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ARDMORE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“Transforming Lives Through the Good News of Jesus Christ”

ARDMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ardmore, Pennsylvania

10:30 A.M., NOVEMBER 19, 2023

Worship Service

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

We welcome you warmly to Ardmore Presbyterian Church where we strive to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are especially thankful for visitors. If you have a **prayer request**, please email it to Rev. Jason Grimes at jgrimes@ardmorepres.org or call 610-642-6650x100.

A recording or live streaming of **Sunday's service** will be posted online at www.ardmorepres.org and on our YouTube page.

Please spread the word to those who are interested in viewing our virtual worship.

In the tradition of the **Presbyterian Church USA**, our church is governed by a group of elders called the Session. Elders are elected by the congregation, and serve for specific terms of service. Together with our pastor, elders are called to exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline, and have responsibilities for the life of the congregation, as well as the whole church.

SESSION

Class of 2023

Jody Brumbach
Elaine Giese
Donald Poorman,
Clerk of Session

Class of 2024

Chip Cobb, Jr.
Robie Lawlace

Class of 2025

Barry Jeffries
Frank Miller
Ben Yurchak

Likewise, our congregation elects members to serve on the diaconate. It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. Our deacons visit with members, organize support for those in need, and lead us in celebrations.

DIACONATE

Class of 2023

Kristy Cobb
Graham Fuller
Isla Grant,
Moderator
Anne Toal McComiskie

Class of 2024

Dan Del Duca
Carol Fritz
Sarah Schreiner,
Co-Moderator

Class of 2025

Jim Coath
Stephanie McGrory
Jan Terwiesch

*Standing for those who are able.

People's response in bold type.

GATHERING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PRELUDE *Variations on "Now Thank We All Our God"* Charles Callahan

The grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH Maggie Reif

MINUTE FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Don Poorman

OPENING PRAYER

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 148) Kofi Owusu

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise God, sun and moon; praise him all you shining stars!

Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes, and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God's name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

Praise the Lord!

*HYMN 464 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* HYMN TO JOY

CALL TO CONFESSION (Matthew 11)

Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Let us ask God to forgive us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, the heavens and earth declare your glory, but we have too often remained silent. We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you. We have turned away from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and oppressed. In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and forever sing your praises through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Book of Common Worship)

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE (Romans 12)

“If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*RESPONSE, Hymn 333

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!
Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,
Knock and it shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

FIRST READING, Psalm 19: 1-4, 7-10, 14

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech;

night after night they reveal knowledge.
They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.
The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.
The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever.
The decrees of the Lord are firm,
and all of them are righteous.
They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer

ANTHEM, Chancel Choir

Give Thanks to the Lord

Mark Patterson

Give thanks to the Lord with a joyful voice.
Give thanks to the Lord, all people rejoice.
Great are God's blessings, rich blessings of joy.
Give thanks for his goodness; give thanks to the Lord.
Great are the gifts of creation: the beauty of earth and sky and sea.
Great is God's splendor before us, yet greater still, his blessings unseen.
Strength from the Spirit, peace from above, grace and forgiveness,
These are the blessings of God's redeeming love.
Lift up your voice with thanksgiving, sing praises, give thanks to the Lord!
(Mark Patterson)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND READING, Isaiah 40:22, 44:24-25

He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. This is what the Lord says - your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the Lord, the Maker of all things, who stretches out the heavens, who spreads out the earth by myself, who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense.

Note: "stretches out the heavens" is also mentioned in: Zechariah 12:1, Jeremiah 10:12, Jeremiah 51:15, Isaiah 42:5-7, Isaiah 48:13, Isaiah 51:13

THIRD READING, Matthew 7:7-8

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"The Heavens declare... and now science has revealed"

Ben Yurchak

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 285

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

AUSTRIAN HYMN

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be they name, they kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

PREPARING TO MAKE OUR OFFERING TO GOD (I Chronicles 29:14)

Lord, who are we that we are able to give so generously?

For all things come from you and what we now offer is already yours.

OFFERTORY, Quartet

One Thing More

Jane Marshall

Thou who hast given so much to me,
Give one thing more: a grateful heart.
[See how thy beggar works on thee
By art.]

Not thankful when it pleaseth me,
As if thy blessings had spare days,
But such a heart whose pulse may be
Thy praise.

(George Herbert, *Gratefulness*, st. 1, 8)

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

*HYMN 555

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

Jeffrey Honoré



This Sunday's flowers are given *to the glory of God
and in loving memory of my parents*

Alfred Wakelee Swartz and Clara Ponnock Swartz

by Betty Birdsall

and to the glory of God and in loving memory of

Mr. and Mrs. T. Thompson Patterson

by the Patterson Family

Thanksgiving at APC

Wednesday, November 22

7 p.m.

Join us this evening for a simple worship service
of gratitude, reflection, and fellowship.

As a reminder, there is no Wednesday PLUS this
week, and the church office will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and
Friday, November 24.



Lunchtime Discussion with Ben Yurchak

November 19, 2023

12:00 p.m., Mill Creek Room

Ben Yurchak will be sharing an overview of the most compelling scientific findings of the past few decades that point far more towards an intelligent creator of the universe and not to random chance. If you want to hear the scientific evidence for God for yourself or a friend/loved one, this is for you.



