



## **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 18, 2016**

### **Thoughts for Individual Meditation**

*Each year the Child is born again.  
Each year some new heart  
finally hears  
finally sees  
finally knows love.  
And in heaven  
there is great rejoicing!  
There is a festival of stars!  
There is celebration among the angels!  
For in the finding of one lost sheep,  
the heart of the Shepherd is glad, and  
Christmas has happened once more.  
The Child is born anew  
and one more knee is bowed!*

*Ann Weems*

***Fort Street Presbyterian Church***

***631 W. Fort Street***

***Detroit, MI 48226***

***Phone (313) 961-4533***

# Gathering the Community

PRELUDE

*"Patapan"*  
Marilyn Biery, Music Director/Organist

James Biery

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Bob Agnew

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Beth Brown and family

\*HYMN # 113

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

GLORIA

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of light, your ways are far beyond our knowing and you surprise us in unexpected places. You come to us in people we may overlook. You expose our shallow commitments and misplaced loyalties. Forgive us when we have wayward and wandering children too busy to pray and too proud to kneel. Inspire us by the song of the angels, and challenge us by the faithfulness of the shepherds. Put all our concerns in the new perspective of your constant presence, abounding grace and unfailing love. We ask this in whose birth we celebrate, Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

\*SILENT CONFESSION

\*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*RESPONSE SONG # 136

*"Go Tell It on the Mountain"*

GO TELL IT

\*SHARING THE PEACE

The Peace of the Living Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## THE RESPONSE

SONG FOR ILLUMINATION # 146    *"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"* vs. 1    *TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM*

**Gentle Mary laid her child lovely in a manger;  
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

Isaiah 11:1-3,6-9  
(p.602 in pew Bibles)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(*Christmas Affirmation*)

**We believe in Jesus Christ, and in the beauty of the Gospel that began in Bethlehem, for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and whose birth angels announced to shepherds. We believe in Him whom the kings of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand, whose paths were among the common people, whose welcome came from people of hungry hearts. We believe that only by love expressed shall the earth be purified. We acknowledge the glory of all that is like Christ, the steadfastness of friends, the blessedness of homes, the beauty of compassion and the miracle of many hearts made kind at Christmas. We pray, as those who have seen a great light, that His peace may continue to spread throughout the world. Amen.**

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy 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.**

OFFERING OF THE PLEDGES AND GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE # 647

*"Give Thanks"*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## THE WORD

### "The Re-telling of the Wonderful Story: The Birth of Jesus"

Written by Naima Jennings

Read by Naima Jennings and children and the youth of Fort Street

Song leader, Nancy Combs

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

*"Silent Night"*

Aidan Burr, soprano clarinet

HYMN # 88

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"* Vs. 1 - 2

HYMN # 115

*"Away in the Manger"* Vs. 1 - 3

HYMN # 121

*"Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem"* Vs. 1 - 2

*“Enter the Stable”*  
Written and Arranged by Nancy Combs

HYMN # 134

*“Joy to the World”* vs. 1 - 2

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*“Noël Suisse”*

Louis-Claude Daquin

(If you wish to do so, we invite you to sit quietly and enjoy the postlude as part of your worship.)

+       +       +

*\*Please rise in body, mind, or spirit.*

*Please join us after service for Breakfast in Bethlehem for pancakes, intergenerational activities and live music with Ms. Shirley Muench, during Coffee Hour.*

Music Director/Organist

Marilyn Biery

Sound Tech

Twiler French

Worship Coordinator

Craig McLean

**Church Holiday Hours**

The church offices will be closed from December 26-27, 2016.

**Ushers are available to provide assistance with particular needs:**

- Hearing Assist System
- Wheelchair Access Ramp
- Wheelchair Seating--locations available in the sanctuary
- Handicap Restroom--using elevator to second floor

**We are delighted that you are here!**

- \* Visit the information and display tables in the narthex.
- \* During the worship service, child care is provided for children through age 4. Ushers can provide directions. Children of all ages are encouraged to participate in Sunday School, which follows the Children's Message. A Christian Education staff member will lead the children downstairs. Parents may pick them up after worship. For additional information about our Sunday School program, please contact Judith Sheldon at [firstcircleinc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:firstcircleinc@sbcglobal.net). or Nancy Jackson at [nancymottershawjackson@gmail.com](mailto:nancymottershawjackson@gmail.com).
- \* A tape recording and CDs of today's service and/or previous services may be ordered in the Reception Office after worship @ \$3.00 each.
- \* You may add to the beauty of our weekly worship by contributing a floral donation. Flowers are usually given in memory of or in honor of persons or events. Contact Pam Sharrow at [Sharrow13@gmail.com](mailto:Sharrow13@gmail.com). The church office will contact you for your floral dedication.

**Prayer List for the Month of December 2016**

Gabrielle Abrego, Don and Lois Bardwell, Lynne Bieniek, Lorraine and Harrison Coleman, Geraldine Adams Jones, Valorie Kimbrough, Virginia Lorimer, Kathy Payne and family, Jane Petrie, Richard and Suellen Sale.

