
Sunday, Jan 31 "What is an Unclean Spirit?" Mark 1:21-28
Saturday, Feb 6 Spiritual Life Retreat for Women and Men (Time TBD)

# From Pastor Schuyler's Macbook . . .



## Prepare the Way

I am writing this as I prepare to take a brief vacation before the holiday season starts. As I sit at my desk wrapping up loose ends and completing projects there is a theme resonating within that repeats like a monkish chant. It is the echo of gratefulness that I hear.

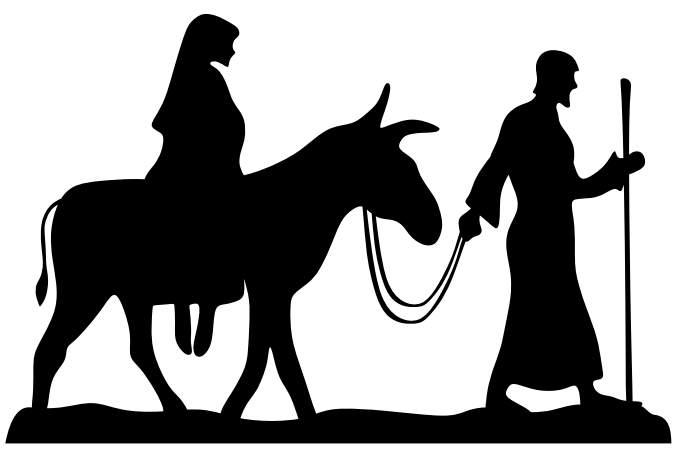
As this year draws to a close, I want to let you know how profoundly grateful I am for this congregation and for the opportunity to accompany you in this season. This is an amazing Christian community. I know we are not perfect. But, dear friends, in the rhythm and dance of ministry, you all consistently live into the power of Christ's transformative love. You lean, time and again, into the sacred space of welcome and acceptance. You sing, in soaring harmony, the songs of hope and justice. And you give unceasingly of yourselves as you grow together in mutual support and compassion.

In the fifteen months I have journeyed with you I have seen your quiet love reaching out with sensitivity and dignity. I have witnessed your generosity as gifts of both money and material pour in to ease the lives of our neighbors. And I have marveled as you move almost instinctively to stand in mutual care and support when members and non-members both find themselves in times of grief and struggle.

I am inspired by you. You have been my teachers and my companions. You have made me laugh and you have moved me to tears. And, you have pushed me to be a better person; a more faithful follower of Jesus.

I know you're probably wondering why I am going on about all this. Well, as we slide into Advent Season with the theme of "Preparing the Way," I am struck that this sense of making a way is part of this church's DNA. As we focus on Preparing the Way for the coming of the Messiah; as we Prepare the Way for the Prince of Peace, my hope is that you all will embrace the truth that this is you. In a season of change and struggle you straight the highway of the Lord by feeding, supporting and lifting up others. In a time of uncertainty, your utter clarity about love and welcome calm nervous spirits and frightened hearts.

And so, let us come together in this season to renew our spirits and refresh our hearts as one more time, we prepare the way together.



Wishing you a blessed Advent season and uttering prayers of thanksgiving for you all, I am yours in the love of the child who is to come.

Pastor Schuyler

# Stewardship

## Devotion to Generosity




Generosity is part of the DNA of a Christian. It's wired into who we are. We inherit this generosity from a God who gave us everything, even to giving God's whole self on the cross so that we might know redemption and new life.

It's from the mouth of this generous God that we are called ourselves into lives of generosity. And make no mistake about it, this Church practices generosity the year round in terms of volunteerism, mutual support, community care and more!

> ***Do you have an idea that just won't go away? An idea about spreading hope and justice; love and compassion? Let's share that knowing that we have the capacity to do anything through the One who saved us.***

And as we come to this moment we shout a loud "alleluia" as we extend this generosity to the fiscal needs of our ministry. The goal is to continually build lives of wholistic stewardship where our generosity wraps around our ministry like the arms of Jesus. Our hope is to increase our giving for the coming year so that we can do more to serve our community. But this isn't just about more money. It's about more ministry.

Let me ask you something - do you have a vision or a dream of something this Church may be called to do? Let's share that and see what's possible. Do you have an idea that just won't go away? An idea about spreading hope and justice; love and compassion? Let's share that knowing that we have the capacity to do anything through the One who saved us for this moment.

As you make your financial commitment for this year, I dare you to do so with the power of your dreams for this church. I know your devotion to generosity, because I have witnessed it. So let me thank you in advance for your commitment; your devotion to the generous love of God in Christ Jesus!

## Becoming an Invitational Church

We know the two things good folk are not supposed to discuss in public are . . . politics and religion.  Have you heard that before?  Well, let's consider this rule as cancelled. Why? Because in our Democracy, we desperately need to talk to each other rather than yell and be angry. If we don't learn to talk with civility and responsibility, things won't go well.

