

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
4th Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2012 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE *Pastoral Air with Variations* **Franz Murschhauser**
Organ

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 *“Glory to God in the Highest”* **Donovan Klotzbeacher**
The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP **Dr. Stephen Crocco**

From ancient days, God has promised this:
The woman in labor will give birth and her little one will come to reign.
He will stand in the majesty of the Lord
and feed his flock with strength.
And we shall live secure, for his name shall be great to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

HYMN #23 (Hymnal)* *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*
Almighty God our Savior, we confess that our hearts have been proud. We have sought wealth and neglected mercy. Forgive us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)* *“Gloria Patri”*

THE PEACE* ✚

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING **The Wheeler Family**

SCRIPTURE **Luke 2:1-7** **Pew Bible pg. 58**
“In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own

towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver the child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

Leader: Joy to the world!

People: This is the culmination of our years of waiting.

Leader: We have lit the candles of hope, of peace, and of love. In the glow of their light we feel the warmth of deep and quiet joy.

People: Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Leader: Let us our songs employ.

People: Let us sing to the glory of God!

Leader: Let us sing in the name of Christ who offers us hope in the prison of despair,

People: Peace in the chaos of life,

Leader: God’s love--graciously, silently, and vulnerably offered.

People: And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, AND JOY

HYMN #40 (Hymnal)

“Joy to the World!”

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

**Desmond Anthony Ferguson
son of Matthew C. and Wen Yee Monica Ferguson
born on July 8, 2009**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

QUESTIONS TO THE PARENTS

QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION:*

Dorothy Klotzbeacher

Our Lord Jesus Christ ordered us to teach those who are baptized. Do we, the people of this church, in the name of the whole Body of Christ, promise to tell Desmond the good news of the gospel, to help him to know all that Christ commands, and by our fellowship, to strengthen his family ties with the household of God? If so, please say, “We do.”

Congregation: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH*

The Apostles’ Creed (Blue Hymnal, pg. 14)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father

Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER:

THE BAPTISM & WELCOME INTO THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 8-14 Rosellyn Cassidy
Pew Bible pg. 58

ANTHEM *The Gallery Carol* arr. Donovan Klotzbeacher
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 15-20 Pew Bible pg. 58

SERMON “The Christmas Story” Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

HYMN #25 (Hymnal)* *“Away in a Manger”*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH Dr. Crocco

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Unison)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *Noel en Musette* Louis Claude D’Aquin
Organ

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)* *“Doxology”*
Prayer of Dedication* Dr. Crocco

HYMN #38 (Hymnal)* *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”*

BENEDICTION*

RESPONSE* *Twofold Amen in F* Donovan Klotzbeacher
The Chorale

POSTLUDE *Rigaudon* Elizabeth Jacquet de la Guerre
Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

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.

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:

Flowers in the chancel today are the beautiful Christmas poinsettias. They have been given to the glory of God in memory, in honor and as a gift of gratitude by many wonderful people. (Copies of the list are in the Narthex).

Coffee Hour is hosted by the Deacons.

Greeters are Earl Davison and Don Winchell.

Head Ushers are Janice Parker and Jeff & Diane Yeager.

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: Marge Bloom; Everett Campbell; the Cassidy family; Martha Davis; Marlene French; Bill Keller; Claire Maselli; Rebecca Pelto; Rev. Joanne Petto; Russ Richardson; Dorothy Swec and Walter Wright.

Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked: Barbara Danser's mother, Evelyn Walton; Judy Duke's mother, Ruth Biesecker; Arlene Duran's daughters, Catherine Lepp and Jennifer Tuffy; Gail Geijer's son, Dan; 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; church treasurer, Art Pellichero; friend of the church Sharon Ramkishun's niece, Kaitlyn; Carlene Reyes' friend, Will; Gretchen Stults' granddaughter, Jodi Mallette and family; and Loida Wilson's friend, Colleen Cahill Brunskill.

