

# THE IDLEWILD

Welcome to Our Community of Faith!

# CHIMES

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CONGREGATION AND FRIENDS OF IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN MEMPHIS • DECEMBER 2016

# Joy

## Celebrating the Nativity of Jesus Christ

On Christmas Eve, we have three joyful services, all in the Sanctuary. Nursery care is available for 3:00 & 5:00 services only. Children are always welcome in worship!

**3:00-3:45 P.M.**

### FAMILY-FRIENDLY SERVICE



**5:00 P.M.**

### SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS



**11:00 P.M.**

### YOUTH-LED COMMUNION CANDLE- LIGHTING SERVICE



See the back page for details about  
Christmas Eve Services.

## Advent Noontime Worship Service & Lunch

Each week during Advent, a noontime service is held in the Tripper Chapel. Meaningful holiday stories add to worship and prayer as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. The service is at 12:00 each Wednesday before Christmas, followed by lunch (\$8) at 12:30. All are welcome!

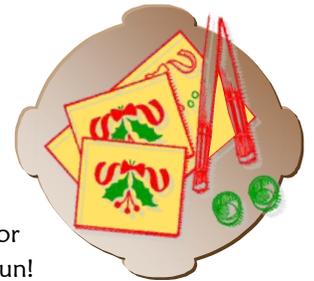


### This Year's Advent Speakers

Nov. 30		Ed Apple, Emily Mulqueen
Dec. 7		Mary Edith Walker, A.J. Northrop
Dec. 14		Joellyn Sullivan, Steve Valentine
Dec. 21		Caitlin Bomar, Wellford Gould

## Children's Advent Workshop

All PK through 5th graders are invited to the Advent Workshop Sunday morning, December 4, as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. There will be crafts and refreshments. The workshop will be held during Sunday school time (9:40-10:40) on the 3rd floor east of the Jones Building. Bring your child to join the fun!



## Bach Cantata on Sunday, December 11

In our hymnal there is a hymn traditionally associated with the Season of Advent, especially in the Lutheran world, entitled "Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us" (hymn 349). We will be learning and singing this hymn each Sunday of Advent as we explore the idea of *Staying Awake* during the Advent season.



On Dec. 11, the 3rd Sunday of Advent, the Idlewild Choir will present Johann Sebastian Bach's cantata based on this hymn, "Wachet auf! Ruft uns die Stimme." The cantata, which is about 25 minutes long, will compose a large segment of the 11:00 worship service. It will feature choral sections as well as solo and duet sections, accompanied by an ensemble of instrumentalists playing authentic Baroque instruments. The congregation will join in singing the final stanza of Hymn 349 in English.

## Your Advent Activities Calendar Is Inside

Use the Advent Activities Calendar for the whole family! You can also pick up a calendar, along with the special Advent devotionals booklet, at the church. (See page 2 for more information.)



## Holiday Sunday Schedules

### Waffle Sunday - December 18

The annual Waffle Sunday will be 9:40-10:30, during Sunday school hour, on December 18. Enjoy holiday fellowship, waffles, coffee & juice. Gary Beard will lead carol-singing. It's hosted by the young adults. (Please note: Children will attend their regular classes.)

### 11:00 Worship Only - December 25

No 8:30 worship service or Sunday school on Christmas Day. During the 11:00 service, Children's Church Continued (C3) will not be held, but nursery care will be available.

### 11:00 Worship & First Sunday Lunch - January 1

No 8:30 worship service or Sunday school on New Year's Day. During the 11:00 service, Children's Church Continued (C3) will not be held, but nursery care will be available. We will have First Sunday Lunch.



## Get Your Advent Calendar and Devotional Booklet

In addition to the Advent activities calendar in this Chimes, devotional booklets are available at the church. The booklet has devotions written by church members which reflect on a passage from the daily lectionary. So this Advent, spend a little

time each day reading scripture, praying, and acting in the true spirit of the season. We hope that both the calendar and the devotional booklet will enrich your family's experience of the Advent season.

