



Candles That Tell a Story

Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent. Depending on denomination, churches use different color combinations for the candles. Some place four blue candles around the wreath with a white one in the center, while others use all white. Many light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth, and then a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

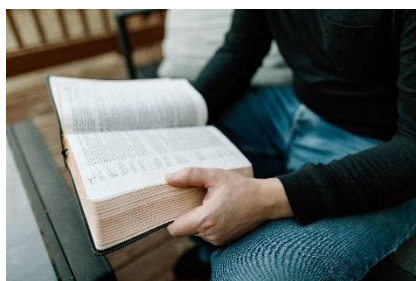
- **The wreath:** Its circular shape represents the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The green symbolizes eternal life.
- **The four candles:** Mark the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ's birth.
- **Purple candles:** in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence. The first purple candle represents Hope; the second, Peace; and the final purple candle, Love.
- **Blue candles:** Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.

- **The pink candle:** Lit on the third Sunday, it represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.
- **The white candle:** The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — “the light of the world.”

The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people — “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (John 1:5, NRSV).

The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles—it's a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.





Studying God's Word

December 7: Help us have quiet and joyful spirits as we worship you, our loving Creator.

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Roman 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

December 14: "The LORD has done great things for us, and we [rejoice]" (Psalm 126:3, NRSV). Tune our hearts, God, to sing your praises now and always.

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

December 21: Through Scripture, John the Baptist still urges people to prepare for Jesus' coming. O God, make today's worship and Christian fellowship part of our hearts' preparation.
Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

December 24: As the short days already begin to lengthen, nature itself reminds us that the true Light has come into the world. Tonight we celebrate his glory!
Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 25: Prevent us, Lord, from being so wrapped up in celebrating Christmas Day that we keep Christ outside our hearts and minds.
Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

December 28: Our Christmas celebrations are now a memory, Lord, but help us know Christmas joy all year long.
Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

RECENT ATTENDANCE

<u>Date</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Offering</u>
October 26	10	15	\$ 389
November 2	9	20	\$ 2,127
November 9	11	24	\$ 712
November 16	6	20	\$ 1,053
November 23	9	30	\$ 961
Online Giving			\$ 0.00

FINANCIAL UPDATE-ANNUAL BUDGET

	<u>Thru November 25th</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Receipts	\$ 4,853	\$ 51,172
Expenditures	\$ 4,202	\$ 96,546



The **Christmas Joy Offering** will be received on two Sundays, December 14 and 21. Monies raised from this offering are used to help minority students attend college and supplement the pensions of retired church workers.



The Christmas Cantata will be on Sunday, December 21 during the worship service with a dinner to follow. This year's cantata will be directed by Dr. Chris Metcalfe. The Women's Association will provide the meat and drinks for the dinner. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

One Day Rummage Sale on Friday, December 5 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm in The Blessing Room. Lots of good clothing, Christmas items, kitchen items and etc.

DECEMBER *birthdays*

1 st	Amanda Goddard	14 th	Nicholas Griffin
2 nd	Baeyley Sherman	14 th	Alexandra Metcalfe
3 rd	Katie Kirkham	14 th	Evan Torgler
5 th	Audrey Yates	18 th	Bobby Griffin
10 th	Chris Goddard	27 th	Charlotte Warner
10 th	Diesel Peden	29 th	Shawn Walker
11 th	Randy Griffin	31 st	Heather Johnston

DECEMBER *anniversaries*

8th Chris & Rachel Goddard

Prayers for Our

Homebound

&

Military

JoAnn Glover

Carolyn Pemberton

Dot Holmes

Logan Flanagan

Maeghan Redmon Oviatt

Nathan Webster

College Students

Jayden Dryman

Madelynn Sherman

Lexi Metcalfe

Amelia Caughron

Please let us know if you have a college student we can add to our list.



