



# The Bell Ringer



## YOUR SUNDAY INVITATION

9am: Sunday School

10am: Worship

11:00 am: Fellowship

Dear Church,

A few weeks ago I was organizing a closet at home when I came upon one of my diploma folders. It was the one I had received most recently upon the completion of my Doctor of Ministry program. I opened the folder and was surprised to find...no diploma! Instead, tucked in the four corners of the folder was the pre-diploma letter that read something to the effect of, "You graduated. You'll get your diploma when the grades are in." And I thought, How very much like Advent.

Advent — the four weeks leading up to Christmas — is often called a season of waiting. But it's also a season of tension. A season of living between — between graduation and getting the diploma; between Christ's incarnation and ascension and his return. On the one hand, during Advent we wait to celebrate the coming of Jesus "for us and our salvation," as the Nicene Creed puts it. His saving work is already in hand. We've already graduated, so to speak (or, to use New Testament language, we've already been reconciled to God and adopted as heirs in Christ). On the other hand, during Advent we know that Jesus has already come and now we wait for his return. We're in-between. In this tension.

It's exactly what we hear in our first Advent text on December 03 from Isaiah 64. Isaiah says to God, "When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down." But first he prays, "O that you *would* tear open the heavens and come down" [*my emphasis*]. In other words, you've come before and we're longing for you to come again. We're in this tension. Or, here's what Paul says to the Corinthians: "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus". But then he goes on to pray that they would be strengthened so as to not be "lacking in any spiritual gift as [they] wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:5, 7). Jesus has already come with grace *and* we're still waiting for him to be revealed again. We're in this tension.

Advent is a season of tension, where we practice living between what is and what shall be; between the inauguration of God's kingdom and its consummation; between our reconciliation to God and our reunion, when we shall see him face to face. We've got the letter that says, "I am making all things new," but we're still waiting on the "diploma" that will show it to be truly true. I think this is what makes it possible to lament the deep pains we see in our world and in our own lives, and yet to lament with hope. We know what God has done and we know what he's promised to do, which allows to be deeply angry, tired, and sad about the things that ought not be — things that are contrary to

(Continued on page 2)

God's good and loving purposes — and yet deeply hopeful about what is yet to be — walking with courage and purpose toward the horizon of God's redemption. Walking as his Spirit-filled body on earth until he comes again.

This Advent how can you practice occupying this space between? How can we practice living in the tension with longing and hope until our faith becomes sight and it is finally on earth (and in Timnath) as it is in heaven?

Grace and peace,

— Pastor Jonathan

P.S. — The diploma did finally come in the mail.

## Advent Church-Family Nights Return!

Join in on Wednesday nights at 5:25 pm as we prepare for Christ's advent with our hearts (12/6), hands (12/13), and heads (12/20). There will be supper, singing, and more for all ages.

**NOTE:** On Wednesday, December 13th, you're invited to deliver cards and sing carols at Collinwood Assisted Living and McKenzie Place. We'll begin at Collinwood at 4pm, move to McKenzie place around 4:45, and then return to Timnath for pizza and evening prayer. *If you can't make the card delivery and carols, you're absolutely still welcome to meet at the church for supper and prayer!*

## Observing Advent

Advent is the first *season* in the Church year. It begins December 03 and will end on December 25, Christmas Day. Advent means *arrival*, or coming. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, we practice watching and waiting for the full arrival of God's kingdom and the coming of Jesus Christ, the savior of the world. Each year I like offer a few resources that might help you create space to be attentive to the Lord, waiting on him. Choose one (of these, or something else), commit, and together let's walk toward the light of Christmas.

### **The Psalms**

Read the psalms as prayers and you'll begin to find yourself praying for yourself and others in completely new ways. The psalms invite us to access all our emotions before God and move us to trust amidst all of life. (You could easily pray the Psalms of Ascent [120-134] through Advent. These are ancient pilgrim prayers/songs for people as they would make their way up toward the temple in Jerusalem)

**Waiting on the Word:** *A poem a day for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany*, by Malcolm Guite.

In this great collection, poet Malcolm Guite selects a favorite poem for the first day of Advent through Christmastide and offers a brief spiritual reflection on it.