*Both the calendar and booklet are online at [www.idlewildchurch.org/christmas](http://www.idlewildchurch.org/christmas).*



## Sunday Lectionary Readings

**1st Sunday of Advent – HOPE**  
November 27  
Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44

**2nd Sunday of Advent – PEACE**  
December 4  
Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12

**3rd Sunday of Advent – JOY**  
December 11  
Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11

**4th Sunday of Advent – LOVE**  
December 18  
Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25

## IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

1750 Union Memphis TN 38104  
[www.idlewildchurch.org](http://www.idlewildchurch.org)  
Office 901-726-4681 • Fax 725-4535  
Recreation 725-4165 • Children's Center 725-7941



### MINISTERIAL & PROGRAM STAFF

*Staff emails & phone extensions can be found at [www.idlewildchurch.org/who\\_staff.html](http://www.idlewildchurch.org/who_staff.html)*

Stephen R. Montgomery  
Pastor

Anne H.K. Apple  
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Evangelism

Margaret Burnett  
Associate Pastor for Outreach Ministry

Rebekah Abel Lamar  
Associate Pastor for Christian Formation

Denton McLellan

Parish Associate

Corinne Nienhuis

Parish Assistant

Walt Tennyson

Parish Associate

Stephen R. Haynes

Theologian in Residence

Barry Oliver

Director of Music Ministry

Jacob Pierce

Interim Director of Athletics

Shari Gross

Interim Director of Fellowship

Frank Kelly

Director of Youth Ministry

Caitlin C. Bomar

Director of Children's Ministry

Sarah Wolf

Young Adult Ministry Director

Latrice Toombs

Children's Center Executive Director

Doris Hurdle

Director of Operations

*The Mission of Idlewild Presbyterian Church is to pursue, personify, and practice as Presbyterians the good news of reconciliation and salvation in Christ through worship, education, fellowship, and outreach.*

### DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY CHIMES IS DECEMBER 8

*The Idlewild Chimes is a publication of Idlewild Presbyterian Church (USA), 1750 Union Ave., Memphis TN 38104. The newsletter is published monthly, September–June, to inform members and friends of church programs, news and events. The Chimes newsletter is online at [www.idlewildchurch.org](http://www.idlewildchurch.org). Editor: Ginny Moore, [gmoore@idlewildchurch.org](mailto:gmoore@idlewildchurch.org).*

### IDLEWILDCHURCH.ORG

*Calendar | Registrations | Giving  
Bulletins | Sermons  
Member News & Resources*



### LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

# Stay Awake! The season beckons us to pause

You've heard the label "CE Christian." That is someone who comes to church twice a year, on Christmas and Easter. (Yes, we have our share of them, but be assured I love them too!) I wish I could at least convince them to become an ACE Christian—with the "A" standing for Advent.



*A letter to the congregation  
from Pastor Steve Montgomery*

**Advent?** But we don't sing Alleluias during Advent. We don't have brass quartets. We don't dress up in our finest. And I confess, Advent has become little more than the shabby waiting room outside the doctor's office, strewn with out-of-date magazines, a television blaring carols and visions of sugar plums to distract us from the clock.

But Advent is so much more. Advent is the season that reins us in and holds us back, incessantly saying, "Not yet!" True. But it is for this very reason that Advent makes Christmas more worth the wait: Advent blesses the waiting. Advent demonstrates liturgically the paradoxical wonder of waiting for the God who is present to show up.

This year I would encourage us to immerse ourselves even more fully into the waiting and not to rush prematurely and headlong into Christmas. I would encourage us to live with the theme of Advent this year: Stay awake!

**Why?** One thing we can all agree on is that we live in a world of anxieties and worries. No need to go into the specifics, it is something we all feel. For those of us who have been living in darkness—and I'm talking spiritual, political, economic, or emotional—(which includes just about all of us!), I hope we can live amid the most hauntingly beautiful of our hymns and evocative of prophetic utterances, and witness at long last ourselves emerging into a great light.

I would suggest that we allow Advent to speak to us and to speak for us in its own plaintive voice. Advent speaks in the voice of disenchanted hope on the threshold of the enchantment of Christmas. It beckons us to pause here with the God who walks with us for God's full deliverance of creation.

So amidst our busy-ness of gifts to purchase, travel plans to be made, and celebrations with families and friends to be organized, I hope and pray that we might also be as fully present as possible in this moment of Advent. For the sake of our souls, for the sake of our communities, for the sake of our country, and for the sake of our world, let us allow the ancient prophets their moment.

The grace that enables us to cast away darkness and put on the armor of light is a grace which God gives us. We simply don't have it in ourselves to live in hope. This is the gift of hope. This, too, is the gift of Advent.

Blessings in this season of hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

I hope and pray that  
we might also be as  
fully present as  
possible in this  
moment ...

