Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church PC(USA)



November 29, 2026 ~ 9:30AM
First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2026 1st Sunday in Advent (Hope) **9:30AM**

PRELUDE ***Keep Awake*** J. Tonioli
Piano – David Merrill

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY Pastor Ashley Brown

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHORAL INTROIT ***While We Are Waiting, Come*** D. Cason
Adult Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP Elder Jonathan Leer

Leader: Among the poor, among the proud, among the persecuted, and among the privileged.
People: Christ is coming to make all things new!
Leader: In the private house, in the marketplace, in the judgement hall.
People: Christ is coming to make all things new!
Leader: Within us, without us, among us and before us…
People: Christ is coming to make all things new! Come, Lord Jesus!

HYMN 82** ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ADVENT MUSIC ***Light One Candle For Hope*** H. Sorenson
Solo – Everett Clarke

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jim & Jan Withers, Beth, Ivan & Denver Straub

The people who walked in darkness have seen the great light!
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined!
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders;
And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the season of waiting for Christ to come;
Today we light the Candle of Hope; our hope is in Jesus, the Promised One from God!
All: We light this candle of Hope.

RESPONSE **Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope** H. Sorenson
He brings hope to every heart, he comes, he comes
Congregation – Join on response

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) Kathryn "Kat" Green, Director of Children's Ministry

Eternal God, we confess that we resist your holy realm. You seek justice and righteousness, but we pursue selfish agendas. You promise us salvation, but we trust in

our own strength. Forgive us, God of grace. Lead us in your way of truth so that we may be ready to see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MUSICAL MEDITATION ***O Come, O Come Emmanuel***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI HYMN 581**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN Kathryn "Kat" Green, Director of Children's Ministry

ANTHEM ***The Thrill of Hope*** C Nockels
Solo – Sarah Kent

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Elder Jonathan Leer

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

SERMON **"Right On Time: Keep Awake"** Pastor Ashley Brown
Mark 13:24-37

HYMN 97** ***Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Apostles' Creed) Pastor Ashley Brown

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker. We believe that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP Leo Zerhusen

Hope for All is a Christian ministry that is a unique resource in our area for those transitioning from homelessness, or just in need of a helping hand in Anne Arundel County. They offer clients the essentials necessary to create a healthy home by providing basic necessities through community donations to underserved individuals and families. | www.hopeforall.us

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND OFFERING Elder Jonathan Leer

A portion of today's offering supports our Outreach and Service committee in the area of emergency assistance. This includes our donations to the Cecelia McKay Good Neighbor Fund, which provides financial assistance for utilities, rent or other crisis needs, and to the SPAN (Serving People Across Neighborhoods) regional food pantry.

To give: text **Woods** to 73256 or go to **"Give"** on **woodschurch.org** or use the **QR-Code** on the back of the bulletin.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM ***Wachet auf from Cantata 140*** J. S. Bach
(Translation "Wake Up")
Solo – Tom Magette

***DOXOLOGY HYMN 607**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Pastor Ashley Brown

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***HYMN 104** **O Lord, How Shall I Meet You**

***CHARGE AND BLESSING** Pastor Ashley Brown

CHORAL BENEDICTION** ***Threefold Amen M. Haugen
Adult Choir

POSTLUDE** ***Anthem, Op. 33 No. 1 A. Guilmant
Organ – Junghoon Park

*Please stand if you are able

Woods Church services are live streamed and available for public viewing via YouTube on our website (www.woodschurch.org). Current church activities and events are also available for viewing. Check us out!

A Stephen Minister will be available, to the side of the chancel by the Stephen Minister banner, at the end of the service to listen and to pray with you. 9:30AM John Dunham and 11AM Beth Hadley

Prayer Requests

Pledge Card

Giving

WOODS MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Telephone: 410.647.2550 · E-mail: **info@woodschurch.org** · Website: **www.woodschurch.org**

Welcome to Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

November 29, 2026

Our Vision: To be a voice of faith transforming lives and society through Jesus Christ

Our Mission: Welcoming all to grow and serve in Christ

Flowers today were arranged by Delia Edelmann and are given for the glory of God.

Join us for bagels, coffee, and fellowship after the service in Fellowship Hall.

Christian Education/Sunday School Classes

Children's Sunday School Registration Forms are Located on the Welcome Desk

Time	Location	Time	Location
8AM		**9:30AM**	
Men's Bible Study	Room 208/Virtual	Middle & High School	Room 208/212
9:30AM		**11AM**	
Spiritual Exploration Group	Conference/Virtual	Improbable Gratitude	Room 208/Virtual
Nursery 0-2-year-olds	Room 110	Nursery 0-2-year-olds	Room 110
2 & 3-year-olds	Room 115	All Children	Room 107
4, year-olds – 5th graders	Room 107	**2PM**	
1st – 2nd graders	Room 150	Confirmation	Room 212
3rd – 5th graders	Room 152		

Upcoming Events & Church News

Dinner Church Experience - Join us on **Monday, November 30,** in **Fellowship Hall** for our **Dinner Church Experience!** We'll begin with a **gathering time at 5PM**, followed by **Dinner Worship at 5:30PM**, concluding around 6:30PM. This will be a family-friendly, multi-generational evening of food, faith, and fellowship in a comfortable, casual setting and will include a Advent craft for the children. We'll gather around tables as dinner becomes part of the worship service.

