

NEWSLETTER

First Presbyterian Church of Croswell

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CHRIST THE CENTER THIS CHRISTMAS AND BEYOND

First Presbyterian Church of Croswell
places Christ at the center of Christmas.

You do that in these following ways.

By the Hanging of the Greens Service on
Sunday, November 30; the Children's
Christmas Program on Sunday, December
14; Lighting of the Advent Wreath during
worship services on all the Sundays of
Advent; and the Christmas Eve Service.

Repeatedly during my brief stint as serving
as your pastor, I have emphasized that Christ,
rather than you or me, is the true center of the
church. Several times in messages (sermons)
and the Time With Children (children's message)
I have asked you to notice how the large Celtic
cross of Christ has been attached to the north
wall of First Presbyterian Church. And the pews
in the Sanctuary are arranged in such a way that
we all face the cross of Christ.

Pastors come and go. But Christ is the One who
can be counted on to ever remain, throughout all
ages, as the center of the church.

Having said pastors come and go, I wish to say
thank you for trusting me to be your pastor
during these past two years. Thank you for
being intent listeners to messages from the pulpit
as well as the talks with the kids known as Time
With Children. Thank you for receiving the Holy
Communion from my hands. Thank you for
sharing with me your prayer concerns. Dayna joins
me in thanking you for so warmly welcoming and
embracing both of us.

We love you with the love of Christ!
Pastor Bill and Dayna Wright

December 2025



Prayer Requests

Those in our church
family going through
tests, surgeries and
recovering from recent
surgeries.

Those experiencing
colds/flu.

Those going through
difficult times and
suffering recent losses.

First responders (EMTs,
Police and Fire fighters)
and military active duty
and veterans.

DECEMBER QUOTES

“If we could condense all the truths of Christmas into only three words, these would be the words: ‘God with us.’” —*John F. MacArthur*

“Who among us will celebrate Christmas correctly?

Whoever finally lays down all power, all honor, all reputation, all vanity, all arrogance, all individualism beside the manger; whoever remains lowly and lets God alone be high. ”—*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

“Much of the beauty of Christmas lies in its challenge to look further, deeper, until we find its secret in the heart of God. But we never find that unless we look beyond the presents under the tree.”

—*Dale Evans*

“The time draws near the birth of Christ; The moon is hid; the night is still; The Christmas bells from hill to hill, Answer each other in the mist.”

—*Alfred, Lord Tennyson*

“Christmas in Bethlehem. The ancient dream: a cold, clear night made brilliant by a glorious star, the smell of incense, shepherds and wise men falling to their knees in adoration of the sweet baby, the incarnation of perfect love.” —*Lucinda Franks*

“We tend to focus our attention at Christmas on the infancy of Christ. The greater truth of the holiday is His deity. More astonishing than a baby in the manger is the truth that this promised baby is the omnipotent Creator of the heavens and the earth!”

—*John F. MacArthur*

“The very purpose of Christ’s coming into the world was that He might offer up His life as a sacrifice for the sins of men. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas.” —*Billy Graham*

“Without Christ, there would be no Christmas, and without Christ, there can be no fullness of joy.”

—*Ezra Taft Benson*

“It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.” —*Mother Teresa*

“Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace.” —*Pope Francis*

In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer. – Albert Camus

To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake, it is necessary to stand out in the cold. – Aristotle

Winter is not a season, it’s a celebration.

– Anamika Mishra

Snow falling soundlessly in the middle of the night will always fill my heart with sweet clarity.

The fire is winter’s fruit. – Arabian Proverb

Winter forms our character and brings out our best.

There is a calmness to winter unlike any other season.

Embrace the cold; it awakens your inner warmth.

Winter whispers strength into the soul.

The silence of winter speaks louder than summer’s song.

You are my winter sun.

In winter, love feels like the warmth of a shared blanket.

Two hearts in winter — one eternal flame.

I love the winter because it holds us closer.

Snow outside, warmth within — that’s love.

“We all get the exact same 365 days. The only difference is what we do with them: -Hillary DePiano

“Every moment is a fresh beginning.”— T.S. Eliot

“New year, new goals, new opportunities to become an even better version of yourself.” — Unknown

“Every new year is a new beginning, a chance to start fresh and write a beautiful story with your life.”– Elsie Green

“New year, new goals, new opportunities to become a an even better version of yourself.”– Rip Miller

Why is Christmas celebrated?

“When we think of Christmas, it is easy to conjure up the image of a New England village with snow-covered roofs and a glimpse of a Christmas tree in every window,” says Elizabeth White Nelson, PhD associate professor, department of history at University of Nevada.