## Help Those in Need: Give to the Compassion Collection this Christmas Eve

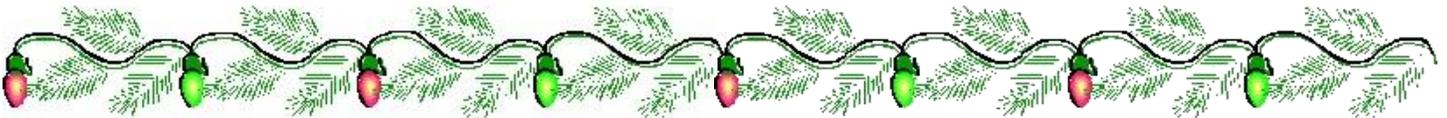
Our church has a long history of assisting God's people who face challenges of food, shelter, and clothing. Through your gifts to the Compassion Collection, the church is able to help many people in varied ways from utilities to funerals, emergency shelter to food for children, prescriptions to bus tickets. This support is beyond the scope of More Than A Meal and is needed in different ways each week.

Please consider how you might help us help those in need! The Compassion Collection is in real need of more funds. If you would like to give to this ministry of hope, please write a check to Idlewild Presbyterian Church with "Compassion Collection" in the memo line. During the Christmas Eve services, offerings will go directly to the Compassion Collection.

## December's A Look Inside Class

A Look Inside, a class for prospective members as well as church members, meets the first Sunday of each month. On December 4, the topic is "Worship and the Liturgical Calendar."

This class covers a different topic each month. Subjects include what it means to be a PC(USA) Presbyterian and why we celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper like we do, please join us! It is taught by members of the clergy and offered by New Member Welcoming Committee. For information contact Cheryl Westlake at 849-7624 or Associate Pastor Anne H.K. Apple at 726-4681 or [anne@idlewildchurch.org](mailto:anne@idlewildchurch.org).



## Symbols and Meaning of the PCUSA Seal

The seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a symbolic statement of the church's heritage, identity, and mission in contemporary form. The dominant element is the cross, the universal and most ecumenical symbol of the Christian church, which represents the incarnate love of God in Jesus Christ and his passion and resurrection. The descending dove, a symbol of the Holy Spirit, makes up the top of the cross. In the center is the horizontal contour of a book, highlighting the Reformed tradition's emphasis on the role of Scripture as a means of knowing God's word. The flames symbolize the revelation of the burning bush and suggests the beginning of the Christian church at Pentecost. Finally, the name of the denomination encircles the symbol.

Several other symbols reveal themselves upon closer examination. The lower part of the design forms an implied triangle, a symbol of the Trinity; part of the cross resembles a lectern; and some see a fish symbol in the body of the dove. Read more about the PCUSA seal and see the symbols illustrated on the web. Visit [oga.pcusa.org/section/stated-clerk/stated-clerk/seal](http://oga.pcusa.org/section/stated-clerk/stated-clerk/seal).

*The seal is a registered trademark; congregations may use it, but others require permission.*



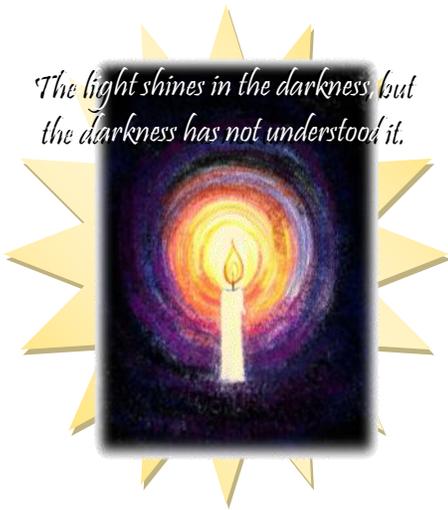
## Order Poinsettias by December 12

Christmas poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 18, given in memory or in honor of friends and family. The names will be printed in the bulletin. Individual acknowledgements cannot be sent.

Order deadline is December 12, and payment must be received with the order. Pick up an order form at the church, or order poinsettias at [www.idlewildchurch.org/registrations](http://www.idlewildchurch.org/registrations). (There's a \$3.50 processing fee for online orders.)



*We see the denomination's seal many places. But what does it mean?*



### C3 Volunteers Are Needed in December

Many of you have stepped up and volunteered for Children’s Church Continued, but there are still a few dates we need covered between now and the end of the year. Additionally, we need to start getting volunteers on the calendar for 2017. Volunteers work in pairs and are provided with a lesson and supplies. We need four volunteers each week (two for the three-year-olds and two for the JK and SK group). If you would like to sign up or want more information, please email Caitlin Bomar at [cbomar@idlewildchurch.org](mailto:cbomar@idlewildchurch.org).