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!

Birthday of Distinction! Rose Eller on January 5. **Happy Birthday!**

~ CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~

Adult Education

On January 6 and January 13, Dr. Gretchen Hull will continue her series on the New Testament books of John II and John III. Although short, both books, as explained by Gretchen, provide a wealth of material for us to consider each week. Please join us in Room 1 at 9:15 a.m.

Martha Circle: All women of the Church - you are welcome to join the Martha Circle which meets in the Library on the first Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. This is a Study Group under the leadership of Rose Eller; this year's topic is "Dispatches to Christians: the Lesser Epistles." Join us on January 7 for the first lesson of the New Year.

Mark your calendars - Family FunDay! Children and Parents! Our Second Annual Family FunDay will be held on Monday, January 21 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

~ CPNS ~

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year. Enjoy this special time with family and friends.

Registration for the school year 2013-2014 will begin on January 14. Church members will be able to register on January 22. You can find the registration form on our website. If you are interested in visiting our school, call me to arrange a time that is convenient for you.

Beginning with the school year 2013-2014 CPNS will be offering a Kindergarten program. Details can be found on the registration form on our website, or please call for additional information.

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: Yellowstone Presbytery in Montana is a long way from us, but many of us remember Dave and Arlene Andrews, former active members of our church, and we can think of them out in this area, living in Missoula, Montana. The mission statement of the Presbytery seemed to be worth passing on to our congregation: "Our Vision: Yellowstone Presbytery--guided and sustained by Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and prayer--is a community rooted in the love of Jesus Christ. We will: Gather Together for God's glory and spiritual synergy; Equip and Encourage disciple-making congregations and leaders for living the gospel...intentionally becoming more like Christ; ably sharing our faith in our communities; worshipping in loving response to God; and mutually supporting and training leaders; Go Out to join Christ in Christ's mission in our communities, Montana, and the world...embodying and sharing Christ's good news; loving and serving as commanded in our words, actions, and relationships."

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

January 3, January 7 (10:30a - 11:30a),
 January 10, January 14, January 17, January 21 (No class),
 January 24, January 28 and January 31

~~ STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE ~~

Counting Teams: 12/30 (Team #3) and 1/6 (Team #4)

Stewardship Update: As we near the end of the Stewardship campaign, we have received pledges of about \$289,000, or about 70% of our current budget. Session will be making final decisions regarding the 2013 budget very soon, so your financial support is especially important at this time. Even if you plan to maintain your current pledge level, please make a pledge commitment as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available in the pews in the church or the Church Office can mail a card to you.

~~ 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.

Flower Openings available! There are flower openings for the following Sundays: January 13, January 20 and January 27. Please contact Diane Smith at d1stargazer@verizon.net or 609-890-0822 if you are interested.

~~ CALENDAR ~~

December 30, 2012 - January 6, 2013

Sunday 30	No Sunday School 10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour 4:00p-5:00p Cranbury Scout Band Practice - upstairs classroom 7:30p-9p Cranbury Men's Bible Study at the Inn
Monday 31	(New Year's Eve) CPNS/Church Office Closed
Tuesday 1	(New Year's Day) CPNS/Church Office Closed 7:30p AA - McKnight Room
Wednesday 2	11:00a Staff Mtg.-Church Office 7:30p Bell Choir
Thursday 3	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 4	9:00a Bulletin Assembly-Church Office 8:00p-9:00p AA (Promises 12 Steps)McK Room
Saturday 5	7:00p-9:00p Cub Scouts Movie Nights - FH (JY)
Sunday 6	(Epiphany of the Lord) 9:15a Christian Education for all ages (Classrooms/Library/McKnight Rm) 10:30a Worship with Communion followed by coffee hour 11:45 Library Committee - Library 4:00p-5:00p Cranbury Scout Band Practice - upstairs classroom 7:30p-9p Cranbury Men's Bible Study at the Inn