

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

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE *“Advent Carol”* **arr. Hal 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 *“Bless the Lord, O my soul”* **Donovan Klotzbeacher**
The Chorale

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY Jack and Carol Fisher

SCRIPTURE Micah 5:2-5a Pew Bible pg. 865

“But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.”

L: The season of Advent continues. Thousands of years of waiting for the Messiah are commemorated by the lighting of four candles.

P: We join with a hopeful throng in the lighting of the Advent candles, signs of God’s love and symbols of our faith.

L: We are a people of hope. Last Sunday the frail light of a single candle dared to pierce through the darkness of desolation and sin.

P: Hope lives in us and will abide with us.

L: Today we will light the candle of peace.

P: This light, too, must brave the great darkness.

- L: In an age when people seldom find peace within themselves, and when all the earth knows the sorrow of war, we light a fire called peace.
- P: Peace that is not merely the absence of war and conflict, but peace that is the fullness of blessing for all - that is the peace for which we dare to hope.**
- L: Christ comes to bring peace to those who have been separated from God and one another.
- P: In the name of that Child born so long ago, we light the candles of peace and hope.**

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE AND PEACE

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We hurt and destroy one another and neglect the poor and hungry. We let evil grow among us and fail to bear good fruit. Forgive us, God of grace. Awaken us to your Word, so that we may be ready to welcome you with joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)* *“Gloria Patri”*

THE PEACE* ✠

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE ✠		Pastor Lou
SCRIPTURE	Luke 1: 5-25	Stan Dickerson Pew Bible pg. 56
ANTHEM	<i>“Advent Meditation”</i>	Douglas Wagner Bell Choir
SCRIPTURE	Luke 1: 57-80	Pew Bible pgs. 57-58
SERMON		Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *“Come Christ of God”* **Stan Pethel**
The Chorale

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

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:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

The presence of the Holy Spirit is sought, as well as God’s blessing on our lives. The prayer concludes with a Trinitarian doxology.

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 COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We will eat the bread individually when served. We will hold the cup until all have been served and then partake together. All baptized Christians, whatever your denomination or tradition, are invited to share with us in this holy sacrament.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN #29 (Hymnal)* *“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”*

RESPONSE* *“Savior Come”* **Plain Song**
Bell Choir

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE* *“O Christ, who art the light and day”* **Georg Boehm**
Organ

*ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND

A Congregational Meeting

has been called by the Session immediately following our Worship Service today, for the sole purpose of electing church officers.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

December 18, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.

Following our Worship Service on December 18, head over to the Fellowship Hall for our traditional “Chicken Soup and Christmas Cheer” luncheon. Please bring a dessert to share which can be dropped off in the kitchen before worship. We will be singing all our favorite Christmas carols.

Sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee



Announcements

Visitors! We hope you will find a warm welcome here. We invite you to consider membership in our church family. Please speak to our Greeter or Pastors after worship for more information; or if you would like to be contacted, 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.

There are new Worship bags available in the Narthex! These bags are full of activities to help children of all ages worship alongside the whole church family.

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

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

Communion Servers are Pat Demers, Carol Edelson, Ann Riemann, Ron Riemann, Arthur Ryba, Chris Welch and Renee Welch

Coffee Hour is hosted by Pat Bohrs and Jack & Sue Britton.

Head Ushers are Caren Anuszewski and Heidi Knowlton.

Greeter is Jack Britton/Heidi Knowlton.

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: Bill Chermak; Jean Dunham and family due to the passing of her sister, Pat; Robert Dyke; Bill Eller; Paul Furchak; Tyler Katsoff; Pete Keve; Evan Pease; Joanne Petto; Russ Richardson; Marge Scott; Wilma Shimer; Barbara Wahlers; Margo Wegner and Richard & Ina Zimmer.

Meadow Lakes members with special needs: Joan Gray, Carolyn Hilgendorff and Joe Kelly.

Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked: David Anderson’s father, Robert; Betty Borgeson’s sister, Martha; Phyllis Dyke’s friend, Rosemarie; Linda Ferguson’s son’s fiancée, Kristin and friends, Susan & Rose; Joan & Gordon Fraser’s son, Iain; Gail Geijer’s son, Dan; Patricia Grasso’s friends, Eileen, Annette & Burt; Barbara Hannon’s brother-in-law, Michael; CPNS Teacher, Noél Kinney’s son, JP; Beatrice Mabutho’s sister, Phyllis & friend, Aaron; Linda Morris’ nephew, Matthew; Ron Perry’s father, Daniel; Sharon Ramkishun’s niece, Kaitlyn; Russ & Cheryl Richardson’s son, Mark; Jane Siebert’s friend, Madlyn; Pat Scott’s niece, Brenda; Wilma Shimer's niece, Janean; and Mary Szczepanik’s nephew, Kevin.