### **Lectio 365**

Lectio 365 is a free daily devotional app that helps you pray the Bible daily. It offers morning and evening prayer and is available in written or audio formats. You can find more info and download the app here: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365/>

**God Is In the Manger:** *Reflections on Advent and Christmas*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

This wonderful Advent devotional has a short Scripture reading and a brief writing by Bonhoeffer for each day of Advent and Christmas. Check out a copy in church library!

# Cut from the Confessions

## Cut from the Confessions

This column features *clippings* from our historic creeds and confessions. Our current focus is on the Nicene Creed. The final form of this creed comes from 381 A.D. and seeks to confess the orthodox (i.e. true) Christian faith in a context of dispute. The creed is Trinitarian in nature with special concern on the second paragraph concerning the nature and work of Jesus. It is regarded as the most ecumenical of creeds.

Two brief observations on the close of this second paragraph: *Why* Jesus came and *how*. First, *how*. Last month we saw how the creed stresses Jesus' divinity and oneness with the Father ("God from God, light from light"). But here what is declared? How does this one creating and creative God come to us? As "truly human." The one God as one of us. The gospel is empty apart from the news incarnation, Jesus "incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary." Only by becoming what we are could he take our place and ultimately invite us to become what he is — heirs of the kingdom. Which gets to the *why* of Jesus' coming: "For us and for our salvation..." This is the one and only reason of Jesus incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension. Because the triune God has willed to be God with us, and not to be God without us, "for us and for our salvation [Jesus] came down from heaven." In order to be God with us and live die, rise, and reign for us, so that we may be with him. As you prepare to hear the Christmas story again this season, wonder again at the how and give God glory for the why.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ...For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

- From, The Nicene Creed, in *The Book of Confessions*, 1.2.

## Generosity/Time & Talent

**Did you know?....**Practicing generosity is part of how we live into the gospel. Your financial giving and your time are needed so that our congregation can grow in faith and continue to participate in God's mission for Timnath and the world, both now and in the years to come. There's still time to turn in your Pledge and Time & Talent sheets before the end of the year. You can put them in the offerin plate during worship and bring them into the church office during the week. Thank you for your generous giving and your response to Christ's call.

### THANK YOU!

Thank you to our church family. Your caring, concern, and prayers are much appreciated during my knee surgery recuperation. Thank you for all of the cards, calls, texts, visits, meals, and prayers. Your support is what helps get us through this time. Thanks to Mike, as he is having to drive "Miss Daisy" everywhere! A special thanks to Pastor Jonathan for his pastoral care. You guys are the BEST and I am so grateful to God to be a part of this family. Bev



# Session Highlights

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS (from November 14, 2023 Meeting)

- Met with Diane Stapleton to discuss how her role as Director of Youth Ministry has evolved over the past eight months.
- To date, 35 pledges have been received for 2024, totaling \$126,830. For 2023, 42 total pledges were received, totaling \$138,730.
- Approved Pastor Jonathan's request for vacation time December 26-31, including Sunday, December 31.
- Members of a new short-term task force will be reviewing our church website and giving suggestions for how it can be more informative and user friendly.
- Approved the purchase of new flooring for the church kitchen.
- A Christmas Eve worship service will be at 7:00 p.m.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS (from November 19, 2023 Special Meeting)

- Approved a request by Trevor and Hannah Pagani to baptize their son, Jackson.
- Met with Gilbert Fisher, Colby Killip, and Zaiyah Olson, who have completed a confirmation class this fall on Sunday mornings. Discussed their reasons for wanting to be confirmed in our church. Approved their confirmation, to be held during the worship service on December 10, 2023.

# Young Children and Worship

Young Children & Worship (YC&W) ends the calendar year by beginning the church year — that is, with the season of Advent. Each week our children will “journey to Bethlehem,” meeting characters from the Christmas story along the way.

As we come to the end of this first “semester” of YC&W we are filled with gratitude for the storytellers, doorkeepers, materials-makers, and the general support of the congregation in the ministry for children. Thank you for your generosity. Let's keep dreaming of ways to engage children with the good news!

