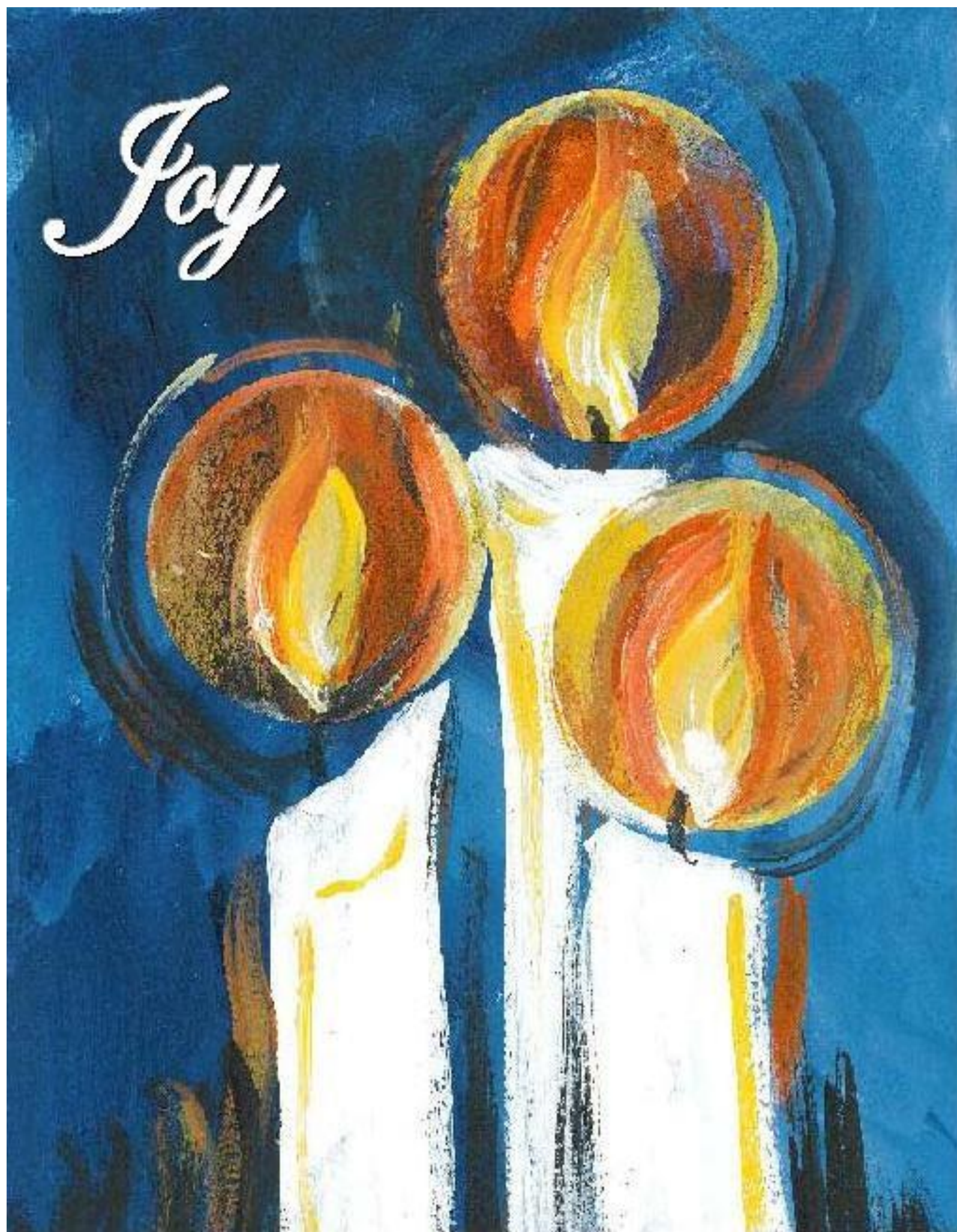


Foy



WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Worship

December 12, 2021

WELCOME AND GREETING

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Congregational response

One: O Lord, our Redeemer, you lead us from languishing in sorrow's shadows into the brightness of your joy. Thank you for always making a home for us.

All: God of promise, God of joy, into our darkness come.

Musical Response Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (Hymn No. 85)

Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

PRELUDE

Mary Did You Know

Jeremy Stanton

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Eternal God: your touch makes this world holy. Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the splendor of creation, and in the beauty of human life. Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us, to share your blessings with our sisters and brothers, and to experience the joy of life in your presence. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Pouring of the Water

Congregational Response: (Hymn 482 v. 1) Baptized in Water

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting the promise, faithfully now God's praises we sing.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Philippians 4:4

One: Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice!

All: Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

One: The Lord is near.

All: Hallelujah! Amen.

*GATHERING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we do not live as if we expect this to happen. We have become numb to your promises and lack believe in your reality and power. We turn our heads away from your eternal truth and your ways of righteousness. We accept lies as truth and worship things that will pass away in the night as if they will stand forever.

