The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard, Associate Pastor

There is an expression in theology called “already, not yet.” It speaks of the kingdom of God that is in part already here, but not yet fully. The sense of the phrase ‘being that when Jesus lived on the earth he brought a part of heaven to earth in his presence and ministry among us. In that vein, we say that the kingdom is “already” among us. The “not yet” part is about knowing that the kingdom has not yet fully arrived, however as people of faith we are to be those who trust that it will arrive in the fullness of time some day. We are invited then to live both in the present and toward the promises of God.

I find that is an apt description of this time of year. We are beginning the season of Advent and Christmas is not yet here. Yet in so many ways the world around us acts as though Christmas has arrived. We decorate, we celebrate, we buy presents and we anticipate. We use up so much energy and time beforehand that sometimes when Christmas arrives it feels more like an ending instead of a new beginning—when in fact the season of Christmas is 12 days long for a reason, so that we may more fully celebrate what we have been anticipating and preparing for over the weeks.

Anticipation is a gift of hope. It invites us to look toward and forward to something. But it also involves preparation, preparing our hearts and minds to celebrate the powerful meaning of the birth of Jesus. For the birth of Jesus, while it is something that we have experienced before, is something we are invited to experience once again with awe and wonder.

So as you look at the lights around us, hear carols on the radio that touch your hearts, and prepare in so many others ways for Christmas, I invite you to be in the moment—to savor in your hearts this time of anticipation and preparation that leads us to welcoming the holy one called Emmanuel who is God with us.

“Let us indeed prepare to sing of the Wonders of his Love”

Karen

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From the Pastors

The Rev. Dr. David Holyan, Pastor

How Might We Magnify the Lord?

Every year, as the smell of roast turkey starts to fill my imagination and I wonder about how many packages of cornbread muffin mix to buy for the stuffing, my heart/soul turns toward Mary and her experience of expecting Jesus. I love the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant (v. 46).

I feel Mary speaks for all of us who know we have been chosen by God. We have received God's goodness when we did not deserve anything other than wrath or rebuke. Instead, in our lowliness, God looks upon us with grace and mercy and love. As I've sat over the last several decades and contemplated God's call to me and the gift of God's spirit within me and the community of faith, the one thing it seems we all have in common is that none of this is deserved. We are all 'lowly' and looked upon with 'favor', just like Mary.

I also find that my spirit rejoices in God's saving work for me and all people through Jesus. I take so much comfort in the fact that God loves us, as we are. We are loved when we are lowly and haughty, rich and poor, in great health and not so great. Maybe this is why we say wedding vows that honor both the good and the bad times, because God loves us through it all. And while we strive to love God in return, this is done after we have already tasted the favor of God's love for us.

So like Mary, I hope each of us, in our own unique way, can 'magnify the Lord' in this season of Advent and Christmas. Can we carve out some space to be thankful to God for the blessings and the challenges of life? Rather than magnifying the presents or the partying, can we magnify God's goodness? Rather than buying only for 'our family,' can we make sure others have what they need and want this Christmas season? How might you, like Mary, magnify the Lord?

Peace,

David.

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Karen
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

December 1, 2019
Sermon: “The Promises of Old” - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: Matthew 24:36-44 and Isaiah 2:1-5

The Psalmist invites us to pray for the peace and prosperity of the people of God (Jerusalem). The prophet talks about the transformation of the implements of warfare into the tools for tending to the needs of a community. On this first Sunday of Advent we will spend time reflecting on the promises of hope we find in the passages for the day.

December 8, 2019
Sermon: “Let Us Seek A New Thing” - The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard
Scriptures: Romans 15 and Isaiah 11: 1-11

We have entered into Advent—a time set apart. We are being reminded that there is the possibility of change and things most unexpected. A yearning for something new and hopeful. This is the call event to seek a new thing, a new way of living life and loving one another.

December 15, 2019
Sermon: “The Good News” - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 11:2-11

What do we expect from God? Is it spectacle or miracle? Power or Presence? What do we really hope for in this season of Advent and Christmas? On this third Sunday of Advent we hear the essence of the good news and the accusation of those who are waiting for something so special they miss God at work in the world. The birth of Jesus is the fulfilling of the prophecies of God, and the beginning of an amazing (yet ordinary) ministry of ongoing care and compassion for those in need.

