



THIS WEEK AT SARDIS

Sunday, December 9

9:00 a.m.	Contemporary Worship Service	Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m.	Special Sunday School Class	Sardis House
	Sunday School	Various Classrooms
11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary
4:30 p.m.	Jubilate Ringers	Music Room
5:15 p.m.	Agape Singers	Admin Choir Room
6:00 p.m.	Youth Fellowship	Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 10

6:30 p.m.	Stewardship Ministry	Room 103
7:00 p.m.	Session Ministries Meetings	Various Rooms

Wednesday, December 12

6:00 p.m.	Christmas Dinner	Fellowship Hall
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Thursday, December 13

6:30 p.m.	Disciple Bible Study	Room 210
7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir	Sanctuary

Friday, December 14

8:30 p.m.	Youth Friday Night Frenzy	Fellowship Hall
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Saturday, December 15

7:00 p.m.	Community Christmas Concert	Sanctuary
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Pledge Update as of December 2, 2018

- # of pledges = 294
- Amount pledged = \$1,351,607
- Average pledge = \$4,597

We are well on our way! Thank you for your pledges of financial support for our 2019 Operating Budget. If you have yet to submit your pledge, you may do so online at sardis.org, or by picking up a pledge card in the Narthex and turning it in to the Church Office.

As a comparison, below are the total pledge numbers from last year.

- # of pledges = 404
- Amount pledged = \$1,715,217
- Average pledge = \$4,246



EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Don't forget: Sardis' Annual Christmas Dinner is this Wednesday, December 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The Alternative Gift Market opened today! Visit the market in the Gathering Place at 9:45 - 11:15 a.m. each Sunday in December and shop for gifts that make a difference in our community and around the world! Check out the agencies we will be supporting this year at www.sardis.org. You may download the order form or make online donations.

Sardis Weekday School Christmas Pageant & Bake Sale: Tuesday, December 18 in the Fellowship Hall. The program will begin at 11:30 a.m. Bake sale in the Gathering Place before and after the program. All are welcome!

Friendship Connection: Tuesday, December 18 - 11:00 a.m. in the Sardis House. "Piano for Four Hands" a seasonal music celebration featuring Sharon and Ken DeBoer. Lunch reservations (\$10) need to be made by noon on Friday, December 14. Register online at sardis.org or call the reservation line at 704.926.1590.

Year-End Giving: As you complete your 2018 commitments and gifts and make your pledge for 2019, please keep in mind the following helpful hints from the Finance Office:

- All 2018 contributions must be postmarked by the U.S. Post Office no later than December 31, 2018. Any donations received with a postmark of January will be credited to 2019.
- If you wish to donate stock, please contact David Cauble of Cauble Schrift at 704.272.1969, or call the church office, and we will be glad to send a form with all the information you need. This form is also available on the "Give" tab at www.sardis.org.



We would like to thank 9 year old Ryan Sumwalt for providing the Nativity Scene artwork for the cover of the bulletin this week. Each week through Advent, we will share a drawing of the Nativity by one of Sardis' children.

Equipping

Sardis for God's Mission

Our purpose is to develop and equip disciples of Jesus Christ who will impact the world in every aspect of their lives to the glory of God by:

- **Praising** God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer;
- **Learning** about God's will for our lives through Holy Scripture;
- **Loving** one another unconditionally;
- **Serving** our neighbors near and far;
- **Sharing** from the material and spiritual gifts with which we have been blessed to provide hope for a world in need of it.

Welcome to Sardis Presbyterian Church.

We are honored that you chose to worship God with us this morning.

If you are looking for a church home, we would love to help you explore the possibility that Sardis is the place God is calling you to worship and serve. Just give us information in the pew Friendship Pad for how you prefer to be contacted.

You are welcome here.

Please remember to silence all cell phones in the Sanctuary.

- Join us as Sardis Celebrates the Season! -

CAROLS FROM KINGS

Celebrating 100 Years of Lessons & Carols

A Free Community Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 15
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Featuring choirs from
Sardis Presbyterian Church,
St. Stephen UMC
St. John's Episcopal Church

CONGREGATIONAL CAROLING

Making spirits bright for our homebound members

All are welcome to join us on
Sunday, December 16
Noon in the Dining Room

Light Lunch • Short Rehearsal
Caroling to the homebound

RSVP by December 10
to Penny Frazier
nancypenny914@gmail.com
Or 704.847.5022

A Service of Hope & Remembrance

Wednesday, December 19
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

This service will be a time to remember and give thanks for the life of a loved one who has died.