**For Your
Support!**

John Knox Center

Medical Benevolence Foundation

Knoxville College

To our church family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and gift card when mom passed. She loved our church! We don't know what we would do without each one of you! We love our church family so much.

The Drymans



bags. Donations can be placed in the box in the Sanctuary.

The Children's Christmas Party will be held on December 17, beginning at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are collecting individually wrapped candies for the treat



*In Memory
of*

Carolyn Ledford

Freddy & Linda Brummett

Kenneth & Peggy Gilbert

Teresa Knight

Margie McPherson

Sissy Shirer

Carol H. Stout

Geraldine Wallick

In Memory

of

Steve Osborne

Hilda Osborne

In Memory

of

Zirkle & Ellen Cooper

Jo An Howard Gaines

SESSION HI-LIGHTS

Linda Brummett, Clerk of Session

November 17, 2025

Moderator: Rev. Beth McCrary

Elders present: Kathy Dryman, Carolyn Bolinsky, Melissa Beck, Geraldine Wallick and Linda Brummett

Elders Absent: Carey Hixson, excused and Chris Metcalfe, excused.

Stewardship: Employees will receive a 3% raise in 2026.

Worship: Chrismon Service on November 30. Advent readings each Sunday. Christmas Eve service and communion on December 24.

At Jerry's request, we need to start looking for a pianist. We will need a budget line item for 2026 to pay a pianist at \$100 per service.

Programs: Christmas party on December 17, 2025 is being planned.

Congregational Care & Outreach: Cards are being sent and phone calls made. Love Kitchen attendance is good.

Nominating: Financial Officers for 2026 were elected by Session.

Co-Treasurers: Tammie Garner and Heather Pelfrey

Co-Accountants: Wilma Brummett and Geraldine Wallick

Financial Recording Secretary: Kathy Dryman

Alternate Co-Treasurer: Geraldine Wallick
Alternate Co-Accountant: Kathy Dryman


A \$200 donation was approved for the funeral service of Lenard McLean from the Second Mile Mission Fund.

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



POINSETTIA — This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?



Who told Mary that her child would be called “the Son of the Most High”?

- A. Zechariah
- B. Gabriel
- C. Simeon
- D. Joseph

Answer: B (See Luke 1:26-32.)



December 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Fellowship Hall Reserved	4 Fellowship Hall Reserved	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Ladies Circle 6:30pm	12	13 Love Kitchen 4:00 pm
14 Christmas Joy Offering	15	16 Fellowship Hall Reserved	17 Christmas Program 6:00 pm	18	19	20
21 Christmas Cantata & Dinner Christmas Joy Offering	22	23 Fellowship Hall Reserved	24 Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm	25 Merry Christmas Fellowship Hall Reserved	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Contributions to MESSENGER are welcomed and encouraged !
Contact Heather at the office if you have items you would like to see included.

THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER CHURCH EVENTS

11 th	Ladies Circle
13 th	Love Kitchen
14 th	Christmas Joy Offering
17 th	Christmas Program
21 st	Christmas Cantata/Dinner
	Christmas Joy Offering
24 th	Christmas Eve Service
25 th	Christmas Day

Special dates

- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 7, 2025*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 14, 2025*
- First Day of Winter, *December 21, 2025*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 21, 2025*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2025*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2025*
- New Year's Eve, *December 31, 2025*

First Presbyterian Church of Rockwood

429 W. Rockwood Street, Rockwood, TN 37854
(865) 354-1674

Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours: M, T, Thurs & F 9:00 a.m. –
2:00 p.m.

Find us on Facebook and the Web
www.fprockwood.org
firstpresrockwood@outlook.com

Hope, Joy and Abundant Peace in Christ

SESSION

Class of 2025	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Carolyn Bolinsky	Melissa Beck	Linda Brummett
Geraldine Wallick	Kathy Dryman	Carey Hixson
		Chris Metcalfe



Rockwood, TN 37854
P.O. Box 42
429 W. Rockwood Street

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE MESSENGER