

Welcome to what some branches of the Christian church call Gaudete, or Rejoice, Sunday. May we find joy in worshipping God and anticipating the celebration of Christ's birth.

This worship service can be watched live on YouTube, as it happens, anywhere you have an internet connection. Additionally, past services will be archived so you can stay up-to-date or relive your favorite Sunday morning moments. You can find the link on our website or check it out at <https://bit.ly/FPClive>

Worship Assistant: Art Horst
Usher: Jim Pantano
Deacon Greeter: Kim Kreider
Candle Lighting: John & Katelyn Gilpatrick

Audio: Sally Heimbach
Video: Andy Ingram
Fellowship: Tim Bagnall
Nursery: Michael Davis

NOTE: Sheet music for the hymns can be found on the next page or pages.



Order of Worship
December 17, 2023

Faith Presbyterian Church of Emmaus

3002 N. Second Street, PO Box 507
Emmaus, Pennsylvania 18049
610.967.5600

office@faithchurchemmaus.org
www.faithchurchemmaus.org



***THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT***

10:00 AM

DECEMBER 17, 2023



THE FIRST NOTE OF THE PRELUDE begins our worship.

Please use the prelude time to turn your attention to God's presence and help.

Nurturing our relationships and friendships in fellowship is essential to our life as a congregation, so please continue to do so following our time of worship.

* *Those who are able are invited to stand.*

FOCUSING UPON GOD'S PRESENCE AND VOICE

PRELUDE *"Processional"*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CANDLE LIGHTING & CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our God is like a refreshing, peaceful river, bubbling with joy. Today we light three Advent candles: the candle of hope, the candle of love, and the candle of joy.

Lighting three Advent candles: two purple, one pink

Leader: Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

People: And our spirits rejoice in you.

Leader: We will praise you as long as we live.

People: We will sing praises to you our whole lives long.

Leader: We will not trust in the power of this world,

People: But we will trust in you - Creator of heaven and earth,

Leader: the One who gives food to the hungry,

People: the one who enacts justice for the oppressed.

Leader: Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God,

People: As we worship you in this place.

*OPENING PRAYER

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

LITANY OF AFFIRMATION

Leader: God comes to us in so many different ways. Often, there are moments when we miss God's presence completely. We forget to look. We forget to marvel. Our prayer of confession invites us to remember – to turn away from the distractions of the world around us with renewed hope in God's empowering forgiveness. Let us pray together.

People: Triune God, we are here on the cusp of Christmas celebrations, and we acknowledge that too often our understanding of the incarnation is tame and controlled. Because you chose to come to earth as a helpless child, it is easy to assume we can be in charge of your world, your mission, your purposes. Forgive us for seeking to control you. Forgive us for taming the wild and wonderful grace of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us for seeing your power as our prerogative. Give us trust so we can turn to you with humble hearts and believe that your loving purposes are much deeper and more comprehensive than our own could ever be.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayers.

(A moment is given for silent confession to God.)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

C C/E F Dm G C(add2) C/B
Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,

5 Am A/C# Dm7 G G7 C
his name is called Em - man - u - el.

9 C/E F Dm G7 C(add2) C/B
— God with us, re - vealed in us,

13 Am A/C# Dm G F7/G G C F/C C
his name is called Em - man - u - el.

THE WORD OF GOD TO THE CHURCH

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

PSALM 126:1-6

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
²Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."
³The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
⁴Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.
⁵May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
⁶Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

LUKE 1:26-38 & 1:46-55

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

MESSAGE

“God is Like a River”

*HYMN #623

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

ADORATION

623 I’ve Got Peace like a River

1 I’ve got peace like a riv - er; I’ve got peace like a
 2 I’ve got joy like a foun-tain; I’ve got joy like a
 3 I’ve got love like an o - cean; I’ve got love like an

1
 riv - er; I’ve got peace like a riv - er, in my
 foun-tain; I’ve got joy like a foun-tain, in my
 o - cean; I’ve got love like an o - cean, in my

2
 soul. I’ve got riv - er, in my soul.
 soul. I’ve got foun-tain, in my soul.
 soul. I’ve got o - cean, in my soul.

