

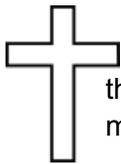
Mitchells Presbyterian Church Monthly Newsletter

December 2021

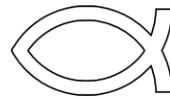
Pastor's Corner

You may have heard someone in the church call the tree in the sanctuary the Chrismon tree, and thought to yourself, "That's a funny way to say Christmas tree". Well you'd be right, because it's a special kind of Christmas tree. Chrismon is term that combines Christ with the word Monogram. The tree is filled with symbols to Christ because they were originally intended to be used to celebrate the birth of Christ. However, over the years the symbols have expanded to include the Triune God and even show events from Jesus' life. These symbols were first started in 1957 at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA, only 3 hours from MPC. Chrismons are made up of two colors, white and gold. The white symbolizes purity and perfection. The gold is a symbol for the majesty and glory of the Son of God. One of the fun things about Chrismons is that they can be made from any material. We are not limited to making them only one way or in one form, just as none of us are made the exact same.

There are many symbols and letters that go into the various Chrismons and it can often get overwhelming or confusing when trying to figure out what they all mean. So here is a handy guide to get you started on figuring out what all the Chrismon symbols are throughout Advent and Christmas!



This is known as the Latin Cross or Passion Cross (Cross of Suffering). It is the most traditional cross and is used by most Christians



The ICHTHUS (Greek for fish) is the earliest symbol of Christianity, even before the cross was used. Its letters in Greek form an acrostic with the first letters of "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior"



This is the Jerusalem Cross and represents the Cross and Christ over the world



Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, have traditionally been used to signify God as the beginning and the end of all things.



Known as the Orthodox or Eastern Cross, this is the cross used throughout the Greek and Eastern Orthodox churches. It shows the place where Christ's hands were nailed, where the feet were nailed, and where it was inscribed on the cross, "King of the Jews"



Chi and Rho are the Greek letters that start Christ and symbolize an abbreviated way to direct people's attention to Christ through symbolism



The Star of David, sometimes called the Star of Creation, is a symbol that Jesus was a Jew and a descendant of King David



The anchor is traditional symbol of faith. It highlights the way in which we root ourselves in Christ.

There are MANY more Chrismons than just the ones listed above, and many times these are combined with other symbols. Look for a more complete list, available in the narthex, throughout the season of Advent and Christmas to learn more and satisfy any curiosity that you may have about the symbols that are present in our worship space!

Session News

- Session approved the collection of the annual Christmas Eve offering to be sent to the PC(USA) to support retired ministers in need and Presbyterian schools. Members should look for an envelope in their Sunday bulletin.
- Approved work in the utility room off the Fellowship Hall to allow water and electric connections to be made to the pavilion.
- It was reported that the pavilion construction is still on schedule for late November or early December.
- Assigned the Pavilion, Building & Grounds, and Missions & Outreach Committees to develop policies for the use of the pavilion and other areas of the church.

This was the first Session meeting moderated by the Reverend Patrick F. Lane, and it was a darn good meeting.

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women's 2021 Christmas gathering will be held on December 14 at 5:30 p.m. at 19249 Mabel Court—Debbie's home. Please try to carpool if you can.

Everyone is asked to bring finger food (Hors d'oeuvres/appetizer-type food or something sweet). Drinks will be furnished. Also, bring a White Elephant gift. We have done this before, and it is a lot of fun. All are welcome! It will be a wonderful time for food and fellowship.

You may place an order for the 2021 Christmas cards no later than December 12, 2021, by contacting Janet Miller at: (540) 825-2783 or decorbyjanetmiller@gmail.com

All profit from this mission project will go to a local charity.

There are still some crafts available in the Fellowship Hall. You may take what you would like to have and leave a donation in the box on the table. If you wish to write a check, please make it payable to Mitchells Presbyterian WOC. These donations will be given to the Pavilion Fund.

