



The Link ~ December 2020

Blessed Advent! Merry Christmas!

Luke 2:8-14

And in that same region there were shepherds keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior Who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

You can't change the past. Isn't that true? We think about all the stupid things we've said and done, disastrous choices we've made, or people we have hurt with our sinful actions and words (most of all we wound the heart of God), and we'd like a do-over. Most of us would like a do-over of the last few months, when the fear of a tiny invisible virus has held us captive in our homes, and away from our work, our schools, our church family. The good news of the Gospel of Christ is that although we can't change the past, Jesus can. Jesus Christ came into this world, born of a woman, and entered into the hotbed of 1st century religion and politics that were anything but friendly. He grew up in it, was baptized in the middle of it, ministered in it, preached and taught in it, and eventually was arrested, tortured, beaten, and killed for it. And on the third day after, Jesus Christ rose from the dead. That is an eternal truth we never want changed. But in Advent and at Christmas we remember the Savior's humble beginnings, that He was born into a poor blue-collar family and because of the government regulations, His parents had to travel and be registered in the census right when he was due. So instead of being born in His family's hometown, born in a house and a comfortable bed, instead of being surrounded by grandparents and aunts and uncles and

cousins welcoming Him and celebrating His birth, baby Jesus was born in a barn far from home. He was born in an animal stable, and instead of a crib, He was laid in a manger, padded with hay that animals eat. And the people who came to welcome Him? Strangers. Shepherds. Instead of family. It's was God's great do-over. Jesus Christ came to change the past, to remake the world, to redeem all of humankind, and to undo the sin and brokenness of the fall, and everything that comes with it: pain and punishment and disease and death and hell. Instead of all that, we get: grace!

This year is the big year of: instead. Instead of holiday gatherings, we may be alone in our homes. Instead of worshipping together we may be isolated and preparing another remote communion, praying and singing on Facebook. Instead of sharing gifts, we may be mailing them, or cutting them out altogether. Concerts, games, and celebrations will be cancelled or on zoom instead of in person. But remember God's great gift of instead. Instead of sin, we have a Savior. Instead of judgment, we have forgiveness. Instead of death, we have eternal life. So celebrate our great big wonderful instead, that came to us through Jesus Christ at Christmas. Blessed Christmas to you all,
Pastor Beth Stone

Church News

Worship continues!!!!!! Governor Beshear's directive is to suspend all in-person and onsite worship until December 13th. Although we have not had a single case of covid-19 from our congregants, we are honoring his instructions in order to do our best to limit the impact of the virus, and respect the governing authorities. Session has voted to go to all virtual online services from November 22nd through December 5th. As usual, you will find us online at our Facebook page as well as on our website. There is also a link from the pastor's website.

Sunday School is moving to 9:45 a.m. and continues virtually on zoom. If you want to participate, please let Shea Lair, Mike Taylor, or Pastor Beth know your email so we can link you in online. Zoom is free to use; the church has paid for the app and hosts the meeting.

Children's Christmas Program: Instead of an in-person program we are planning to record each family of kids and incorporate it into a video that we will show on December 13th as part of worship.

Barley Basket continues to give out grocery bags of food each month. Please remember cans of peas, corn, green beans, chicken, tuna, fruit and boxes of instant potatoes, noodles, mac & cheese, spaghetti, ramen noodles are our staples for the bags. November's mission provided over 200 meals in cooperation with the Christian Church, and 40 bags of groceries delivered!

Fort Logan Cooperative Ministries' Christmas gift give away on December 4th and 5th at the Christian Living Center will be drive-through. Our church will be donating toys and new clothing for children ages 3 to 11. If you would like to donate, please bring your items – unwrapped and with tags removed – to the bell room by December 2nd along with any wrapping paper donations.

In the books: **Operation Christmas Child** boxes were packed and sent thanks to Jane Barnett and Heidi Carnes who spearheaded the effort.

Stanford Presbyterian Church

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. – online
Worship on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m.
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Reverend Elizabeth Stone, pastor

Winter Calendar 2020

As the session plans for the safe expression of our faith in community, all of these events may be virtual, postponed, or cancelled. Please watch for current news on our Facebook page and through One Call. If you have questions, call the pastor or one of the elders.

Tuesdays: AA

Wednesdays: Sr. High Revive – 6 p.m.
Choir – 7 p.m.

November

29 – First Sunday of Advent; Communion
Session meets at noon
Be the Bridge book study; Chapter 9

December

4,5 – Fort Logan Ministries Christmas event
10 – Martha Circle
13 – Deacons meet after worship
Be the Bridge book study – Chapter 10
24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight service with communion.

January

1 – Happy New Year!
3 – Communion, food offering
5 – Mary Circle at 11:30 a.m.
10 – Ordination of officers and communion
During worship
10 – Joint meeting of session and deacons
14 – Martha Circle 7 p.m.
24 – Barley Basket 5 p.m.

February

2 – Mary Circle at church, 11:30 a.m.
7 – Food Offering
11 – Martha Circle at church 7:00 p.m.
14 – Deacons meet at noon
17 – Ash Wednesday, Lent begins
21 – Barley Basket 5 pm
28 – Session meets at noon