



GUIDE US ON THE
PATH OF PEACE

~ Luke 1:79

NORTH LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

209 N. Liberty-Plain Grove Road, Grove City, PA 16127

Web: <http://www.northlibertypc.org>
Church Office 724-794-4383

The Rev. Albert Rhodes Stuart, pastor
Michele Bonnici, Pianist || Mark Bonnici, Videographer
Josiah Stuart, Soloist

2nd Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 5th, 2021

JOYS, CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This Week in Brief

- Sunday: 9:⁴⁵AM — Prayer Time
10:⁰⁰AM — Sunday School
11:⁰⁰AM — Worship Service
- Monday: 1:⁰⁰PM — Christian Ed. Meeting
- Tuesday: 7:⁰⁰PM — Choir Practice
- Thurs.: 6:³⁰PM — Session Meeting || Interview with
incoming officers

Next

- Sunday: 9:⁴⁵AM — Prayer Time
10:⁰⁰AM — Sunday School
11:⁰⁰AM — Worship
3:³⁰PM — Christmas Caroling for Nursing
Homes and Shut-ins with Cookies & Hot
Chocolate @ Church after.

The Offering is collected in the offering plates on the center table in the Narthex. It will be brought forward during the Offertory for the prayer of Dedication. On Communion Sundays there are two different plates out. The Standard offering goes in the gold plates.

Please remain seated through the end of the postlude.

- Children's Church has resumed. The children will be dismissed from the service following the Children's Message. Additional volunteers to staff Children's Church would help immensely; if anyone would like to help with Children's Church, please contact either Joyce Youshock or Dorry Sankey. Thank you, in advance.
- December Items for Bob's Food Cupboard:
✘ Salt, Pepper ✘ Basic Spices

NOTICE: We have returned to “Normal” in attendance & gathering restrictions. Masking is not required, though it is suggested for those who are unvaccinated or have chronic illness or autoimmune conditions that make them more vulnerable to COVID-19 or one of its variants. We video record worship services for distribution on DVD and on the Church website & YouTube channels; Our short range AM signal around the building also continues for those who wish to attend, but cannot come inside to expose themselves.

Video recordings of services available via YouTube & the Church website.

Albert Stuart Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgskXHNKPjvAwEeH6CKeQNA>

North Liberty Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzi4d3I8gQuFwtER3o6xFyA>

Church Website:

<http://northlibertypc.org/blog/highlights-upcoming-events/>

or:

<http://www.northlibertypc.org/category/recordedsermons/>



✠ ✠ ✠ PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD ✠ ✠ ✠

PRELUDE: “People, Look East”

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: **Novotny Family**

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD’s hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
 and every mountain and hill be made low;
 the uneven ground shall become level,
 and the rough places a plain.
⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
 and all flesh shall see it together,
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”
⁶ A voice says, “Cry!”
 And I said, “What shall I cry?”
 All flesh is grass,
 and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades
 when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
 surely the people are grass.
⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades,
 but the word of our God will stand forever.
⁹ Go on up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good news;
 lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
 lift it up, fear not;
 say to the cities of Judah,
 “Behold your God!”
¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
 and His arm rules for Him;
 behold, his reward is with Him,
 and His recompense before Him.
¹¹ He will tend His flock like a shepherd;
 He will gather the lambs in His arms;
 He will carry them in His bosom,
 and gently lead those that are with young.

Reader: Our lists are long, even in this strange mess that
 company is coming. O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verse 2) # 245
 [2] O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer

Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

[Refrain]

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Prayer:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Pastor: LORD You were favorable to Your land; You restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin. You withdrew all Your wrath; You turned from your hot anger.

People: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly. Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Unison: Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps a way.
(Psalm 85:1 – 3 & 8 - 13)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

HYMN: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” [Vv 1 - 3] #259

[1] Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

[Refrain]

Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

[2] Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
Yonder shines the Infant Light: [Refrain]

[3] Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star: [Refrain]

CALL TO CONFESSION:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Unison: Eternal God, in Whom we live, move and have our being; Whose face is hidden from us because of our sins, and Whose mercy we have forgotten in the blindness of our hearts; Cleanse us, we pray, from all of our offenses and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires which we have nurtured deep within us.

Grant that with reverent and humble hearts, we may draw near to You, and that in confessing our faults and clinging to Your grace, we might find our true refuge through Jesus Christ, Your only-begotten Son. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION:

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

* GLORIA PATRI:

✠ ✠ ✠ HEARING THE WORD OF GOD ✠ ✠ ✠

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

CHILDRENS' MESSAGE:

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: Malachi 3:1 - 4

¹“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 3:1 - 6

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,
⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

ANTHEM: “Heaven and Nature Sang”

SERMON: “Straight Lanes & Level Planes:
Preparing for Our Refining & Purifying God”
Rev. Albert Rhodes Stuart

✠ ✠ ✠ RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD ✠ ✠ ✠

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles’ Creed

Unison: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion

of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER:

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS & TITHES:

OFFERTORY: "Reflections on 'Greensleeves'"

* THE DOXOLOGY:

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

HYMN: "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" [Vv. 1, 3 & 4] # 267

[1] I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men.

