

Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024
Road Maintenance



When John the baptizer arrives on the scene, it must mean Jesus is just around the next bend. Yet the path ahead that the prophet Isaiah describes has no bends or curves. It is a way made straight, one on which the rough spots have been smoothed out and the stumbling blocks removed. Our daily lives are rarely, if ever, made straight and smooth, though. The

stressors we encounter at work, the difficulties of parenting or caring for family, the challenges that come as we get older fill our paths with twists and turns. Little is plain and simple, in life or in scripture. The point of the gospel is not that everything will be smooth for us if we just have faith. But neither are we hopelessly lost along the way. The good news is that God provides a way forward. Amid the obstacles are also openings.

Preparing our hearts to follow the way of Jesus involves work. Just as maintaining a roadway demands ongoing inspection and service, our spiritual lives and the lives of our faith communities require consistent, long-term attention, care, and commitment. During Advent, we in the church together recommit to the “roadwork” necessary for preparing the way. We open ourselves to receiving the gift of God’s creative presence in the world.

Faith is the opening through which God begins this work. We do not baptize ourselves. We are not called to do the work alone. Rather, we are baptized into a community of faith, as members of Christ’s body in the world. God’s grace given to us in word and sacrament transforms and empowers us to work collectively, to care for one another and God’s creation, to work for justice and peace. Life together won’t always be smooth or straightforward. There will be obstacles. But by the grace of God, there are also open roads ahead.

Presiding Minister: Rev. Randy Marburger
Worship Leader: Dr. Wendy S. Farone, Vicar
Assisting Minister: Loran Bohman
Lector: Kathy Morgan
Organist: Drew Pogyor
Altar Care: Loran Bohman
Altar Flowers: given by Jennifer Mowery.
The Sanctuary Light is given to the glory of God.
The Columbarium Light is given to the glory of God.

Hymns for Sunday

See insert

Communion- If you need assistance or are unable to come to the communion rail, you can either stand at the step or stay in your seat and Pastor will come to you. If you are unable to receive either the consecrated bread or wine, receiving either one is acceptable.

Membership- There are many ways to be connected with our congregation. Everyone is welcome to participate in any and all congregation activities; and anyone baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is welcome to Holy Communion. We welcome your request for membership.

November 30, 2024: 14

December 1, 2024: 31

Bible Storytelling, December 3, 2024: 14

December 29th – Sunday service will be at 10:00 am, there will be no Saturday service on December 28th.

Festival of Trees – Thanks to everyone who helped decorate, make ornaments or set up our tree this year. The festival will be from Thursday, December 5th through Monday, December 9th from 12 – 1 at the pavilion in Renzie Park.

Decoration – We will be decorating the church for Christmas following 10 am service on December 15th.

2025 Flower/Candle charts and the 2025 Church Calendar are posted in the Narthex.

Mission Agape Toy Drive- We are an official drop off point. Bring unwrapped presents before December 15th. Toys can be dropped off Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays from 9 – 1.

Bible Storytelling – This Tuesday, December 10th, we will continue our Advent study. Did you know that some version of 'fear not' appears 365 times in the Bible! Advent reflections and practices cast out fear and fill us with love and joy--our focus for scripture and our discussion this week.

Sandy will be our facilitator and Daisy offered to bring the snacks. Vicar Wendy shares her insights and provides support to all. Everyone is involved. Participants provide the spirited dialogue and the fellowship. Please consider adding your voice to the conversation.

The following Tuesday is the BS annual Christmas party. Everyone is welcome to attend. The BS family hopes to see you there

Email Transition – Group emails for the purpose of sending bulletins, service videos, and other important church business are now being sent through the Church 360 software. If you don't see your email, please check your spam or junk mail folder. If you have not registered an email with the church or you have address/phone information that needs updating, you are welcome to send Apryle an email so your record can be updated in this software. Thank you!

Faith Library -The Faith Library is open to everyone! Read, borrow and return. It's free!

Advent Calendar

Advent (Saturday at 3:00 and Sunday at 10:00)

1 Nov 30 and Dec 1

2 Dec 7 and 8

3 Dec 14 and 15

4 Dec 21 and 22

Christmas Eve Worship Service -Dec 24 (Tue) 4:00 pm

Office Closed Dec 26-27

December 29 Worship Services 10:00 am Sunday (**no Saturday service on Dec. 28th**)

Bible Storytelling with a Christmas Twist- December 3, 10, 17 at 10:00