- **NOTICE:** 4th Family Sunday will move to the 5th Sunday in December so that children will hear the Christmas story the morning of Dec. 24. (Usually every 4th Sunday of the month there is NO Young Children & Worship.)
- **We still need...**Story Materials for the winter/spring. There is a master list of things still needed.



# Advent & Christmas Events

## Timnath Holiday Lighting Festival

Church Open-House and Festivities in Old Town  
Friday, December 1// 5:30-7:30pm

## Weekly Advent Church-Family Nights

Supper, Singing, Scripture and a Project for All Ages  
Wednesdays in Advent December 6, 13, & 20 // 5:25pm

## Christmas Eve Service

Lessons, Carols, and Candlelight  
Sunday, December 24 // 7:00pm

## Circle of Fellowship

Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 19th at 7:00pm at MacKenzie Place. We will be discussing Lesson Four from *Sacred Encounter: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Luke*.

### COOKIE PLATES

All women of the church are welcome to join us in this fun activity. We are asking for you to provide 3 dozen cookies, candy or special Christmas treat that will be plated, wrapped, and delivered. The recipients are our shut-ins, folks who have gone through a particularly difficult year, and Old Town Businesses including the fire and police stations. We will meet on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 for a cup of coffee/tea/chocolate, plate the cookies and then deliver them. We hope you will join us.

### ***Christmas Joy Special Offering (PCUSA) Dec. 3-Dec. 24***

The Christmas Joy Special Offering supports current and retired church workers and their families in need. Church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through challenging times. Your offering also supports Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Presbyterians have carried out this support for nearly 140 years.

Thank you for your generous gift and ongoing prayers for all those it supports. Your gift does make a difference! You will find envelopes in the pews and on the Giving Tree.

## Annual Reports

Please submit Committee Reports for the 2023 Annual Report to the office by Sunday, January 1st. The report will be published by January 14th.

### **Bell Ringer Items Due**

Please send your written submissions to: [staff@timnathpres.org](mailto:staff@timnathpres.org) or place them on the admin's desk in the church office by **Sunday, January 14th**.



# Outreach Ministry

## ***“Christmas arrives early for the Little Free Library and Book Cart”***

Wonderful Christmas presents!

Generous donations of children’s books for the Little Free Library and the Book Cart were received recently. The donations were given to the church from Roberta Wheeler, a retired teacher and new member of our congregation. Also, from Bryer Shepherd, a member of the Outreach Ministry Committee who received book donations from a local author Kathleen Harward. The Book Table at the Church Craft Show was very successful. Featured on the table were some of the recent book donations. Donations of \$121.00 were received for the First Responders Trauma Counselors. Thank you for your continued and generous support to the Little Free Library, Book Cart, and our designated charity.

## ***Timnath Elementary Schools***

Mentoring continues in both of the elementary schools with the students looking forward to sharing with their mentors. TPC works with a total of 19 students each week. 44/\$25 gift cards were provided to families at Timnath Elementary School before the start of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Staff at Bethke and Timnath Elementary were most appreciative of the scrumptious cookies provided by our outstanding cookie bakers!

## ***McBackpack***

The need continues to grow to support those students in need the best we can. In the 3 weeks food was provided in November 1,157 bags were packed and distributed to 44 schools in the district. Timnath Elementary receives 44 bags at last count. TPC is well represented each Monday to help pack the bags as well as the church’s yearly monetary donation. We are making a difference! If you would like to come help pack bags McBackpack meets each Monday at noon at First Presbyterian Church (Dec. 4, 11)

## ***Crossroads Safehouse Giving Tree***

Where the heart is.....Your generous gift donations were delivered to Crossroads Safehouse this past week. Each and every one of you know that through your generous hearts moms, dads, kids going through really rough times, will have joy! Alicia, the volunteer coordinator, could not believe what you all did!  
Thank you!!!!

## ***Outreach Ministry Meeting***

***The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 7th at 6 p.m. in the Church Office.  
All are welcome to attend!***





# Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet only on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

We will be welcoming the Prayer Shawl Ministry from the First United Methodist Church to our Fellowship Hall in what has become an annual Christmas Knit-together. YOU are welcome to come, too!