December 22, 2019
Sermon: “The Faithfulness of Joseph” - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: Romans 1:1-7 and Matthew 1:18-25

On this final Sunday of Advent, the Gospel of Matthew shines a light on Joseph's role in the birth of Jesus. While Luke focuses on Mary, here we see the faith of Joseph on display as he heeds the wisdom of a dream in order for the birth of 'Emmanuel'—God with us—to take place. We will consider the faithfulness of Joseph and the importance of the 'Emmanuel' coming into the world and into our hearts.

December 24, 2019: All services are in the sanctuary
4:00p.m. Children’s Christmas Pageant: Music by the Children’s Choirs and Middle School Ringers
7:00p.m. Communion Worship Service: Christmas message by Dr. Blanchard; Music by the Chamber Choir
9:30p.m. Christmas Prelude Music by the Rosewood Ensemble
10:00p.m. Festival Worship Service: Christmas message by Dr. Holyan; Music by the Chancel Choir and Rosewood Ensemble

December 29, 2019 - 10AM Combined Service
Lessons, Carols, and Communion

During this worship service we will observe a service of Lessons and Carols. We will join together to hear, once again in scripture and song, the birth of Jesus Christ. Come enjoy the Christmas story and sing familiar carols. The service will conclude with the Lord’s Supper.

From the Director of Music Ministries

Some of the happiest memories from my childhood are of Christmas. These dear thoughts are almost always triggered by a piece of Christmas music that I hear or play. Music is wondrous gift that can lead us to places of peace and comfort. It can inspire great joy or calm a troubled heart. I treasure these memories and the music that is forever linked to them.

We enter into the seasons of Advent and Christmas, and music will certainly have an essential place as we worship and prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. We plead “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”. We lift our voices and invite the world to “O Come, All Ye Faithful”. We light candles and offer together “Silent Night” as we sing Alleluia with all heaven's angels.

May the hope, peace, joy, and love of Advent lead us all to a rich celebration of the Nativity. Let us sing together as we journey through these holy days. A Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas to you all!

Faithfully yours,
Bill
GIVING TREE GIFTS: DUE DECEMBER 8TH

We are working with Lydia’s House again this year on our Giving Tree project. They need gifts to be delivered to their office on December 8th. Ornament tags have already made it to the trees.

To support this mission all you need to do is grab an ornament from the tree, purchase the gift requested and return it to church before 10:00 a.m. on December 8th so our confirmation students and mentors are able to deliver them to Lydia’s House! Please do not wrap gifts.

Lydia’s House works in faith to end domestic violence by being a place of healing and a voice of hope for abused women and their children. They provide safe, affordable transitional housing for up to two years.

IMAGINARY THEATER
DECEMBER 8 AT 2:00P.M.

Join us in Fellowship Hall for the Imaginary Theater’s production of The Elves and the Shoemaker. This event is a wonderful tradition that the Con Spirito team presents for our families each year. Following the performance there will be cookies and milk. This is a great way to spend an afternoon during the holiday season together!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Children are welcomed at all of our Christmas Eve services, but the 4:00p.m. service is our annual Children’s Christmas Pageant. Music will be provided by our Children’s Choirs and Middle School Ringers. Alumni of the ministry will be invited to sing the final anthem!

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IN SEASON

This month, Sunday School for kindergarten through eighth grade will be learning from both the New and Old Testaments – from Isaiah to Jesus’ Family Tree. We love this time of year in Sunday School!

Dec. 1 No Sunday School
Dec. 8 Giving Tree gifts due back unwrapped and labeled with ornament
Dec. 15 Caroling at Adam’s Place
Dec. 22 Birthday Celebration
Dec. 29 No Sunday School

Sunday School meets weekly at 10:00a.m. and is open to children ages 3 years old through seventh grade.

LOGOS UPDATES

Special Person Night was super special - a way to thank adults in the lives of our LOGOS Students by having them over for dinner and sharing what we are all thankful for. We are all thankful for LOGOS!

