

# Good News from St. John's

December 2024



St. John's Episcopal Church  
313 S. 18<sup>th</sup> St. – PO Box 882  
Parsons, KS 67357

620-421-4540  
[www.StJohnsParsons.org](http://www.StJohnsParsons.org)

**MISSION STATEMENT:** With God's help, we seek to share our love, fellowship, charity and faith with all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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## THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The season of Advent begins this year on Sunday December 1, 2024. There are several changes in the liturgy that comes with Advent. The **Gloria** disappears and is replaced with the **Kyrie**. We do a special lighting of the **Advent Wreath** with congregational responses. We also change to **Eucharistic Prayer B**. The church will have been decorated with greenery, with blue symbols and ribbons, and the altar flowers will be replaced with an Advent greens arrangement. In Advent, we not only celebrate the first coming of our Lord, but eagerly prepare for His Second Coming as well, when the restoration of all things takes place.

The primary color of Advent now, in most churches, is **Royal Blue** to distinguish the Season of Advent from Lent. Our hangings will be royal blue and rose (on the third Sunday of Advent.) The color rose is used on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, the plural form of the Latin verb "gaudere" which means to rejoice. In these days of preparation leading up to the feast of our Savior's birth, it reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, as a kind of "break" when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Jesus.

The **Advent Wreath**, a circular evergreen wreath with four candles which reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. The candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ.

The colors of the candles are (3 blue and 1 rose). The first Sunday one of the blue candles is lit, a short devotion read, and a prayer offered, after the Collect of the Day. On subsequent Sundays, previous candles are relighted with an additional one lighted. The rose candle is lighted on the third Sunday and the last blue candle on the fourth Sunday. We also have banners on our advent wreath; Hope, Peace, Love and Joy, that correspond with the four candles.

Christmas Eve the Advent candles are replaced with white candles and a center candle (the Christ candle) is added. The Christ candle reminds us that the incarnation is the heart of the season, giving light to the world. These white candles are lit through Epiphany.

It is our hope that this article has provided you some education about the Season of Advent and we look forward to worshipping with you as we ALL prepare for the Second coming of our Lord

.Adult Education Ministry Team

November 25, 2024  
TO: Parsons Area Churches  
FR: First Christian and First Presbyterian Churches  
and Parsons Ministerial Association

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**



Dear Friends in Christ:

Here are some of the things needed to make this event a success once again this year. Please contact the church office (421-4790) if there are any of these needs your church and/or members can fulfill.

## *Christmas Dinner*

- Volunteers to prepare, serve and deliver meals
- Sectioned plastic foam "carry out" boxes for meals
- Pies (need 50-60) or other types of desserts
- Large cans of green beans (#10 size): Need 24 cans
- Large containers of Cool Whip

Please note that walk-ins are welcome for the dinner, but reservations are needed for delivery. These orders can be emailed to [parsonspresby@gmail.com](mailto:parsonspresby@gmail.com) or called into the office (421-4790) any time before 1:00pm on Monday, December 16, 2023. Please include your name, physical address, and number of meals for delivery.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas Season!

First Christian Church, First Presbyterian Church, & the Parsons Ministerial Association

**Christmas is coming! Come celebrate with your St John's Family.**

Christmas Dinner will be served in Fox Hall on December 18th at 6:00.

It will be a joyful gathering with lots of good cheer. Gather with us to relax and delight in the company of your fellow parishioners on this special holiday night.

The main dish will be provided but you can bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Whether you bring something or not, the most important thing you can deliver is You!

Jupe Allen  
Senior Warden

**St, John Episcopal Church**

**Vestry Meeting**

**October 14, 2024**

**Present: Candy Scarborough, Verlyn Bolinger, Carrie Tierney, Anna Baker, Martha Stone, Jupe Allen, Deacon Jeanine Blessant and Mother Sharon.**

**Absent: Heidi Daily.**

**Development:**

**Gospel Based Disciples included a reading from Luke 8:26-39**

**Treasurer's Report:**

**The Transaction Report and the Budget were reviewed and discussed. The report was approved.**

**Old Business:**

**A bid has been received for tree work. The work includes trimming the Japanese Maple in the garden, thinning the big garden tree, removing the part of the tree hanging over Fox Hall, removing the Catalpa west of the shed and cleaning up the pear trees in the yard. The company is Brooks Tree Service from Thayer. The bid was \$1500 and it was approved.**

**The design work for the Memorial Garden sign has been completed and will be submitted to the sign maker for pricing.**

**We still have several old folding chairs for sale. Martha will offer them on FaceBook Marketplace for \$5.00 each.**

**The water leak which was caused by a faulty frost-free hydrant in the garden has been repaired. The repair cost was \$300 but sadly the excess water cost over \$1000 since we already used our leak exemption.**

**The missing Lector's Guides have been reclassified as lost and replacements will be purchased at the upcoming Diocesan Convention.**

**Mother Sharon priced new blinds for Fox Hall from Home Depot. The price was over \$4000 which was a non-starter. Plan B is in the early days of formation.**

**The plan to place a fountain in the Memorial Garden remains in the early stages of development.**

**Blessing of the Animals was held on October 6. Seventeen people attended and presented 16 dogs, 2 cats and a rhinoceros for blessing by Mother Sharon. This represented an increase over the number of last year's blessees.**

**Duties for Altar Guild members are scheduled to increase next month. A meeting outlining said duties is needed but the Directress admitted to frustration getting everyone involved together at the same time.**

**The Letter of Agreement with Father Kelly Lackey has been signed and his first official day is November 3.**

**After our new insurance company got wind of our loss history, namely the roof damage of the previous year, they bailed out. So for at least another year we are doing business with Nationwide and paying their exorbitant thousand dollar rate increase.**

**New Business:**

The nursery attendant has resigned leaving us in a bit of a jam. No viable solutions resulted from the discussion that followed the news.

