

# FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF  
First Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER 12, 2022



## Longing for Hope

### Week Three: Joy - The Journey Towards Joy

Wednesday, December 14th

12:00 noon Worship and Brown Bag

5:30pm Christmas Carols and Trivia ([Sign Up](#))

### Week Four: Love - The Gift

Sunday, December 18th

11:00am Worship with Box

Lunch and Caroling following the  
service ([Sign-Up](#))

Wednesday, December 21st

12:00 noon Worship and Brown  
Bag

First Presbyterian Church  
110 North Adams Street  
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Phone (850) 222-4504  
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[www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oldfirstchurch)

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 a.m.

Adult Church School Meet and  
Greet on Zoom & In Person in the  
Westminster Room Program starts  
at 9:30 a.m.

9:15 a.m.

Nursery open for  
infants - two-year-olds.

9:30 a.m.

Younger Children's Class  
Room 306

Older Children's Class  
Room 301

11:00 a.m.

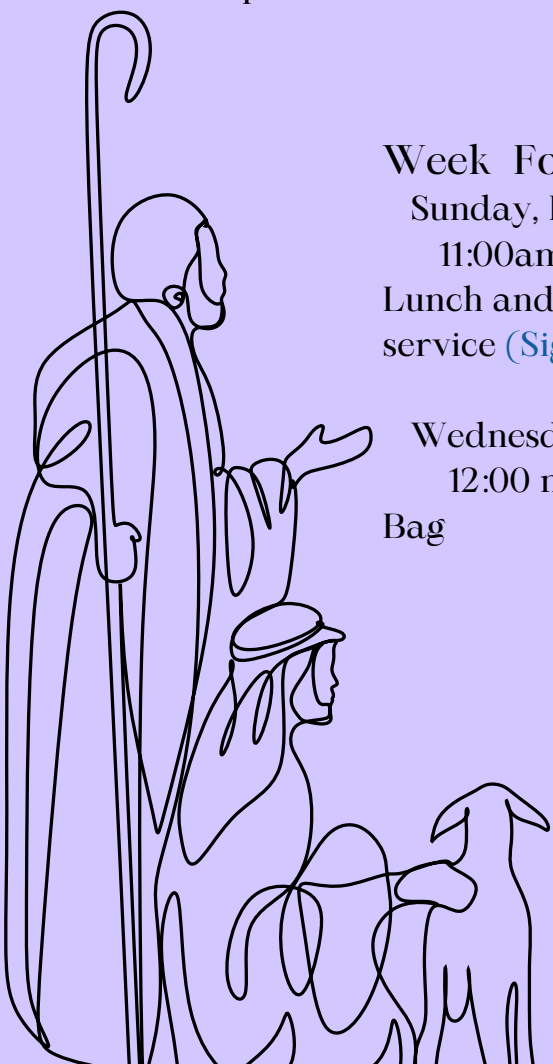
Worship in the Sanctuary.  
Childcare is available for children  
younger than kindergarten.



In Person and  
Live-Stream Worship  
Visit [www.oldfirstchurch.org](http://www.oldfirstchurch.org) to  
download Sunday's bulletin and  
view the service. Services are  
recorded and available for later  
viewing on YouTube  
[@FPCTallahassee](https://www.youtube.com/@FPCTallahassee).



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Monday-Friday





## **A Message from Our Pastor**

### **Rev. Anne H.K. Apple**

As you read this reflection, our family has 12 days on the ground in Tallahassee. Maybe that number is just right as it harkens my heart forward to the twelve days of Christmas which will lead us right into Epiphany - that day when we remember the wise ones following the light to Christ, bringing gifts to present, and going home by another way. At the session meeting, I shared some learnings from our first few days in Tallahassee.

