



December 2023

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The Deadline for January Newsletter is

December 10, 2023.

December 2023

Holiday Greetings, Pittsburgh Chapter Members and Friends!

In Luke 2.8-14, we read:

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this [shall be] a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” When he is finished with that last line, Linus turns and address someone directly: “That’s what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.”

These two minutes from *A Charlie Brown Christmas* bring back memories from my childhood, and my kid’s childhood. Probably yours, too! Linus sure knew the meaning of Christmas!

As I compose this month’s article for *Pipelines*, several radio stations have changed their formats to “Christmas Music 24/7.” The Sirius XM app on my phone and iPad added a slew of holiday stations to my list of favorites. People often ask me if I’ve started listening to any of it yet. They are surprised when I say no. And then I go on to say that I’ve been working on Advent and Christmas music since around Labor Day!

This is one of the busiest times of the year for those of us who are church musicians. There are extra – or at least longer – choir rehearsals. Instrumentalists need to be lined up, and practices scheduled. Extra music to get out – and then re-file after the holidays. And of course, sanctuaries get a good cleaning and lots of flowers and greenery. (*Just make sure no one waxes your organ bench!*)

Through it all, we must remember what Linus said: *That’s what Christmas is all about!* May your extra work pay off by filling your congregations and audiences with the peace and joy that this holiday season brings.

Gloria in Excelsis indeed!

Jeff Gray

Dean

Reminder: My new email address is jhgray433@gmail.com!

Message from the Sub Dean
Upcoming Events/Concerts

Advent Choral Concert

Sunday, December 3, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Shadyside Presbyterian Church presents an Advent choral concert on Sunday, December 3, at 3:00 p.m. The Shadyside Chancel Choir, accompanied by organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore, will present Francis Poulenc's *Gloria*, under the direction of Dr. Mark A. Anderson. No tickets are necessary for admission; donations are appreciated. Consider arriving early to enjoy warm beverages and desserts as part of the church's community open house from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

For more information on the Music in a Great Space series, call 412.682.4300, or visit

www.shadysidepres.org.

Event Location: Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminister Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15232