

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/Christmas Joy Offering
December 21, 2014 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE *Prelude in G Major* Felix Mendelssohn
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 *“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel”* Donovan Klotzbeacher
(*Luke 1: 68-69*) The Chorale

CALL TO WORSHIP Brett Butler
The young woman shall be with child.
He will be called Emmanuel, God with us.
His name will be Jesus, for he comes to save us.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*
God, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. You offer us a place in your house, yet we find no room for you in our lives. You invite us into your eternal realm, yet we fail to welcome others. Forgive us, God of grace. Let your word of life be with us so that we may truly believe that nothing is impossible with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)* *“Gloria Patri”*

THE PEACE* ✦

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Jack and Carol Fisher

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!”

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 5-25

Mary Speer
Pew Bible pg. 56

ANTHEM

“In the bleak midwinter”

Gustav Holst, arr. Bertalot
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 26-38

Pew Bible pgs. 56-57

SERMON

“Christmas is Impossible”

Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

HYMN #25 (Hymnal)*

“Away in a Manger”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Dr. Mitchell

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.

OFFERINGS AND CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Offertory

Noel en Musette

Louis Claude D’Aquin
Organ

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

“Doxology”

Prayer of Dedication*

Mr. Butler

HYMN #29 (Hymnal)*

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

RESPONSE*

Choral Amen

The Chorale

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE*

Magnificat & Duo

Jean-François Dandrieu
Organ

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

Come Celebrate the Birth of Christ with Us!

Wednesday, December 24, 2014 - Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Meadow Lakes Lessons & Carols Vesper Service

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 28, 2014

No Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Meadow Lakes Worship Service



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. Linda Protinick is the Nursery Coordinator.

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 available for your convenience in the narthex. The ushers can assist you.

The 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 for many wonderful people. (Poinsettias may be picked up after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service or after Worship on December 28.)

Coffee Hour today is hosted by Gloria-Jean and Art Ryba.

Greeters are Earl Davison and Jack Fisher.

Head Ushers are Brian and Gina Moore.

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 call the church office at 609/395-0897.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Church members with special needs: Marge Bloom; Will Ellsworth; Marlene French; Bill Keller; Scott Kerr; Claire Maselli; Karen Moser; Karen Moutenot; Russ Richardson; Russell Sutton; Doris Wiegartner and Ann Zimmerman.

Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked: Vicki Bain's mother, Joan Stiles; Alan Balcomb's sister, Elizabeth Goodfellow; Barbara & Arthur Danser's, friend, Lynda Patterson; Jean Dunham's sister, Pat; Arlene Duran's daughter, Catherine Lepp; Paul & Janet Furchak's friend, Lori Sigley; Gail Geijer's son, Dan; Wayne & Cyndi Girardet's son and Karen & Andy Moutenot's son-in-law, Benjamin Girardet; Mark Hughes' grandmother, Olga

Zelder; Bryan Nemeth's friend, Ellen Weiner; Sharon Pulz and family due to the death of her mother; Ron & Ann Riemann's friend, Susan Seibert; Fran Stewart's father, Eugene Feeney; and Gretchen Stults' granddaughter, Jodi Mallette & 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

Cranbury Men's Bible Study (Sundays 8:00 p.m.): All men are invited to join us in a relaxed setting at the Cranbury Inn. Please contact Brett Butler for more information. There will be **NO** bible study on December 28 and January 4.

Family Fun Day Information! This year, on January 19, 2015 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), the Christian Education Committee is planning a ski trip to Camelback Mountain in Tannersville, PA! The trip will cost between \$80 - \$90.

The registration deadline is **TODAY, DECEMBER 21**. To register, email Brett Butler at bbutler532@gmail.com. Provide the following information: name, phone number, number of people that will attend and if rental equipment is needed. Thank you!

CPNS

We are "Getting Ready" for the baby!" and it's almost Christmas. We celebrate this special holiday at CPNS with a family sing-a-long around our Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall. The children made the beautiful decorations that hang on the tree, and they helped to decorate it, which makes it a very special tree to everyone. Our families make those traditional family Christmas cookies to share at our celebrations, they are all so delicious, and it's tempting to try each one. It's so wonderful to hear the children and families singing those special songs like "Away in a Manger". We may even have a cake to sing Happy Birthday to Jesus. I'm so glad that we could share the true meaning of Christmas at CPNS to the children and their families.

We hope your Advent Season is filled with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

DEACONS

The Deacons wish to thank the congregation who donated or helped in any way with our Thanksgiving Basket Drive. Because of you and the community, we were able to provide food and turkeys to over 150 families this year. Bless you all.

MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS

Snippets from the Year Book of Prayer: The **Christmas Joy Offering** is one of the special offerings taken in our church. Through it, caring Presbyterians provide needed financial assistance to families of pastors, missionaries, and other church workers. Each year more than 1,000 PC(USA) church workers receive grants administered by the Assistance Program of the board of Pensions, primarily for reasons of financial hardship. The Christmas Joy Offering provides a significant portion of the funding for these grants. We are blessed to be part of this necessary assistance to those in need.

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen News (TASK): We will not be going to TASK in January, for the first Thursday of the month falls on New Year's Day. Anyone over the age of 13 is welcome to join us starting in February. Please call Anne Gordon if you would like to serve.

Mission Dinner Fundraiser (Formerly Guatemala Dinner): Our mission dinner is quickly approaching. Don't miss the wonderful opportunity for church fellowship, entertainment and a delicious meal. There are a limited number of tickets being sold, so buy them today.

We will be serving dinner on Friday, February 6 and Saturday, February 7 beginning at 7:00 p.m. with open seating beginning at 6:30 p.m. Both nights will have entertainment.

The cost of the meal will be \$50.00 per person (remember this is a fundraiser). You may want to attend both evenings to experience the variety of entertainment being offered. We will be selling only a limited number of tickets, so plan on buying your ticket early. They are on sale now and will be available during coffee hour (see Lil or George Conley) or call the church office. We are offering a filet mignon, grilled salmon, or stuffed chicken, as your main entrees along with all the trimmings and a delicious desert to top it off with.

Checks can be made payable to The First Presbyterian Church (tax deductible) memo: Mission dinner. Any amount above the \$50.00 fee will be greatly appreciated. Please save this date, we are counting on you for our success in this project.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Senior Exercise Schedule: January 5, January 8, January 12, January 15, January 19, January 22, January 26 and January 29.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

2015 Pledge Envelopes: Pledge envelopes are available to pick up in **Room 1** today. **Please note:** You may have a new number for 2015, so please use your new envelopes in January.

Counting Teams: 12/21 (Team #1) – 12/28 (Team #2)

Budget Update (Year-to-Date to 12/14/14)		
	Week Ended 12/14	YTD to 12/14
Offerings	\$7,018	\$430,237
Expenses	\$9,402	\$417,489
Net Income/(Loss)	(\$2,384)	\$12,748

WORSHIP

January is open for flowers! If you would like to place flowers in the church, please contact Diane Smith at d1stargazer@verizon.net or call 609-890-0822.

Do you have an extra hour or two 4 or 6 times a year? Would you like to help the church? Would you like to be part of a great team?

The Ushers Guild is always looking for new members. Every week the ushers provide an invaluable service before, during and after the Sunday services. If you are interested in joining one of our many teams, or would like more information, please contact: Caren Anuszewski the Ushers Guild Coordinator at (609)587-8883 or email her at crcrabbe91@optimum.net.

The **Lay Reader Schedule** for January to June 2015 is available in Fellowship Hall. We are always looking for, and welcome, new lay readers. If you have any questions, please call Joan Fraser.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

December 21, 2014

(4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Joy Offering)

9:15a Christian Ed for all ages (CRs/Lib./FH/McK Rm/Rm 1)
10:10a Sunday School Caroling-Sanctuary
10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour
11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service
11:45 Lib. Committee – Lib.
4p–5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice
6p – 7:30p Sr. High Youth Group-FH
6:15p–8p Boy Scouts – McK Rm (GC)
8:00p–9:00p Cranbury Men's Bible Study at the Inn

December 22, 2014

9:00a Bulletin Material Due for January 4

Church Office Hours 9a to 12:00p

10:45a CPNS Christmas Program – FH/Kit
2:15p CONS Christmas Program – FH/Kit
7:30p Brass Choir
8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm

December 23, 2014

CPNS Closed

Church Office Hours 9a to 12:00p

9:30a Staff Mtg.-Church Office
7:30p AA – McK Rm

December 24, 2014 (Christmas Eve)

CPNS/Church Office Closed

4:00p Meadow Lakes Worship Service (Lessons and Carols)
5:00p Children's Service
8:00p Family Service
11:00p Candlelight Communion Service

December 25, 2014 (Christmas)
CPNS/Church Office Closed

December 26, 2014
CPNS/Church Office Closed
8:00p-9:00p AA (Promises 12 Steps)McK Room

December 27, 2014

December 28, 2014
10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour
11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service
4p-5p Cranbury Scout Band Practice