1. In all the conversations, and listening, what I know to be true is how beautiful it is to see how faith in Jesus Christ has been nurtured over time at First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee. That faith - of being held well in God's hand - is evidenced in how the members and staff have shown up and been present in times of greatest need and deepest joy.
2. Moving is hard work made easier by multiple hands and the gracious hospitality of welcome. We received bakery boxes and meals. We received welcome baskets and bottles of wine. We received the help of many unwrapping our kitchen and setting it up. AND ... in case the rumor is out there, we do have a lot of candles, maybe a sinful lot, and it is pretty true that if there is a power shortage, we have enough candles to share the light.
3. I have heard the language of "should." "We should have, ..." As a student of Brene Brown, I wonder what it would look like to invite using the word, "could." "We could have ..."
4. Sometimes, a well asked question - asked in humility - and with space left for silence and reflection, makes for a deeper, more meaningful connection. And sometimes that connection is grounded in God's gentleness, forgiveness, and understanding.
5. A Posada is a great way to gather with intention and to tell Christ's story with creativity.
6. Moving to a new church context requires keys that work well, a working knowledge and memory of passwords that make computers and printers function appropriately, and the importance of multiple copies of the church directory (home, office, and car) - especially if you are going visiting!
7. The stewardship of Christ's love is not free from pain and suffering and it is a risk worth taking.

Thank you for your gracious welcome to Jim and me. It is truly a joy to be here in service to Christ's love. You are good and faithful people.

## December 2022 - Session Update

The Session met following worship, seated around round tables, and with several members by Zoom, for its stated meeting, December 11, 2022, at 12:30.

The meeting began with a leadership development exercise adapted from *Making Disciples, Making Leaders* by Steve Eason. Elders reflected on specific life events in a given time frame and shared points of self-awareness and growth in God's grace. Following this exercise, the Session had a short introduction to John Gottman's [\*Four Horsemen\*](#) and Patrick Lencioni's, *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*. [\*Five Dysfunctions of a Team\*](#)

### **Action Items Taken by the Session:**

1. The Christmas Eve offering will support Habitat for Humanity.
2. To renew a 6-month contract of property and liability insurance.
3. To seek our requests for proposals from two external CPA firms for an audit, review, or compilation with agreed upon procedures to bring to the January Session meeting for discussion and decision making.
4. David Strange, Class of 2025, was elected as Treasurer.
5. To adopt a stub budget. To move forward utilizing Quarter 1 2022 figures for Quarter 1 2023 with a full budget proposal to the Session in February, with approval in March 2023.
6. The pastor's discretionary fund was reinstated.
7. The communion schedule for 2023 was presented and approved.

# CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGALONG & TRIVIA

December 14 at 5:30 pm  
Westminster Room

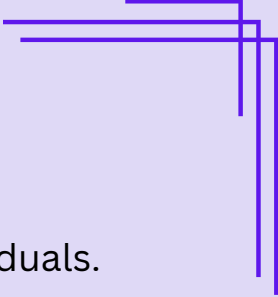
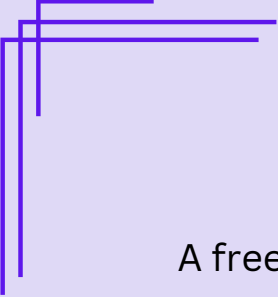


December 14 is your opportunity to rebel against the liturgical calendar and indulge in all things Christmas! Following dinner and fellowship, we will alternate between Christmas carol singalongs and trivia rounds, so there's something for singers, brainiacs, and everyone else of all ages to enjoy. Prizes will be awarded to our trivia champions and the most creative team name. As an added bonus, our very own Ethan Murphy will emcee! You won't want to miss this festive evening.

Please RSVP via this sign-up genius link so we get a final headcount for food:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c4eaba62ba0fe3-christmas>

(if you have trouble with the sign-up genius, email Emily Bruno at [bruno.emilyann@gmail.com](mailto:bruno.emilyann@gmail.com))



## Save Money on Church Energy Bills! Attract New Members! Help Save the Planet!

A free webinar of practical ideas for congregations and individuals.

We will hear from experienced church leaders from California, Kentucky, Arkansas, New York, and West Virginia. Energy conservation, solar panels, heat pumps, new grants for churches from Inflation Reduction Act, planet-healthy potluck suppers for churches, lawn care, electric vehicles charging stations, Christmas ideas for family and friends, and more ideas for a difference.

Churches that are caring for God's creation attract young adults and young families with children, two demographic groups that are concerned about climate change.

Have you looked at your church's energy bills lately? "Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects heating a home [and church] with natural gas will cost an extra 25% this winter, and heating with electric will run 11% higher. The steepest hike will be on heating oil, which is expected to be 45% more expensive than last winter" (CNN).