*On Christmas Day and New Year’s Day, we will not have Sunday school or C3; however, nursery care will be provided during the 11 o’clock service.*



### Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received Sunday, December 18. This special offering has been a Presbyterian tradition for more than 60 years. During the Advent and Christmas season, we celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

### Parents, Mark Your Calendars

**The Family-Friendly Christmas Eve Service** is from 3:00 to 3:45 p.m. Make plans now to attend. It is a happy and short service! Children can come dressed as angels, shepherds or wise men. (Simple head pieces will be available.)

**A Communion Workshop** will be held on Sunday, January 29, after the 11:00 service, for first graders and their parents. Stay tuned for more details in the January Chimes.

### Many New Things Are Happening in Our Community – and in Our Church

*Jim Harwood, chair of the Stewardship Committee, talks about giving with gratitude, reaching out, and opening our doors to serve God’s new thing.*

New stores, new restaurants, new apartments and offices — a lot is going on in Midtown. As our fellow Memphians go about their daily lives, Idlewild remains a beacon of the hope and joy of God’s love in this bustling community. Soon, Idlewild will get its own facelift to the facilities allowing us to offer MORE to the community, much more.

Yes, these are all worldly improvements. Is this God’s new thing? Not exactly. As Christians, we are responsible to use these secular opportunities to create spiritual ones and evangelize Christ’s love. I think that’s God’s new thing. He’s giving Idlewild the opportunity to step up to the plate and deliver His message.



### Just imagine...

I imagine how many people come and go through our community, and how we can serve them. Perhaps a single mother lives in Cordova, works at Crosstown, and brings her four-year-old to Idlewild Children’s Center. Perhaps a family from

*(NEW THINGS continued on page 7)*

  
 “The mystery of the humanity of Christ, that he sunk himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding.”  
 –Martin Luther

### Winter Weather Watch

Whenever public schools are closed due to inclement weather, Idlewild classes, dinners and meetings will be cancelled. For info about specific groups, please check with the committee chair or group leader. **Regardless of weather, More Than A Meal worship service and dinner on Thursdays are always held.**

## CONTRIBUTIONS DEADLINES

### Contributions: December 30 at Noon

All contributions must be post marked by December 31, 2016, in order to be reported as 2016 contributions. Cash and checks that are being delivered to the church must be at the church by noon Friday, December 30.

### Transfer of Securities: December 30

For gifts of securities, the IRS requires that the donor must instruct his or her broker to irrevocably transfer the securities to Idlewild's account; this must be done by Dec 30, 2016. The value of the donation will be the mean between the high and the low trading prices on the day of transfer or day of delivery, whichever is applicable. The transfer of securities can be a very simple task, but in some cases may take longer than expected—so it's best to make your gifts early.

### Electronic Transfer Forms for 2017: December 16

If you choose to use electronic transfer for your 2017 pledge payments, you must fill out a new form each year. Deadline for submitting an electronic transfer form for your 2017 pledge payments is Friday, December 16. Forms are available in the office. If you need more information please contact Tonya Moses at 726-4681 or [stewardship@idlewildchurch.org](mailto:stewardship@idlewildchurch.org).

## OFFICES ARE CLOSED DECEMBER 26-27

### Do We Have Your 2017 Pledge?

Our church's annual budget is based solely upon pledges received. If you haven't turned in your 2017 pledge, please do so now. It's easy! Here's how:

Pledge online at  
[www.idlewildchurch.org/giving](http://www.idlewildchurch.org/giving)

Drop a pledge card in the offering plate or mail it to the church

Email your name, address, and pledge amount to  
[stewardship@idlewildchurch.org](mailto:stewardship@idlewildchurch.org)

## MORE IDLEWILD

IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

### More Idlewild Pledge Reminder

First, thank you all for your More Idlewild pledges. While so many have generously pledged, there are still pledges that have not been received to date.

As a friendly reminder, we would like to ask all of our committed MI contributors to forward your pledges. Thank you!



You can tell a lot about a person by the way he or she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.