December Themes:
12/4 - Off to Space
12/11 - Beach Night
12/18 - Copy Rob Night
12/25 - NO LOGOS

YOUTH MINISTRY

SENIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP

Our Senior High youth meet weekly on Sunday evenings from 7:00p.m.-8:30p.m. We have a lot of fun most weeks and try to sneak a little learning in too! December is a stressful time for students, so we will have open study hours during exam week - a great way for the church to be church for our students. We have a lock-in slated for January - for info reach out to Rob!

CONFIRMATION

We are approaching the halfway point of the Confirmation Class. Students have already talked about mission, church structure, church history and more. In December, students will be learning about Christmas as well as wrapping up our Giving Tree project for the church!
December 1 & 8: How Climate Change Will Affect our Future: Carl Campbell, a retired stock and bond analyst, has taken a deep interest in climate change. For the last five years he has written a 5-day-a-week "Carl's Climate Letter", a one-page digest of the day's climate change news and views from sources the world over providing a unique and important resource in examining the climate issues we face.

December 15 - Joint event in the Fireplace Room at 9:30a.m. with the Rubright's. See article on enclosed insert or on page 9 if you receive your newsletter electronically.

January 5-12: Member Dr. Ron Evens will speak on "Exploring the St. Louis hospital, clinic and urgent care center complex". Ron has held numerous leadership roles at Washington University Medical Center and is an inspiring and brilliant commentator who knows a great deal about the history of and current issues regarding medicine in St. Louis and beyond.

January 19-26: Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers will speak to us on the topic of “How Did Jesus Become God?: A Study in Earliest Christian Thought”. Examining the recent work of New Testament scholars Larry Hurtado, Bart Ehrman and others on the historical question on how the belief arose that Jesus is divine, at one with God in a unique sense. How did a Jewish monotheist, like the apostle Paul for example, come to believe so quickly that Jesus should be honored with divine titles (as in Philippians 2:5-11)? Dr. Meyers is Professor Emeritus of Religion at Lindenwood University and Parish Associate at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church in St. Louis.

Additional speakers in the year to come will include Art Historian, Peggy Carothers, Paul Robinson of Concordia Seminary, Christopher Saxton about the events after the Civil War; and George Durnell on the composer Randall Thompson.

FIREPLACE ROOM SERIES - DECEMBER 15
8:45a.m. - 12:15p.m.: THOSE WHO ATTEND THE FIREPLACE SERIES are encouraged to attend the Alternative Gift Market on December 1 and 8 in the Gathering Space as well as observing the Giving Tree round up as it is prepared for delivery on the 8th.

9:30a.m. - Joint event in the Fireplace Room with the Rubrights. See article on enclosed insert or on page 9 if you receive your newsletter electronically.

ALSO: In the new year we will have a class series with Jani Holyan, the return of the rabbi and a presentation on how to save for college for our children and grandchildren.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION CLASS - 9:30a.m. in Room 028, December 8
The Spiritual Formation series will focus on deepening the stillness of the heart through prayer, meditation, study and reflection. Tom Edelstein is the convener of the group which will meet the second Sunday of the month at 9:30a.m. in room 028. If you have any questions please contact Tom at tedelstein@att.net.

TUESDAY MORNING BOOK GROUP
Room 030, 9:00a.m.
The Tuesday morning book group is discussing David Brooks’ new book The Second Mountain. This book explores the movement from living life that is self focused and based on success as defined by society and how some people come to “embark on a new journey (wherein) life moves from self-centered to other-centered, embracing a life of interdependence, not (just) independence. He writes about a wide range of people who have embraced the necessity and beauty of dependence,” in a commentary on the culture of our times in a way that “is meant to help us all lead more meaningful lives.” All are welcome. For more information, contact Karen in the church office or at kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org.

FOURTH WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP, 1:30p.m., Room 030
The Fourth Wednesday Book Group will meet on Wednesday, December 4 (date adjustment due to Thanksgiving). The book is The Silent Patient, by Alex Michaelides. Written from a psychiatrist’s viewpoint, a man seeks to help a woman who is accused of murder who suddenly became mute.
Breakfast Club

Join us for breakfast ($2 fee) on Thursday, December 5, at 8:00 a.m. in the Fireplace Room (030). Rev. Al Michener will be our Speaker. The topic is, “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Pulpit.”