[3] And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men."

[4] Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

CHARGE & BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE: "Emmanuel"

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the North Liberty Presbyterian Church is to **serve Christ**. We seek to introduce Jesus as the Christ and become disciples so that together we are enabled to love one another and share His love with those around us.

+++ PRAYER CONCERNS +++

Hospitalized

Jim Swisher || Rusty's Uncle (on hospice)
Bob McGhee || Tony & Janice McElhinny's friend
Bob Barger
Bill Johnston || Evelyn Koprivnikar's brother

Upcoming Surgery

Dr. Sherrick & Son
Ed Turnbull (Rotator Cuff Repair)
Tom Johnston || Knee Replacement Dec 9th
Dorry Sankey || 2nd Knee replacement
Lee Covert || Rotator Cuff surg. Dec 9th

Recuperating

Cathy Hemmerlin || From Surgery & a fall
John Petrack
Chris Shaw (recovering at home)
Rick Shaner || Tumor removal – ear canal
Jason Weyerich (To Rehab / TBI)
Linda Beatty
Johnny Hubel (TBI Home Recovery)
Barb Linko (Heart Surgery – Waiting)
Ed Buchert (Recovering & PT)
Brittany Glace (Double Lung Trans || COVID)
Phyllis Buchanan (Congestive Heart Failure)

Cancer Warriors

John Petrack (Sue Black's B-in-L)
Nick Cooper (Dorry's nephew | Lymphoma)
Adam Shields (Leukemia)
Sally Riddle (No Cancer || still has trachiotomy)
Allan Morris (Evelyn K's cousin || Colon/Pros.)
Matt Porter (Brain || Joyce Youshock's Cousin)
Donnie Porterfield (2nd case of COVID)
John McElhinny
Dave Dunkerly
Evelyn Koprivnikar || 2nd-ary tumor & treatment

Health and Other Concerns

Paul Eperthener || COVID recovery & anemia
Marion Wood || Struggles with dementia
Sharon Magalis || Spot on Pancreas w/ testing
Dean Kildoo || Move to Grove Manor
Michael Henderson || Heart Attack & aneurism surgery
Rick Sankey || ALS Diagnosis & Parkinson's
Bob Kedanis || Work accident

Garalynn Barlow (Parkinson's)
Bob Barger
Brandy Brown
Pat Burns (Anne Treanor's Sis-in-law)
Nancy Clark
Thomas Cooper (Dorry's nephew)
Kay Dannels (friend of Beth Black)
Jesse Duncan
Michael Henderson (39 y.o. w/ heart attack and coronary artery aneurism)
Martha Dunlap
Dick Dunlap
Ray Hoagland (Marianne McCreight's father)
Carter Kerr (Carolyn Rizza's Cousin)
Linda Knight
Tony Nicoletto
Theresa & Stephanie Snyder (Joyce Youshock's cousins)
Avery Reynolds (Friend of Marie Duncan)
Kaitlyn Spinoso || (Bob McCreight's grand-daughter)
Sam Williamson
Helen Sevin
Paul Bonnici (Mark's brother)
Julie Roberts
Scott Burns (Stroke recovery)
Jack Hemmerlin (Eye Press. Good | still has Double Vision post-surgery)
Gwen Best (COVID)
Trish Turnbull (Kidney Dis. / Bad Hip)
Joe Baker (more tests)
Paul Rizza (Long-term yeast infection)
Larry Shannon || Improving Diabetic flare
George Pokrant
John & Edna Mae Tissue (John's health issues)
Holly Tissue Thompson || Broken foot
Al || Homeless Gent. (Barkeyville Area)

Bereavement

June McClellan Family
Joe Gregg Family
Bob Dickey Family

Special Prayers

The State of the Nation
COVID Vaccinations & Delta Variant
Police, Fire, EMS, Med. Personnel
Afghanistan

Thanksgiving

Joy

Work & Worship of the Church

Presbytery of Shenango (re-organization
& new officers | Sue Black, Vice-Mod.)
Sunday School Teachers
CE & Liberty Lambs & Lion

Mission

Pecos Valley Hispanic Ministries
Pres. Church in N. & S. Sudan
(New churches planted | COVID | Re-
conciliation)

Dominican Republic Mission Partners
Shenango Pres DR Team 2022 Trip
Planning
Kidnapped Missionaries in Haiti