Carrie briefly described what the Diocese thought we should be doing as a church maintenance-wise. Between the vestry and our dedicated Building & Grounds coordinator we are in very good shape. January elections are just around the corner and several positions need to be filled.

They include:

3 year Vestry position currently held by Candy who is eligible for re-election

3 year Vestry position currently held by Martha who is eligible for re-election

3 year Vestry position currently held by Heidi who is eligible for re-election

Endowment Trustee currently held by Verlyn. There is no term restriction

Convocation Delegate and Alternate currently held by Candy and Joe There is no term restriction

Note: Anyone who is in good standing in the church can challenge for these positions.

A special Prayers of the People will be read at the October 27 service commemorating the Ending of a Pastoral Relationship. This will take place on Mother Sharon's final Sunday.

Thanksgiving Day Dinner has new life! The Stone and Baker families have graciously agreed to continue this most favored tradition. After hosting for many years, the Bolinger family retired, Thanksgiving was feared lost. Many hands are needed to make it a success.

Due to scheduling conflicts the November Vestry meeting will be held on the 24th and a budget planning meeting will be held on December 1.

Assessment:

The Vestry approved the Minutes from the September 17, 2024 meeting.

Vicar's Report: Will visit the homebound and nursing home members next week. Theresa Downum will be included for the first time.

Wardens:

Senior: No report.

Junior: No report.

Discernment:

Worship & Music: Meeting October 24.

Outreach: We have enough SnakPaks for the rest of the year.

Evangelism: Are having a meeting next week.

Communications: Martha has an appointment with a web guru to get the website updated.

Education: Children's: No report.

Adult: Working on the program for the Advent Study.

Stewardship-Planned Giving: This year's Stewardship campaign, Walk in Love, started October 13.

Buildings & Grounds: Covered earlier.

Altar Guild: Bess is joining the ranks of Altar Guild.

Endowment: September 30- \$104,702.98 Clergy Support: -\$172,882.79

up \$1,665.93 up \$1,339.74

PECW: Busy planning Mother Sharon's retirement brunch.

Pastoral Care: Assigned companions to: Carolyn Adams- Senta

Fran McLarty- Daria

Regina Cook- unfilled

Lynn Reeves- unfilled

If you feel called to be a companion to one of these ladies, speak up!

Next regular meeting, Sunday November 24 after church.

A prayer by Mother Sharon concluded the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jupe Allen, Clerk



### Prayer List

**Teresa, Jim, Harry, Gina, Ethan, Wuanita, Jeffrey, Boo, Jane, Regina, Bretten, Carolyn, Lynn, Dwayne, Lorrie, Addlee, Jon, Randy, John & family, children with special needs their families and caregivers, Les, Michelle, Karla, Jennifer, Arthur, Becky, Cindy, Antonio, Karla, Bess, Michelle, Joel, Jill, Nancy, Michael, Casey, Cayla, Randall, Jaylynn, Dominic, Joaquin, Jessica, John, Carla, Tom, Pete, Shirley, Douglas, Sarah, Alice, those in Israel, Palestine and Gaza, Bob, Jeanie, Kelly, Darin, Heather, Jayden, Nicole, Bill, Tony, Gail, Olive, Rex, Tiffany, Lisa, Kaylan, churches in the Southeast Convocation in their call to mission, all clergy in the Southeast Convocation, BKSM students, dispatchers and first responders, the men & women serving our country here and abroad, and those who have served.**

**Those who have died Marjorie**



### December Birthdays

- 2 Bob Spinks
- 7 Elsa Stone
- 11 Lynn Reeves
- 27 Phyllis Middleton



### December Anniversaries:

- 28 Sarah & Jennifer Fedorston
- 31 Sue Long
- 31 John & Michelle Moss

Please send Articles for The Good News to Senta Meister, [sentabradmeister@aol.com](mailto:sentabradmeister@aol.com) or St. John's Episcopal Church, PO Box 882, Parsons, KS 67357.

# St. John's December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 The First Sunday of Advent</b> Rite 2 H.E. 9:30 am	2	3 Vestry Meeting	4	5	6	7
<b>8 The Second Sunday of Advent</b> Morning Prayer 9:30 am	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>15 The Third Sunday of Advent</b> Deacon Service 9:30 am	16	17	18 Christmas Dinner 6pm dinner	19	20	21
<b>22 The 4th Sunday of Advent</b> Rite 2 H.E. 9:30 am	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 Christmas Eve 7:30pm	25 <b>The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Day</b>	26	27	28
<b>29 The First Sunday after Christmas Day</b> COMAP 9:30 am	30	31				

# St. John's December 2024 Schedule

	12/1/2024	12/8/2024 Morning Prayer	12/15/2024	12/22/2024	12/24/2024 Christmas Eve	12/29/2024 COMAP
<b>Clergy</b>	Father K/Deacon		Deacon	Father K	Father K/Deacon	
<b>Leader</b>		Jupe	Joe			Daria
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Deacon		Deacon	Verlyn	Deacon	Martha
<b>Lector</b>	Patty	Alice	Candy	Daria	Martha	Jupe
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	Daria Condon					
<b>Acolytes</b>	Ava, Zoe		Verlyn, Nola	Ava	All	Zoe
<b>Greeters</b>	Frank & Patty Vernacchia	David Bamberger & Tom Tanner	Alice	Daria	TBA	Jupe
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Help Yourself	Help Yourself	Help Yourself	Help Yourself	None	Help Yourself
<b>Counters</b>	Vestry					
<b>Altar Guild</b>	All helping for Christmas					