### Dates to Remember

- Nov 30.....Noon Advent Service & Lunch
- Dec 4.....First Sunday Lunch
- Dec 6.....PW Circles
- Dec 7.....Noon Advent Service & Lunch
- Dec 11.....Bach Cantata in 11:00 Worship  
Young Adult Christmas Party
- Dec 13 .....Daycare Christmas Program
- Dec 14 .....Noon Advent Service & Lunch
- Dec 18 .....Waffle Sunday
- Dec 21 .....Noon Advent Service & Lunch
- Dec 24.....Christmas Eve  
3:00pm Family & Children's Service  
5:00 pm Lessons & Carols  
11:00pm Youth-led Communion Service
- Dec 25.....Christmas Day  
11:00am Worship Service  
*No 8:30 Service or Sunday School*
- Dec 26 & 27 ..... Church Offices Closed
- Dec 31 ..... Contributions Deadline: Noon
- Jan 1.....New Year's Day  
11:00am Worship Service  
12:00pm First Sunday Lunch  
*No 8:30 Service or Sunday School*
- Jan 2 .....Offices Closed

### Committee Meetings

*These meetings were scheduled as of Nov. 16. Please check with your committee chair or the church office if you have questions.*

- Dec 5..... 6:00pm.....Congregational Care
- Dec 6..... 3:00pm.... Building Communications
- Dec 6..... 6:00pm... New Member Welcoming
- Dec 6..... 6:30pm.....IC3 Board
- Dec 11.....12:30pm..... Community Support
- Dec 12 .... 6:30pm.....Evangelism
- Dec 13 .... 5:30pm.....Worship & Music
- Dec 14 .... 8:00am..... Building
- Dec 14 .... 5:30pm..... Budget & Finance
- Dec 14 .... 6:30pm..... Session

## Transitions in Our Church Family

### Baptized in the Faith

Evelyn Joo-Eun Law  
daughter of  
Peter Law & Seunghyun Kim

### A Loss in the Church

Shirley Sorrelle  
November 23, 1933  
to November 3, 2016

### Dismissed

Elizabeth Cobb Houston  
to Rosemark First Presbyterian Church

Matthew Tyler Benz-Whittington  
to the Presbytery of St. Augustine,  
Jacksonville, Florida

Leslie Alene Black  
to First United Methodist Church,  
Pasadena, California



## Gifts to the Church

### Memorials

DENBY BRANDON, JR.  
Horace & Elizabeth Houston  
JOHN FAIN  
CWC  
JT & Helen Jabbour  
GARY SWADDLE  
Regina Benson  
Carol & Terry Bishop  
Anne & John Jones

## Youth Corn Maze Adventure in November



*(NEW THINGS continued from page 5)*

East Memphis who just lost a loved one; they many participate in a program at Good Grief prior to going out to eat at Overton Square. Maybe these people, coming and going through Midtown, become members of Idlewild and get more involved, or we happen to touch their lives. With so much more activity going on around us, are we going to sit inside and watch it—or open our doors and invite them all in?

### As we receive God's grace...

Your financial support of the church is necessary from a pragmatic point of view, but is imperative from a spiritually disciplined standpoint. Symbolically, we serve communion on silver platters as a way to remind us we don't have to do a thing to receive God's grace. As Christians, we respond to this grace by tithing our time, talent and treasure to deliver this exact message.

### Be a part of the mission...

Be a part of the mission, outreach and service of our church. Please make sure you have submitted a pledge of financial support for 2017. And, if you have given in the past, please increase your pledge if at all possible.

As the church, we have the capacity to do whatever we put our hearts and minds to accomplishing. We must trust that the Holy Spirit is working through us and our congregants.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Stewardship chair.

—Jim Harwood

## THE IDLEWILD CHIMES

IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1750 UNION AVENUE  
MEMPHIS TENNESSEE 38104



### Celebrating the Nativity of Jesus Christ

*Gather with us on Christmas Eve as we welcome the Christ Child with three beautiful services in the sanctuary.  
Nursery care available at the 3:00 and 5:00 services. Children are always welcome in worship!*

#### 3:00-3:45 p.m. Family-Friendly Service

Everyone is invited to this happy celebration of the birth of Jesus! "Will You Come to the Stable?" Children are encouraged to come dressed as angels, shepherds or wise men. (Simple head pieces will be available.) Children's choirs sing and children lead the service, Nursery care is available, but all children are very welcome!

#### 5:00 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols

The Sanctuary is alight with candles and joyful music for the traditional Lessons and Carols. A prelude of instrumental music begins at 4:30. The service includes beloved Christmas carols sung by the choir members and the congregation, traditional Bible lessons, and candle-lighting. Nursery care available, but children are very welcome!

#### 11:00 p.m. Youth-led Candlelit Communion Service

Music, readings and celebration of the Lord's Supper lead to the joyous lighting of candles at midnight. This festive service is led by clergy and our senior high fellowship group. All ages are welcome to attend. No childcare available.