For many, this is the ideal image of Christmas before Santa Claus eclipsed the baby Jesus as the central figure in the story. “Historically, for many nineteenth-century New Englanders, this village scene would not have seemed like time-honored tradition, but a modern, and not necessarily desirable change in their observation of Christmas,” she explains, noting that until the American Revolution, most New Englanders did not celebrate Christmas as a feast day, give presents, nor decorate a Christmas tree. “Some even went as far as to refuse to celebrate Christmas because they said there was no proof that December 25 was truly the day Jesus had been born and to celebrate it without that proof, was a form of idolatry.”

In fact, the old-fashioned Christmas of that village scene was modern Christmas for nineteenth-century Americans and many of them lamented the commercialization of Christmas then as much as we do today.

So, why do we celebrate Christmas on the 25th of December? Per Andrade, as early Christians began to establish holidays celebrating various stages of Jesus’ life, they commonly settled on December 25 as his birthday during the 4th century. “Scholars differ about why exactly this is, but they recognize that Romans had identified December 25 as the day of the winter solstice and associated it with the worship of the Sun, and even the Sun’s birthday,” he adds, noting that Christians in the 4th-century Roman Empire apparently believed that this was a suitable day with which to identify the human birth of Jesus Christ, their God.

Whatever the case may be, Christmas has been part of the liturgical calendar since the time of Emperor Constantine, says White Nelson, and it may even have been celebrated before it was officially added to the Church calendar. Three Kings Day may be on your holiday radar, too.

Before the nineteenth century, it was more common, however, to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany — the arrival of the Magi — which is celebrated on January 6 and sometimes known as Three Kings Day (when it’s celebrated on the night of January 5 it’s called the “Twelfth Night”). “The gifts of the Magi inspired a tradition of giving gifts at the new year. In the United States, it was more common to give New Year’s gifts than Christmas gifts until the early nineteenth century,” says White Nelson. “It was also more common for Christmas to be celebrated in the Southern and Middle Atlantic states. Before the American Revolution, New Englanders commemorated it as a religious holiday, but not as a feast day.”

That changed when New Yorker Clement Moore wrote the poem “‘Twas the Night Before Christmas” in the 1820s, “which popularized the idea of St. Nicholas,” says White Nelson. “St. Nicholas brought coins or small presents to children who left out their shoes or stockings. Moore took liberty with the date of St. Nicholas day, which is December 5, characterizing it as the night before Christmas,” she continues, adding that although this practice was most common in New York in the early part of the nineteenth century, by the 1840s the tradition had been adopted more widely.

How did Christmas get its name?

As you may have gathered, the “Christ” in Christmas refers to Jesus Christ.

“The English name for the holiday, Christmas, is commonly accepted as originating in medieval England in reference to the Catholic mass celebrated on the day of Christ’s birth,” offers Andrade.

“The name comes from the description of the mass celebrated in the Catholic Church to celebrate the birth of Christ — ‘Christ Mass,’” reiterates White Nelson, who adds that this was shortened to the current form in the early Middle Ages. “Other church celebrations, like Michaelmas and Candlemas, adopted a similar form,” she further comments, pointing out that neither Michaelmas or Candlemas are actively celebrated anymore.

SPECIAL DAYS IN DECEMBER

Dec. 1

Playboy Day
Rosa Parks Day
World Trick Shot Day

Dec. 2

National Mutt Day
Special Kids Day
Safety Razor Day

Dec. 3

Be A blessing Day
International Baboon Day
International Day of Person with Disabilities

Dec. 4

Faux Fur Friday
International Cheetah Day

Dec. 5

Bathtub Party Day
National Play Outside Day

Dec. 6

Mitten Tree Day
St. Nicholas Day
National Pfeffernusse Day

Dec. 7

National Cotton Candy Day
National Slime Day

Dec. 8

National Lard Day
Pretend To Be A Time Traveler Day
Toilet Paper Appreciation Day

Dec. 9

Birdseye Frozen Food Day
Weary Willie Day
World Techno Day

Dec. 10

Dewey Decimal System Day
Human Rights Day
Nobel Prize Day
International Anima Rights Day
International Traffic Light Day

Dec. 11

Kaleidoscope Day
Magnum P.I. Day

Dec. 12

Gingerbread Decorating Day
Gingerbread House Day
National 12-hur Fresh Breath Day
National Ding-a-Ling Day
National Lost Day
National Cocoa Day

Dec. 13

Gingerbread Man Day
Worldwide Candle Lighting Day

Dec. 14

Monkey Day
Yoga Day

Dec. 15

Cat Herders Day
National Cupcake Day
National Wear Your Pearls Day

Dec. 16

National Chocolate-covered Anything Day
Barbie and Barney Backlash Day

Dec. 17

A Christmas Carol Day
National Re-gifting Day
National Say It Now Day
Clean Air Day

Dec. 18

Answer The Telephone Like Buddy the Elf Day
National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day
Underdog Day

Dec. 19

Look For An evergreen Day
National Emo Day

Dec. 20

Games Day
Mudd Day

Dec. 21

Go Caroling day
Humbug Day
Make Music Day in Winter
National Flashlight Day
Short Girl Appreciation Day
Shorts Day
Winter Solstice
Yule

