

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church
Please join us for fellowship and refreshments at “Coffee Hour” in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.
(✚ Latecomers may be seated.)

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD
1st Sunday of Advent
December 2, 2012 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE *“Advent Carol”* arr. Hal H. Hopson
Bell Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please sign the red “friendship pads” found at the end of each pew by the center aisle. Note the names of those worshipping around you as you pass the pad back. We encourage you to greet each other after the service.)

INTROIT *“Blessed Be the Lord God of Israel”* Donovan Klotzbeacher
(Luke 1: 68-69) The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP Pre-K 3 and 4 Sunday School Class

HYMN #8 (Hymnal)* *“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)* Dr. Stephen Crocco
O Lord our righteousness, we confess that our hearts have grown heavy with dissipation and worry. We have allowed our hope to wither, our faith to wander, and our love to grow cold. Forgive us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, the righteous branch of David, and restore us to your paths of steadfast love and faithfulness, O God of our salvation. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)* *“Gloria Patri”*

THE PEACE* ✚

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING The Vandenberg Family

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 7:14

Pew Bible pg. 636

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.”

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Leader: Christians around the world begin today to await the arrival of Christ. We join with a joyful and hopeful throng in lighting Advent candles, symbols of faith and signs of God’s love.

People: We gather as a people of hope.

Leader: Christian people around the world stand today in anticipation, as we look forward to celebrating the miracle of Christ’s birth, the good news that astounds us anew each year.

People: Our hope springs anew from God’s beautiful vision.

Leader: As we light the first Advent candle, let it stand for hope, based not on wishful thinking, but on deep conviction. We believe, we have seen, we have perceived God’s promised Son and his great gift. Therefore, in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we hope.

People: We gather expectantly, joyfully, and with deep commitment, for we trust that the promised One will return again. God is among us, and soon we will see a new creation on earth. We thank God for making us a people of hope.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

Dr. Rebecca Huselid

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 5-25

Dr. Mary Speer
Pew Bible pg. 56

ANTHEM

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

arr. Cathy Mocklebust
Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 1: 1-14

Pew Bible pg. 218

SERMON

“Christmas Angels”

Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

“Every Valley Shall Be Exalted”

John Ness Beck

(Isaiah 40: 4)

The Chorale

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

“Doxology”

Prayer of Dedication*

Dr. Crocco

HYMN #5 (Hymnal)*

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise. [The Minister continues.]

God is praised for the history of faithfulness shown to God’s people. The congregation then joins the celestial choirs and all the faithful of every time and place to sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The prayer continues with thanksgiving for the life and work of Jesus Christ. The Words of Institution are recalled. The elements are set apart for their sacred use, and we offer ourselves to God’s service. Then, this response:

According to His commandment:

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory.

Visitors! We hope you will find a warm welcome here. We invite you to consider membership in our church family. Please speak to one of the greeters or pastors after worship for more information or if you would like to be contacted by the Outreach Committee please provide us with your address and/or email address in the red "friendship pad".

Childcare is provided during worship. Children from birth to age 2 may be taken to the infant room, and children age 3 through Kindergarten are welcome in the toddler room. Laurie Davis is the Nursery Coordinator (MusicMomNJ@comcast.net).

Our congregation is very happy to have children participate in worship with their family as part of our church family! "Worship bags" containing quiet faith activities are available in the narthex for children to enjoy during worship.

Gluten free bread is now available, it will be in a small cup or area in the center of the bread trays which are passed throughout the aisles.

Hearing devices are now available for your convenience in the narthex. The ushers can assist you.

Friends, as we prepare for worship, please be mindful of our neighbors in the pews who are allergic to strong scents and perfumes. We want everyone to be comfortable and healthy as we worship the Lord together! Thanks very much for your thoughtfulness.

We thank those who are serving today in these ways:

Communion Servers are Vicki Bain, Bea Davison, Earl Davison, Pat Demers, John Kirkenir, Brenda Kirkenir, Art Ryba and Gloria-Jean Ryba.

Coffee Hour is hosted Andy & Flo Kremann and Larry & Margo Wegner.

Greeters are Gail and David Geijer.

Head Ushers are Caren Anuszewski and Mike Kasper.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request, or if you would like to become part of the "chain" of church members who pray daily with and for people with a particular need, please contact the church office at (609)395-0897.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Church members with special needs: Tory Anderson; Marge Bloom; Everett Campbell; the Cassidy family; Martha Davis; Arlene Duran; Marlene French; Bill Keller; Claire Maselli; Rebecca Pelto; Rev. Joanne Petto; Russ Richardson and Dorothy Swec.

Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked: Barbara Danser's mother, Evelyn Walton; Arlene Duran's daughter, Catherine Lepp; Gail Geijer's son, Dan; Rebecca Young and Peter Grykein due to the death of Peter's mother, Irma Grykein; Jane Huff's grandson, James Huff-Miller; Joanne Hughes' parents, Cornelius and Bella Tanis; Linda Ill's mother, Carol Scarpone; Carolyn Lee's husband, John; family and friends of Helen Myer due to her death; church treasurer, Art Pellichero; friend of the church Sharon Ramkishun's niece, Kaitlyn; Carlene Reyes' friend, Will and Gretchen Stults' granddaughter, Jodi Mallette and family.

