

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
Baptism of the Lord/Epiphany Sunday
January 7, 2018 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE

Dr. Leo van den Blink

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.)

SOLO

“You Are Mine”

Miss Kristen Rodgers

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Suzanne Schafer-Coates

Rejoice, for God has sent the Messiah

to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

to grant those who mourn a garland instead of ashes,

the mantle of praise, instead of a faint spirit.

Arise, shine for our light has come!

HYMN #56 (Hymnal)*

“The First Nowell”

(verses 1-3)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)*

Merciful God, Light of the world, we confess that we have not resisted the darkness of sin. You deliver the poor and the helpless, but we have ignored their cry. You take pity on the weak and the destitute, but our hearts are hard in the face of their need. You heal the wounded and save the oppressed but we have placed our trust in the callous violence of war. Forgive us, we pray. Awaken in us sincere repentance that we may shine with the light of your saving grace; though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

HYMN #579 (Hymnal)*

“Gloria Patri”

THE PEACE* ✨

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE ✨

Pastor Suzanne

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Dina Ellsworth
Pew Bible pg. 690

SOLO

“Mary, Did You Know?”

Miss Rodgers

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2: 1-12

Pew Bible pg. 2

SERMON

“Following the Star”

Rev. Schafer-Coates

THE RESPONSE

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Dr. van den Blink

Hymn #592 (Hymnal)*

“Doxology”

Prayer of Dedication*

HYMN #516 (Hymnal)* *“Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation”*

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.

SOLO

"The Lord's Prayer"

Miss Rodgers

THE COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Please come forward by the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisles. At the front, take a piece of bread and dip the bread in the cup before eating. Those unable to come forward will be served in their seats.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN #56 (Hymnal)*

"The First Nowell"

(verses 4-6)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION *

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE*

**"God be with you till we meet again. By his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you. God be with you till we meet again."**

POSTLUDE*

Dr. van den Blink

***ALL WHO ARE ABLE MAY STAND**

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.

Hearing devices are available for your convenience in the Narthex.

Gluten Free Bread is available and it will be presented on the bread and cup trays which are served to those who do not come forward.

Communion Servers are Carlene Reyes, Holly Root, Arthur and Gloria-Jean Ryba.

Flowers in the chancel today are in honor of Linda Protinick for her years of faithful service as our Childcare Nursery Coordinator.

Head Usher is George Arsnow.

Greeter is Jack Britton/Heidi Knowlton.

Coffee hour is hosted by the Congregational Life Committee.

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; Robert Dyke; Gordon Fraser; Paul Furchak; Judson Hagerty; Robb Irving; Lucille Kirkenir; 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: Pat Demers’ husband, Bob; Helen Dickerson’s mother, Martha & brother, Clifford; Rose Eller's sister, Louise; Fritz & Mary Jane Hager’s daughter-in-law, Liz; Dorothy Klotzbeacher’s ex-husband, Rev. John Maltby; and Beatrice Mabutho’s sister, Phyllis, brother-in-law, Joe & niece, Diana.

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. **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!

Birthday of Distinction: Pat Bohrs on January 8. **Happy Birthday!**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School: Gathering Time from 9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. and Sunday School from 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Youth Group: Middle School meets from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. and High School from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Coffee Hour Host(s) NEEDED! We need coffee hour host(s) to sign-up. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Heidi Knowlton at (609)799-1724 or cabotk@comcast.net.

CPNS

Happy New Year! A few New Year's resolutions this year for you and your child should include the following:

1. Love them unconditionally!
2. Read to them!
3. Let them play!
4. Bring them to Worship on Sunday mornings!
5. Register your child at CPNS for the 2018-2019 school year!

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.

MISSION, SERVICE & GRANTS

January 2018 Skeet's Pantry Wish List:

Top Priority:

Tuna Fish, Cereal (family size boxes) and Detergent (32 oz. containers)

Always Welcome:

Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Peanut Butter and Jelly

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Senior Exercise Schedule: January 11, January 15, January 18, January 22, January 25, and January 29

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Counting Teams: 1/7 (Team #4) – 1/14 (Team #1)

	Week Ended 12/31/17
2017 Offerings	\$433,224
2017 Expenses	\$517,930
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	(\$84,706)

WORSHIP

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

January 7, 2018 (Epiphany Sunday)

9:15a Sunday School

10:30a Worship with Communion

followed by coffee hour

5:00p-6:30p Middle School YG (Yth Rm)

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

5:00p-8p Boy Scouts Troop 52 Court of Honor (FH)

January 8, 2018

9:00a-3:00p CPNS PJ/Pancake Day

(CRs/Kit)

10:00a Senior Exercise

1:30p Martha's Circle (Lib)

7:00p Brass Choir

7:30p Congregational Life Mtg (Lib)

January 9, 2018

Annual Reports Due

9:00a Bulletin Material Due

9:00a-3:00p CPNS PJ/Pancake Day

(CRs/Kit)

9:30a Staff Mtg

4:15p Children's Choir

7:00p Outreach Committee Mtg (Lib)

7:30p AA (McK Rm)

7:30p Stewardship & Finance Cmte Mtg

(Church Office)

7:30p CPNS Board Mtg (Rm 1)

January 10, 2018

9:00a Session Material Due

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

7:00p Bell Choir

January 11, 2018

10:00a Senior Exercise

7:30p The Chorale

January 12, 2018

9:00a Bulletin Assembly (Church Office)

January 13, 2018

January 14, 2018

9:15a-10:15a Celebration Sunday

10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour

6:30p-8:30p Middle/High School Youth Group attending MLK service (VAN)

7:00p Community MLK Service (The Methodist Church, Hightstown)