"World has nine years to avert catastrophic warming, study shows" was the headline in the Washington Post, Friday, Nov. 11 from the international COP27 meeting in Egypt. Our 2012 Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly voted to "Call upon the whole Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to reduce our carbon imprint by 25 percent in the next four years."

"We've talked long enough. It's now time for action. Every presbytery leader, pastor and church member needs to get involved. We don't have the luxury of time anymore," said PCUSA GA Stated Clerk, J. Herbert Nelson. "I am encouraged by the time spent with clergy who share the same concerns for our environment. We must do more."

Giving an hour to learn how to better care for the earth through saving money on church energy bills is a wonderful Christmas gift for Jesus – "for God so loved the world (the original biblical word here is "cosmos," the whole of creation) that he sent his only Son" (John 3:16).

Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022  
Time: 7:30 pm Eastern (6:30 Central, 5:30 Mountain, 4:30 Pacific)

Please click the button below to register for this FREE webinar.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)







## Caroling Sunday, December 18

Join us for a box lunch and caroling at Westminster Oaks and other locations on Sunday, December 18, immediately following worship! We'll provide lunch, song books, and plans. Please bring a mask for wearing while indoors at Westminster Oaks or other residences. The weather should be mild, so we will stay outdoors where we can.

Just let us know to order a box lunch for you either on Sign-Up Genius; by calling the church office; or sending Peggy an email at [pwestdoodah11@gmail.com](mailto:pwestdoodah11@gmail.com). We'll have water to drink but you can bring your favorite drink, if you prefer. If you need a veggie option instead of a meat sandwich, just let us know when you RSVP.

Come and let's make a Joyful Noise together!

**December 18 Caroling**  
**Sign-Up Link**



**Give Your Friends a Gift They'll  
Love This Christmas or Anytime**

Visit UKirk Tallahassee's Calvin Coffee House or buy a Calvin's gift card online. Calvin's serves delicious, fair trade, locally-roasted coffee drinks at a fair price, as well as noncoffee drinks such as flavored lemonades, tea, hot chocolate, and more. See what else is offered:

<http://ukirktallahassee.com/calvins.html>.





Friends of Dogwood Acres,

As 2022 takes its final bow and we turn to greet a brand-new year, the Dogwood Acres committee cannot help but smile. Not only have we steered through the troubled waters of a pandemic, we have also re-tooled and made ready for a new era in camping and conferencing.

In the past year alone Dogwood Acres has constructed an elegant new storage building, renovated two of 10 cabins, hired a program director (Eric Hearn), and hired a new director (Christy Williams). The committee together with its directors have already taken steps to increase programming focused on the needs of our presbytery, as well as build back the summer camp program for children and youth.

In 2023 we will be offering a Confirmation retreat, a women's yoga and mindfulness retreat, and five weeks of summer camp, one devoted to high school youth alone. We have also recently purchased software that promises to simplify the registration process in 2023, making it completely digital. The future is bright indeed!

There are multiple ways you can continue to be part of the mission and ministry of Dogwood Acres. The first is to join us for one of the many retreats offered in 2023 or encourage your congregation to come out for a church retreat. You might also consider volunteering to help at the camp. There are a variety of volunteer options and Christy Williams will be glad to find something that fits your gifts and interests ([Christy@dogwoodacres.org](mailto:Christy@dogwoodacres.org)). And we would appreciate your consideration of an end of the year donation to the camp. Donations received now will secure the programming dreams we have for 2023. You can give online through our website or by using the envelope included.

We could not possibly be in such a healthy position if it were not for the many supporters of Dogwood Acres. Thank you, camper parents, faithful volunteers, ongoing donors, and all churches within the presbytery of Florida for contributing to this unique outdoor ministry. Together we are building on the past to provide a glorious future. Together we are assuring that Dogwood Acres fosters Christian fellowship and friendship, nurtures reformed faith, and develops strong disciples for many years to come.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to you!

Rev. William Lamont  
Dogwood Acres Chair

THE OUTDOOR MINISTRY OF THE PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA  
3320 HARMONY ROAD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA 32428 -- (850) 535-2695



# Elder Elf Gift Program

For many years now, the Presbyterian Women Circles of our congregation have partnered with Elder Care Services (ECS) to brighten the holiday for seniors in our community through the Elder Elf gift program. Our six bible study Circles were each assigned a senior client of ECS and given that senior's modest list of items needed, from moisturizing lotion to laundry detergent, flannel pajamas to a new frying pan, and sometimes a gift for their caregiver/spouse as well. Our donated funds often far exceed the total items requested, so we are able to also purchase and include in our gifts microwave ovens and portable heaters that are distributed by social workers to those most in need among their clients. This past week, Elder Care Services enthusiastically received our Christmas delivery, and will distribute our presents next week.

