

*Welcome to Worship at The First Presbyterian Church*  
*Please join us for fellowship and refreshments at "Coffee Hour" in the*  
*Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.*

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**AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**December 10, 2017 10:30 A.M.**

**THE APPROACH**

PRELUDE *"Pièces d'Orgue"* François D'Agincour  
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  
The Chorale

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY The Kietlinski family

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)\*

**God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. You call us to repent, but we turn away from you. You wait patiently for us, but we fail to watch and wait for you. Forgive us, God of grace. Embrace us with tender mercy so that we may be at one with you when all your glory is revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)\*      *“Gloria Patri”*

THE PEACE\*

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Hannah

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9: 2-6

Matthew Ellsworth  
Pew Bible pg. 638

ANTHEM *“Behold, your salvation comes”* **Hank Beebe**  
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE Romans 5: 1-11 Pew Bible pgs. 155

SERMON *“Heavenly Peace”* Dr. Louis Mitchell

**THE RESPONSE**

HYMN #60 (Hymnal)\* *“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

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.**

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *“Savior of the Gentiles, Come”* **Dietrich Buxtehude**  
Organ

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

HYMN #24 (Hymnal)\* *“Away in a Manger”*

RESPONSE\* *Choral Amen*  
The Chorale

BENEDICTION\*

POSTLUDE\* *Salve Regina* **Peter Cornet**  
Organ

**\*ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

**Earl F. Davison**

**October 4, 1933 – December 5, 2017**

*"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."*

John 11: 25-26

**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.

**Coffee Hour** today is our Annual Christmas Luncheon hosted by the Congregational Life 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 prayer concerns:** Austin Applegate; Sue Britton; Bill Chermak; Bea Davison on the passing of her husband, Earl; 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; Larry White; 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; Helen Dickerson's mother, Martha & brother, Clifford; Rose Eller's sister, Louise; 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; Dorothy Klotzbeacher's ex-husband, Rev. John Maltby; 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 Chain:** If you have a prayer concern, please call the church office at (609)395-0897; Marie Perrine at (609)426-6244; or email Doris Wiegartner at [doriswieg@aol.com](mailto:doriswieg@aol.com). **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.

**Middle School Youth Group** meets tonight, December 10 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**No High School Youth Group** tonight, December 10.

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

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**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](mailto:cabotk@comcast.net).

## **CPNS**

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As you know CPNS uses Teaching Strategies, The Creative Curriculum for Preschool as our curriculum of choice. Several of the 38 objectives for development and learning are associated with literacy. Preschooler's literacy skills vary greatly in their abilities, and our teachers continue to provide the developmentally appropriate academics by challenging children and providing the achievable literacy experiences for each child. Literacy should be a source of enjoyment and for preschoolers connected to real life reasons to use their skills. Remember there are many phases of children's writing that include letter like forms in scribble drawings to writing and drawing letters that begin to spell words.

You may have noticed, we have a new mailbox "Letters to Santa" next to our CPNS Panda bulletin board. Our teachers will provide materials for the children to write letters to Santa in our classrooms, and we are encouraging our families to do the same with the children at home. Just before Christmas, all the letters will be taken to Macy's. Macy's Believe Campaign will donate \$1.00 to Make-A-Wish for every letter they receive. Not only will we be enhancing our children's fine motor skills; we will also be donating to a beneficial cause. We are looking forward to filling our mailbox.

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](mailto:CPNSchool@comcast.net) for additional information.

## **DEACONS**

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At the Christmas Luncheon this morning, the Deacons will be selling beautiful candles in a choice of five 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.

## **MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS**

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### **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.

**Christmas is coming to Skeet's Pantry!** Now that Thanksgiving is past, 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.

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

**Urban Promise Fundraiser:** TODAY, 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 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.

## **SENIOR BREAKFAST CLUB**

Please join us for Senior Breakfast Club on **Thursday, December 14** (one week earlier than usual) at 8:30 a.m. at The Cranbury Inn. This month, Rev. Suzanne Schafer-Coates, our Parish Associate, will be our speaker. Her topic is "Legends of the Virgin Mary".

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. The cost of breakfast is \$6 payable at the Inn. For information, contact Walter Wright at (609)655-6864.

## **SENIOR FELLOWSHIP**

**Senior Exercise Schedule:** December 11 and December 14. We will resume Sr. exercise on January 4, 2018.

**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**

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### **A MESSAGE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE...**

Dear Church Family,

We are rapidly closing in on year-end, a special and happy time of year in our worship life.

**Stewardship Campaign Update** – Dedication Sunday was on October 22. Thank you again for renewing your support for 2018. Session will be working hard over the next couple months putting together a 2018 budget. Your faithful financial support is a necessary and important part of this process.

**On-line 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 dedicated gifts.

**Gifts of Appreciated Securities** – Gifts of stocks or shares of mutual funds are often a tax efficient means for gifting. Please refer to instructions in the “Give” section of our website for how to arrange the transfer of securities from your brokerage account to the church.

**2017 Budget Update** - As is sometimes the case in a dynamic organization such as our church, our ambitions can temporarily stretch our financial resources. Through a combination of higher than expected expenses and lower than expected income, through the end of November our operating budget has incurred a larger than anticipated deficit in excess of \$85,000. While we are fortunate to have an endowment fund that we can use to cover operating deficits such as this, our goal is to fund our operating needs with current offerings. If possible, please consider a year-end gift to help reduce our current year budget deficit.

**Pledge Update** – The 11-month statement of gifts we have received was mailed to everyone recently. Please review this for accuracy and contact me with any questions or adjustments. The full year pledge statement will be sent to you in January 2018. Giving envelopes for 2018 are available for you to pick up in Fellowship Hall.

We are an active church. The work of our Church is on-going and is only made possible through your faithful and generous contributions. Thank you for putting our Church at the top of your list of charitable giving. Our Church is an important resource that many in our family and community turn to every day.

Ken Gordon ([StewardshipandFinance@cranburypres.org](mailto:StewardshipandFinance@cranburypres.org))

## Counting Teams: 12/10 (Team #4) – 12/17 (Team #1)

	Week Ended 12/3/17
Weekly Offering	\$6,591
YTD Offerings	\$378,241
YTD Expenses	\$478,038
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	(\$99,797)
YTD Per Capita: \$4,196 (19% of \$21,636)	

## **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:** Ushers are needed for the **Christmas Eve services at 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.** A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall or you can contact Heidi Knowlton at (609)799-1724 or at [cabotk@comcast.net](mailto:cabotk@comcast.net).

**Lay Readers Needed:** We are looking for lay readers 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 10, 2017 (Second Sunday of Advent)**

- 9:15a Christmas Nativity Processional (84 North Main Street to our church)
- 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
- 5:00p-6:30 Middle School Youth Group

### **December 11, 2017**

- 10:00a Sr. Exercise
- 7:00p Brass Choir
- 7:00p Congregational Life Mtg (Lib)
- 8:00p Al-Anon (McK Rm)

## **December 12, 2017**

9:00a Bulletin Material Due

9:30a Staff Mtg

4:15p Children's Choir

7:00p Outreach Committee Mtg (Rm 1)

7:30p AA (McK Rm)

7:30p Stewardship & Finance Cmte Mtg (Church Office)

7:30p CPNS Christmas Party (Lib)

## **December 13, 2017**

9:00a Session Material Due

1:00p P&A Cmte Mtg (Lib)

3:30p Meadow Lakes Ministry Mtg-ML Mtg. Rm

5:30p Boy Scouts Holiday Dinner (FH/Kit)

7:00p Bell Choir

## **December 14, 2017**

8:30a Sr. Breakfast Club at the Cranbury Inn

9:00a Skeet's Food Pantry Packing (FH)

10:00a Sr. Exercise

7:30p The Chorale

## **December 15, 2017**

8:00a-10:30a Skeet's Food Pantry Distribution (FH)

9:00a Bulletin Assembly (Church Office)

## **December 16, 2017**

6:00p-8:00p Boy Scout Mtg (JY-FH)

## **December 17, 2017 (Third Sunday of Advent/Christmas Joy Offering)**

9:15a Sunday School

10:30a Lessons and Carols Worship service followed by coffee hour

11:00a Meadow Lakes Worship Service

11:45a Library Committee (Lib)

5:30p-7:30p Middle/High School Youth Group Christmas Party (FH)