December 9, 2018

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BAGS are available on racks in the hall near door by the pulpit and the Narthex (main entrance). Please return the bags to the designated basket by the rack.

CHILDCARE for infants through age 5 is available during worship in the Weekday School building. Children 2nd grade and older are encouraged to worship with their families.

THE CHAPEL (through the doors to left of the pulpit) is available for those who would like to worship through a video feed from the Sanctuary (ex: families with young children, those with health challenges).

COPIES OF our newsletter, *The Communicator*, are available in the Narthex and on the website, sardis.org.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES with disposable ear coverings are available. Please speak with an usher and he/she will provide one for you.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND HYMNS are available. Please see an usher for assistance.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY is provided in the main body of the Sanctuary, on the side aisles on the seventh pew, and in the transept area. A handicap unisex bathroom is located in the left rear hallway.

CDs & DVDs of the worship service are available. Contact the church office for details. Audio sermons are available online at www.sardis.org.

THE CORPORATE WORSHIP OF GOD

† *Those who are able, please stand.*

CHIMES

PRELUDE

Advent Voices
Alpha Ringers

Wissinger

† CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Katherine B. Harrington

Leader: As in the days of old, a fiery voice heralds the Savior's coming:

People: "Prepare the way! Let all flesh prepare him room!"

Leader: Christ is coming, Savior of love and light.

Unison: Come to us, Lord Jesus! Amen.

† HYMN#88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Verses 1, 5, 6

Veni Emmanuel

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, Light of the World, you caused light to shine out of darkness in the advent of Jesus Christ; you continually open to us the ways we are to prepare. We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways. We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us, that our hearts may be stirred to glorify the nativity with acts of compassion and service. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

† RESPONSE

#113 Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria

THE LIFE OF SARDIS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome and Announcements

Both members and visitors are asked to sign as the register is passed.

Minute for Mission: Stewardship

EQUIPPING YOUNG DISCIPLES

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

SONG

Light of Hope

Patterson

**Light of hope, light of peace,
light of joy, light of love;
you are just the light we need.
Shine for all the world to see:
Christ is coming soon.**

Children first grade and younger are invited to the Narthex (main entrance to the Sanctuary) to be led to the nursery by one of our Deacons. Parents may pick up their child after worship in the Weekday School building, left of the Sanctuary.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

NT Page 60

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Finding Peace

The Rev. Dr. Jane B. Fobel

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ,

fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

Jesus was crucified,

suffering the depths of human pain

and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead,

vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil,

delivering us from death to life eternal.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks

and to live holy and joyful lives,

even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,

praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

† HYMN #108

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Divinum Mysterium

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER (hymnal pg. 35)

THE PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

Please place your Prayer Request Cards in the offering plate.

OFFERTORY

There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob

Mendelssohn

There shall a star come out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel. There shall a star come out of Jacob; with might destroying, princes and cities. There shall a star come out of Jacob, as bright the star of morning gleams. So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams, of light and consolation. Thy Word, O Lord, radiance darting, truth imparting, gives salvation; Thine be praise and adoration!

Sanctuary Choir

† RESPONSE #147, vs 6

The First Nowell

**Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel!**

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

† HYMN #106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Bereden Väg för Herran

† BENEDICTION

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Please share the peace of Christ with your neighbor.

Welcome Visitors! Drop by the Welcome Table near the main door to speak to someone about Sardis Presbyterian Church and receive more information about all of our ministries.

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The flowers in the Narthex today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bill and Leanna Parker, by Jim and Ellen Parker who were married at Sardis Presbyterian Church on December 8, 2019.

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The poinsettias in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Azilee and Bill Tucker and Thelma Ellett by the Tucker family.

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Pastoral Emergencies: On weekends or holidays please call the church office to be directed to the Pastoral Care Voicemail. Please leave a message, including a call-back number, and a Pastor will be in touch with you shortly.

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No cash for the offering plate? **Make a credit card gift online using your mobile device:** go to sardis.org and click on "Make a Gift Now," or click the code here to go directly to the secure online form.