Give the Gift of Giving this Christmas! Share the love of Christ, and buy Christmas gifts that will change the lives of people who are in the heart of God, while warming the hearts of those on your gift list. **Sunday, November 22 through December 20,** join us in Fellowship Hall for a Season of Giving at Woods for you and your family.

Ways to Participate in this Year's Outreach and Service Marketplace

Sponsor Local Children: **Gifts are due back no later than Sunday, December 6 at 12PM**.
Elderly and Disabled from Pinewood Village: Baskets are due back December 13 at 12PM and will be delivered on Saturday, December 19.

Alternative Gift Drive – Make a gift donation to a Woods' Partner organization. Receive a Christmas card to give as a gift to a friend or loved one and change a life. Alternative Gift Catalogs are available in Fellowship Hall or online at woodschurch.org (use the upcoming events Alternative Gift Icon link.) For those making on-line donations your gift cards can be picked up on Sundays or in the church office. Gift donations will be taken until **December 20.**

Purchasing a product from one of our many mission Partners!

- Cuba Partnership – November 29 and December 6, 13, and 20
- Hope for All – November 29
- Annapolis Immigration Justice Network (AIJN) December 6
- Hon's Honey – December 20

Poinsettias in Honor or Memory of a Loved One - Each Christmas, the Woods sanctuary is beautifully decorated with poinsettias donated by members and friends in honor or memory of loved ones. If you would like to participate in this meaningful tradition, the suggested donation is $25 per plant. Donations may be made online beginning November 30 or in person in Fellowship Hall on December 6, 13, and 20. Poinsettias will be available to take home on Sunday,

December 27. Help us share the beauty and joy of the Christmas season while honoring or remembering someone special.

An Adult Formation Advent Class at 11AM from **November 29 – December 20 in Room 208**. A new Advent study featuring *Voices of Advent* by Rev. Dr. Matthew L. Skinner. Through a variety of biblical texts, this study explores the voices that shape our understanding of Christmas. Books will be available in the church office. Zoom Meeting ID 831 4688 7500 and passcode 921205. Come explore the voices of Advent and discover the hope they bring to our lives today!

The Carols of Christmas: A contemplative Christmas Concert with Harp, Choir, and Soloists. Join us on Friday and Saturday, December 4 and 5, 7PM, for our annual Christmas concert, *The Carols of Christmas*. Through the angelic sounds of the harp – and the light of flickering candles – this concert is about reflection and finding peace. Accompanied only by the harp, we will spend an hour bringing beloved carols to life, through harp solos, vocal duets, and choral anthems, including our main piece, *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten. We kindly ask that you register for this Free concert at www.woodstix.org. For questions please email David Merrill at dmerrill@woodschurch.org.

Join the Deacons for Christmas Caroling! Get into the holiday spirit by joining the Deacons on Sunday, December 20 at 1:30PM for Christmas Caroling. We will visit our homebound friends and bring some Christmas cheer through music. We will meet in the Founders Room and then go caroling.

Christmas Eve Services – December 24 and Sunday Worship on December 27:

3 & 4PM	Family Christmas Pageant
6PM	Contemporary Candlelight Service
8PM	Traditional Candlelight Service
10PM	Traditional Candlelight Communion Service
9:30AM – 12/27/25	One Sunday Worship Service Only

LES MISÉRABLES - auditions January 8 & 9, 2027 at Woods Church in Severna Park. Show Dates- May 14-16 & 20-22 (8 shows). Les Misérables tells an enthralling story of grace, redemption, mercy, and hope - a timeless testament of finding salvation. Please email performingarts@woodschurch.org with any questions. Please go to **www.wmpcauditions.com** for more information and to sign up!

LES MISÉRABLES behind the scenes - Interested in being a part of the show behind the scenes? It truly takes a village to create a musical, and we would love to have your help! Please email performingarts@woodschurch.org with your interest!

Winter Relief is coming Monday, January 18, 2027 through Monday, January 25, 2027. Sign-ups start Sunday, December 13, 2026 at 9AM. You will be able to sign up to help after each Service in Fellowship Hall or online in Sign-Up Genius on the Church website. Sign-ups will continue live until we start. There are opportunities for meal prep, brown bag lunch prep, evening and overnight chaperones, drivers, shower escorts, Stephen Ministers, laundry support, youth volunteers, and snack donations. Note, we will be driving the guests every morning and evening this year like we did years ago so will need lots of drivers. Please help us help the unhoused. If you want more information about Winter Relief and how you can help, please contact Scott Wiley at 410.353.1491 or email wilecoy2us@gmail.com. Thank you for helping with this important Mission.

Pop-Up Day, January 19, from 9AM-4PM. The Pop-Up immersive Bible Study is a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) intensive jump into scripture. Children see, hear, taste, and feel what the story and its elements are like. Registration is limited. For more information, contact Kat Green or Lindsey Miller through children@woodschurch.org.

Arundel House of Hope's Winter Relief guests need your help the week of December 14 - 22 at Cape St. Claire UMC with evening/overnight hosting and meals! All meals will be served at the Day Center located at 7164 E Furnace Branch Rd, Suite A in Glen Burnie. Overnight shifts will be at Cape St. Claire UMC located at 855 Chestnut Tree Dr. Annapolis 21409 in shifts from 6:30PM to 7AM. Here is the link to the Signup Genius: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0448AFA72CA02-67581326-winter#/