In you great mercy, forgive us Lord. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek thing that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray . . .

(silent prayer of confession)

Sung Response: (Hymn No. 551)

Lord, Have Mercy

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

**ALL: The Kingdom of our God has become the Kingdom of our world in Jesus Christ.
And he shall reign forever and ever. Amen.**

*Gloria Patri: (Hymn No. 584) *Glory Glory, Glory*
Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high! Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high!
And on earth peace to all people in whom God is well pleased. And on earth peace to all people in whom
God is well pleased. Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high!

SPECIAL MUSIC PROGRAM

<i>O Come All Ye Faithful</i>	Choir
<i>Away in a Manger</i>	Choir
<i>What Child is This</i>	Choir
<i>Do You Hear What I Hear</i>	Handbells/Choir
<i>Silent Night</i>	Handbells/Choir
<i>Hark the Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven Come Down</i>	Choir

A TIME FOR OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 60:2-3

MEDITATION “The Brightness of God’s Rising” Dr. Hartman

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Nicene Creed page 34

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through
Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with
the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Musical Offering	<i>I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day</i>	Handbells/Choir
*Advent Doxology 606	<i>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow</i>	Handbells/Choir

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

*Prayer of Dedication

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH AND LORD’S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN 134 *Joy to the World* Handbells/Choir

***CHARGE and BENECTION**

POSTLUDE

*Let those who are able stand We thank Beti Strobeck for her gift of bulletin cover art for the Advent season

We'd Love to Have You Join Us . . .

To those newly worshipping with us we warmly welcome you to our congregation. You are invited to join us for any and all of the activities and opportunities we provide. Please let us know if we can serve you in any way. We also extend an invitation to unite with this church. Periodically we offer a series of Inquirer's Classes that explore the meaning of church membership in our Presbyterian tradition. Those interested in membership are encouraged to participate in these classes. If you are interested in conversation about membership, do not hesitate to call the church office at 882-2505 at any time.

Prayer Requests

Church Family: Nancy Allgood, Tracy Andrews, Priscilla Byars, Fynn DeHay, Sally Fortune, Karen Gomez, Kaki Harmon, Larry Josey, Judy Kellner, Maria Leitner, Janet May, Chet Palmer, Pep Seales, Beti Strobeck, Pat Williams and Nancy Wilson.

Extended Church Family: Eileen Andruszka (sister of Ken Andruszka,) Debbie Brewer (cousin of Charlotte McDonald), Carol Conger (Helen Kelly's sister), Bill Cullison (brother of Sally Fortune), ***Dave & Minnie (friends of Jean Reinking)**, Robert Doucet (brother-in-law of Paul LaRoche), Henry Gambrell (brother of Carla Honea), Scott Gawlik (son of Betty Gawlik), ***Donna Giudici (friend of Nancy & Jon Young)**, Evans Harris (husband of Pat Harris), Linda Kelly (cousin of Elaine Williams), Sally Owen (former member), Adam Thomas (great nephew of Betty and Noel Lehner), Gary Whitehead (husband of Judy Whitehead), Bob Willard (Elaine Williams' nephew).

Note: Please let the church office know of updates to the prayer list.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE (12/12/21-12/18/21)

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Church School
	9:00 a.m.	Advent Study
	9:30 a.m.	Bake Sale
	10:00 a.m.	Combined Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Christmas Brunch
Monday	1:30 p.m.	Worship
	6:30 p.m.	Band/Choir
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Coffee with Ernie
Wednesday	5:00 p.m.	Session
Thursday	9:00 a.m. - Noon	Parish Nurse
	Noon	Advent Study

Liturgist: Kelly Holleman

Attention Grandparents don't forget that our Family Christmas pageant is at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve. We would love to have your children join us for this amazing live presentation.

Coffee with Ernie

Tuesday, December 14th, at 9:30 a.m.

Health and Wellness invites you to join us for a cup of coffee and an opportunity to meet and chat with our wonderful Parish Nurse, Ernie Lombard.

Open topics will be on public and current health and wellness issues.

This is a perfect time to ask Ernie's advice.

Come and enjoy this wonderful SPC program!

All are welcome!

MISSION TRIP COMING! Our church is sending a group on a Mission Trip to Arkansas, mainly to help prepare disaster relief supplies. The trip will be March 6-12 of this next year. We already have several people interested in going but, it is not too late. Join us on Sunday, January 9th, right after the morning worship service (in Pastors Hall), to hear details about the trip – including the what, where and why as well as costs involved. For questions speak to or contact Richard or Susan Caldwell (882-7916).

2022 Flower book is ready for everyone to sign – up for your special date. The book is in Knohl Hall/Gathering Room between the two chairs.

Our **Tiny Library** got a beautiful “face-lift” this past week thanks to Glenn McPheeters. It has been a wonderful resource for the parents/children in our community and the Deacons are asking if you have extra children’s books you aren’t still using, please consider donating them. You can deliver them to the church office any time. We greatly appreciate your help and thoughtfulness.

