



Dear Friends,

Although not called a holiday, Advent is my favorite time of year. I love the emphasis on the preparation of our hearts and homes for Emmanuel – God with Us! Of course, this year, our preparation looks much different.

We won't be gathered together in our sanctuary to hang ornaments or light the Advent candles. We won't have need to pull out our Christmas ties and shimmery tops to wear on Christmas Eve, although I say go ahead and do so for Zoom worship!

Things will look different and not by our choice, but the beautiful truth is that Advent still comes. Christ still comes. This we can count on, even when we can't count on a lot of things in the world around us.

Celebrating Advent and Christmas as a church family will take some effort – on the part of myself and the worship/music staff – but also from you, too. We will all need to "show up" on Zoom worship. We will all need to find ways to reach out to one another other than in person on a Sunday morning. We will need to make an effort to send in our offerings and tithes or participate in Mission and Evangelism-sponsored mission activities.

It will take effort, but it will be rewarding. We will be reminded, with a little effort, that it is the experience of this season and not the shopping or the hosting or the baking that is important. We can be assured that the "light still shines in the darkness," even when we don't feel happy or joyous or celebratory.

I encourage you to make use of resources to help you this season. The Christian Education committee has prepared a WONDERFUL "Advent in a Box" full of activities for all ages. Pick one up at the church or call the office and have it delivered.

Huntingdon Presbytery has a collection of Advent devotions ready to read at [www.huntingdonpresbytery.com](http://www.huntingdonpresbytery.com), written by Teaching and Ruling Elders throughout our presbytery.

Use your FREE subscription to Right Now Media and access children's videos and adult Bible studies featuring Advent and Christmas themes. Contact the church office if you need an invite link sent to your email. Thousands of resources available immediately at [www.righnowmedia.org](http://www.righnowmedia.org).

Additional resources will be shared in our weekly bulletin (mailed and emailed) and on our FB pages. Join your church family in making an effort to receive all the blessings around us this time of year so that you can not only receive but give the "light that shines even in the darkness," the light of Jesus Christ!

*Peace of Christ be with you!*

*Pastor Sarah*



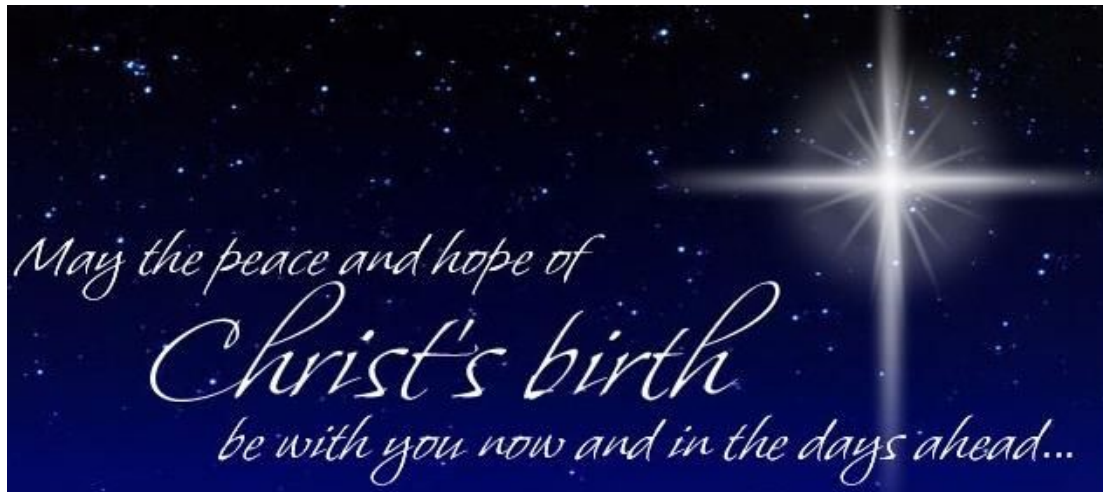
## WORSHIP SERIES FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

God is preparing The Way. He is an active God who loves and wants to be loved. He is a God who is near and among us. Since we are made in God's image, God shows us his favor. The first Christians—often called the followers of "The Way"—glorified God by living their lives like Christ. How will you be glorify God this season?