We pray for all people who are in need in our wider community and please remember family and friends in our nation's service. Members of our church family are encouraged to make prayer requests for relatives serving in our armed services, most especially those serving in harm's way.

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 and YOUTH MINISTRY

ADULT EDUCATION

Martha's Circle - All women of the church, join us in the Library at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, December 5. This year's study is "Who is Jesus?" All women are welcome to be a part of this study, this fellowship, this circle of friendship

Advent Bible Study – Our 4 week bible study began last week and will continue through December 18 at 9:15 a.m. in Room 1. Our Pastors will teach from *Names of the Messiah*, an Advent Study by Walter Brueggemann. We will discuss the four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6 – Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace – "and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title."

Join us for Sunday School each Sunday morning!

9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Gathering Time with Pastor Hannah in the Fellowship Hall for ages 2 - 8th grade

9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Sunday School for ages 2 - 8th grade, check the Sunday School Bulletin Board for classes and classrooms

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. High School Sunday School in the Church Library

YOUTH GROUP:

- There will be **NO Middle School Youth Group tonight, December 4.**
- **High School Youth Group** will meet tonight from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Wreaths for Sale! The Youth Group is selling Christmas Wreaths to benefit the summer mission trip. The Evergreen wreaths measure 24 inches (outer diameter) and can be purchased for \$12 without a red bow or \$15 with a red bow. Wreaths are being sold in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour today.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed! Coffee Hour is a great time to meet and catch up with friends and members of the congregation as well as make our visitors feel welcome. There has been a shortage of host volunteers for coffee hour. Please consider hosting coffee hour. The Coffee Hour sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall so be sure to check out the available dates. For more information, please contact Ed Luffey at eluffey@gmail.com.

CPNS

Everyone at CPNS is preparing for Christmas. We are collecting pennies and buying gifts for children that might not have any, making cards and decorations, and even making gifts for our families. We'll hear the Christmas story in our Sanctuary, and have a Christmas sing-a-long around the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall. It's a very busy time of year, filled with joy, hope, peace and love.

This week the children of CPNS will be singing at the Senior Fellowship Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 6. Noël Kinney and Jenni Collins will lead the children as they share their gift of music and dance. Mrs. "K" will play the piano and read a Christmas story many of you will know. The children will also be sharing a special candy cane treat with everyone attending.

As you begin to 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 strongest foundation for their child's academic success.

MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS

Time to Make Christmas Merry for Skeet's Pantry Families! How time flies! Thanksgiving has come and gone, and our Deacons made it a blessed one for close to 140 families - but all of YOU ultimately made this gift of food possible. Thank you!

Now Skeet's Pantry is working to stock up our shelves for over 100 families coming to our December 16 food distribution. Because we would love Christmas to be as special as Thanksgiving was for these families, we again ask for YOUR help. The foods we are most in need of are the following (please check for current expiration dates):

GRAPE JELLY, PASTA SAUCE, PASTA, TUNA FISH, BEANS

All of us who volunteer at Skeet's Pantry thank you for caring so much about what we do - and we hope you and your family have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas too!

Please Help Skeet's Pantry! Every month our patrons at Skeet's Pantry receive delicious fresh produce from the organization, Farmer's Against Hunger. We need several people to take turns going to Trenton to pick up the produce and deliver it back to the church. This happens every third Thursday of the month from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. No experience necessary, just a willingness to help! Questions, call Anne Gordon or Dale Smith. Thanks!



Looking for a Meaningful Christmas Gift? Take a look at our Presbyterian Giving Catalog. It is full of great gift ideas, with a very big impact. There are many wonderful missions to support from providing water filters to families in Flint, Michigan to providing a bicycle to pastors in Zambia. Catalogs are located in the church Narthex and on the hallway bulletin board across from Fellowship Hall. Make a difference in someone's life, give the gift of mission.

SENIOR BREAKFAST CLUB

Please join us for Senior Breakfast Club on **Thursday, December 15** at 8:30 a.m. at The Cranbury Inn. This month, Rev. Harry Bohrs will speak on American Christmas traditions. Our traditions are borrowed from all over the world. Rev. Bohrs will discuss Christian Hymnody and where our Christmas Carols come from.