‘Tis the Season to Show our Appreciation for our Church Staff! A reminder that Christmas is just around the corner. Anyone who would like to make a donation to the staff Christmas gift fund, is free to do so by **Sunday, December 12th (absolute deadline)**. Please include “Staff Christmas Gift” on your check. It is a wonderful time to remember our office secretary, financial secretary, parish associate, music and custodial staff members.

Our Health & Wellness Committee will present an Adult Mental Health Workshop
Saturday, January 29, 2022 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm in Pastors Hall. This course is for anyone age 18 or older who would like to learn more about mental health issues. Information about depression, anxiety, trauma, psychosis, and addiction disorders will be presented in a format that enables the participant learners to respond in a helpful way to someone who may be developing a mental health issue or experiencing a crisis. Ways to de-escalate a crisis situation will be a helpful part of this course. Two certified instructors, Carrie Zimmerman LSW and Aleca Queen LPC, both local to Oconee County, will be able to provide local referral sources. A book, used in class, will be yours to take home as a reference in the future. Cost for the course, to include a manual and certificate of completion, is \$22 and due when you sign up. Lunch will be provided by H & W Committee. Attendance is limited to 15 people so please call SPC office soon to register. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Parish Nurse Ernie Lombard or Elizabeth Hartman.

Christmas Joy Offering will be collected on December 19th.

A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

The receipts from the offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for supplemental retirement and medical assistance for former clergy, missionaries, church workers and their families, and to the Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges supported by the Presbyterian Church to be used for scholarships and basic costs.

We need to schedule **ushers** for the next several months and we could use more volunteers to join us. This is a great way to meet the congregation and become more acquainted with your church family. Please look at your calendars and see what Sundays you would be available to assist us and then please call me call or send an email. Thank you for all your support. Blessings, Peggy Fouts

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Family Christmas Service – Come see all of our angels, shepherds, kings, sheep, and other animals as children of all ages re-enact the Nativity. This is a great service for grandchildren and neighbors with children. Every child who shows up and wants to participate becomes part of this marvelous impromptu telling of the Christmas story, complete with costumes. No rehearsals or notice necessary. You need bring nothing. Just come. There is plenty of singing by all who come as well. This service will begin at **5:00 p.m.**

A Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols with Communion – This traditional Christmas Eve service includes Scripture, hymns, special music, and the sacrament of Holy Communion, which all Christians and their children are invited to share. The service will end with a beautiful and meaningful candlelight service. This service will begin at **7:30 p.m.**

Christian Education Study Opportunities

We have one **Adult Class** that meets in the classroom #1 (Sara Davis' Classroom). The leaders, Dan Toole, and Betty Lehner, discuss various chapters of the Bible with good discussion from the attendees.

We have **Children's Sunday School** downstairs in the Education Building. We welcome the children to gather together each Sunday morning before worship for Sunday School lessons, stories, videos, music and time together exploring God's word for us! The three classes, Grade K-3, Grade 4-5, and Middle School meet in the downstairs classrooms. Come at 8:50 for a snack and enjoy time with your friends and teachers from 9:00 to 9:45.

Advent Study:

We will again have an Advent study this year. The study is open to anyone in the congregation and will be offered at two different times during the week:

- During BB&B, Thursday's at noon, beginning December 2nd.
- During Sunday School, beginning Sunday, November 28th, at 9:00am.

Both sessions will be led by Brenda Thomson.

We will be using a book entitled *Awaiting the Already* by Magrey deVaga, which looks at the Christmas story from each of the gospels. The book can be purchased from Cokesbury or from Amazon in paperback or e-book forms. Here is the Link to purchase the book. <https://www.cokesbury.com/Awaiting-the-Already-2> If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call Brenda Thomson at 864-723-9031

2021 Christmas Flowers

We will again offer the opportunity to make a donation during the Christmas season in honor or in memory of others. The donations will cover the cost associated with the floral arrangements during the Sundays of Advent. An effort to use natural available greenery and floral materials will minimize the arrangement cost. As in years past, all additional funds will be donated to the Oconee United Ministries. Thank you for your contributions.

In honor or in memory of (circle one) _____

Name(s) giving the donation _____

Music for the church?

The children will have rehearsal **Sunday's, 11:15 AM** immediately following the worship service and will meet in the Choir Room. All children aged 5 through 12 are invited to come. AND any young person aged 13 and older is also invited to come to talk with our Music Director, Rosalie Hovencamp, about singing with the adult choir.

A young person need not be a member of SPC to come and sing with us. All are welcome.

Choir/Band meets every **Monday for practice at 6:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.**

If you have a young person who you will bring to this meeting / rehearsal OR have additional questions, please contact Rosalie Hovencamp by email at: rosencamp81@hotmail.com