Dementia Discussion Group

The Dementia Discussion Group meets the 3rd Saturday of each month. They will meet on December 21 at 10:00 a.m. in room 029. If you have any questions, contact Alice Bowen at asquare812@hotmail.com or David Evans at davidevansma@yahoo.com.

Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group will meet on Tuesday, December 17, 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., in the lounge. For more information contact Ellen Hitschler at ln4cats@yahoo.com or Mary Ann Shaw at mashaw5@sbcglobal.net.

Women’s Cookie Exchange

Come one, come all to the first Annual Women’s Cookie Exchange at First Pres! We will gather in the Fireplace Room for fellowship and sweet treats on Monday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. We ask that you bring 2 dozen cookies, or as many as you would like. Homemade or store-bought, all cookies are equal here! Plates will be provided for you to take your cookie assortment home. Please RSVP to Julie Nesvig at (314) 809-2830 or j.nesvig83@gmail.com. See you there!

Prime Timers

We hope you will join the Prime Timers on Thursday, December 5 as we celebrate Christmas early in Kimmswick, MO. Kimmswick will be decorated for Christmas as will the famous Blue Owl Restaurant where we will have lunch. This is always a fun event. Not only will we enjoy delicious food, fabulous desserts and lots of good conversation, we can shop in all the little stores if desired. We will meet at the Blue Owl at 11:30 a.m. Please sign-up at the table near the lounge no later than Monday, December 2 (I must make a firm reservation by Tuesday December 3). You may also call Grettie Muckler at (314) 822-7440 or email her at grettiemuckler@sbcglobal.net. If you wish to carpool, we will meet on the church lot at 10:15 a.m. To check out Kimmswick, go to visitkimmswick.com.

Directions: Take I-55 to the Imperial/Main Street Exit #186. Make a left at the top of the exit. Follow this to the 1st stop light and make a right onto Highway 61-67. Follow this about 1 block and turn left on Highway K. Then follow this road into Kimmswick.

Bridge Bread Table

The Bridge Bread Table will be open for business on December 8. Besides the regular items, there are mini-cinnis, artisan bagels and pan brownies. The money raised helps train and provide transitional housing to the ever-growing population of the homeless in St. Louis. Of course, donations are also appreciated. Leftovers will be donated to a local nursing home.

New Women’s Circle Forming in the New Year

Women’s circles in the life of the church are made up of those who want to study, reflect, share and be in fellowship together providing opportunities for community, support and growth in faith.

An initial meeting for those interested in a new women’s circle will be held on Wednesday evening, January 29 at PJ’s in Kirkwood at 7:15 p.m. We will share in a meal, talk about possible study books, consider names for the circle and select a regular monthly meeting night for the Wednesday group.

If you are looking for a way to connect, an opportunity for getting to know others in the church, and times of study and fellowship, this may be the group for you!

For more information contact Karen Blanchard at kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org or call the church office.
CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00p.m.  Children’s Christmas Pageant:
Music by the Children’s Choirs and Middle School Ringers
7:00p.m.  Communion Worship Service: Christmas message by Dr. Blanchard
Music by the Chamber Choir
9:30p.m.  Christmas Prelude Music by the Rosewood Ensemble
10:00p.m. Festival Worship Service: Christmas message by Dr. Holyan
Music by the Chancel Choir and Rosewood Ensemble.  
10:00p.m. service will be streamed live for those who cannot join us.

All services are in the sanctuary

OFFICE & BUILDING SCHEDULE
Tuesday, December 24th:  Church Office Closed
Wednesday, December 25th:  Facilities Closed
Thursday, December 26:  Office Open 9am-2pm
Friday, December 27:  Office Open 9am-2pm
Monday, December 30: Office Open 9am-2pm
Tuesday, December 31: Office Open 9-12
Wednesday, January 1st, 2019:  Facilities Closed

DECEMBER 29, 2019
One Service, 10:00a.m. in the Sanctuary
Lessons, Carols, and Communion

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CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS
Poinsettias may be ordered now through Wednesday, December 11, 2019.  Cost is $25 each.  This a wonderful way to
honor a loved one and help beautify our facilities for Christmas.  Just fill out and tear off this form and place in the
offering plate or mail to the church with payment made to First Pres, earmarked “Poinsettia”.