Thank you for your November donations of laundry detergent. The Food Closet was most appreciative. During the month of December Presbyterian Women will be collecting personal hygiene items for the Food Closet (toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, shampoo, etc.). If you wish to donate any of these items, please leave your donation on the table in the Fellowship Hall outside the Security Room.

Men of the Church

The Men of the Church will meet on December 2, 2021 and on January 6, 2022. Men are reminded to bring their Galatians Bible study book to the meeting.

Safety and Security Committee (SSC)

Nothing new to report.

Church Events/Information

Donations to MPC

Any donations to the church can be mailed to:

Mitchells Presbyterian Church
P. O. Box 98
Mitchells, VA 22729

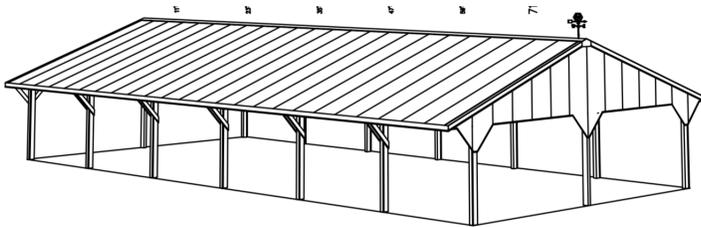
All mail is being picked up twice a week and deposits are being made by Ron Evans, the church treasurer.

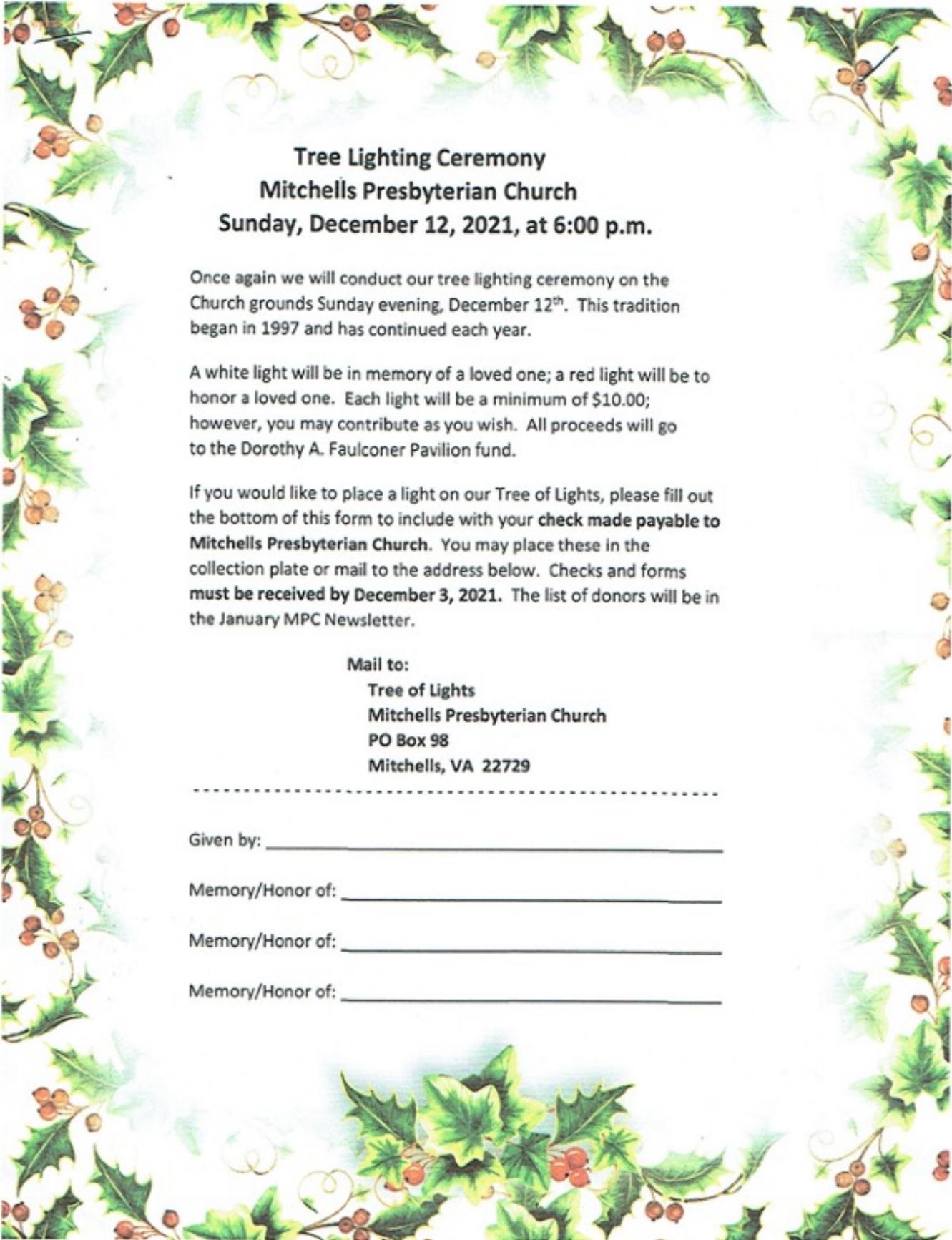
From Committee on Congregational Life and Ministry