Dec. 22

Be a Lover of Silence Day
Forefathers Day

Dec.. 23

Family Roots Day
Festivus

Dec. 24

Bald Eagle Day
Christmas Eve
Dec.. 25
Christmas
Christmas Pudding Day

Dec. 26

Boxing Day
National Candy Cane Day
National Whiner's Day
National Thank-you Note Day

Dec. 27

Howdy Doody Day
Visit The Zoo Day

Dec. 28

National Chocolate Day
Holy Innocents Day

Dec. 29

Tick Tock Day

Dec. 30

Bacon Day
Falling Needles Family Fest Day

Dec. 31

First Nights
New Year's Eve
No Interruptions Day

WEEK EVENTS

- Wk.1 Birthday of Admiral Grace Hopper Wk
Recipe Greetings for the Holidays Wk
- Wk 2 Gluten-free Baking Wk
Christmas Bird Count Wk
- Wk 3 Cookie Exchange Wk
Halcyon Days
- Wk.4 It's About Time Wk
Kwanzaa
- Wk 5 New Year's Eve

MONTHLY EVENTS

- Adopt A Turkey Month
- National Tie Month
- Buckwheat Month
- Bingo's Birthday Month
- Safe Toys and Gifts Month
- Spiritual Literacy Month



From your little Library on the corner....

“With intellectual depth and honesty, Lee Strobel investigates, then nullifies, the toughest arguments against Christianity. A perfect book for the intellectual, the doubter and the inquisitive. A great faith builder” This quote by Dr. Bill Bright, Founder and President of Campus Crusade for Christ Int’l, underscores the great value of this great read. The author, a Yale Law School graduate, journalist and former atheist, may be just what you’re looking for! *The Case for Faith*, by Lee Strobel ([Blue Dot](#) – Christianity)

This timeless retelling of the classic folktale of three distinct trees, each with its own hopes, dreams and aspirations is, “Thoughtfully written and beautifully animated. *The Legend of Three Trees* teaches children and adults alike the significance of their role in God’s plan for the world.” From *The Legend of the Three Trees*, DVD narrated by Hal Holbrook. ([Yellow Dot](#) – Children)

Exciting News! We now have the complete series of Jan Karon's beloved Mitford novels! All 15 of her timeless books are available in our little church library for your reading pleasure! Her last book, *My Beloved*, was just published this year – hot off the press! ([Purple Dot](#) – Adult Fiction)

The winter winds are on their way! Good time to curl up with a good book, don’t you think?



2nd Margaret Pomeroy
3rd Elliena Cunningham
6th Gale Oldford
9th Rachael Bales
Joan Tucker
11th Cindy Fockler
13th Allen Hosler
14th Ron Erickson
17th Pomeroy

18th Tom & Debbie Damon

25th HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS”



Dates to Remember



DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6.
7. 10am Worship. Communion	8	9. Deacon's Mtg. 6:00 pm Session Mtg. 7:00 pm	10.	11.	12.	13.
14. 10 am Worship Youth Christmas Program, 10 a.m.	15	16.	17.	18. Food Give-away, 12-2 pm Valiant Ministries	19.	20.
21. 10 am Worship	22.	23.	24. Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m.	25. Merry Christmas 	26.	27.
28. 10 am Worship Rev. Linda Fuller	29	30.	31. 			

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KIDS CORNER



CHRISTMAS CAROL MATCH



Match the song lyric on the left to its song title on the right.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Now the jingle hop has begun | A. Away in a Manger |
| 2. How are thy leaves so verdant | B. Deck the Halls |
| 3. And heaven and nature sing | C. Frosty the Snowman |
| 4. It's the best time of the year | D. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing |
| 5. Two eyes made out of coal | E. Here Comes Santa Claus |
| 6. City sidewalks, busy sidewalks | F. Holly Jolly Christmas |
| 7. What fun it is to laugh and sing | G. Carol of the Bells |
| 8. I gave you my heart | H. Jingle Bells |
| 9. Bells are ringing children singing | I. Joy to the World |
| 10. The stars are brightly shining | J. Let It Snow |
| 11. All is calm, all is bright | K. O Holy Night |
| 12. Christmas is here, bringing good cheer | L. Rudolph |
| 13. I've brought some corn for popping | M. Silent Night |
| 14. They used to laugh and call him names | N. Sleigh Ride |
| 15. In the lane, snow is glistening | O. 12 Days of Christmas |
| 16. Glory to the newborn king | P. Silver Bells |
| 17. Little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes | Q. Jingle Bell Rock |
| 18. Fa la la la la la la la | R. Winder Wonderland |
| 19. Five golden rings | S. O Christmas Tree |
| 20. Giddy yap, giddy yap, let's go | T. Last Christmas |