As God prepared the way for Jesus to enter into this world, and as we anticipate this birth, may you prepare the way for you and others to experience Christ and his love for us all.

Join us on Zoom in December as we "Prepare the Way."

<b>December 6:</b>	<i>He Is Among Us</i>	Luke 1:26-38
<b>December 13:</b>	<i>He Shows Us His Favor</i>	Luke 1:39-59
<b>December 20:</b>	<i>Chancel Choir Cantata</i>	
<b>December 24:</b>	<i>He Is Glorified!</i>	Christmas Eve Candle lighting Service
<b>December 27:</b>	<i>New Year Prayer Service</i>	



**SEND IN PAST PICTURES OF YOUR FAMILY AT LPC:** As we prepare for online worship services in December, we would like to invite you to send past pictures of your family in front of the LPC Christmas tree. Cole Cullen is working on a video to share these images with the church family during our online Christmas Eve worship service. Your picture can be sent to Cole at [cullencole@gmail.com](mailto:cullencole@gmail.com), mail them to the church office, or drop them off at the church mailbox by Friday, December 18.

**THE LORD'S SUPPER, DECEMBER 6:** We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper on Sunday, December 6, during our online worship service. All who trust that Jesus is their Lord and Savior are welcome to take communion. Please have your own bread and juice prepared for worship.

**CHRISTMAS COLOR SUNDAY!** December 20 is Christmas Color Sunday! Wear your Christmas outfits, sweaters, ties and more for our Sunday worship service. Have some fun with your own designed outfit or wear a piece of Christmas jewelry that has a special story. Before the service, we will have a moment to share any stories or memories of the items we chose to wear for worship.

**A BRIEF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held by Zoom immediately following the December 20 worship service in order for Session to bring the Pastor's Terms of Call, changes to the bylaws, receiving the 2021 budget and the Church Nominating Committee to bring their list of nominees for congregational vote. All church members are encouraged to attend!

**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE VIA ZOOM:** We would like to capture the beauty of the candlelight we have enjoyed each Christmas Eve service. We are asking those who plan to join us for online Zoom worship to gather candles around you (or at least one you can hold at the end of the service) and light them for the service on December 24.

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# CHRISTIAN ED

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Ginny Westover, Christian Ed Director

'Tis the season for packages! The UPS and FedEx trucks are shifting into high gear, anticipating hours of deliveries during the holiday season. Where do your favorite packages come from? Amazon, Omaha Steaks, Chewy, Pepperidge Farms, Indian River... Domino's?! Who doesn't like to find a box waiting on their front porch? Right now there are 20 boxes stacked in neat columns on top of the coat racks in the church office hallway waiting to be picked up and delivered to your front door! Don't be fooled by their pizza-style appearance; there's no pepperonis to be found inside these boxes! What you *will* find is everything you need to celebrate Advent and prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. **Advent in a Box** is not just for kids, either! Adults and teens will enjoy the contents just as much as the younger set. So, make sure you stop by the church during office hours (8:30–3:30 Monday-Friday) and pick up a box! While you're getting yours, why not grab a box for a friend or neighborhood family? It's a great way to share the true meaning of Christmas!

Here's what you'll find in your box: A letter of welcome and instruction and six separate bags, each containing different parts of the Advent celebration. There's a bag on top with instructions and materials to make an Advent wreath and a bag on the bottom to get you started on a Hot Chocolate Gratitude party. In between, you'll find four other bags; one for each week of Advent. Each bag holds a booklet with scriptures, devotions, a real life story, a hands-on activity and outreach ideas. Included are all the materials you'll need for the hands on activity (with the exception of a few common household items). Set aside one day for everything or spread out the contents over the entire week. Choose what pieces and what time works best for you! Over the course of the next four weeks we'll be taking a deeper look into the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Activities using Orbeez (water gel beads), bubbles, balloons, glow sticks and more will make the learning even more fun! Pastor Sarah will also be preaching on these same themes during Advent worship, and Zoom Zone Kids will be discovering the same truths at 9:30 AM each Sunday morning of Advent Follow the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88365779417?pwd=RktDS0Qxcmk5eUZZaEpoazBhbXQ0dz09>

Meeting ID: 883 6577 9417; Passcode: 9643. The Christian Education team is excited *to offer these resources to our church family and friends!* We hope you will be blessed as you participate!

Although we won't be meeting in person during the weeks of Advent, the Tuesday night small group and the Youth group will be meeting online via Zoom. We are certainly grateful for the technology that helps keep us connected during this pandemic! There is always room and a warm welcome for more to join each group! Here's what's happening:

Beginning December 1, "Who Needs Christmas?" is the question that the Tuesday night small group will be discovering the answer to via Zoom from 6:30–8:00 PM. "Who Needs Christmas?" with Andy Stanley, is the title of the video series we will be using. You can find it on Right Now Media. We will be watching the videos together as a group and then enjoying discussion about the content afterwards.

Youth in grades 6-12 will be viewing and discussing an Advent video series on Right Now Media called "The Christmas Experience". This engaging set of six videos combines drama and teaching from Kyle Idleman to help us uncover often overlooked details of the Christmas story and bring to light the wonder of God's redemptive plan through Jesus Christ. There will be time for Christmas fun and games, too, all on Zoom from 6:00–7:30 PM.

We are all about to experience Advent as a church family in ways that are very different from what we've experienced in past years. What will God show us? What new opportunities to serve him will he give to us? Who will he bring into our lives that needs the Christmas message of hope, peace, joy, and love that can only be found in a relationship with Jesus Christ? How will we respond?

I believe that the Spirit of God has led the Christian Education Committee to the resources described in this article. It is our hope and prayer that each will be a means of drawing us into a deeper relationship of love with Jesus, our families, and each other. May God richly bless you as you prepare for and celebrate the birth of Jesus and anticipate his return!



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## ADVENT IN A BOX!

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**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PICK UP A BOX AND JUMP  
RIGHT IN ANY TIME DURING ADVENT!  
PICK UP YOURS TODAY!**

Stop by the church office Monday through Friday between 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM to pick up a box. If you cannot get out, please call the church office and someone will be glad to bring one to you (717-248-4561)!



### Lewistown Presbyterian Church

is excited to provide  
you and your family  
with a meaningful way  
to journey through  
**Advent** ✨ **2020.**



### Share Jesus!

Pick up a free box  
for your family  
and a friend's family!

Lewistown Presbyterian Church, corner of Third and Brown streets, 248-4561

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## BACKYARD MINISTRIES!

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Thank you Lewistown Presbyterian Church for your support of Backyard Ministries! Pumpkin breads (made with love by our youth!), hats and mittens and Advent in the Box were given to Backyard kids and families!

**TO CONTINUE TO BLESS THE LIFE OF A CHILD THIS CHRISTMAS** you can provide a \$10 value gift and a pack of socks to a child involved in Backyard Ministries. Please call Lynn Curry (717-250-5957) to receive either a boy or girl and the age of the child.

***"The needy shall not be forgotten" Psalm 9:18***

*LPC Backyard Ministry Representative, Lynn Curry*

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# SEEKING SILENCE

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Rev. Robert Zorn, Pastor Emeritus

***"How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven."  
O Little Town of Bethlehem ~ Phillips Brooks, 1868***

It would seem to be a contradiction, wouldn't it, to speak about or consider "The Sound of Silence" during the most joyous time of the year. We share an almost insatiable longing to hear the bells ring, and the choirs sing; and we are caught up in an almost infectious joining (for better or worse) in the sounds and songs of the season. All of this is good!, very good! but I would suggest that we miss so much of the meaning of Christmas if we do not also listen for the significant silence of the season which carries a meaning "too deep for words." Simon and Garfunkel describe the situation this way: "And in the naked light I saw ten thousand people, maybe more, people talking without speaking—people hearing without listening—people writing songs that voices never share, and no one dare disturb the sound of silence." Not everyone shares in the often boisterous sounds of Christmas which it seems we enjoy. (or is it endure?) It was the NOISE!, NOISE!, NOISE! Of the citizens of Whoville that instigated the Grinch to pursue his path of evil treachery.

I must confess that in my memory there hangs a remorse cloud of "Grinchyness" for a momentary digression into a depth of feeling which would be unworthy for a minister, or any of us. It was a cold evening, just before Christmas as I was visiting Carol in the Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh on a sad and personal mission. Our firstborn son had just been born and had lived only for twelve hours. As the elevator travelled to the floor of my destination, a very vociferous passenger stated his opinion to his captive audience. As we arrived at one particular floor, the opening door revealed a group of carolers from the local city churches. Our fellow visitor continued his complaint. I remember his bitter words to this very day,-- "Why do they allow all of those noisy people in here? Don't they know that there are sick people here?" For one frightening moment, to my regret, I felt myself agreeing with him.

Many Christmas seasons have come and gone since then. Thankfully, in all of those years, I have never experienced any reason to complain or disrespect any sound that speaks of the joy of Christmas (even rummy-tum-tum). As the sounds of this year's Christmas fade from our hearing and memories, I would suggest that we seek the several silences that may still speak volumes. One of them may be a pulpit—any pulpit, in any church simply because it exists. Because of the small dimensions of our Western Seminary, our

graduation ceremonies were held in the East Liberty Presbyterian Church. While awaiting the start of the rehearsals, my classmates and I had the opportunity to search out all of the nooks and crannies of that magnificent sanctuary.

The pulpit of carved marble was built high above the chancel. It could only be reached by climbing a circular stairway. When any of us curious future pastors would do so, we would be faced by an inscription, "WE WOULD SEE JESUS." And, isn't that what every church pulpit speaks in silent admonition? It does not matter if that pulpit be in a gigantic cathedral or in a lowly chapel. The silent, but profound statement must be heard and heeded: "WE WOULD SEE JESUS!" A hymn written by J. Edgar Park in 1913 states it this way, "We would see Jesus, lo! His star is shining, Above the stable where the angels sing; There in a manger on the hay reclining, Haste may we lay our gifts before the King."

Change the scene now to a home where there stands an empty chair, a phone that doesn't ring and there lies a tear stained handkerchief of a parent, a spouse or a child and the quiet emptiness shouts: "THIS SHOULD NOT BE!" Turn now to a sterile room where there is an electric monitor in view and a modulating sound fades into a steady monotone and then silence. Then we know! We know! And the silence speaks what we do not want to hear. But even here the Christmas message sound loud and clear: "Jesus said 'I am the resurrection and life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die'" (Jn. 11:25-26)

In another favorite Christmas story, we find the wicked Grinch waiting in his lair listening to hear the weeping and wailing of sadness from all of the Whos because he had stolen all of their presents, toys, decorations and food. But he heard no such thing. Instead, he heard a song of joy...

**"WELCOME CHRISTMAS!"**

So, let us who experience the many silent hours of our lives, hear the wise words of Dr. Seuss: "CHRISTMAS DAY IS IN OUR GRASP, SO LONG AS WE HAVE HANDS TO CLASP!"

**"JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME. LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING**

**LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM, AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING. AMEN!**

(From Psalm 98.....Isaac Watts 1719)

# PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

Ginny Westover, Preschool Director

Giants come in many varieties. All around the world, there are giants in nature, giants made by people, and stories of make-believe giants. There are even giants mentioned in the Bible. Giants of all varieties share a common characteristic: size. All giants are, well... (to use a "wonderful word of the week") **gigantic!**

What gigantic prehistoric creatures fascinate preschoolers? Dinosaurs!

There was plenty of stomping and roaring going on in the classroom as we did the "Dino Pokey" (think dinosaurs doing the "Hokey Pokey") and sang, "We are the dinosaurs, marching, marching..." We compared dinosaur footprints to our own, measuring length and width, and wondered how we'd ever find shoes big enough to fit a dinosaur's foot! On our dino hunt we matched upper and lower case letters and matched numerals with the number of dinosaurs found in a group (try saying "six stegosaurus" ten times fast!!). We had great fun becoming paleontologists for the week! Our sand-filled sensory table became the excavation site. The children loved digging for "dino(chicken) saur" bones, brushing them off and categorizing them by size. To keep the dust from the drying sand at bay, we sprayed it with water a couple of times during each class. The children had such a good time that Mrs. Mitchell and I decided to let them dig again on Wednesday. No preschool classes on Tuesday, but when I went in that afternoon to set things out for the following morning, I noticed a "funny" smell in the classroom. Miss Kathy, who keeps our classroom sparkly clean, had noticed it too, but neither of us could track it down. Rex's tank? Fish tank? Hermit crabs? Trash cans? A few sprays of Febreze seemed to help. By Wednesday morning, the odor smacked us in the nose as soon as we stepped through the door! When we lifted the lid off the sensory table there was no doubt where the rank smell was coming from! I did a quick excavation of my own, bagged up the bones and tossed the bag into the trash. The children dug for small plastic dinos and dinosaur cards that day! Lesson learned! Chicken bones + wet sand = PHEEEW!! (by Friday, all of the sand was removed, and the table cleaned out... New strategy next year!).

Majestic mountains, enormous rocks, and immense icebergs were some of the natural giants that we



discovered in the month of November. We sorted and classified rocks, demonstrated how a waterfall is made and how rivers empty into the ocean (we washed some of the classroom floor at the same time!). It was great fun writing with an "icicle" (popsicle) and balancing on a narrow "mountain ledge" (aka Maela Mitchell's balance beam) to scoop up cotton ball "clouds" (tongs required for small muscle building).

The Creator of these natural wonders has given people the creativity and intelligence to make some giants, too! Skyscrapers, bridges, ships, trains and roller coasters were so much fun to learn about! Our kiddos built some pretty amazing skyscrapers, walls and bridges of their own! And while we didn't really "build" a rollercoaster, we did get to go on a very exciting simulated ride of Knoebel's big wooden coaster!!

In Chapel times this past month we read about some enormous creatures that God made, including the big fish that swallowed runaway Jonah. The children enjoyed play-acting that story! We also read the story of a Bible time skyscraper of sorts—the tower of Babel—and talked about the sad consequences of believing we don't need God, and the importance of honoring God and being thankful. Even the most gigantic basket in the whole world could not hold all of the reasons we have to say "Thank You!" to God! For Mrs. Mitchell and me, there are 16 amazing reasons to give thanks. They come chattering and laughing into the classroom three days a week, full of life and eager to learn! Each child brings his or her own unique giftedness and personality with them, adding depth and beauty to our little school family. We truly do thank God for the privilege of teaching and growing with our kiddos! As we enter the world of Zoom classroom and remote learning for the next several weeks we are grateful for the technology that allows us to maintain connection and provide a platform from which learning can continue. We are especially thankful for the wonderful support we have received from our students' parents and the church Session.

We wish you all a wonderful holiday season, focused on the incredible gift of Jesus, and filled with the peace that comes from trusting in his **gigantic** love for each of us!



# FINANCIAL REPORT

Susan L. Ferguson, Church Treasurer

## BUDGETED INCOME AND EXPENSE October 31, 2020

	<u>Jan - Oct 2020</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Income			
BUDGETED INCOME	142,305.33	201,121.00	70.76%
INVESTMENT INCOME	110,438.40	135,672.00	81.4%
Total Income	<u>252,743.73</u>	<u>336,793.00</u>	<u>75.04%</u>
Expense			
BENEVOLENCE	12,513.28	30,000.00	41.71%
MINISTRY OF THE WORD	61,537.26	82,462.00	74.63%
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	2,522.07	5,700.00	44.25%
MUSIC AND WORSHIP	160.86	2,750.00	5.85%
PROPERTY	35,061.65	47,740.00	73.44%
ADMINISTRATION	19,880.71	25,873.00	76.84%
PERSONNEL	107,919.32	136,968.00	78.79%
FELLOWSHIP	456.95	1,800.00	25.39%
PRESCHOOL	1,524.99	3,500.00	43.57%
Total Expense	<u>241,577.09</u>	<u>336,793.00</u>	<u>71.73%</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>11,166.64</u>	*10/30/20 marks 83.3% of the year to date	

Received a Payroll Protection Loan \$38,600.00

## CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SHUT-IN'S

**CHRISTMAS CARDS 2020:** The Deacons have provided a basket in the narthex to collect Christmas cards for our shut-ins. Please bring in your cards by Sunday, December 13, and the Deacons will deliver them. If you are unable to bring the cards to church, please let the church office know and a Deacon will pick them up for you. We will be collecting cards for:

Lavonne Ball  
Donald Black  
Nancy Bowman  
Nancy Carter  
Jean Clark  
Shirley Ferguson  
Audrey Hassinger

Doris Hoverter  
Mary Lou Ingram  
John Irrgang  
Carl Knepp  
Lois Notestine  
Thiry Olbrich  
Joan Renaldi

April Paige  
Shirley Setzler  
Brad Siddons  
Marsha Soult  
Lowell & Dottie Stephens  
Virginia Warfel



### Addresses for you to send cards:

Rev. Cindy & Dave Carlisle  
8 Crabapple Court  
Lake in the Hills, IL 60158

Rev. Larry & Nancy Chottiner  
642 Alcott Drive  
Mount Joy, PA 17552

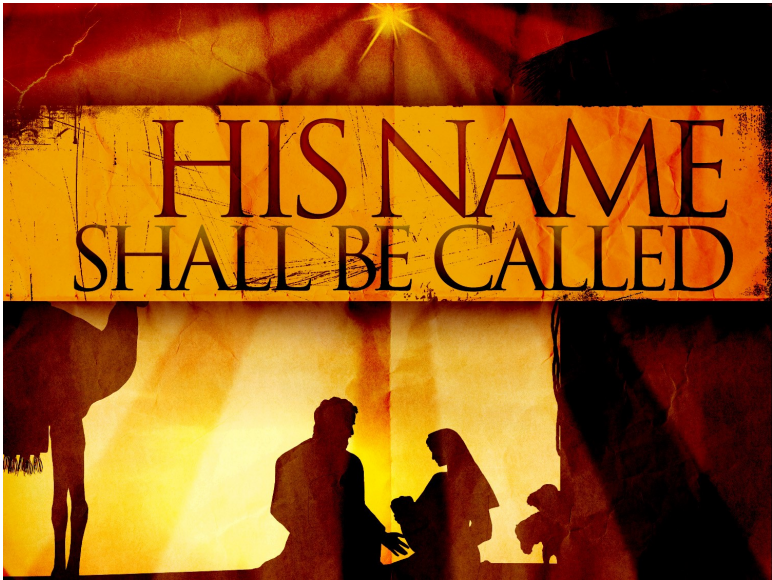
Dr. Eric & Becky Hinderliter  
1321 Climbing Rose Turn  
Cary, NC 27518  
(Please note correction)

Phyllis Hinderliter  
76 Partridge Circle  
Carlisle, PA 17013

Rev. James & Devon Thomas  
382 Shaw Road  
Ridley Park, PA 19078

**Lewistown Presbyterian Church**  
**17 East Third Street**  
**Lewistown, PA 17044**

***Address Correction Requested***



Please contact us if you would like more information.  
Phone: 717-248-4561  
Email: lewispres@comcast.net  
Visit us at Website: [www.lewistownpresbyterian.org](http://www.lewistownpresbyterian.org)  
Find us on Facebook!

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

<b>Rev. Sarah Sedgwick</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>December Sermon Series</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Christian Ed</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Advent in a box</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Backyard Ministries</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Rev. Zorn</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Presbyterian Preschool</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Financial Report</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Christmas Cards</b>	<b>7</b>