We pray for all the people who are in need in our wider community and please remember family and friends in our nation's service.

Prayer Requests in the Bulletin: *In order to keep the prayer request list up to date we will print the names of friends and family of church members who have prayer requests for one month. After that time you may call the church office to have a name reappear on the prayer list.*

- Please be sure to sign the "**Pipeline to Session**" cards found in the pews if you have any questions/concerns for the Session. This is a great way to give "kudos" as well!

~ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~

Adult Education Class

Our sincere thanks to Dr. Gretchen Hull for the recent series on the Book of I John. Gretchen will be back the first two weeks in January to continue this series with II John and III John. Plan to join us for this wonderful class.

The Bible and Handel's Messiah

What a wonderful way to start the season of Advent—joining the adult education class which was taught by Gaylord French this morning Sunday, December 2, at 9:15 a.m. in the Library. We will meet through the month of December. All are welcome- from those who have graduated from high school up until 100! Don't worry if you have to miss one week—join us for the other three—this will be a great experience for all participants.

~ CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING ~

Christmas is a time when we share with strangers and give special gifts to our family members. For more than 70 years, Presbyterians have collected the **Christmas Joy Offering** to help Presbyterian pastors who have special needs and to support Presbyterian colleges that serve ethnic-minority students. Thus it provides life-changing and life-sustaining assistance to both young adults and to elderly church workers. They may be strangers to us, but they are part of our Presbyterian family, and the funds stay here in the U.S.A.

~ CPNS ~

We only have three weeks to get ready for Christmas. Like you, we have many things to do to get ready for this very special holiday. We will be collecting pennies and purchasing toys for children in the hospital; we will be making cookies and singing Christmas songs for our seniors at their Christmas program. We will be making presents and learning about the many new and exciting opportunities that Christmas brings to us. As a Christian preschool we are able to share the story of the birth of Jesus. The story is told by our pastors and they use a very special crèche that was donated many years ago by Harriet Perrine. We tell the story in the sanctuary and it's a story that is told every year, and each year it brings new joy to everyone that hears it. We are blessed to be able to get ready for Christmas at CPNS in such special ways.

We hope everyone has a joyous Advent season filled with hope, love, peace and joy. Our hope is that we carry the Christmas feeling in our hearts wherever we go.

We have decided to change the date of registration beginning with our 2013-2014 registration process. The new dates are as follows:

- Our existing students will register on January 14, 2013.
- Our sibling, sibling of alumni, and church members will begin registration on January 22, 2013.
- The general public registration will begin on February 1, 2013.

More information will be sent out as we get closer to the date.

As you research your options for a preschool for your child, please consider CPNS. Please call Janice Parker at 609 655-8663 or email her at CPNSchool@comcast.net for more information. Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors about our developmentally appropriate academic Christian preschool. We don't want anyone to miss the opportunity to give their children the best and strongest foundation for their child's academic success.

~~ MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS ~~

Snippets from the Year Book of Prayer: The Presbytery of Genesee Valley became interested in and concerned about Sudan after they had welcomed Sudanese refugee families at the Rochester airport. These Sudanese revisited their former home and returned to the States with sad hearts for they found that lack of clean drinking water had left people sick, schools and medical facilities had been destroyed. A program "Water for Sudan" was founded seven years ago and since then 88 wells have been drilled in remote arid villages in southern Sudan. Four years ago, "Building Minds for Sudan" was founded and now schools are being built thus rebuilding hope in Sudan. But not content with only material need assistance, the Presbytery was inspired to "Pray for Peace." In response, the Presbytery sponsored a candlelight prayer vigil on Epiphany in 2011 lifting up Sudan on the cusp of the birth of a new nation. May God bless and grant peace to the people of Sudan and South Sudan.

Christmas Wreaths are Here! If you ordered a Christmas wreath, you can now stop by the Gordon's house at 127 North Main Street (driveway off Barclay Street) and pick up your beautiful balsam wreath. Please make sure to cross your name off the list on the clip board.

It's not too late to order a wreath; look for Heidi Knowlton at coffee hour on Sunday and she can take your order. Thank you for your support!

Shop for Handbags & Jewelry on December 9! There will be one more chance for everyone to shop for the holidays at our "Jewelry & Handbag Jumble" - December 9 in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour after the Sunday worship service.

Don't miss this last chance to pick up a bargain for yourself or a gift for someone on your Christmas list. The Mission, Service & Grants Committee still has a few special items from our Mission Fair, and we're giving really great deals!

And, of course, ALL proceeds go to the Good Shepherd Hospital in the Congo. So have some more shopping fun on December 9 and do a really good deed, as well.