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS
INTERCESSIONS AND PETITIONS
THE LORD’S PRAYER

145

What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

Faith Life

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

We hope you'll join us following worship for beverages, snacks, and fellowship.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Stay with us here in the sanctuary following worship (and before you head to the cookie sale) for a brief congregational meeting to hear and vote on the pastor's terms of call for 2024 and the recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee Report

- Elder Class of 2025- Andy Ingram (1st term)
- Elder Class of 2026 - Terry Eck (2nd term)
- Elder Class of 2026- Janie Slamon (1st term)
- ♦ Deacon Class of 2024- Carolyn Benner (2nd term)
- ♦ Deacon Class of 2025- Jana Masenheimer (1st term)
- ♦ Deacon Class of 2026- Doug Boyd (1st term)
- ♦ Deacon Class of 2026- Ellie DePhillips (1st term)
- Nominating Class of 2025 - Cathy Weise
- Nominating Class of 2025- Julie DePhillips

KNOW THYSELF

In the midst of cold and flu season (and whatever else might be going around), remember to pay attention to how you are feeling and who is around you. Stay home if you aren't feeling well. Listen to your body and get rest when you need it. Masks are not required, but are welcomed for anyone who might feel more comfortable with a mask, or anyone who might be feeling even a little under the weather. We can love our neighbors as we love ourselves when we take consideration for everyone's physical health!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: THE PERFECT GIFT

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

And the Word became flesh and lived among us...

John 1:14

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the **Christmas Joy Offering**, you honor this gift by providing assistance to **current and retired church workers** in their time of need and developing our future leaders at **Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges**.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received and dedicated on **December 17, 2023**.

Faith Presbyterian Church received **\$2,380.00** in **2022** for the **Christmas Joy Offering**.

Please prayerfully consider donating to this worthy cause.



SUNDAY Morning TOGETHER



WORK CAMP COOKIE SALE

DECEMBER 17

Following worship in Fellowship Hall.

- TODAY: → → → → → !
- Next week: December 24- Fellowship (Christmas Eve)

See the back of this page for a list of SMT's future Sunday and mid-week events. Youth Group News is also on the next page!

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Sunday, December 24th

- 10:00 a.m.— Family Worship
- 8:00 p.m.— Traditional Service
- 11:30 p.m.— Outdoor Service at the Emmaus Triangle

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EMMAUS

3002 N. Second Street - PO Box 507 - Emmaus, PA 18049
610-967-5600—office@faithchurchemmaus.org
Visit us on the web! www.faithchurchemmaus.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday from 9:00 AM to Noon.
Closed on Fridays.



Sunday Morning Together brings our church family together for fellowship and special activities. Most activities take place right after worship. Children of God of all ages are welcome!

- 12/31 Fellowship (New Year's Eve)
- 1/7 First Sunday Luncheon
- 1/14 Fellowship
- 1/21 Fire Safety & First Aid
- 1/28 Congregational Meeting
- 2/4 First Sunday Luncheon
- 2/1 Fastnacht
- 2/8 Fellowship
- 2/25 Pretzels & Lent Fellowship
- 3/3 First Sunday Luncheon & Ice Hockey
- 3/10 Fellowship
- 3/17 Vision Team Event
- 3/24 Palm Sunday- Egg Hunt
- 3/31 Easter; Easter Breakfast
- 4/7 First Sunday Luncheon
- 4/14 Church Clean-up Day & Lunch



TALENT SHOW: FEBRUARY 4

Sign up to participate in our upcoming talent show!

- ☆ Share a **SIGHT**; crafts or hobbies you enjoy and can be placed on a table to see.
- ☆ Share a **SOUND**; something to be heard and/or performed on a stage.
- ☆ **"S" FOODS** don't need to be signed up for, but please bring a dish to share for lunch that starts with the letter S. If your last name begins with A-K bring a side dish that starts with the letter S, and L-Z bring something sweet.

Sign up by speaking with Heather Davis, or on the whiteboard in Fellowship Hall.

WORD ON WEDNESDAY (WOW)

Our Word On Wednesday group meets on Wednesdays at noon in the parlor. WOW will take off for the holidays and will **not meet on December 27 or on January 3**. We will pick up once again on January 11 with a new Bible study.

All are welcome!



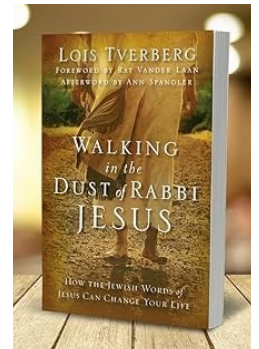
THURSDAY WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

Fall 2023

This group meets Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:30 a.m. in homes of our members for coffee, study, prayer and laughter.

We will continue our study on "Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus" **starting again January 11, 2024** and begin a new study (TBA) in February.

Interested? Contact Anne Laubach or Deanna Robinson.