And religion? This is the faith that brought us salvation! This is a way of life that heals and liberates; a process that brings hope to the hopeless; food to the hungry and joy to the downtrodden. How can we not talk about it? How can we not share the joy and excitement we  find in Christian community? How can we not invite others into this safe space; this "sanctuary" of Spirit and life?

The hope that we want to lift up is this - that each one of us will invite and bring someone to church during this season of birthing and new life. It can be family, friends, co-workers, or just someone you know. But please think about reaching out to someone and welcoming them into this Christian community! Neither you or the people you invite will be sorry!

# Community Presbyterian Church Youth Newsletter
# December 2026

## December Lineup:

Wed-Sun, Nov 25-29 Thanksgiving Break! Enjoy time to rest and celebrate God's generous love!
Friday, Dec 4 2:30 Pageant Rehearsal
Sunday, Dec 6 Christmas Pageant (arrive 9:15)
Youth Group Brunch 11:30-1:00
Saturday, Dec 12 Fundraiser Setup 10am
Recess for Parents childcare 12-4
Sunday, Dec 13 Christmas Cookies & Casseroles (and soup!) Fundraiser (no youth group)
Dec 20- Jan 3 No youth activities. Enjoy your winter break and the gift of God-with-us!
Thursday, Dec 24 Christmas Eve Worship 7:00pm

**We need Youth for the Christmas Pageant**!
The Church Pageant is Sunday, December 6 (arrive at 9:15), with a rehearsal on Friday, Dec 4 at 2:30. We will need youth to serve as readers, actors and little kid wranglers.
AND, don't forget that we will go out for brunch to celebrate after the pageant!





### Girls' Group Childcare help wanted: Recess for Parents.

Saturday, Dec 12 noon-4:00 at CPC
Join our Women's Renewal team in providing childcare for kiddos age 4-10. We will offer a snack, crafts, games and a movie. We just need a few young women to help out. If you're in high school and want to volunteer, please contact Jane McCoy 702-375-5813.

### Christmas Cookie and Casserole sale Fundraiser!

Sunday, 12/13 after worship. Please come on Sat 12/12 10am to help set up the sale— bring all your food (at least 2 dozen home-made holiday cookies, 2 frozen home-made casseroles/soups), help decorate, and divvy up jobs. Our goal is to raise $600 towards our various 2027 retreats and rebuild our trip fund for a summer trip.

**Looking ahead (mark your calendars now!):**

- **Saturday, Jan 23, 2027 Snow Day to Brianhead**
- **Saturday, Feb 13 Valentines "Caroling" and Progressive Dinner**
- **Feb 27-28 YUP Retreat in SLC**
- **Graduation and Youth Sunday, May 2**

# Session

## Pastor's Lunch Continues to be a Place of Friendship and Conversation

Every Wednesday at noon we meet in the conference room for Lunch With the Pastor. This is a loosely structured time of fellowship, sharing and conversation. Do you have a question you would like to discuss? Bring it with you! Just come with your own bag lunch and beverage and join the fun!



*meeting of session*

## Date Change

Stated Meetings of Session will be moving from the 2nd Saturday of the month to the 3rd Saturday of every month.
All meetings are open to the congregation! If you would like to see what Session is currently discussing, please come to a meeting and check it out!

***Meetings are held monthly in the CPC classroom at 10:30am***

**December Meeting: 12/19/26**
**January Meeting: 1/16/27**

## Congregational Meeting:
## *Approving Our Pastoral Nominating Committee*

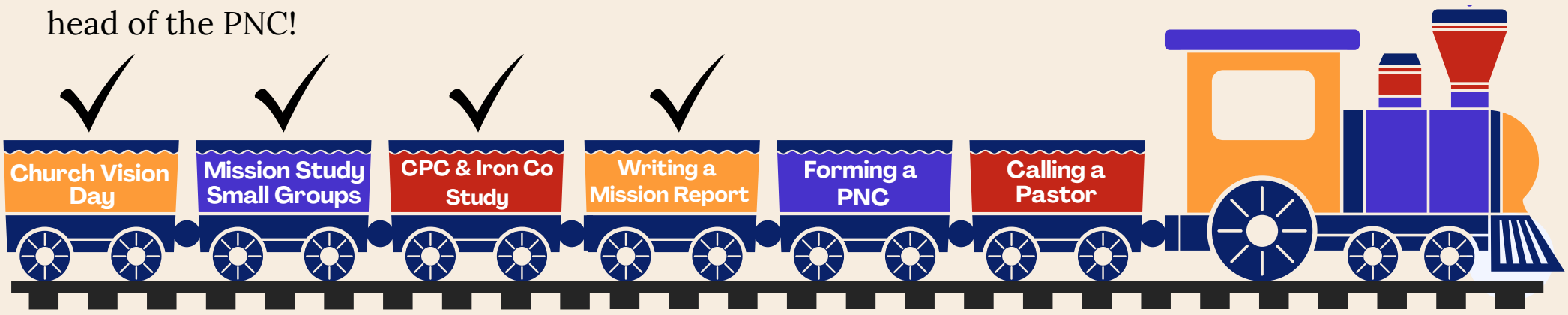
On October 13th the Mission Study Report was sent to the Presbytery of Utah and in November it was approved! The next step will be to elect the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC), who will get to work reaching out to prospective pastors and beginning the interview process.