Skeet's Pantry Receives Food Donations - Wynwood Forsgate, a Brookdale Senior Living facility in Monroe, is collecting food for Skeet's Pantry. They have donated food in the past and look forward to collecting food for Skeet's this holiday season. If you know folks at Wynwood Forsgate or live nearby, please spread the word that food donations are welcomed.

In Cranbury, there is a collection box at the Town Hall or food can be donated at Skeet's Pantry anytime. The following food items are always needed: tuna fish, peanut butter, rice, canned fruit and soups. Thank you for your support!

~~ SENIOR FELLOWSHIP ~~

Senior Exercise Schedule: December 3, December 6, December 10, and December 13

Senior Fellowship will celebrate Christmas with the **Annual Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 11 at 12(noon)** in Fellowship Hall.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM SENIOR FELLOWSHIP. Many thanks to all the volunteers who make it possible for us to carry out this mission and especially to have this Christmas program.

~~ STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE ~~

Counting Teams: 12/2 (Team #3) and 12/9 (Team #4)

As the year comes to an end, we appreciate your continued support of our church's missions and ministries. Year-end pledge statements are expected to be available in January; however, if you wish to want a sneak peak, please contact the Church Office or George Smith. Your continued and faithful support of our church's missions and ministries is very important.

Looking forward to 2013, the Annual Stewardship Campaign for our church is nearing an end. With a number of contributions still coming in, we have received pledges of about \$251,000, which is about 60% of what is necessary to maintain our current budget. Your support is very important to reach our goal and will help immensely in continuing to support the missions and ministries of our church in 2013. Please consider making a pledge commitment as soon as possible, if you have not done so already. Pledge cards are available in the pews in church or the church office can mail you one.

~~ WORSHIP ~~

The Lay Reader Schedule for January to June 2013 is now on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up if you would like to be a Lay Reader.

~~ YOUTH MINISTRY ~~

Upcoming Events

- Sunday December 2** 2:00 p.m. Middle School Retreat returns from Camp Johnsonburg
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Bowling meet at church parking lot.
- Sunday, December 16** 2:00 to 5:00 pm - Junior and Senior High caroling at the Elms. Meet at church parking lot.
- Sunday, December 23** 5:00 p.m. - 6:30p.m. Jr. and Sr. High Youth Groups (Christmas Cookie Baking Party -FH/Kit

~~ CALENDAR ~~

December 2, 2012 - December 9, 2012

Sunday 2	(1st Sunday of Advent) 9:15a Celebration Sunday-FH 9:15a Christian Education for all ages (Classrooms/FH/McKnight Rm) 10:30a Worship with Communion followed by the Congregational Meeting to elect church officers 11:45 Library Committee - Library 3:00p-5:00p Senior High Youth Bowling meet at church parking lot. 4:00p-5:00p Cranbury Scout Band Practice - upstairs classroom 7:30p-9p Cranbury Men's Bible Study at the Inn
Monday 3	10:00a Senior Exercise 1:30p Martha's Circle - Lib. 7:30p Brass Choir 8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm
Tuesday 4	9:00a Bulletin Material Due 11:00a Staff Mtg.-Church Office 1:00p Outreach Committee Meeting- Library 7:30p Christian Ed. Meeting-Lib. 7:30p MS&G Meeting-FH 7:30p AA - McKnight Room
Wednesday 5	11:30a Women's Club Meeting-FH 7:30p Cemetery Board Meeting-Library 7:30p Bell Choir
Thursday 6	10:00a Senior Exercise 2:30p-5:30p TASK (VAN) 4:15p-4:45p Cherub Choir -Sanctuary 4:45p-5:30p Young Worship Choir-Sanctuary 7:00p Worship Meeting - Lib. 7:30p B&G Meeting-Lib. 7:30p The Chorale - Sanctuary
Friday 7	9:00a Bulletin Assembly-Church Office
Saturday 8	7:00p-9:00p Cub Scout Holiday Concert - FH (JY)
Sunday 9	2nd Sunday of Advent /Christmas Joy Offering) 9:15a Christian Education for all ages (Classrooms/Lib./FH/McKnight Rm) 10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour 11:30a Brief meeting with officers elect - Lib. 4:00p-5:00p Cranbury Scout Band Practice - upstairs classroom 5:00p-6:30p Youth Group-McK Rm 7:30p-9p Cranbury Men's Bible Study at the Inn

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

- Sunday, December 9, 2012 - The Second Sunday of Advent**
9:15 a.m. Christian Education for all ages
10:30 a.m. Worship Service (Christmas Joy Offering)
- Sunday, December 16, 2012 - The Third Sunday of Advent**
9:15 a.m. Christian Education for all ages
10:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols Worship Service followed by the Annual Christmas Luncheon
- Sunday, December 23, 2012 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent**
9:15 a.m. Christian Education for all ages
10:10 a.m. Sunday School Caroling
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- Monday, December 24, 2012 - Christmas Eve**
5:00 p.m. Service of Bells for children of all ages
8:00 p.m. Family Service
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service
- Sunday, December 30, 2012**
No Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