Nothing new to report.

Pavilion Update – Buildings and Grounds

The excavation of the building site, the delivery of over 330 tons of stone, and the grading of the foundation were completed on November 16. Buildings and Grounds are awaiting the delivery of the building materials and the notification of the construction start date.





Tree Lighting Ceremony
Mitchells Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 12, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Once again we will conduct our tree lighting ceremony on the Church grounds Sunday evening, December 12th. This tradition began in 1997 and has continued each year.

A white light will be in memory of a loved one; a red light will be to honor a loved one. Each light will be a minimum of \$10.00; however, you may contribute as you wish. All proceeds will go to the Dorothy A. Faulconer Pavilion fund.

If you would like to place a light on our Tree of Lights, please fill out the bottom of this form to include with your **check made payable to Mitchells Presbyterian Church**. You may place these in the collection plate or mail to the address below. Checks and forms **must be received by December 3, 2021**. The list of donors will be in the January MPC Newsletter.

Mail to:
Tree of Lights
Mitchells Presbyterian Church
PO Box 98
Mitchells, VA 22729

Given by: _____

Memory/Honor of: _____

Memory/Honor of: _____

Memory/Honor of: _____

New Address for Mary Higdon

Please include the following info to church folks, my new address is 15740 Fox Chase Lane, Culpeper, Va 22701. I am now living with my daughter and her husband. My home phone has not changed, it is 540-718-8661 and my email address is the same also, marythigdon@yahoo.com. Will be getting a new cell phone as Verizon does not have good reception out here. We are still settling in, but doing OK.

Mitchells Presbyterian Email Prayer Chain

Patti Weaver has agreed to monitor and maintain the prayer chain email account. Thank you Patti for your service to MPC.

If you would like to receive notifications of prayer requests via email, please send an email to:

prayersofmitchells@gmail.com

Your email address will be added. This is open to members, regular attendees, friends, etc. Just have all requesters send an email and they will be added.

This prayer chain could be for major concerns, but also for things like “pray for my friend Sally; she’s going through a rough time,” or “my college daughter, Brenda, is taking her final exam in her major, please pray for her,” etc. You get the idea. Just anything that your heart seeks comfort over.

Prayer requests mentioned at church will try to be added, but it is best if you could just send them to the prayersofmitchells@gmail.com email address.

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Doug Settle	2 Vickie Wallace Abbie Weaver	3	4 Robert Nixon
5	6 Josh Tidman	7 Amber Gallahan	8 Dolores Aylor	9	10 Boulton Chase Greg & Teresa Griffith	11
12 Tree lighting ceremony 6:00pm	13 Kerr Chase	14 Jimmy Howell	15	16	17 Bill & Janet Miller	18 Heather Massey Frederick Neal
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Steven Todd	27 Jack Howell	28	29	30	31 Kim Nixon	

Usher: Pat Payne

Acolyte: Tommy Cuccherini