The Senior Breakfast Club is open to all who wish to hear these events at our Thursday, once-a-month breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at the Cranbury Inn. If you wish to attend, and have not done so before, please notify the church office at (609)395-0897 so that we can contact you. We need to notify the Cranbury Inn with the number of guests that will attend. For information, contact Walter Wright at (609)655-6864.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Senior Exercise Schedule: December 5, December 8, December 12 and December 15.

UPCOMING EVENT

Senior Fellowship will celebrate Christmas with the **Annual Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 6** at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall. We'll have a hot luncheon, singing some of the old favorite Christmas songs and entertainment by the students of CPNS. This event required pre-registration.

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. Special thanks to Janice Parker, Mrs. K and the students and teachers of CPNS for their Christmas songs. We are grateful to CPNS for their Halloween entertainment for the seniors in October as well!

Senior Fellowship has had a wonderful year of programs and trips. Connie Bauder, coordinator of Senior Fellowship, would like to give thanks to the following members of the Senior Fellowship Committee who make it possible for the Senior Fellowship mission of this church to flourish. Please give your thanks to them for doing God's work; Bill Bauder, Nancy Chonko, Dennis Chonko, Joan Fraser, Anita McManus, Jean Randazzo, Audrey Smith, Larry White and Heidi Knowlton. Please keep these people in your prayers and join with me in giving thanks for their service.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Counting Teams: 12/4 (Team #3) – 12/11 (Team #4)

	Week Ended 11/27/16
Weekly Offering	\$4,425
YTD Offerings	\$395,294
YTD Expenses	\$416,698
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	(\$21,404)
YTD Per Capita: \$4,237 (19% of \$21,780)	

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Ushers are needed for our Christmas Eve Services: Ushers are needed for our 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Services. Please contact Heidi Knowlton at (609) 799-1724 or email her at cabotk@comcast.net if you would like to usher or if you have any questions.

Flower Openings Available: If you are interested in dedicating flowers on Sundays for the Sanctuary, please contact Diane Smith at 609-890-0822.

Lay Reader Schedule: The January through June 2017 Lay Reader Schedule has been posted in Fellowship Hall. We appreciate all who are our regular Readers signing up again, and look forward to finding some new names for the coming six months.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

<p>December 4, 2016(2nd Sunday of Advent) 9:15a Sunday School - All areas 9:15a Adult Bible Study – Rm 1 10:30a Worship w/Communion and Congregational Mtg to Elect Church Officers followed by coffee hour 11:00a Meadow Lakes Communion Worship Service 12p Middle School Youth Group returns from J'burg Retreat - VAN 6:30p-8p High School Youth Group 4p–5p Cranbury Scout Band</p>	<p>December 5, 2016 10:00a Senior Exercise 1:30p Martha's Circle – Lib. 2:00p-4:00p Sr. Fellowship prep for Christmas Luncheon – FH/Kit 7:00p Brass Choir 8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm</p>
<p>December 6, 2016 9:00a Bulletin Material Due 9:00a Sr. Fellowship set-up – FH/VAN 9:30a Staff Mtg.-Church Office 12p-4p Sr. Fellowship Christmas Luncheon – FH/Kit/VAN 1:00p Outreach Cmte Mtg- Lib. 3:30p Advent Bible Study @ Meadow Lakes 4:15p Children's Choir-Sanctuary 7p Christian Ed/Youth Ministry Mtg-Lib. 7:30p MS&G Mtg-FH 7:30p AA – McKnight Room</p>	<p>December 7, 2016 9a-10a Bell Choir (set-up) – FH 7:00p Bell Choir 7:00p Women's Club - FH 7:30p Cemetery Board Mtg. – Lib.</p>
<p>December 8, 2016 10:00a Senior Exercise 7:30p P&A Mtg-church office (upstairs) 7:30p The Chorale - Sanctuary</p>	<p>December 9, 2016 9:00a Bulletin Assembly-Church Office ??2p-6:30p Girl Scouts - Kit</p>
<p>December 10, 2016 6p-8:30p Scout Holiday Concert - FH</p>	<p>December 11, 2016(3rd Sunday of Advent) 9:15a Sunday School - All areas 9:15a Adult Bible Study – Rm 1 10:30a Lessons and Carols followed by coffee hour 11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service 1:30p-3p Middle/High School Youth Group Caroling @ The Elms 4p–5p Cranbury Scout Band</p>