**Prayers for Military Loved Ones.**

*(We are seeking to update our Military Roll. Please contact the church office with any changes.)*

Lt. Harrison L Coleman USN; Jonathan Heyler USN; SSGT Shanell Howard USAF; Maj. Michael Kurtti USAF; Capt. Theo Moran USAF; Major Katy Spicer USMC; Lt. Mark Webster USAF.

**FORT STREET STAFF:**

Alison Grosch, Operations Manager; Judith Sheldon, Director of Christian Education; John Glover, Director of Open Door; Marilyn Biery, Director of Music/Organist; Edward Kingins, Director of Music Emeritus; Lola JF Davidson, Secretary; Loretta Stanton, Wedding Coordinator; Jerry Johnson, Building Engineer; Damien Hines, Custodian; Karen Wright, Donlin Center Staff.

**Temporary Stated Supply Pastor:** The Rev. Dr. Robert Agnew  
pastor@fortstreet.org

**Pastor Emeritus:** The Rev. Dr. Robert H. Crilley

**Web Site:** [www.fortstreet.org](http://www.fortstreet.org)  
[www.facebook.com/fortstreet](http://www.facebook.com/fortstreet)

# Fort Street News

## MISSION STATEMENT

Fort Street Presbyterian Church is an oasis in an urban environment, building a caring Christian community where diversity is celebrated and developing programs that minister to metropolitan Detroit and the world beyond. We do this in response to the grace of God through Jesus Christ, recognizing the truth of the Gospel: *There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of us are one in Christ Jesus.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu 1	Fri 2	Sat 3
December 2016				9-11am Open Door 7:30 Chorale Rehearsal	<b>Church Offices Closed</b>	<b>3:00 Messiah Concert</b> 5:30pm AA 8:30-10:00pm AI-Non
<b>4</b> 9:45am Adult Ed 11:00am Worship, 3:00 Messiah Concert  6:30pm NA	<b>5</b>  <b>Risers are taken down</b>	<b>6</b> 8:30am Clothes Sort 12-2pm Career Clst 8:00-9:00pm AA	<b>7</b> 2:00pm Staff mtg <b>7:00 Session</b>	<b>8</b> 9-11am Open Door	<b>9</b> <b>Church Offices Closed</b> <b>5:30pm Wedding Rehearsal</b>  8:00-9:00pm AA	<b>10</b>  5:30pm AA  8:30-10:00pm AI-Non
<b>11</b> 9:45am Adult Ed 11:00am Worship, (Communion) 12:30-3:00 CE Movie/ brown bag luncheon 3:00pm Wedding 6:30pm NA Celebration Sunday	<b>12</b> <b>Deadline for Poinsettias order</b>	<b>13</b> 8:30am Clothes Sort 12-2pm Career Clst 8:00-9:00pm AA	<b>14</b> 2:00pm Staff mtg 6:00 Fiscal Mtg	<b>15</b> 9-11am Open Door <b>11:30 Open Dr. mtg</b>	<b>16</b> <b>Church Offices Closed</b>  8:00-9:00pm AA	<b>17</b>  5:30pm AA 8:30-10:00pm AI-Non
<b>18</b> 9:45am Adult Ed 10:00 Children's Rehearsal 11:00am Worship 12:00 Breakfast in Bethlehem Coffee Hr. 6:30pm NA	<b>19</b> <b>12:00 Staff Christmas party</b>	<b>20</b> 8:30am Clothes Sort 12-2pm Career Clst 8:00-9:00pm AA	<b>21</b> 2:00pm Staff mtg	<b>22</b> 9-11am Open Door 7:00 Worship Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> <b>Church Offices Closed</b>  8:00-9:00pm AA	<b>24</b> 5:30pm AA <b>7:00 Christmas Eve Service</b>  8:30-10:00pm AI-Non
<b>25</b> 11:00am Worship , (CHRISTMAS) 6:30pm NA	<b>26</b> <b>Church Offices Closed for Holiday</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Church Offices Closed for Holiday</b>	<b>28</b> 2:00pm Staff mtg	<b>29</b> 9-11am Open Door	<b>30</b> <b>Church Offices Closed</b>  <b>5:00 Wedding Rehearsal</b> 8:00-9:00pm AA	<b>31</b> <b>3:00 pm Wedding</b> 5:30pm AA 8:30-10:00pm AI-Non

### Year End Giving

There are only a few weeks left to fulfill your 2016 stewardship pledge! To date we have received 82% of the amount pledged for 2016. According to IRS guidelines, for charitable contributions to qualify for a 2016 deduction, they must be received in the church office on or before **December 31, 2016**. If you have any questions, please contact Alison in the Finance Office.

### Please Use Envelopes for Sunday Check Contributions

The count volunteers who total up the Sunday offering would appreciate it if check writers could fill out a pew envelope and use it to enclose your check. We use these envelopes as documentation to back up details of our deposit record. If you don't fill one out at the time of contribution, a volunteer must write one for you. The envelope also allows you to show precisely how your contribution is to be applied to our various funds. We thank you for your faithful giving and for your help in assuring that it is counted correctly.

# Fort Street Presbyterian Church



**COME CELEBRATE OUR  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE  
WITH THE MICHIGAN BLACK  
PRESBYTERIAN CAUCUS**

**Saturday, 7:00 pm  
Pre-service music  
7:30pm Worship**

**All Are Welcome**