

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.

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE

“Celebrate and Ring”

Dan Edwards
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

Advent Chorale

Donovan Klotzbecher
The Chorale

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Lucille Kirkenir and Doris Wiegartner

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

L: 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.

P: We gather as a people of hope.

L: 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.

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

L: 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.

P: 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

HYMN #1 (Hymnal)* *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)* Dr. Mitchell
Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We study the ways of war; we stray from the paths of peace. By day we waste your gifts; by night we dishonor your name. Forgive us; deliver us; awaken us to your Word, so that we may be ready to welcome you with joy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)* *"Gloria Patri"*

THE PEACE*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON Daune Arsnow

MINUTE FOR MISSION Christmas Joy Offering Janet Wheeler

SCRIPTURE Romans 8: 18-25 The Perry family
Pew Bible pg. 158

ANTHEM *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"* Susan Geschke
Bell Choir

SCRIPTURE Titus 2: 11-14 Pew Bible pg. 215

SERMON "The Advent of Hope" Dr. Louis Mitchell

THE RESPONSE

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *“Wake, awake, for night is flying”* arr. Donovan Klotzbeacher
The Chorale

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)* *“Doxology”*

Prayer of Dedication* Jae Hwang

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:

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 *"Our Father..."*
(Unison – The Chorale/Congregation)

Albert Hay Malotte,
arr. Donovan Klotzbecher

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 #49 (Hymnal)* *"Once in Royal David's City"*

RESPONSE* *"Threefold Amen"*

Traditional
Bell Choir

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE*

Bagpipe selections

Gordon Fraser

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

A Congregational Meeting

has been called by the session immediately following the 10:30 a.m.
Worship Service TODAY, December 3, 2017, for the sole purpose of
electing church officers.

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”.

Worship Bags, Children’s Bulletins & Coloring Pages! All three are available in the narthex, and are offered with the hope that children who want to will be able to worship alongside the whole church family.

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.

Hearing devices are available for your convenience in the Narthex.

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 Carol Fisher, Jack Fisher, Carol Kientz, Caroline Koi, Jean Randazzo, Matt Rhodes, Chris Welch and Renee Welch

Coffee Hour today is hosted by the Mission, Service & Grants Committee.

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 prayer concerns: Austin Applegate; Bill Chermak; Earl and Bea Davison; Robert Dyke; Gordon Fraser; Paul Furchak; Judson Hagerty; Robb Irving; Beatrice Mabutho; Charlie Patterson; Russ & Cheryl Richardson; Gloria-Jean Ryba; Wilma Shimer; Diane Smith; Larry Wegner; Loida Wilson; Don Winchell; and Ina Zimmer.

Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked: friend of the congregation, Michael’s mother, Carol; Rose Eller’s sister, Louise & son-in-law, Sam; Linda Ferguson’s sister, Patty; Gail Geijer’s son, Dan & sister, Jane; Fritz & Mary Jane Hager’s daughter-in-law, Liz; Lucille Kirkenir’s friend, Rosie; Beatrice Mabutho’s sister, Phyllis, brother-in-law, Joe

& niece, Diana; Karen Moser's nephew, Adam; Leigh Perry's cousin, Ruby; Rev. Joanne Petto's friend, Estelle; Arthur Ryba's sister, Anna; Arthur & Gloria-Jean Ryba's cousin, Blair; and Roger & Ellie Suttmeier's friend, Jacob.

Meadow Lakes members with special prayer concerns: Ruth Andersen; Wil Cassel; George Dubell; Jane Hahn; Pat Hesslein; Joe Kelly; Jane Kengeter and Beverly Robertson.

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 & YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School: Children are invited to Gathering Time from 9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. every Sunday morning in the Fellowship Hall, followed by Sunday School from 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Celebration Sunday! Friends of all ages are invited to join us for our upcoming Celebration Sunday on **December 10**, 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Celebration Sundays are intergenerational Christian Education gatherings of learning, praying, serving and growing together in love. Join us and gather at 84 North Main Street to watch or walk alongside Mary and Joseph stopping at the "The Inn" (The Cranbury Inn) before entering the Sanctuary, where Sunday School students will lead us in caroling before Worship.

No Middle School Youth Group tonight, December 3.

High School Youth Group meets tonight, December 3 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



Christmas Wreaths for Sale! The Youth Group is selling Christmas Wreaths to benefit the summer mission trips. The Evergreen wreaths measure 24 inches (outer diameter) and can be purchased for \$12 without a bow, \$15 with a red bow, or \$20 with extra Christmas decorations. Wreaths are being sold in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour **TODAY**.