The Muppet Christmas Carol with Michael Caine as Scrooge

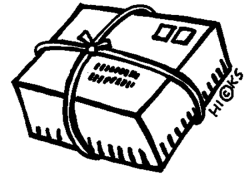
Sunday, December 3

12:00 p.m., Mill Creek Room

Come and enjoy this advent movie afternoon with pizza and popcorn to kick-off an advent study of a “fascinating tale of greed, second chances and redemption.”

Care Packages for College Students

Our Deacons are planning to send care packages to college students as they prepare for finals. If you would like to contribute something to these packages, the Deacons would appreciate your support! Suggestions include cookies (homemade or store bought), healthy snacks, etc. Please drop off these items at the church office by Sunday, December 3! Questions? Contact the moderator of the Deacons, Isla Grant at islagrant331@gmail.com.



Particular needs include:

- diapers
- feminine hygiene products
- peanut butter
- pasta and sauce
- tuna
- hearty soups
- coffee



You can also donate \$25 gift cards to Acme, Giant or Trader Joe's. Please leave donations in the basket in the back of our Sanctuary, or drop off at St. Mary's Episcopal Church at 36 Ardmore Avenue. *Thank you!*

The Well



The Well is the women's shelter affiliated with APC's Mission Partner, The Welcome Church.

These are some items which have been requested as a gift for Christmas.

- Lotion sets
- Hats/Gloves/Scarf Sets
- Pajamas
- Throw Blankets
- Tote Bags
- Jewelry
- Ear phones
- Umbrellas

If you can donate any of these items, please drop them in the donation bin outside of the church office or in the back of the Sanctuary, or contact Pastor Schaunel at rvschaunel@aol.com. *Thank you for your help.*

This Week at APC

- Sun., Nov. 19** 9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Small Group (Mill Creek Room)
10:30 a.m. Lord's Day Worship
 In-Person & Livestreamed at ardmorepres.org/live
11:45 a.m. Fellowship Time
 Youth Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
12:00 p.m. Lunchtime Discussion with Ben Yurchak (MCR)
5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (Library)
- Mon., Nov. 20** 1:00 p.m. Prayer Fellowship (Zoom)
- Wed., Nov. 22** 11:15 a.m. Meditative Walk at Stoneleigh
 (Weather permitting)
7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service (Chapel)
- Sun., Nov. 26** 10:30 a.m. Lord's Day Worship
 In-Person & Livestreamed at ardmorepres.org/live
11:45 a.m. Congregational Meeting
12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time

Adult/Youth Sunday Morning Small Group Advent Study: A Biblical View of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol



December 3, 2023 - January 14, 2024

9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

On December 3, the Sunday Morning Small Group will begin a series of 5 sessions (no meetings December 24 or 31) discussing the biblical themes raised Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

The main theme is the celebration of Christmas and the good it inspires, however there are other major biblical themes such as redemption, free will, self-interest vs. generosity, forgiveness vs. cynicism, and the threat of time. Scrooge describes his transformation as a newfound and permanent desire to share his joy with others, sounding very much like a spiritual rebirth. Join us to discuss what a trans-



Lift your prayers this week for: David Block's family in Israel, Phil Jeffries and Debbie Young as they continue cancer treatment, Emily Polhamus and Bill Waters on the birth of their son Henry, and the family of Sandy Foote.

Ongoing Prayers for: Lucille Hannigan, Boots Sheckard, Kate Brooks, Victoria Dean, Jessie DiNome, Rosemary Fisher, Sandy Foote, Holly Frank, Twila Garletts, Julie Patterson, Chris Rowe, Mary Schreiber, Adrienne Wood, Kathy Toal, Jim Dormond, John Beerbower, Paul Goetsch, Sujatha Manawadu, the Howard and Bayless Families, Mary Scattergood, the Schreiber Family.

We pray for God's provision of healing and wholeness for those who suffer, and God's grace for those who are homebound or living in care facilities. We pray for God's guidance here at APC, with the Church Universal, and all our mission partners. Finally, we lift up our continued prayers for our nation and our world.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Ministers: Entire Congregation

Assisted by:

Rev. Jason Grimes, *Pastor*, jgrimes@ardmorepres.org

Gary Garletts, *Director of Music/Organist*, ggarletts@ardmorepres.org (Ext. 102)

Kaitlyn Waterson, *soprano*; **Courtney Capriotti**, *mezzo-soprano*; **Jim Longacre**, *tenor*; **Tom Sitzler**, *baritone*

Rev. Graham Robinson., *Parish Associate*, gjmtk5@gmail.com

Michelle Butera, *Preschool Director*, mbutera@ardmorepres.org (Ext. 103)

Emily Polhamus, *Church Administrator/Director of Communications*,
epolhamus@ardmorepres.org (Ext. 101)

Irena Reynolds, *Preschool Administrator*, ireynolds@ardmorepres.org (Ext. 115)

Maggie Reif, *Children's Ministry Coordinator*, mreif@ardmorepres.org

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Online E-Giving – You may now give to APC at any time by going to the church's website (www.ArdmorePres.org) and click on the green "GIVE NOW" button on the top right corner. Or, you may simply scan the QR code on the left here with your phone. Simply set up a new account and start e-giving today!