Session has several names of congregants who are up for election on the PNC. We will be holding a congregational meeting after worship on Dec 6 where members of Community Presbyterian Church may approve these names and form the committee. You must be a member of the church in order to vote during congregational meetings, but everyone is invited to attend, regardless of membership.

IExecutive Presbyter, Mirjam Haas-Melchior will be here in Cedar City on Dec 12-13 to train the PNC and we will be blessed with her presence in the pulpit as well!

As always, if you have any questions about this process please speak with Pastor Schuyler or the head of the PNC!




## Community Presbyterian Financial Snippet

***Year to Date for 2026***

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total Income:** | $201,989 |
| **Total Expenses:** | $198,481 |
| **General Operating Fund Net Income:** | $3,508 |



*Every good and perfect gift is from above!*
**James 1:17**

# Save the Date

**Calendar subject to change. See a full calendar of meetings and events at cedarpres.org**

*Is your birthday missing or incorrect?*

*Please let us know! Email changes to office@cedarpres.org*

# DECEMBER 2026

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29<br>**1st Sunday of Advent** | 30 | 01 OARS - 6pm<br>Letha Houts' Birthday | 02<br>Silent Nights Contemplative Worship 7pm | 03 | 04<br>Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 2:30pm | 05 |
| 06 Christmas Pageant<br>Preparing the Way Bible Study<br>Congregational Meeting<br>**2nd Sunday of Advent** | 07 | 08 | 09<br>Silent Nights Contemplative Worship 7pm | 10<br>Scott Burns' Birthday | 11 | 12<br>Mirjam Haas-Melchior PNC Training<br>RENEWAL Recess for Parents 1pm-4pm |
| 13 Cookies and Casseroles Fundraiser<br>Stachia Brindley's Birthday<br>Preparing the Way Bible Study<br>2nd Sunday Potluck<br>Mirjam Haas-Melchior Preaching<br>**3rd Sunday of Advent** | 14 | 15 | 16 Lunch with Pastor Schuyler Noon<br>Silent Nights Contemplative Worship 7pm<br>Glenda Jones' Birthday | 17 | 18 | 19<br>Meeting of Session - 10:30am |
| 20<br>Preparing the Way Bible Study<br>**4th Sunday of Advent** | 21 | 22<br>Christina Fithian's Birthday | 23 Lunch with Pastor Schuyler Noon<br>Silent Nights Contemplative Worship 7pm | 24<br>**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 7pm**<br>Church Office Closed | 25<br>**Christmas Day** | 26 |
| 27 Ruth Betters' Birthday<br>PJs and Carols Family Style Worship | 28 | 29 | 30 Christina Carrigan's Birthday<br>Lunch with Pastor Schuyler Noon | 31<br>Church Office Closed<br>New Years Eve | 01<br>New Years Day | 02 |

*Upcoming With*




A brief calendaring of RENEWAL Women's Ministry events for the beginning of the new year. If you would like to help plan events or would like more information on a specific women's event, please contact Jane McCoy or the church office!

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| January | 5th | Planning Meeting in CPC Conference Room - 6pm |
| | TBD | Book Club 1st Meeting<br>*Let's pick our first book!* |
| February | 6th | Spiritual Gifts Gathering and Workshop - Time TBD |
| March | 13th | Photo Sharing and Tea Social - 10:00am-11:00am |
| April | TBD | Iron County Care and Share Workday - Time TBD |
| May | 23rd | After-worship Dialogue Gathering<br>*Short meeting after worship for a quick regroup with all the ladies* |

**Rev Schuyler Rhodes,**
**Interim Pastor**
schuylerrhodes@me.com
415-412-7231

**Pr Robyn Eddy,**
**Youth & Young Adult**
pastorrobyn@cedarpres.org
541-579-1557

**Danielle Woodstock,**
**Admin Assistant**
office@cedarpres.org
435-586-8891

## WEEKLY WORSHIP

Sunday
10:00am
Faith Formation Sunday School
*during worship,*
*after children's message*

## CONTACT US

435-586-8891
office@cedarpres.org
cedarpres.org
www.facebook.com/CedarPres

## TREASURES THRIFT STORE

*A ministry of*
*Community Presbyterian Church*

435-865-5972

1093 S Main Street
Cedar City, UT 84720

Thursday - Saturday
10am - 4pm

*December 2026*

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*A newsletter from Community Presbyterian Church*

Community Presbyterian Church
279 N. Wedgewood Lane
Cedar City, Utah 84721

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