

## Announcements



**5:00 Service Designed with Young Children in Mind**  
**6:30 Traditional Worship Service**

Our Easiest Bake Sale was another success this year!! We raised **\$730** to be donated to the important work of PWSD! Thank you all for your support!

You'll find our "giving tree" in the lobby again this year. Our budget deficit to the end of October, 2024 was \$20,296.21 including the cost of two building related expenses. With that in mind, we have set our target for this year's fundraising goal at \$20,000. If we are successful, we would cover our operating expenses for 2024 and hopefully have a small surplus to carry into January 2025. To donate, you can leave an envelope with your name on it in the offering, drop by the office or simply send a e-transfer to [summersidepresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:summersidepresbyterian@gmail.com). We have a new feature to add to our tree this year. We would like to invite you to hang a star in memory of someone special, who is particularly missed this time of year, regardless of whether you use the donation ornaments or not. It would be a gentle reminder to everyone of people no longer with us, but who still shine in our memories. We would like to thank you for this year's ongoing support and wish you and your families all the best of the Christmas season.

**A quick update to let you know our November numbers are in and our deficit to Nov.30th. stands at \$19,908.27 including building repairs.**

Sincerely, your Finance and Property Committee.

### **Mission Moment**

Somalia has been devastated by drought for the last six years. Among the many pushed to the brink of starvation is Hawa Ahmed, a resilient mother of eight. When the lack of water and food made the situation increasingly dire, Hawa made the courageous decision to relocate her family for the chance at a better life. Her new surroundings came with a harsh reality: as a displaced person, she was stripped of her possessions and support system, leaving her feeling alone and anxious for a solution. Things changed when Hawa joined a program supported by PWS&D that provided families with emergency cash. With this financial support, Hawa was able to purchase food and ensure access to clean drinking water for her children.

## **SUMMERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Minister: Rev. Bradford Blaikie  
Youth & Family Ministries: Debbie Richard  
Church Administrator: Cheri MacKenzie  
Music: Ruth Ann Read Clay



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~ Fourth Sunday of Advent ~  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

## Our Approach to God

Prelude

Call to Worship:

God who spoke to Mary and Elizabeth,  
**speak your Word to us now.**

God who blessed them with new life,  
**bless us with great expectation.**

God who gave them songs of praise to sing,  
**receive our joyful praise.**

God who loves beyond all measure,  
**we are here to worship you with hearts full of love.**

Hymn: **#139 Hark! the herald angels sing**

Advent Candle Lighting

& Hymn: **#119 Hope is a star** (verses 1-4)

Opening Prayers

***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, the power and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.***

Assurance of God's Love

Welcome & Announcements

Children's Time

& Hymn: **#149 Away in a manger**

## Listening for God's Word

Scripture Readings: Micah 5:2–5a

Luke 1:39–56

The Word of God in Scripture. The Word of God among us.  
The Word of God within us.

**Thanks be to God.**

Ministry of Music: "Gentle Mary Laid her Child" ~Joseph S. Cook

Sermon

Hymn: **#138 While shepherds watched**

## Our Response to God's Word

Offering

***Praise God whose light fills all the earth  
Whose love we see in Jesus' birth  
Whose Spirit forms one family  
Whose grace brings peace and harmony.***

Pastoral Prayer

♪ ***Hear our prayer, O God. Hear our prayer, O God.*** ♪  
***Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.***

Hymn: **#146 Angels from the realms of glory**

Benediction & Dismissal: **Walk in the Light**

Postlude

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As you prepare for this morning's service to begin, you are invited to reflect on the following...

*"Every discussion of "biblical womanhood" should include the fact that in Luke 1, two pregnant women celebrate their new motherhood by passionately discussing the coming overthrow of every earthly empire."*

~ Kaitlyn Schiess



*"It's easy to sing the song, but to pray the lyrics from deep within... that's worship!"*

~ Gangai Victor

*The Christmas characters were all open to the signs of God's arrival: stars, angels, dreams, and more.*

*Where, in 2024, did we see signs of this child who was "born for us"?*

## **Things to pray for this week...**

We give thanks for ministries that demonstrate Christ's love and compassion by offering nourishment and fellowship through Christmas day dinners.

We pray for the safety of all who are travelling over the holidays.

We pray that our lives may echo the refrain of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to all people."

**Scripture Reading:** Micah 5:2-5a (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans<sup>[b]</sup> of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times."  
<sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.  
<sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.  
<sup>5</sup> And he will be our peace  
when the Assyrians invade our land  
and march through our fortresses.

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:39-55 (NIV)

<sup>39</sup> At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup> where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup> But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

***"My soul glorifies the Lord***

***<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,***

***<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful***

***of the humble state of his servant.***

***From now on all generations will call me blessed,***

***<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.***

***<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.***

***<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.***

***<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.***

***<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.***

***<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful***

***<sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors."***

<sup>56</sup> Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.