Stars On Our Giving Tree: Our giving tree is in the Fellowship Hall. Each star on the giving tree has the name of a child and something the child needs (e.g., a coat) and something the child would like (e.g., a doll) for Christmas. Please purchase the two gifts for the child and affix the star to your wrapped gift; and place it under the giving tree in Fellowship Hall or drop it off at our church office by **Wednesday, December 6**. Your gift will be distributed to a child in need in our area by Rise, a Community Service Partnership in Hightstown. To insure equality among siblings, RISE requests you honor a \$30 purchase limit.



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Coffee Hour Host(s) NEEDED! We need coffee hour host(s) to sign-up. Upcoming available dates needed for coffee hour host(s) are December 24, December 31, and January 7. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Heidi Knowlton at (609)799-1724 or cabotk@comcast.net.



Annual Christmas Luncheon: Join us on **Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 11:30 a.m.** following our Worship Service in 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

CPNS

We look forward to singing Christmas Carols during the Senior Fellowship Christmas luncheon this week. In addition to the children singing, they will be giving out candy canes to all the participants attending the luncheon. Mrs. K will also read a Christmas story to all. Thank you Connie Bauder for once again inviting the children of CPNS to be part of this special Christmas celebration.

Please mark your calendars to attend our 2018-2019 Open House on January 24, 2018. You will have an opportunity to explore the many options our school has to offer. 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.

If you are a church member, you will be able to register beginning on Tuesday, January 16, 2018. Please call Janice at (609)655-8663 or email her at CPNSchool@comcast.net for additional information.

DEACONS

At coffee hour this morning, the Deacons will be selling beautiful candles in a choice of four scents and lovely Christmas mugs with a painting of our church by Agnes Winchell. All items are \$12.00 each. The proceeds from their sale will benefit the Deacons Benevolence Fund.

Gift Wrapping – Why worry about gift wrapping this holiday season! Come out on **December 9** and have your Barnes & Noble purchases wrapped by one of our elves (Shhh...the Deacons). We will be at the Barnes & Noble located at 425 Marketplace Blvd, Hamilton, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Gift wrapping donations will support the Deacons Benevolence Fund.



MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS

Christmas Joy! Come Celebrate the Indescribable Gift of Jesus Christ!

Please join me in celebrating the indescribable gift of Jesus Christ this advent season by giving to the Christmas Joy Offering. This special offering will be collected on **Sunday, December 17** or may be dropped by the church office at your convenience.

Thanks to your generosity, these gifts will be used in providing critical financial assistance to church workers and their families in their time of need, as well as helping students at Presbyterian-related ethnic schools and colleges have the opportunities to learn, nurture and grow in their faith. This is a wonderful time to share the blessings of grace, love and prosperity that God has given to us by blessing those who have dedicated their lives to the church, both now and in the future. Your gifts do make a difference! Please give generously! Thank you. --Janet Wheeler

Christmas is coming to Skeet's Pantry! First, we salute our Deacons for an amazing Thanksgiving Food Basket distribution on November 18. They gave food and turkeys to over 140 families when all the numbers were added up, and they did it with love and joy for everyone who came to them for help. Our Deacons and all our volunteers are special blessings for us here at "Cranbury Pres"!

Now that Thanksgiving is past, though, we're gearing up for a wonderful Christmas of food for needy families at Skeet's Pantry on December 15. We're expecting well over 100 families, so we need some more food to fill up our shelves, and we have faith that our congregation and community will answer our call as they have done with so much love over the years.

So here is our **SKEET's CHRISTMAS WISH LIST:**

**Pancake Mix and Pancake Syrup, Cereal, Peanut Butter and Jelly,
Tuna Fish, Beans (all varieties), Laundry Detergent (32 oz. size preferred)**

We send everyone a great big THANK YOU and we wish you and yours all the blessings of Christmas.

OTHER NEWS

Liturgical Dance: Come out and learn the Lord's Prayer through dance Saturday morning, **December 9 (Room 24/25)** at 9:30 a.m.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Urban Promise Fundraiser: Next Sunday, December 10 during the Christmas Luncheon, Nadia Vanderkuip, Director of Urban Promise School of Leadership and two of her associates will be selling items from Africa, including hand carved Noah's Arks, Nativity sets, wooden animals and bowls, as well as jewelry, hand sewn bags, aprons, shirts and dresses, coffee from their Honduran site, Dr. Bruce Main's books and much more!