Shut-ins

Erma Campbell –Rm 316B
Orchard Manor
20 Orchard Drive
Grove City, PA 16127

Joan Dickey
Lakes of Jefferson
7271 W. Market St.
Mercer, PA 16137
724-418-4446

Dick Schultz – Room 518
Butler VA Healthcare
353 North Duffy Road
Butler, PA 16001

Lillian Jeffrey
Home 2 Me
600 Slippery Rock Road

Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Jackie Bowser
407 North Liberty Road
Grove City, PA 16127

Martha Dunlap
354 North Liberty Road
Grove City, PA 16127

Dean Kildoo
Grove Manor ||Room 118
435 North Broad Street
Grove City, PA 16127

FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY



Kyle Campbell (Alex's brother)
Jake & Jessica Corey (Lockheart)
Orman (Erin Stoops' Cousins)
Kirby Buchanan
(Tom & Nina Cooper's Grandson)

As we look at our prayer list each week, we should also remember our college students. Please pray for them, and send them a card or two. They really are excited from us and know that we are praying for them.

NORTH LIBERTY COLLEGE STUDENTS

Alexis Barger
6001 University Blvd.
Student Mailroom
Moon, PA 15108

Alex Hemmerlin
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Grove City, PA 161227

Laurel Hemmerlin
91 N. Liberty–Plain Grove Rd.
Grove City, PA 16127

Lennon Pierce
Ohio Wesleyan University
Box #1186
40 Rowland Avenue
Deleware, Ohio 43015

Chelsea Mahaffey
3424 Dawson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Ashley Shea
Simmons Hall || 228
24 Redifer Commons
University Park, PA 16114

Emma Sankey
2850 Mercer-Butler Pike
Grove City, PA 16127

Patrick Shea
711 East Beaver Avenue
Apt. #26
State College PA 16801

Sydney Stringert
243 Mill Road
Clarks Mills, PA 16114

Mason Stull
323 Edgewood Avenue
Grove City, PA 16127

Emma Uber
Grove City College
580
200 Campus Drive
Grove City, PA 16127

Rachel Hemmerlin
91 N. Liberty–Plain Grove
Road
Grove City, PA 161227

A MANAGER FOR THE MESSIAH

WEEK ONE — GIVING HOPE:

For many this season magnifies loneliness and despair. How might you, your family and the church be the flesh and bones of Christ in our community?

WEEK TWO — GIVING LOVE:

Consider how you can draw up straws of love this week. How can we demonstrate the love of Christ?

WEEK THREE — GIVING JOY:

How can God use you to bring joy to the world?

WEEK FOUR — GIVING PEACE:

In what ways can we bring peace into our community

- [1] Some ideas send a card or visit someone who is alone, elderly or ill.
- [2] Make or bake something or buy and share it with a neighbor
- [3] Make Christmas cookies and share a plate
- [4] Empty your change into the Deacon bucket at church
- [5] Add something to the Red Kettle for Salvation Army
- [6] Sweep a sidewalk, shovel the snow or rake leaves for someone who could use a hand.
- [7] Ask someone to join you for a coffee, breakfast or lunch
- [8] Do something nice for someone in your household or family.
- [9] Give a toy or take an angel tree gift request.
- [10] Contribute to Grove City Cares for supplies that they can reach out to someone in our name.
- [11] Contribute to Bob's Food Cupboard chunky soups, side dishes or seanonings
- [12] Join in the Christmas caroling, bringing cheer to others.
- [13] Send a card to someone in the nursing home.
- [14] Consider organ donations
- [15] Send a card or gift package to our service men
- [16] Invite someone to church.
- [17] Make a donation to the Deacons or to a charity that will be showing love during Advent.
- [18] Share an encouraging word with someone seated around you on Sunday.
- [19] Bring joy when you are out and about, in the check out line demonstrate unusual kindness.
- [20] Practice active listening.
- [21] Pray for specifically for someone you know.
- [22] Offer your time to a young Mom or a caregiver so that they can accomplish some of the extras.
- [23] Make a phone call to someone who may be struggling during the holidays because of family distances, loss or illness.
- [24] Invite someone to the Christmas eve service
- [25] Volunteer
- [26] Share a special time with family or friends
- [27] Pass on a kindness

- [28] Send a special thank you note to someone who has encouraged you in your faith walk.
- [29] Check on a neighbor when you are going to run to the store and offer to pick up what they might need.
- [30] Send a thinking of you card to someone fighting cancer or COVID and may need to limit activities during the holiday.
- [31] If it be possible with you, seek peace where there may have been or is conflict
- [32] Practice forgiveness
- [33] Whatever the Holy Spirit nudges you to do