We are grateful for our blessings, and for the opportunity to share with others in the name of First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee.





# LIGHT *of* *the* WORLD

## *Adult Church School*

Sunday, December 18, 2022

9:30 a.m. start time

(9:15 a.m. meet and greet)

This Sunday, 12/18, the Adult Sunday School class concludes our study of Amy Jill "AJ" Levine's "Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent." The final installment, "The Gifts of the Gentiles," invites us to understand the different emphases in Luke's and Matthew's stories of Jesus' birth, appreciate Matthew's genealogy as a theological meditation and not just a list of names, reflect on the role of prophecy and the connection of the two Testaments, understand the place of the Magi in historical and literary context, and see how for Luke and Matthew, knowing the political contexts adds richness to their Gospels.

After this last lesson, we will take a break until after the holidays. There will be no Sunday school on either 12/25 or 1/1.



# Sunday Church School



**DECEMBER 18, 2022**

## **Younger Children's Class**

9:30am Room 306

The Younger Children's Class (Pre-K - 3rd grade) will wrap up their exploration of Jesus' beginnings for the Advent season.

## **Older Children's Class**

9:30am Room 301

The Older Children's Class (4th-8th grade) will continue to explore the people of the Old Testament, focusing on Daniel this week.



## **Nursery and Preschool Childcare**

9:15 a.m. – the end of worship

Infants and children up to three years old – main floor nursery  
Three – Pre-K children – third floor preschool classroom

The Twinkle Toes Agency staffs both rooms. All our sitters are CPR/First Aid trained and have had a full background screening. There are two sitters in each room. Please don't hesitate to contact Eleanor Cleveland at [eicleveland18@gmail.com](mailto:eicleveland18@gmail.com) about childcare.



Thank you to all who donated Advent Poinsettias.

David, Meredith and Darsey Strange in memory of Marilyn Strange

Robyn and Lawrence Stevenson in memory of Teri (Teresa) Green and Dr. Wilton Kane

Ann and Rod Westall in memory of Ann's parents - Natalie and Edwin Dalstrom, of  
Rod's parents - Lat and Jewel Westall, and of Ann's brother Peter Dalstrom

Jan Bush in memory of Elizabeth Riley Moran and James Moran (Jan's maternal  
grandparents)

Rich Peyton in memory of Ellen Peyton

Donna Barber in memory of Frances and Pete Mahaffey

Miriam Gurniak in memory of Charles T. Witmer and David F. Gurniak  
Harriet Chase in memory of Margaret Anne Chase and in honor of Katherine and Rip Caleen

Glenn and Kerry Laird in memory of Harry and Hazel Laird, Lee and Audrey Rivers,  
Elisabeth Rivers Schneider and Cecile Lane Chambers

Walter and Marian Moore in thanksgiving for the Rev. Anne Apple

Norma Meier in memory of George Meier

Ed and Mary Kutter

You may take your poinsettia(s) home with you after the Christmas Eve service or the  
Christmas Day service.



**Food Offering  
for Elder Care Services and  
Second Harvest of the Big Bend  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023**

**OUR FOOD GIFTS ARE GREATLY  
APPRECIATED.**

Thank you so much for your wonderful support of our First Sunday Food Collection efforts these past three months! Your food donations are brought alternately to Second Harvest and to Elder Care Services (ECS), and have been converted to literally hundreds of meals for our hungry and food insecure neighbors. We have all seen the increased prices in the grocery store, and ECS food pantry organizer, Linda, recently shared that the need in our community now is even greater than it has been. So please mark your calendars now for our next food collection date on Sunday, January 8th, 2023, (delayed one week due to the holiday), when our proceeds will be brought to ECS.

Please consider including in your grocery list some items for those food-insecure neighbors around us. For questions, please contact Jan Bush. A list of the most-needed items is provided here for your convenience.