Quantity: __________
in CELEBRATION or MEMORY of (please circle one):
___________________________________________________________________________
From: ________________________________________________________________
Phone # and/or email:____________________________________________________

Poinsettias may be taken home following the 11am service on January 5.

Join the Presbyterian Church (USA) in assisting our past and present church workers in their time of need and providing for the education and development of our church’s future racial ethnic leaders. 50% of your gift will go to provide opportunities for future leaders (racial ethnic leadership development) and provide assistance for students to attend Presbyterian–related racial ethnic schools and colleges to pursue professional and leadership goals. The other 50% is used to give back to those who give their all (assistance program of the board of pensions) by offering financial assistance for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. Special envelopes for this offering are in the pews. Please give generously.
DEACON DOINGS

The Board of Deacons would like to thank the congregation for their amazing support of a number of recent projects and collections.

For the first time, all appointment slots were filled for our Fall Blood Drive. Forty pints of blood were donated which will provide help for well over one hundred people. Thanks to all who donated, worked the sign up tables, who helped out at the canteen or made cookies.

The successful pencil drive for the Kwasha kids. Pencils are a precious commodity in the Kwasha school because quality pencils cannot be purchased in the area. Your generosity will help the 400 students now being taught in the school. In addition, the Deacons donated money to send the pencils and other items overseas.

The hat, sock and mitten drive brought a number of warm items that were delivered on our first cold day of the season. The social worker and others from the Kirkwood District were so appreciative of the gifts that included some wonderful hand knitted items as well.

Thank you to all of those who bought wrapped gifts for this year’s Advent Bags. These bags contain a number of small gifts that were delivered to our homebound or members recovering at home. Each day the members are to open a small gift to use or to share with others. It is a meaningful way to remind those who are unable to be with us in body, that we are thinking of them and with them in spirit. In addition, you are invited to stop by the card tables on December 8 and 15 to send a card to these same members. Cards and postage provided, we simply ask you to add a little personal note of greeting during this holiday season.

The on-going support of KirkCare is deeply appreciated by those at the organization and those who receive your gifts of good. We deliver at least one full grocery cart of food each week and expect more to come during the Church’s Advent Drive collection.

At its last joint meeting with the Session, the Board also received an award of behalf of the church for becoming a certified Hunger Action Congregation by the denomination. They received a check as well which will be used to help support the cooks, garden and gardeners that feed the children of the Kwasha school in Zambia. The garden is important for the meal they receive at school is often the only full and nutritious meal that the student may receive on a particular day.

We have also been working with the school district to help families of the district who need utility assistance and one family in need of rental assistance.

Your gifts and donations help to touch lives and are signs of hope and encouragement. Thank you so much for your generosity and concern for others.

First Pres Recognized as a Hunger Action Congregation

Our congregation is active in ALL six areas of hunger response, measured by the PC(USA) Hunger Program, and we are now recognized as a Hunger Action Congregation. We join the faithful ranks of churches around the country that respond with compassionate action to end hunger in a country and world that have the potential to feed everyone.

We thank each and every one of our members who contribute to our ongoing programs for alleviating hunger locally and worldwide.

Thank you and congratulations to First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood members.
## DECEMBER 2019

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>8:15 AM Communion Worship</td>
<td>8:45 AM Alternative Gift Market</td>
<td>8:45 AM First Pres Cafe</td>
<td>9:00 AM Christian Concerns Series</td>
<td>9:05 AM Arise! Contemporary Worship</td>
<td>11:00 AM Traditional Worship</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>8:00 AM Preschool/KDO</td>
<td>1:15 PM Staff Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00 PM Carillon Ringers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8:00 AM Preschool/ KDO</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Bridge Bread Sales</td>
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<td>8:00 AM Preschool/KDO</td>
<td>7:00 PM Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00 PM Carillon Ringers</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8:00 AM Preschool/ KDO</td>
<td>9:00 AM Book Group</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>1:00 PM Philpott Interment</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Christmas Eve Office Closed</td>
<td>4:00 PM Children's Christmas Pageant</td>
<td>7:00 PM Communion Service</td>
<td>9:30 PM Christmas Prelude Music</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>8:45 AM First Pres Cafe</td>
<td>10:00 AM Combined Worship &amp; Communion</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Church Office 9-12</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>New Year's Eve Office Closed</td>
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### EDIBLE ADVENT

The First Sunday of Advent is December 1. We would like to extend an invitation for you to participate in "Edible Advent." Edible Advent is a fun family mission opportunity that serves others by simply collecting the designated items listed for each day of Advent from December 1-24, and then bring them to church on the noted Sunday. Please place your collected items on the marked carts in Fellowship Hall and near the Welcome Center Desk on the dates indicated so that we can deliver the items for timely distribution.