YOUTH GROUP NEED

Pastor Jo Marchetto, our Youth Group Director, could use some help from us here at FPC. **At times, an adult or two are needed to assist in the Youth Group activity, program.**

No experience is needed or special skills, just a genuine interest in our youth. The commitment can be flexible. Why not give Pastor Jo a call (phone number is in the directory) and find out what it's all about. You will be greatly appreciated! **THANK YOU!**



SUPPORT OUR YOUTH! BUT HOW?

Sponsoring a meal for our Youth Groups is a very beneficial and easy way to show your support for our youth. (For a rewarding experience, consider joining them for the meal and getting to know them better.)

It's easy - scan the QR code to schedule/sponsor your meal, or you can call Pastor Jo Marchetto, our Youth Director. What a wonderful way to show interest in and support our youth! Thank you.





REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

The last three holiday seasons, our Reverse Advent Calendar has been a big success, so we will be doing it again this year.

The calendar began in the middle of November and ends a week or so before Christmas so the items can be dropped off at church (in the narthex), have time to “cool off” and be delivered to the Emmaus Food Bank at Bethel Bible Fellowship Church in January.

The list has been worked to include items that would not be covered by state subsidies. The Mission Committee looks forward to seeing Faith rise to the occasion again this year and help the needy.

Grab your copy of the Reverse Advent Calendar from the table in the narthex.

COLLEGE ADDRESSES

Is your information up to date?

- ✓ Contact your deacon
- ✓ Email or call the church office.
- ✓ Comment on the Facebook group page.
- ✓ A note in the secretary’s mailbox

PLEASE UPDATE NOW

610-967-5600 office@faithchurchemmaus.org

THE DRAFT COPY OF CHURCH DIRECTORY IS READY!

Look for the green notebook on the table in the narthex, Update your information as needed! Thanks!

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE UPDATE

As of 12/17 we have 64 pledges at \$222,714.

It’s not too late to pledge. It’s not too late to pledge. The pledge cards will stay in the pews until the end of the year or use the on-line form found on the website: <https://faithchurchemmaus.org/donate/pledge/> .



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

You might think that assisting during worship is a bit daunting, but it is easier than you think! Spoon-fed instructions are provided, with all the necessary materials. Everything is prepared for you! Yet, as easy as it is, volunteers are always needed. Here are the dates where a worship assistant is needed:



January 7, 21

Contact Sally Heimbach, or use this link to the SignUpGenius: <https://bit.ly/3FCW8iO> Thank you.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED

Everybody loves fellowship time following worship. It’s a wonderful time to catch up with your church family! Hosting is easy and instructions are provided, but we still need people to volunteer. Here are the dates where hosts are needed:



January 21, 28

Sign up on the whiteboard in the narthex, or contact Heather Davis. Thank you.

THE NURSERY NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for volunteers for the nursery during the worship time. If you do not have your clearances, we can assist you in obtaining them. Here are the dates where volunteers are needed:



January 7, 14, 21, 28

Sign up on the whiteboard in the narthex, or see Sally Heimbach. Helpers will need their clearances. Thank you.

IMPORTANT!

All contributions to the church that are to be counted as 2023 contributions **must be received at the church no later than Tuesday, January 2**. Donations made after that, even if the check is dated 2023, will be counted toward your 2024 giving. Thank you for your understanding.

The Financial Secretary will print and send out your 2023 tax statements before the end of **January 2024**.

Daybreak – January 8
2023 Per Capita—\$48.00
Spring Flyer deadline—February 18

TWO WEEKS OF FAITH

This calendar is prepared on the Thursday prior to distribution.
Please see the church [website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

Key	
BR	Brick Room
FH	Fellowship Hall
MR	Music Room
P	Parlor
S	Sanctuary
Z	Zoom

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 17

- 10:00 a.m.— Worship Service: Christmas Joy Offering
Congregational Meeting
- 11:00 a.m.— Sunday Morning Together:
Work Camp Cookie Sale (FH)
- 5:00 p.m.— Youth Group Christmas Party

Monday, December 18

- 7:00 p.m.— Ministry to the Community meeting (P)

Tuesday, December 19

- 7:00 p.m.— Deacons meeting (BR)

Wednesday, December 20

- 8:00 a.m.— Rotary Food Program (FH)
- Noon— Word on Wednesday (P)
- 5:30 p.m.— Faithful Ringers rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m.— Faithful Harmonizers rehearsal (S)

Thursday, December 21

- 7:00 p.m.— Narcotics Anonymous (FH)

Friday, December 22

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 23

- 9:00 a.m.— Zumba (FH)

NEXT WEEK

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

- 10:00 a.m.— Family Christmas Eve Service
- 11:00 a.m.— Sunday Morning Together
- 8:00 p.m.— Traditional Christmas Eve Service
- 11:30 p.m.— Outdoor Christmas Eve Service @ Emmaus Triangle

Monday, December 25

Christmas
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Wednesday, December 27

- 8:00 a.m.— Rotary Food Program (FH)
- 7:00 p.m.— Faithful Harmonizers rehearsal (S)

Thursday, December 28

- 11:00 a.m.— Youth Group Movie Marathon
- 7:00 p.m.— Narcotics Anonymous (FH)

Friday, December 29

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 30

- 9:00 a.m.— Zumba (FH)

There will be a box of luminaries in the Narthex
for folks to take for personal use on Christmas Eve.



SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY

If it snows sufficiently to make you wonder if worship will be held, we will post the cancellation information on WFMZ: (<https://www.wfmz.com/weather/stormcenter/>).



Looking Ahead

Mark Your Calendars!

- Dec. 31.....Annual Reports are due
- Jan. 1.....Happy New Year 2024!
- Jan. 7.....Pot Luck Luncheon
- Jan. 28.....Annual Congregational Meeting
- Feb. 4.....Pot Luck Luncheon, Talent Show
- Feb. 23.....Youth Group 30 Hour Famine
- Mar. 3.....Pot Luck Luncheon
Phantoms Hockey Game
- Apr. 7.....Pot Luck Luncheon
- Apr. 14.....Church Clean-Up Day
- May 4.....Fellowship Event—Mind Body Soul

ARE YOU GETTING THE INFO YOU NEED?

Faith Church has four email lists. Are you interested in being added to one or more of them? Please indicate your interest, add your email address, tear off this tab, and drop in the offering plate.

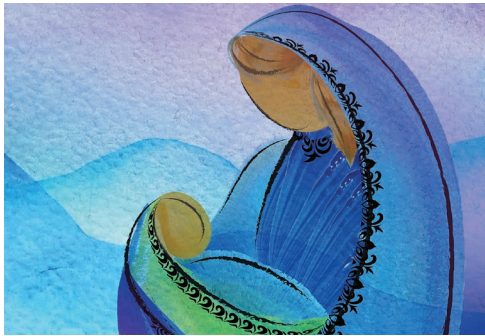
- Weekly Announcements
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Prayer Chain
- Emergency Alerts

Name & email: _____

CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

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WAYS TO GIVE



Through your congregation



Donate by credit card online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 to give or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Every time we echo angels speaking words of peace on earth; every time we live as shepherds, risking moments of new birth; and every time we see God giving gifts beyond all earthly worth,

In our living, in our giving, we are there.



When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, *we are there* with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future.

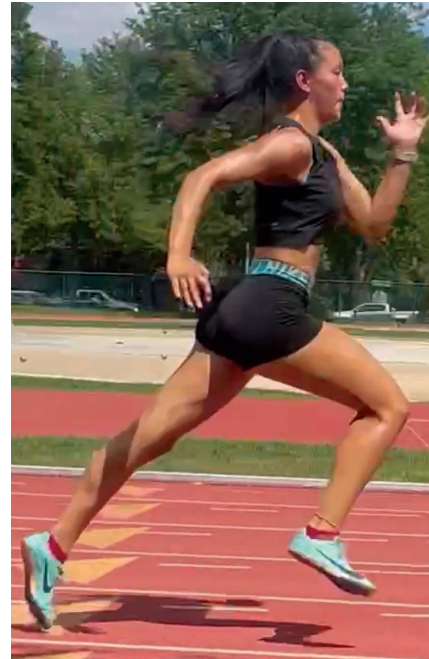
50% of your gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

While deeply meaningful in countless ways, the Rev. Peggy Krong's decision to serve the church for many years left her with minimal financial resources for retirement. When she did retire, she was blessed to receive the support she needed through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.



“We’re all children of God, and we all struggle,” said Peggy. “Thanks to the Board of Pensions and the Christmas Joy Offering, I can now be of more service to the church than I would otherwise have been without this assistance. I just can’t express enough how grateful I am.”

50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Mikayla, a member of the Navajo (Diné) Nation, is a high school senior who entered the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)-related Menaul School in the sixth grade. Her life-changing experiences are being made possible, in part, by your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, which helps the school provide scholarships to exceptional students.

“Mikayla exemplifies the mission of Menaul School in that she is strong in mind, body and spirit,” said Melanie G. Davis, Director of Institutional Advancement. “She is an excellent student, athlete and servant leader. Proud to be Native American, Mikayla also embraces her classmates at Menaul and their cultures from around the world.”

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY...
FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