In January we will return to our usual schedule on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays each month, from 9-11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## Sunday Christian Education

December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the first Sunday of Advent. *Journeying the Way of Love* offers four sessions to explore as we await the coming of Christ by moving through the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. Luke's gospel provides a pattern for understanding how we can live the Way of Love as individuals, as families and friends, as a community, and out in the world. All adults and mid/high youth are welcome to join us at 9:00am Sunday mornings.

**Thank You** to everyone who participated in the TPC Craft Show and Sale on Nov. 18, both as exhibitors and shoppers! We are blessed to have so many talented craftspeople in our church family, as well as some friends and family members who displayed items. We also appreciate the amazing bakers in our midst who donated some wonderful goodies for the bake sale. Finally, we thank the Harmony Hustlers 4-H Club who prepared and served the delicious chili lunch. The profit from the Craft Show, quilt drawing and Bake Sale totaled about \$2,088, which will be used to support the arts program at Timnath Elementary School.

## Welcome

On November 12, we welcomed new member Roberta Wheeler to the TPC family.





# Volunteer Schedule

Thank you volunteers!



	Head Usher (H)/ Usher	Liturgist	Children's Sermon	Nursery	Refreshments	Counters
12/3	Gil (H) & Pam Fisher; Clarence & Phylis Sitzman	Greg Starlin	Karen Thomas	Robin Pacheco & Clarence Sitzman	Jim & Deanna Addleman	Paul Jacobs & Jim Zacheis
12/10	Leann Starlin (H) & Pat Alger; Kevin & Karen Bothwell	Lyndel Saxbury	Phylis Sitzman	Steve Pacheco & Greg Starlin	Jayne Sears & Laurene Aldrich	Jim Zacheis & Jean Johnson -McCulla
12/17	Mike (H) & Bev McBride; Jim & Deanna Addleman	Gil Fisher	Clarence Sitzman	Linda Porter & Phylis Sitzman	Mike & Bev McBride	Jean Johnson -McCulla & Bill Fisher
12/24	Gil (H) & Pam Fisher; Doug Porter & Scott Cusic	Clarence Sitzman	Rev. Jonathan Ytterrock	Doug Porter & Bethany Benitz	Steve & Robin Pacheco	Jim Zacheis & Paul Jacobx
12/31	Lyndel (H) & Joan Saxbury; Mary Lou Zacheis & Donna Button-McEwan	Karen Thomas	Diane Stapleton	Clarence Sitzman & Robin Pacheco	Doug & Linda Porter	Jean Johnson -McCulla & Paul Jacobs
1/7	Leann Starlin (H); Annie Ytterrock; Laurene Aldrich; Patsy Hutcheson	Russ Skinner	TBD	Steve Pacheco & Greg Starlin	Scott & Chris Cusic	TBD
1/14	Mark (H) & Jayne Sears; Jill Doyle; Scott Cusic	Phylis Sitzman	TBD	Linda Porter & Phylis Sitzman	Gil & Pam Fisher	TBD
1/21	Mike (H) & Bev McBride; Roberta Wheeler; Paula Matney	Bethany Benitz	TBD	Doug Porter & Bethany Benitz	Mike & Cassie Lawless	TBD
1/28	Lyndel (H) & Joan Saxbury; Kevin & Karen Bothwell	Donna Button- McEwan	TBD	Clarence Sitzman & Robin Pacheco	Jayne Sears & Laurene Aldrich	TBD

**December 3rd Communion Servers: Jim Zacheis, Paul Jacobs, Pam Fisher, & Phylis Sitzman**

*If you are unable to serve, please arrange for a substitute, then notify the church office so changes can be noted in bulletin. Thank you!*



# Concerns Committee

The Concerns Committee is a source of care, sympathy, compassion and comfort within the church. If you are going to be in the hospital or rehab, please let us know so that we may come visit with you and pray with you. If you prefer no visitors during your time at the hospital or rehab, it's ok, just let us know, we can still pray for you. Also, if you have a prayer request, please let us know as we currently have over 63 prayer warriors lifting up prayers for each prayer request. Matthew 18:20; For where two or three gathered in my name, there I am with them. How may we be of service to you?