**Return by December 8**
Box of Cereal, Peanut Butter, Stuffing Mix, Boxed Potatoes, Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Fruit, Canned Tomatoes

**Return by December 15**
Canned Tuna, Dessert Mix, Applesauce, Canned Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Beans, Box of Crackers, Package of Rice

**Return by December 22**
Oatmeal, Package of Pasta, Spaghetti Sauce, Chicken Noodle Soup Tomato Soup, Canned Corn, Canned Green Beans Canned Mixed Vegetables, Canned Carrots,
Mark your calendars! The annual Alternative Gift Market, sponsored by the Mission Committee, will be held in the Gathering Space on Sunday, December 1 from 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and Sunday, December 8 from 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. and 1:30-3:15 p.m., before and after the Imaginary Theater production. The market provides one-stop, hassle-free shopping for a variety of unique gifts that benefit local and international charities and fair trade. We are very excited to add several new organizations this year! Plan to join us to support these organizations:

- **Zee Bee Market:** Local retail store that sells handcrafted, Fair Trade and sustainably produced gifts and treats.
- **More Than Coffee:** Local coffee shop that trains young adults with special needs to learn to work.
- **Bead for Life:** Paper bead jewelry from Uganda.
- **Lydia's House:** Lucinda “House” pins to support victims of domestic violence.
- **Partners for Just Trade:** Hand-made items from Cameroon, Haiti, and Peru.
- **Presby. Children’s Services:** Bake sale items.
- **Marion Medical Mission:** Donate to provide clean, safe drinking water in Africa.
- **Project Peanut Butter:** Purchase cookie mixes assembled by our Sunday School kids to help fight starvation in the world.
- **Kwasha Kids:** Crafts that support a children’s school in Zambia.
- **Also:** Heifer Project, KirkCare

If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Force at ashleyforce@gmail.com or Sarah Nepple at sarahbnepple@gmail.com.

**Imaginary Theater Presents: The Elves and the Shoemaker**

**Sunday, December 8 at 2:00 p.m.**

The Imaginary Theatre Company presents “The Elves and the Shoemaker” at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. When a kindly shoemaker gives his only remaining pair of shoes to a cold and hungry beggar woman, he finds his good deed rewarded in unexpected ways. This play is free and open to children of all ages! Milk and cookies will be served following the play!

**ADVENT AND JAZZ STORYTELLING**

**Sunday, December 15    9:30 a.m. in the Fireplace Room**

Emmy Award winning composer-guitarist, Daniel Rubright, will speak on "The Guitar: A Metaphor for Life", using his guitar throughout.

Then Daniel, with Lynn and Robert Rubright, will perform **Mary at the Comfort Inn**, a story about one eventful Christmas long ago when they discovered and entertained an angel in Kirkwood.

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

- **Hebrews 13: 2**

**Annual Christmas Concert & Dinner - December 15**

*4:00 p.m.* - Mark your calendars now for the biggest performance of our season! Our wonderful Chancel Choir, under the direction of Bill Stein, along with orchestra, bells, and Travis Evans, organist, will fill our magnificent sanctuary with sounds of the season. Enjoy settings of traditional carols along with Christmas choral repertoire from across the centuries. Come listen and sing as we celebrate the holiday!

*5:30 p.m.* - Please join us for the Annual Christmas Dinner in Fellowship Hall (following the Christmas Concert). The menu includes beef brisket w/au jus gravy, mixed greens salad with assorted dressings, party potatoes, rolls and butter, green beans, red velvet cake with cream cheese icing, coffee, tea, lemonade and water. The price is $20.00 per adult, $10.00 per child 12 and under, children under 3 are free. We need your reservation by December 9th so please sign up at the table by the Lounge or email Jennifer Pitcher at jpitcherstl@gmail.com. It is always a lovely evening.