

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 6th, 2015

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE "Veni Emmanuel" *Scriveynier*

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *Alicia, Kaylee & Cate Arney*

INTROIT *Broken For You*

+CALL TO WORSHIP *from Luke 1:68, 78-79*

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for the Lord has come to his people in order to set them free.

All: **By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

One: to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

All: **and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

+HYMN *Song of Zechariah* #602

+PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most Holy God, you promise to free us in Jesus Christ and we believe that promise. Yet we continue to act as if we don't. We continue to be shackled by the mistakes and errors of our youth. We continue to be paralyzed by the pain and fear that lies in our past. We continue to chart our course by the wisdom of the world, as if we can control what will happen to us. Forgive us, Lord. Look upon us with your steadfast love and tender mercy. Enliven our hearts with your Spirit, so that we may know and live your promise that when we are set free in Christ, we are truly free indeed. In his name we pray. Amen.

+ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

+RESPONSE *O Come, Let Us Adore Him*
We'll praise his name forever, we'll praise his name forever
We'll praise his name forever, Christ the Lord

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

All children are invited to come forward for the Time for Young Disciples. Afterward, children ages 5 thru 3rd grade may go to Worship Our Way (W.O.W.) while children in 4th grade and older are invited to worship with their families.

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

Offertory *Room In My Heart For You* *Elliot/Lee/Wagner*

+Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* #592

+Prayer of Dedication

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING Isaiah 61:1-4 p. 651 OT

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING Luke 4:14-21 p. 53 NT

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED Tim Reynolds

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Preparatory Hymn *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* #2

Great Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer (Hymnbook p. 16)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

They are lifted up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion of the People *There is a Fountain* *arr. Berry*

Prayer After Communion

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from The Heidelberg Catechism*

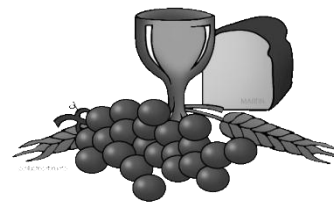
I believe that my only comfort, in life and in death, is that I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

+ HYMN *Live Into Hope* #332

+BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *Part In Peace*

+POSTLUDE *People Look East* *French Melody*

+THOSE WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND



Communion: We welcome all who follow Jesus, regardless of denomination, to the Lord's Table this morning, including children. Parents who wish to go get their children from the Nursery or from W.O.W. to celebrate communion as a family may do so during the singing of the Communion preparation hymn.

WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION Elders: Matt Crum & Joey Lamie

THIS MORNING...

- the liturgist is Summer Allen
- the acolytes are John Godfrey and Noah Gibson
- the bell ringer is Adryana Counts
- the Big W.O.W. leaders are Robin and Corie Cozart
- the Little W.O.W. leaders are Dianne Loomis and Jeni Holt
- the nursery volunteers are Sarah Land
- the sound board tech is

COMMUNION WILL BE RECEIVED IN THE PEW this morning. As you pass the tray of bread to your neighbor, please say, "This is the body of Christ broken for you." As you pass the tray of juice, please say, "This is the blood of Christ shed for you." You may partake of the bread as it comes to you. We ask that you hold the cup until all have been served so that we all may partake at the same time. Please place your empty cup on the pew rack in front of you.

LAST WEEK WE BEGAN AN ADVENT SERMON SERIES based on Charles Dickens' beloved tale, *A Christmas Carol*. The series is called *The Ghosts of Christmas* and seeks to discover what this classic Christmas story, which is as relevant as it has ever been, has to say to us today as we examine, one by one, the ghosts that appear to Ebenezer Scrooge. Perhaps we, ourselves, will even be haunted by these ghosts as we prepare for the coming of Christmas.

UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS AND TOPICS:

Dec 6	Isaiah 61:1-3	<i>The Ghosts of Christmas: The Ghosts of Christmases Past</i>
Dec 13	Luke 4:16-21	<i>The Ghosts of Christmas: The Ghosts of Christmas Present</i>
Dec 20	2 Timothy 1:6-7	<i>The Ghosts of Christmas: The Ghosts of Christmases Yet to Come</i>
Dec 24	2 Cor. 5:16-18	<i>The Ghosts of Christmas: A New Creation</i>
	Luke 2:41-52	

SPENCER MILLER CONCERT SERIES featuring *Fire in the Kitchen* playing a unique blend of Appalachian/Old Time/ Folk and Celtic music will be next Sunday, December 13th at 3:00 p.m. Concerts are free for all area students of all ages and \$10 for the general public.

THERE WILL BE A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING on **Sunday, December 20th** following worship for the purpose of electing elders to the Session Class of 2018.

WE ARE IN NEED OF A VOLUNTEER to run the sound board on the 1st Sunday of each month. We will train you and you will need to be able to commit to being here 15 minutes early and staying 15 minutes after the service. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Tim or Rick Ratliff.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTERS NEEDED: If you, your family, your group of friends, Sunday School Class, Fellowship Group, or any other combination of folks are interested in lighting the candles on the Advent wreath on please let Pastor Tim know.