**Cereal**

**Peanut Butter**

**Canned: Fruits, Vegetables, Meats, and  
Hearty Soup/Stew**



**The Choir meets at 10:15  
a.m. on Sundays and 7:00  
p.m. on Wednesdays and we  
are open to all singers.**

**Contact Ethan Murphy or  
the church office for more  
information.**



**Join the Tallahassee Guns to  
Gardens Movement**

Guns to Gardens is a grassroots ministry that safely and legally dismantles and destroys unwanted firearms. The remaining metal pieces are then forged into life-giving garden tools.

Interested in doing this prophetic work with us? All are welcome in the movement! We are especially looking for volunteers with any of the following skills and/or equipment:

- Comfort and experience with power tools
- Firearms safety training and comfort handling firearms
- Blacksmithing
- Welding
- Owns a metal-cutting chop saw
- Pastoral care



**Contact us at:**

**[gunstogardens@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:gunstogardens@oldfirstchurch.org)**

They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. - Isaiah 2:4



# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



## SERVING MEALS AT GRACE MISSION

First Pres has volunteered to help serve Sunday dinner at Grace Mission on the second Sunday of every month. The next date is **Sun. January 8**; we meet at 4 pm and are finished by 6 pm.

If you are interested in helping in this worthwhile effort, please

contact Carol Weissert at [cweissert@fsu.edu](mailto:cweissert@fsu.edu) or go to the Sign Up Genius page directly at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4caca72ca3f85-grace1>

Hope you can join us.



## SECOND HARVEST

### BREAD BOXING

**Friday January 6  
from 9:45 - Noon**

If you are interested in joining your First Pres family in helping provide food for the hungry in December, you can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4caca72ca3f85-second>

or

contact Debbie Gibson at [gibsond1207@mail.com](mailto:gibsond1207@mail.com) or 850-656-3659.

We hope you can join us some time soon.

## Presbytery of Florida

produces a monthly electronic newsletter

that you may access using this link:

[Panhandle Presbyterian](#)



# FIRST PRESS

The newsletter  
of  
First Presbyterian  
Church

The newsletter is prepared on Mondays, including those Mondays that fall on holidays. Please submit items for publication to: [newsletter@oldfirstchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@oldfirstchurch.org) **no later than noon** on production Mondays; or, if possible, earlier the previous week.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**



**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**

Gifts can be made online, by calling (800) 872-3283, by texting PDAUKR to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church U.S.A. with "DR000156-Ukraine" on the memo line. Mail to:  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

### Post-Hurricane Ian: Disaster Relief



1. Write checks to First Pres and designate FLDAPDAN or PDA US Hurricane Response.
2. Send funds directly to FLAPDAN at: Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, Inc, 3146 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32609. Earmark your donation with Hurricane Ian. To give with a credit card you can click the page's "Give Now" link at [FLAPDAN's](#).
3. Send funds to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) marking your check with DR000169 for US Hurricane Response at Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 64370, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Call PDA with a credit card donation at 800-872-3283 Or give with your credit card through the [PDA US Hurricane Response web page](#).
4. If you have or want to put together a mission team to go to the affected areas to help with recovery efforts, information found at [FLAPDAN Volunteer](#) will get you started.

Should you have questions, feel free to contact Presbyterery FLAPDAN liaison Tim Crawford at [tcrawford@cox.net](mailto:tcrawford@cox.net) or (850) 217-2597 or FLAPDAN directly at [fla.pdan@pcusa.org](mailto:fla.pdan@pcusa.org) or (941) 483-0675.



## **Sunday Festival Readings**

**December 18, 2022  
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

ISAIAH 7:10-16

PSALM 80:1-7,17-19

ROMANS 1:1-7

MATTHEW 1:18-25



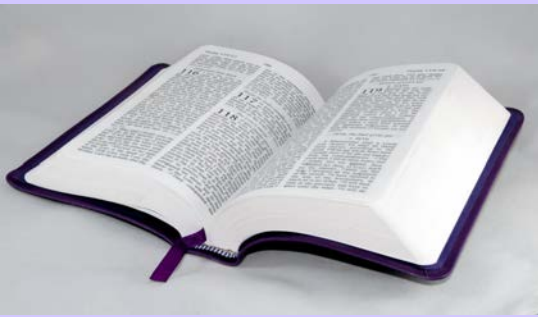
Holy scripture teaches us that God created humankind in god's own image. Christ calls us to love God, with all our mind, soul, and heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. With this comes the sacred responsibility to treat each human being with the love and respect due to a child of God.

We acknowledge the long history of systemic racism that, through violence, laws, policies, and their implementation, was intended to exclude persons who are not Caucasian from benefits and opportunities - from the first European settlers who considered themselves entitled to land and violently displaced indigenous people from their homes, to the equally long history of slavery which built the wealth of this country, to Jim Crow laws to current instances of police brutality and the overwhelming mass incarceration of people of color.

We declare ourselves utterly opposed to all forms of systemic racism. We are committed to standing with those who find themselves on the receiving end of any form of racism. We will seek out opportunities to oppose all forms of systematic racism and to ensure that black lives matter, as do those of indigenous, Asian, and Latinx people and persons of all colors or countries of origin. Our faith tells us that we can do no less, if we truly affirm that all human beings are made in god's image.

We dream of a day in which all persons are treated as bearers of that image.





# DAILY LECTIONARY FOR DECEMBER 16-31 , 2022

**Friday, December 16**

Morning: Pss. 102; 148  
Evening: Pss. 130; 16  
Isa. 10:5-19  
2 Pet. 2:17-22  
Matt. 11:2-15

**Saturday, December 17**

Morning: Pss. 90; 149  
Evening: Pss. 80; 72  
Isa. 10:20-27  
Jude 17-25  
Luke 3:1-9

**Sunday, December 18**

Morning: Pss. 24; 150  
Evening: Pss. 25; 110  
Isa. 11:1-9  
Eph. 6:10-20  
John 3:16-21

**Monday, December 19**

Morning: Pss. 122; 145  
Evening: Pss. 40; 67  
Isa. 11:10-16  
Rev. 20:1-10  
John 5:30-47

**Tuesday, December 20**

Morning: Pss. 33; 146  
Evening: Pss. 85; 94  
Isa. 28:9-22  
Rev. 20:11-21:8  
Luke 1:5-25

**Wednesday, December 21**

Morning: Pss. 50; 147:1-11  
Evening: Pss. 53; 17  
Isa. 29:9-24  
Rev. 21:9-21  
Luke 1:26-38

**Thursday, December 22**

Morning: Pss. 18:1-20; 147:12-20  
Evening: Pss. 126; 62  
Isa. 31:1-9  
Rev. 21:22-22:5  
Luke 1:39-48a (48b-56)

**Friday, December 23**

Morning: Pss. 102; 148  
Evening: Pss. 130; 16  
Isa. 33:17-22  
Rev. 22:6-11, 18-20  
Luke 1:57-66

**Saturday, December 24**

Morning Pss. 90; 149  
Evening: Pss. 80; 7  
Isa. 35:1-10  
Rev. 22:12-17, 2  
Luke 1:67-80

**Sunday, December 25**

Morning: Pss. 2; 150  
Evening: Pss. 98; 96  
Zech. 2:10-13  
John 4:7-16  
John 3:31-36

**Monday, December 26**

Morning: Pss. 116; 145  
Evening: Pss. 119:1-24; 27 2  
Chr. 24:17-22  
Acts 6:1-7  
Acts 7:59-8:8

**Tuesday, December 27**

Morning: Pss. 34; 146  
Evening: Pss. 19; 121  
Prov. 8:22-30  
John 5:1-12  
John 13:20-35

**Wednesday, December 28**

Morning: Pss. 2; 147:1-11  
Evening: Pss. 110; 111  
Isa. 49:13-23  
Isa. 54:1-13  
Matt. 18:1-14

**Thursday, December 29**

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:12-20  
Evening: Pss. 132; 97  
Isa. 12:1-6  
Rev. 1:1-8  
John 7:37-52

**Friday, December 30**

Morning: Pss. 93; 148  
Evening: Pss. 89:1-52  
Isa. 25:1-9  
Rev. 1:19-20  
John 7:53-8:11

**Saturday, December 31**

Morning: Pss. 98; 149  
Evening: Pss. 45; 96  
Isa. 26:1-6  
2 Cor. 5:16-6:2  
John 8:12-19

If you wish to read these on your computer you  
will find them on the PCUSA website [here](#).