

Central Happenings

SUNDAY – December 31

10:00am Worship (Sanctuary/Online)

WEDNESDAY – January 3

10:00am WOW (Fitch Parlor)

12:00pm Charity Knitters (Discipleship)

5:30pm Bell Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY – January 4

7:00pm Central Choir Practice (Rehearsal Hall)

The office is closed tomorrow in observance of the New Year holiday.

The Christmas Joy offering (one of four annual special offerings by PCUSA) aids current and retired pastors in need and develops future leaders at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please mark your checks “Christmas Joy” on the memo line. Donations are being accepted through today.

Adult Sunday School will resume on January 7, 2024 in Fitch Parlor at 9:00am. We will begin our Bible Study with an Introduction of the Bible and its 66 Books. Come join us as we explore what God's Plan for us can be found in our Bible.

Christmas Eve Shepherds' Run Project – Thanks to all who contributed and participated in this service project. Our First Responders were wonderfully surprised and felt appreciated.

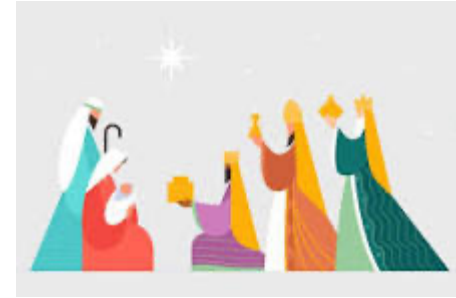
O Holy Night – 10 Reflections on Carols of Christmas is available on the table in the back of the sanctuary and at the reception desk. Please help your yourself ...grab a copy or three and share it with your friends and family.

Save the Date: Sunday February 11, 2024 is the first ever Deacons Chili/Soup Super Bowl Party after worship. Stay tuned for more information.

Ordination and Installation of our new Deacons and Elders will take place next Sunday January 7 during worship.

Pastor: Wil Reinowski
Traditional Music & Organist: Jeffrey Stearns
Adult Handbells: Janice Spitalniak
Contemporary Music: Paul Foster
Custodian: Bob Hill

A Stephen Ministry Congregation
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Central Presbyterian Church

Epiphany
December 31, 2023



Welcome

Prelude “Here I Am to Worship” (Tim Hughes)

***Call to Worship** Deb Hester

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come.

People: Behold the glory of the Lord. Alleluia!

***Hymn** “What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright” 152

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, Light of the world, we confess that we have not resisted the darkness of sin. You deliver the poor and the helpless, but we have ignored their cry. You take pity on the weak and the destitute, but our hearts are hard in the face of their need. You heal the wounded and save the oppressed but we have placed our trust in the callous violence of war. Forgive us, we pray. Awaken in us sincere repentance that we may shine with the light of your saving grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: Beloved of God, thrill and rejoice in God's goodness. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Congregational Response

"Glory to God in the Highest" (back cover Hymnal)

*Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Anthem

"Brightest and Best" (Heber/Shephard)

Second Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

Message

"A Phenomenal Llama" Rev. Wil Reinowski

*Hymn

"We Three Kings of Orient Are" 151

*Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed (page 35 Hymnal)

***Congregational Response** "Gloria Patri" 581

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Offering

The offering basket is located at the back of the west aisle of the sanctuary. Feel free to leave your offering at any time.

Offertory "Cry of My Heart" (Terry Butler)

***Doxology** 606

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

**Loving God, we give you thanks for the light of the world,
Jesus Christ, through whom we have become fellow heirs,**

**members of the same body, and sharers in your promise.
Receive the gifts we offer in union with Jesus our brother, and
help us to live to the honor and glory of your name. Amen.**

***Hymn** "As with Gladness Men of Old" 150

*Benediction

Postlude "As with Gladness Men of Old" (John Leavitt)



** Please stand as you are able.*



In Our Prayers

We pray for Nancy Fitzsimons and Don Racheter for health reasons. We also pray for our Special Care friends Mary Lou Allen & Peggy Anderson.

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again
Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name. Amen.