ABOUT THE BULLETIN COVER ART: This week's bulletin cover is "Scrooge Extinguishes the First of the Three Spirits" by John Leech. It is from the original 1843 publication of *A Christmas Carol* and is meant to represent Scrooge's failed attempt at suppressing his painful memories in Stave 2.

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY
Elders: Georgia Crews & Rachel Fowlkes

THIS COMING THURSDAY marks the last of 18 class sessions for the Stephen Minister trainees. They will be reviewing what they have learned and getting ready for their commissioning as Stephen Ministers. This commissioning service will take place during the worship service on Sunday, December 13th. Please continue to keep them in your prayers and plan to congratulate them as they complete their initial 50 hours of training.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH
Elders: Alicia Arney, Kay Bunn & Mimi Hull

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU for the congregation's generous response for the *Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Ministry*. Sixty-three boxes filled with Christmas joy were delivered to Boone, NC for delivery to needy children around the world.

THE JOY GIFT OFFERING will be collected on December 20th. With our congregation's help, church workers can receive financial assistance during their time of need and our future racial ethnic leaders are equipped for all ministries of the Church or educated at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Thanks in advance for spreading joy to our PCUSA church workers this Advent Season.

OUR ANNUAL MITTEN TREE is located in the Narthex until the week following Christmas. Contributions of warm hats, mittens and scarves will be taken to Faith in Action for distribution to needy families.

KNITTERS NEEDED for prayer shawls ministry, please contact Gypsy Holt at 628-3442 for more information.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION & DISCIPLESHIP
Elders: Danny Wilson & Kate Shockley

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: We are currently studying the book of Daniel. We invite you to come explore this book with us on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL ADVENT DEVOTIONALS ARE AVAILABLE on the table in the Narthex. This year's Advent Devotional is special because it was written by members of our own congregation! Created specifically to be a companion piece to Pastor Tim's Advent sermon series, *The Ghosts of Christmas*, these Advent Devotionals are meant to be used in preparation for the season of Christmas. It includes reflections on Christmases Past and Present from some of your fellow members at Sinking Spring, tips on how to celebrate a simpler and more meaningful Christmas, and a list of Worship & Service Opportunities available during the Advent season. We invite you to use these devotionals by yourself, with your family, or with your friends as a way to prepare yourself for the wonder that is Christmas.

DRESS REHEARSAL for the Children's Christmas Play is Friday, December 11th at 5:00 p.m. There will be a pizza supper at 6:00 p.m. Pick-up is at 7:00 p.m.

THE CHILDREN WILL PRESENT "A Christmas to Believe In"; Saturday December 12th at 5:00 p.m. A Birthday party for Jesus will follow the play in the parlor. Everyone is invited to attend! Please bring a baby gift for Jesus and place it in the container in the Narthex. These items will be donated to Faith in Action. Suggestions for gifts: diapers, wet wipes, baby formula, baby food or other baby related items.



IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

TODAY, Sunday, December 6th Communion

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 12:00 p.m. Service & Outreach Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 8th

8:00 p.m. AA in Fellowship Hall
 8:00 p.m. Al Anon next to Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 9th

3:00 p.m. After School
 5:00 p.m. Children's Choir
 6:00 p.m. Bible Study
 7:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday, December 10th

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Shoney's
 6:15 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training
 8:00 p.m. AA in the Fellowship Hall

Friday, December 11th

5:00 p.m. Children's Dress Rehearsal

Saturday, December 12th

5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Play

Sunday, December 13th

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 3:00 p.m. Spencer Miller Concert – Fire in the Kitchen

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Elders: Danny Brown & John Legard

Stewardship & Attendance for November 29, 2015

Attendance: 130
 Offering: \$2,820.00

THE HUNGER OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED TODAY

CHURCH BULLETINS are now available on our website! The link to view is <http://www.sinkingspring.org/worship.html#ws>.

WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS: Mazie Cook, Helen Napps, and Reed Cooke (Commonwealth Assisted Living), Hazel Warden (Abingdon Rehab) and Don Preston

WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR THESE NEW CONCERNS:

WE ASK FOR PRAYERS FOR THESE CONTINUED CONCERNS: Charles Henninger, Richie Hooker, Sherrye May, Ernie & Mary Barr, Charlene Armstrong, Cathy Day, Rosemary Sweet and Jill Minnick

AND FOR THESE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY: Joseph McGraw, Mark Widener, Walter Holcomb Jr., John Nowell II, John Nowell III and Dexter Bevis

*Names remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks unless requested to keep them on longer

Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church
Organized 1772

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)



SINKING SPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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Email: office@sinkingspring.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

www.sinkingspring.org

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