The sale will be held in Room 1, adjacent to Fellowship Hall. You may remember that many of these beautiful items were available following the Urban Promise concert last May and were very well received.

Prayer Chain: If you have a prayer concern, please call the church office at (609)395-0897; Marie Perrine at (609)426-6244; or email doriswieg@aol.com. Remember, there is no concern too insignificant or too overwhelming for God to listen to our prayers and for us to pray for you—we receive requests for illness, death, medical tests, and many more life changing events for congregants, family members, coworkers, friends, and neighbors.

If you wish to join the group--which agrees to pray daily for the concerns sent to us, you may receive notifications by the telephone chain or by the email chain—we need you to pray with us!

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Senior Exercise Schedule: December 4, December 7, December 11, and December 14

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 for our Christmas program. Special thanks to Janice Parker, Mrs. K and the students and teachers of CPNS for their Christmas songs and, recent Halloween entertainment for the seniors.

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, Heidi Knowlton, Anita McManus, Audrey Smith, and Larry White. Please keep these people in your prayers and join with me in giving thanks for their service.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Counting Teams: 12/3 (Team #3) – 12/10 (Team #4)

	Week Ended 11/26/17
Weekly Offering	\$9,814
YTD Offerings	\$371,650
YTD Expenses	\$460,129
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	(\$88,479)
YTD Per Capita: \$4,196 (19% of \$21,636)	

Update - Online Giving – The new church website now has an on-line giving feature. By clicking on “Give” at the bottom of the Home page, you can set up one-time or recurring gifts via credit or debit card to support our operating budget, special offerings or other gifts. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

Now's the perfect time to rebalance portfolios. Use this opportunity to **gift appreciated securities**, while creating a charitable deduction without incurring taxable realized gains. To learn more, contact the Church Office or refer to the Church website under “Give”.

2018 Pledge Envelopes are available to pick up beginning TODAY in the Fellowship Hall. We end up with quite a few envelopes leftover each year. Please help us by picking up and using your envelopes. Thank you.

WORSHIP

Free Devotional Booklets. Please feel free to take an *Upper Room* or *Daily Bread* devotional booklet from the Narthex. Regular and large print are available for your use.

Ushers Needed: Volunteer and be part of the Worship Service. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Heidi Knowlton at (609)799-1724 or cabotk@comcast.net.

Lay Readers Needed: We are looking for lay reader for January 2018 through June 2018. We welcome new readers to join our team, and would be happy to see your name for one or two Sundays on the sign-up sheet which may be found on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

December 3, 2017 (First Sunday of Advent)

9:15a Sunday School

10:30a Worship w/Communion followed by Congregational Meeting and coffee hour

11:00a Meadow Lakes Communion Worship

1:30p Middle School J'burg Retreat Returns (VAN)

6:30p-8p High School Youth Group (Yth Rm)

6:30p-8p Boy Scouts Troop 52 (FH)

December 4, 2017

10:00a Sr. Exercise

1:30p Martha's Circle (Lib)

2:00p-4:00p Sr. Fellowship Christmas Luncheon set-up (Kit/FH)

7:00p Brass Choir

8:00p Al-Anon (McK Rm)

December 5, 2017

8:00a-4:00p Sr. Fellowship Christmas Luncheon set-up (Kit/FH/VAN)

9:00a Bulletin Material Due

9:30a Staff Mtg

12:00p Sr. Fellowship Christmas Luncheon (FH)

4:15p Children's Choir

7:00p CE and Youth Mtg (Lib)

7:30p AA (McK Rm)

7:30p MS&G Mtg (FH)

December 6, 2017

7:00p Bell Choir

7:00p Woman's Club Mtg (FH)

7:30p Cemetery Board Mtg (Lib)

December 7, 2017

10:00a Sr. Exercise

2:30p-5:30p TASK (VAN)

7:00p Worship Committee Mtg (Lib)

6:30p B&G Mtg (Lib)

7:30p The Chorale

December 8, 2017

9:00a Bulletin Assembly (Church Office)

December 9, 2017

9:30a Liturgical Dance (Rm 24/25)

10:00a Set-up for Christmas Lunch (FH/Kit)

December 10, 2017 (Second Sunday of Advent)

9:15a Christmas Nativity Processional begins at 84 North Main Street to our Sanctuary

10:15a-10:30a Sunday School Caroling (Sanctuary)

10:30a Worship followed by the **Annual Christmas Luncheon**

11:30a Urban Promise International Sale (Rm 1)

11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service