Funeral Receptions		
#1	TBD	
#2	Linda Porter	970.227.8370
TLC Meals		
#1	Elise Cameron	970.231.6266
Prayer Chain		
#1	Paula Matney	970.689.7250
#2	Church Office	970.493.8996
Cards		
#1	Patsy Hutcheson	970.222.8073
Hospital Flowers		
#1	Bunny Goshorn	970.482.7849
#2	Church Office	970.493.8996
Hospital Visits		
#1	Nancy Greenwood	970.691.7999
#2	Bev McBride	970.231.1203

## MINISTERS

All Members Of The Church

## STAFF

### **Pastor**

Rev. Jonathan Ytterock

### **Clerk of Session**

Phylis Sitzman

### **Treasurer**

Pam Fisher

### **Director of Youth Ministry**

Diane Stapleton

### **Administrative Assistant**

## ADDRESS

4020 Main St.  
P.O. Box 99  
Timnath, CO 80547

## CONTACT US

(970) 493-8996  
www.timnathpres.org  
staff@timnathpres.org

## OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - Thursday  
9 am - 4 pm

## ELDERS

### **2023**

Pam Fisher  
970.217.1011

Phylis Sitzman  
970.484.7612

### **2024**

Jim Zacheis  
970.581.4789

Paul Jacobs  
724.421.6197

### **2025**

Bill Fisher  
970.690.8068

Jean Johnson-McCulla  
970.226.1310

## COMMITTEES / ORGANIZATIONS

### **Buildings & Grounds Committee**

Bill Fisher

### **Christian Education Committee**

Paul Jacobs

### **Concerns Committee**

Phylis Sitzman

### **Finance Committee**

Pam Fisher

### **Memorial Garden Committee**

Phylis Sitzman

### **Memorials**

Jim Addleman, Chr

### **Outreach Ministry**

Pam Fisher

### **Nominating Committee**

Pam Fisher  
Bill Fisher

### **Personnel Committee**

Jean Johnson-McCulla

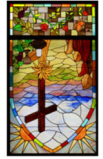
### **Worship Committee**

Jim Zacheis



# December 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 10am-Sonshine Ladies Bible Study	2 10am-Questers Tea
3 9am-Sunday School 10am-Worship	4 9:30am-2nd Mile	5 6:00am-Bagels & Bibles 8:30am-Caring Creations	6 5:25pm-Advent Church Family Night	7 6pm-Cub Scouts 6pm-Outreach Ministry	8 6pm-Cub Scouts 6pm-Outreach Ministry	9 9am-Prayer Shawl
10 9am-Sunday School 10am-Worship	11 9:30am-2nd Mile	12 6:00am-Bagels & Bibles 11am-Prayer Time	13 5:25pm-Advent Church Family Night	14 9:30am-Cookie Plates 7pm-Choir	15 10am-Sonshine Ladies Bible Study	16 9am-Prayer Shawl
17 <b>BELL RINGER ITEMS DUE</b> 9am-Sunday School 10am-Worship 11am-Fellowship	18 9:30am-2nd Mile	19 6:00am-Bagels & Bibles 8:30am-Caring Creations 11am-Prayer Time	20 5:25pm-Advent Church Family Night 7pm-Buildings & Grounds	21 6pm-Cub Scouts 7pm-Choir	22 6pm-Cub Scouts 7pm-Choir	23 9am-Prayer Shawl
24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 9am-Sunday School 10am-Worship 11am-Fellowship	25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	26 6:00am-Bagels & Bibles 8:30am-Caring Creations	27 12:30pm-Christian Education Committee	28 7pm-Choir	29 7pm-Choir	30 9am-Prayer Shawl
31 <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> 9am-Sunday School 10am-Worship					Pastor Jonathan on vacation December 26-31	



Timnath Presbyterian Church  
PO Box 99  
Timnath, CO 80547

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE