THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BARRINGTON
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2026

CARILLON



IS THERE ROOM IN THE INN?

In a corner of a conquered province which was part of the Roman Empire, one night a baby was born. It was in a little town to which the mother and her husband had come because a decree had compelled them to make the journey there. They were poor, and when they came to the town, no one took any notice of their coming. Since the only shelter they could get was a stable, it was in a stable where the baby was born, a baby whose name was Jesus.

This couple had to improvise because "there was no room for them in the inn." Those are very haunting words, and they tug at our heart because the story of the crowded inn is a parable of the human soul. Why, then, was there no room for Christ in the inn? For that matter, why is there still no room for Christ at the inn of our hearts?

In our own personal lives, we have so many other things occurring that we just do not have any room left in our busy schedules to find the time to experience the wonder of Jesus at Christmas time. We do not mean to seem to be ungrateful, it is just that so many other activities and items on our it is just that so many other activities and items on our calendars have occupied our thoughts

In recent days. And we promise ourselves that we will get around to the real meaning of the season once all of the dust has settled, and the dishes are done, and the wrapping paper is thrown away, and the house is back to normal, and... and... and... This world is filled with such noisy clamoring that easily invades our life that Christ can find no room in the inn of our hearts.

There is a line from an old hymn which pleads: "Come to my heart, Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for you." This season, find some personal, private time to unclutter your soul and open your heart that Christ may come in and richly dwell within you. He promised that he would.

Now, may the Star of Bethlehem which shone brightly over the first crib, stand guard over your home, filling it and all the earth with light and peace and love.

~ Pastor David



Worship With Us

Second Sunday of Advent December 6th
Angels Among Us: Nothing Is Impossible
Luke 1:26-56

Thirday Sunday of Advent December 13th
Angels Among Us: Do Not Be Afraid
Matthew 1:18-25

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20th
Christmas Cantata and Breakfast

ALL AGES FAITH FORMATION

Advent is a time of waiting, anticipation and spiritual preparation for the birth of Christ and the future return of Christ. While we wait, we will learn from one another, we will encourage one another, we will pray for one another, and we will grow together.

December 6th: Meet Elizabeth
Grab a cup of coffee and gather at the tables to meet a woman who waited a long time for a child. We will learn about Elizabeth while decorating gingerbread houses that we will gift to our homebound friends.

December 13th: Meet Joseph
Gather during our fellowship hour to meet Joseph & create a wooden ornament for your tree.

Messy Church - Christmas Carols Edition
This all ages Messy Church will follow the MOTH Joy Concert and will explore the carols of Christmas. No generation has everything. Every generation has something. When we bring the together, everyone grows stronger.
Dinner will be served

December 20th: Meet the Innkeeper
We will reenact the journey of Mary and Joseph as we make our way from worship to Fellowship Hall where the innkeeper will meet us to begin our Advent breakfast.



Join Us as a Sunday Liturgist!

- Your Role: Share the gift of reading scripture and helping lead our congregation in Sunday worship.
- Easy Prep: Pastor David will send your part by the Friday before you serve so you feel completely ready.
- Here for You: Have questions or want to walk through it together? Pastor David would love to help!

Contact Julia Monie by phone or text at (847) 323-0064 Email jcm28@sbcglobal.net

The following dates are currently available:
Christmas Eve service December 24: 4 pm
2027 February 21 and March 14, 21 (Palm Sunday), 28 (Easter)

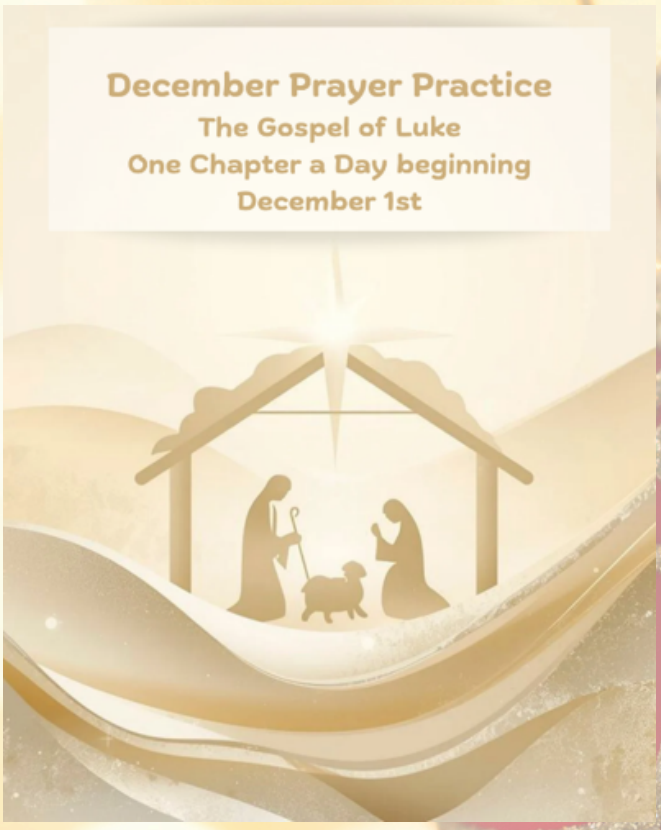
December Prayer Practice

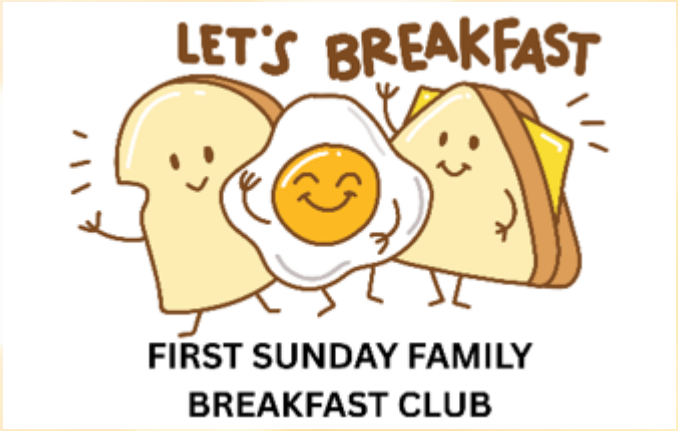
The hustle and bustle of preparing for Christmas sometimes has us forgetting to set aside time to reflect and immerse ourselves in the story.

This Advent you are encouraged to make time to just sit and wait. So, grab a cup of cocoa, light a candle and open your Bible and join in reading the stories that shaped your faith.

The Gospel of Luke is like a spiritual Advent calendar so, beginning December 1st, read one chapter of Luke every day.

Don't forget to grab that journal you started last month and keep writing down your wonderings, prayers, and reflections.





It is time to dine! Come to Fellowship Hall on December 6th at 9:15am for breakfast and community.

Thank you to the King Family for sponsoring our meal.

Reminder: our Stuffy Lock In and St. Nick shoe drop is the night before, so breakfast is a great time to pick up your shoes and favorite stuffed animal.

STUFFIE SLEEPOVER & ST. NICK

Let the Christmas fun begin with a Stuffie Lock In. Kids are invited to drop off their favorite stuffie and a shoe on December 5th from 4-5PM. Fun and games for the stuffies and a visit from St. Nick for the kids. Stuffies and shoes can be picked up at our First Sunday Family Breakfast Club on December 6th.

Youth Group
CANDY CANE DASH

A little friendly competition loaded with adventure, teamwork and Christmas fun.
December 6th
from 12:30-3PM

CHRISTMAS CANTATA DECEMBER 20TH

You're Invited to Advent Breakfast December 20th following Worship

The Fellowship and Hospitality team look forward to celebrating season with you. RSVP in Fellowship Hall to reserve your spot for breakfast and a visit from Santa.

Welcoming Our Newest Members

News from the Church Growth Committee

We have something wonderful to celebrate! On **December 6th**, during worship, we will formally recognize **Debbie McWard and Chrystal Caruthers** as faithful new members of PCB.

Both joined our congregation in 2026, and both have already embraced service and participation in the life of the church. We are deeply grateful for the gifts they bring to our faith community.

Every new member is offered a mentor for their first year, someone to answer questions and help them settle into church life. Our heartfelt thanks go to the mentors who have shared their time and care:

- **Margarette Schultze**, mentor to Debbie
- **Susan Thiess**, mentor to Chrystal

Deacons Corner

Reaching out to God in prayer is an act of faith - and prayer can take many forms.
Your church's Deacons most often practice 'intercessory prayer' as part of our mission. Intercessory prayer is lifting up the joys and concerns of others to God. We raise special matters such as a need for healing, providing comfort and peace in loss, and thanking god for blessings such as a birth or new marriage.

Deacons learn of prayer needs in many ways. These include member contact to the church office, from our Pastor and staff, and directly by members to a Deacon. There's also a prayer request card in each of the sanctuary's pews that can be turned in via the offering or provided to the church office.

Please let us know your joys and concerns for prayer. In doing so, it's always helpful if we know whether the item is one where you'd like the whole congregation to be aware of and pray for - or if it should be a private concern.

Many full-congregation joys and concerns are published weekly in the Connections newsletter. Private prayer needs are known only to your ordained Deacons and Pastor - and are held in strictest confidence.

Finally, we encourage all members to make prayer a regular part of your own faith expression. Beyond intercessory prayer, it's also important to ask for forgiveness for any shortcomings and - importantly - to offer praise and give thanks to God for our many blessings.

Bob Stine, Moderator, Board of Deacons

Greetings from the Communications Committee!

With so many wonderful things happening in the life of the church, the Communications Committee is working on getting organized to share the good news: both about upcoming events and about the great experiences that we are having together!
Could God be calling you to be part of sharing the good news?

We are looking for friends with a variety of gifts, including writing, photography, graphic design, new media and social media, as well as the skills that will keep us all organized (calendaring, meeting scheduling, emailing media partners, project management, and so forth).

No gift is too big or too small to help us in our work. Curious?
Please contact Mari Hoashi to explore how God might be calling you to help us spread the good news at PCB! MariHoashi@gmail.com or 847-977-9051.

Greetings from the PCB AV Committee!

We have been hard at work upgrading and configuring our equipment that supports the sound system and Youtube livestream to make sure that everyone in the Sanctuary and out on the Internet can see and hear the Word at every Sunday worship.

Please share your constructive criticism to members of the AV team: you can comment in the YouTube livestream, email pcbdigimuse@gmail.com, or speak with members of the team after service (we're upstairs in the choir loft).

If you are worshipping with us on our Youtube livestream, or if you worship in the sanctuary using a hearing aid to help you hear clearly, we would love for you to help us make sure that the system is clearly transmitting the service through your devices -- please share your feedback with us and let us know if you are available to help us test our equipment settings (your role would be to just let us know how it sounds; we will fiddle with settings until you confirm that the settings are good).

Finally, if you are interested in learning how to run our equipment and to become a member of our weekly AV team rotation, please contact Tija Franklin and Heather Layne.

We are planning to schedule training sessions early in the New Year.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER



PCB is blessed with congregants who are generous with their ideas, creativity, time, participation, and financial commitment.
Thank you for your gifts of all kinds!

Finishing 2026 Strong

The church's operating accounts are in solid financial position at the end of November, but a successful finish will depend on the usual receipt of December gifts and pledge fulfillments.

If you have already completed your 2026 pledge, thank you! And if you will be completing your pledge in December or are considering non-pledge support at year-end, thank you! You may do so by

- Placing your gift in the offering plate
- Mailing your gift to the church at 6 Brinker Rd., Barrington Hills, IL 60010
- Using Zelle (recipient is accounting@pcbarrington.org)
- Using E-giving at pcbarrington.org/giving
- Calling the church office about stock transfers, RMDs, and QCDs (847-381-0975 or patti@pcbarrington.org)

Please also contact the office if you wish to confirm your 2026 pledge balance.

Making 2027 a "JOY TO BEHOLD"

You will have received your invitation to consider a pledge for the **2027 Stewardship Campaign – A Joy to Behold.** If you've already responded, thank you! If you are still contemplating, your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. A pledge, of any size, is itself a gift as it demonstrates support. It also allows your Session to budget and plan for 2027 with more confidence about the church's finances.

Your pledge card can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. You may also complete it online at pcbarrington.org/giving.

If you wish to pre-pay part or all of your 2027 pledge or gift before the end of December (for tax, RMD, QCD, or any other reason), please feel free to do so and note it is for 2027. Please call the church office about stock transfers, RMDs, and QCDs (847-381-0975 or patti@pcbarrington.org).



Christmas Eve

4PM-Family Worship

Worship will include a children's pageant with traditional Christmas carols.
Communion will be served

7PM-Candlelight Worship

Traditional candlight worship featuring our choir.
Communion will be served.

MISSION

What is Habitat for Humanity?
Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states and in more than 70 countries around the world. Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat works toward this vision by building and improving homes in partnership with individuals and families in need of a decent and affordable place to live.

Our next Habitat For Humanity work dates are Saturdays,
December 12 & 19, 2026, from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Interested in helping?
Email Audrey at aud2sell@comcast.net ahead of the Saturday you wish to work, and she will email you with location and task details.

Rich Barbour and Audrey Helminiak Your Habitat For Humanity contacts

Would you like to join our merry band who delivers Meals With Wheels throughout the year?

For over 35 years, through BACOA, the Presbyterian Church of Barrington has joined with other churches and community groups to provide senior citizens in our community with Meals with Wheels. More drivers are always welcome!

Most drivers are only assigned to drive once or twice a quarter, and it takes about an hour to drive a route of about 3-5 homes, plus you only sign up for days that work for you. Very little time, but very rewarding!

Only one day to deliver this month **Wednesday December 9 starting at 10:45 a.m**. and delivery should not take longer than an hour, but could be as much as 2 hours. Contact Audrey Helminiak (847-331-3621) to learn more.

FELLOWSHIP





Merry Christmas to the men of the church. Due to the many holiday festivities, the Men's Fellowship will not meet in December and will resume January 21 at 6:30 pm at Makray Golf Club.

FELLOWSHIP

Merry Christmas From Your Hospitality & Fellowship Committee!

Save these dates on your calendar!

Sunday, Dec 13 - 3pm
Holiday Joy performance in the Sanctuary followed by a holiday cookie reception in Fellowship Hall.

This was a big hit last year! Invite your family, friends & neighbors to join us for a fantastic performance of holiday music with our choir, brass and bells, including carol singing for all! Then come to Fellowship Hall for holiday cookies, assorted beverages and warm hospitality!

Note: if you would like to help supply cookies (home- made or store- bought) for the reception, we would be very grateful! Please bring your cookies to Fellowship Hall on Dec 13th before or after the morning church service, or by 2pm that day. Many thanks!

Sunday, Dec 20 - 11:15am
Please join us for a delicious all- family Christmas brunch in Fellowship Hall, right after the church service. Your guests are welcome too! Come hungry, we have a wonderful menu planned!

Note that we need to have everyone make a reservation for themselves and any guests they're bringing so that we can plan the food & place settings accordingly. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall starting Sunday, Nov 22 through Sunday, Dec 15th!

Rumor has it that Santa will be stopping by, too!

Tuesday, Dec 29 or Wednesday, Dec 30 - 7pm
Come see our amazing Andrew Luzwick and his very talented crew perform The Nutcracker ballet, with over 70 performers, traditional dances and some modern tap and hip- hop elements for added fun!

The performance will be at the Al Larson Cultural Center in Schaumburg where we've seen them perform before.

Note: you are responsible for buying your own tickets at HOTTProductions.com . Tickets are $29.50 for adults under 65 & children 10 and up; $27.50 for seniors 65+ and children 9 and under. A sign- up sheet is in Fellowship Hall for your convenience if you want to coordinate with other PCB friends.

NEWS YOU CAN USE



WHERE & WHEN TO SEND ARITCLES

Email your articles for the following to Publications@pcbarrington.org

Connection articles are due in the office Tuesday's. Events will be posted 2 weeks before the event

Carillon articles are due in the third Wednesday of each month.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Snapshot through Nov 23, 2026 (not audited)
Actual Budget Receipts: $620,545
Actual Expenditures: $610,293

CALENDAR

Click here for the calendar on the church website for up-to-date information



BIRTHDAY WISHES TO....

Bill	Nelson	1	Courtney	Johnson	11
Alice Mae	Reaume	1	Pam	Anderson	12
Dorothy	Johnson	2	David	Asper	12
Lauren	Carder	5	Dawn	Gordon	13
Beatrice	Ellis	5	Sonya	Miller	13
Jack	Rennels	5	Ed	John	17
Reed	Bower	8	Aron	VanCleave	18
Michael	Smith	8	Bob	Dick	19
Rachelle	Watkins	8	Nicole	Schomer	24
Ray	Klear	9	Laura	Semmen	29
Emily	Bogue	10	Emilie	Clover	30



MERRY

Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

