

***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.)*

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**AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

**Lessons and Carols**

**December 11, 2016 10:30 A.M.**

**THE APPROACH**

THE PRELUDE

*“A Christmas Package”*

**arr. by Wesley Hanson**  
Brass Choir

WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FELLOWSHIP (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.)

**THE PROPHECY**

**Isaiah 40: 1-5** Caroline Koi and Nathan Blankson

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

L: God is making the final preparation for an amazing thing! This is the Advent of the long awaited Messiah, the bringer of hope, the prince of peace, our leader of love.

**P: We wait, we prepare, we make straight the way.**

L: We celebrate the coming of Christ with the lighting of Advent candles.

**P: We are a people of hope, a people of peace, a people of love.**

L: At first there was the frail light of a candle called hope, daring to pierce the darkness of despair and sin.

**P: Then there was the candle of peace, the gentle and persistent fire, the one that calls out the violent forces and lets in God’s deep and tranquil Spirit.**

L: Today we light the candle of love. No other word so adequately captures the spirit and goal of our faith. No other word so beautifully describes what we know of God.

**P: For God so loved the world.**

L: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. A savior was made in the form of a baby who was born so that we might know God's love.

**P: We gather, then, in Christian love. We give thanks for a love that passes understanding, and we await the dawning of God's pervasive and enduring love once more this Christmas season.**

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, and LOVE

HYMN #41/42 (Hymnal)\*      *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

**THE ANNUNCIATION**      **Luke 1: 26-33**      Joan Fraser, Narrator  
The Chorale      *"There is no rose of such virtue"*      **arr. by Hal Hopson**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**      **Luke 2: 1-7**  
The Chorale      *"Ah, bleak and chill the wintry wind"*      Alfred Burt  
Children's Choir      *"Silent Night"*      **music by Franz Gruber, 1818**  
   **words by Joseph Mohr, 1818**

**THE ANGELS**      **Luke 2: 8-14**  
Bell Choir      *"The Christmas Angels"*      **arr. Michael Helman**  
Brass Choir      *"The First Noel"*      **arr. by Paul Cook**

**THE SHEPHERDS**      **Luke 2: 15-20**  
Children's Choir      *"The Purest Rose"*      **written by Jo D. Andrews,**  
   **arr. by George Andrews**  
Bell Choir      *"Pat-A-Pan"*      **Bergundian Carol**

**THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**  
Offertory      *"The Herald Angel"*      **arr. by Mike Story**  
   **Brass Choir**

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)\*      *"Doxology"*  
Prayer of Dedication\*

**THE MAGI**      **Matthew 2: 1-6**  
Bell Choir      *"We Three Kings"*      **arr. by Valerie Stephenson**

**THE STAR**      **Matthew 2: 7-12**  
Children's Choir & The Chorale      *Christmas Star*      **music by John Williams,**  
   **lyrics by Leslie Bricusse,**  
   **arr. by Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi**



## Announcements

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### 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*



**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.

**Coffee Hour** is hosted by the Mission, Service and Grants Committee.

**Head Usher** is Craig Vandenberg.

**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; 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; George Andrews' sister, Billie; 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 mother, Eileen and friend, Annette; Barbara Hannon's brother-in-law, Michael; CPNS Teacher, Noël 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!

**Birthdays of Distinction:** Carol Sprout on December 13 and Fritz Hager on December 18. **Happy Birthday!**

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION and YOUTH MINISTRY**

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### **ADULT EDUCATION**

**Advent Bible Study** – Next Sunday, December 18 will be the last Sunday of our 4 week bible study. Please join us at 9:15 a.m. in Room 1. We have been discussing 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.” This Bible study is based on the *Names of the Messiah*, an Advent Study by Walter Brueggemann.

## **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 SCHEDULE:**

**Today, December 11** 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Youth Group caroling at The Elms. There will be **NO Youth Group meetings tonight.**

**December 18** 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Youth Group Christmas Party! Don't forget to bring a \$10 gender-neutral gift and a nut free dinner dish to share.

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

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**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](mailto:eluffey@gmail.com).

## **CPNS**

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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 year for our "Pennies for Present" program at CPNS, we chose ten children from the Helene Cody Foundation Giving Tree. The names on the tree are of children that are part of Homefront. We teach the children of CPNS about giving gifts to children that are less fortunate and ask them to bring in pennies so the gifts could be purchased. It is amazing how many pennies we collect and how generous the children are with the change they find all over their home.

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](mailto: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**

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**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!



**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**

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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**

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**Senior Exercise Schedule:** December 12 and December 15. See you next year!!!!

**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**

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**Counting Teams:** 12/11 (Team #4) – 12/18 (Team #1)

**Pledge Envelopes:** Your 2017 pledges envelopes are available to pick up today in the Fellowship Hall.

	<b>Week Ended 12/4/16</b>
Weekly Offering	\$8,500
YTD Offerings	\$403,794
YTD Expenses	\$429,695
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	<b>(\$25,901)</b>
YTD Per Capita: \$4,237 (19% of \$21,780)	

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

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**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><b>December 11 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent)</b>            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–upstairs CRs</p>	<p><b>December 12, 2016</b>            10:00a Senior Exercise            7:00p Brass Choir            7:30p Congregational Life Mtg-Lib.            8:00p Al-Anon-McK Rm</p>
<p><b>December 13, 2016</b>  <b>9:00a All Bulletin Material Due for 12/24, 12/25 and 1/1</b>            10:30a Staff Mtg. followed by staff Christmas Luncheon            3:30p Advent Bible–Mtg Rm at Meadow Lakes            4:15p Children’s Choir-Sanctuary            7:30p Stewardship &amp; Fin.-Church Office            7:30p Deacons - Lib.            7:30p AA – McKnight Room</p>	<p><b>December 14, 2016</b>  <b>9:00a Session Material Due</b>            3:30p Meadow Lakes Ministry Cmte Mtg-ML Board/Conference Rm            5:00p Boy Scouts District Mtg.            Christmas Party – FH/Kit            7:00p Bell Choir</p>
<p><b>December 15, 2016</b>            8:30a Sr. Breakfast Club at The Cranbury Inn            9:00a Skeet’s Food Pantry Packing            10:00a Senior Exercise            7:30p The Chorale - Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>December 16, 2016</b>            8:00a-10:30a Skeet’s Food Pantry Distribution            9:00a Bulletin Assembly-Church Office            6:45p-8p Wolf Pack Mtg.-McK Rm</p>
<p><b>December 17, 2016</b></p>	<p><b>December 18 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent)</b>            9:15a Sunday School - All areas            9:15a Adult Bible Study – Rm 1            10:10a-10:25a Sunday School Caroling from the Balcony - Sanctuary            10:30a Worship followed by followed by the <b>Annual Christmas Luncheon</b>            11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service            11:45 Lib. Cmte – Lib            4p–5p Cranbury Scout Band–upstairs            5:30p-8p Middle/High School Youth Group Christmas Party - FH</p>

