

***Welcome to Worship at The First Presbyterian Church***  
*Please join us for our Annual Christmas Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.*

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**AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

**Lessons and Carols**

**December 16, 2018 10:30 A.M.**

**THE APPROACH**

**THE PRELUDE**

*“Christmas Fantasy”*

**Paul Clark**  
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**

The Stewart Family

L: 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: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”

The world says, “Worry,” and we say, “Rejoice.”

The news says, “Fear,” and we say, “Rejoice.”

The world says, “Be happy,” and the church says, “Be faithful.”

L: As we light our third Advent candle,

**P: We pray for hope, peace, and joy.**

L: Come now, O child of Mary.

**P: Come now, O Prince of Joy.**

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, and JOY

HYMN #133 (Hymnal)\*

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

**THE ANNUNCIATION**

The Chorale

**Luke 1: 26-33***The Annunciation Carol***Joan Fraser, Narrator**

Eric Thiman,

Arr. by Donovan Klotzbeacher

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Luke 2: 1-7**Children's Choir and  
The Chorale*"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"*

Robert MacGimsey,

Arr. by Lloyd Larson

Bell Choir

*"Silent Night"*

Arr. by Jeffrey Honore

Flutist: Leah Moy

**THE ANGELS****Luke 2: 8-14**Children's Choir,  
Bell Choir and The Chorale*"Ding Dong Merrily on High"*

Trad. French Carol,

Arr. by Ruth Morris Gray

**THE SHEPHERDS****Luke 2: 15-20**

The Chorale

*"While by my sheep"*17<sup>th</sup> Cent.,

Arr. by Hugo Jungst

**OFFERINGS AND THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**Offertory Voluntary on *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

Setting by

Douglas Wagner

Bell Choir

Hymn #606 (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**

The Chorale

*"O Wondrous Star"*

Larry Shackley

Brass Choir

*"Do You Hear What I Hear?"*

Arr. by Michael Sweeney

**THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD John 1: 1-5, 14, 16**

Children's Choir

*"Dona Nobis Pacem /*

Trad. Round, Lyrics by

*I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day"* Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Soloist: Jenna Barry

Music by John Baptiste Calkin

HYMN #134 (Hymnal)\*

*“Joy to the World”*

BENEDICTION\*

POSTLUDE

*“A Christmas Package”*

Arr. by Wesley Hanson  
Brass Choir

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

## **CHOIRS**

### **The Bell Choir**

**Patricia Bohrs, Director**

Caren Anuszewski, Carolyn Barlow, Henry Holland, Sandra Holland, Debbie Konrad, Ann Mooney, Leah Moy (Flutist), Carlene Reyes, Paddi Rogers, Pat Scott, Roger Suttmeier, Mary Ellen Szczepanik, Robin Toplin and Patricia Willard

### **The Brass Choir**

**David Stewart, Director**

Robert Briggs, Henry Holland, Roger Suttmeier, Edward Szczepanik and Stephen Szczepanik

### **Children’s Choir**

**Jo D. Andrews, Director**

Emily Banks, Ryan Banks, Jenna Barry, Owen Barry, Corbin Kasziba, Genny Kasziba, Morgan Pease, Cameron Pease, Evan Pease, Grace Taylor and James Taylor

### **The Chorale**

**Donovan Klotzbeacher, Director**

Jo. D. Andrews, Samantha Andrews, Richard Craig, Jean Dunham, Jean Dvorak, Mark Hughes, Dorothy Klotzbeacher, Maggie Miller, Mary Speer, Carole Vandercher and Larry White

### **Special Thanks to the Following**

- Barbara Santoro and Leah Moy for the beautiful Christmas displays in the Narthex glass cases.
- Art Ryba and Bill Bauder for repairing the outdoor Crèche.
- Debbie and Ed Konrad, Art Ryba, Rick and Linda Scott and Paul Venanzi for setting up the outdoor Crèche.
- George and Margie Conley, Andy and Ruth Jost and John and Brenda Kirkenir for decorating the windows and the Sanctuary.
- Ginny Swanagan who prepares the Advent Wreath each year.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**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 Pastor 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.

**Flowers in the chancel today** are the beautiful Christmas Poinsettias. They have been given to the Glory of God in memory, in honor and as a gift of gratitude for many wonderful people. (Poinsettias may be picked up after the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service or on December 27 by contacting Ruth Jost at (609)235-9078.)

**Coffee Hour** is our Annual Christmas Luncheon hosted by the Congregational Life Committee.

**Head Ushers** are Brian and Gina Moore.

**Greeter** is Jack Britton/Heidi Knowlton.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Church members with special prayer concerns:** Bill Chermak; Bob Demers; Rose Eller; Paul Furchak; Judson Hagerty; Justin Keve; Cassandra Khazem; Lucille Kirkenir; Beatrice Mabutho; Marie Perrine; Russ & Cheryl Richardson; Wilma Shimer; and Diane Smith.

**Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked:** Linda Campbell’s friend, Christine; Pat & Bob Demers’ friend, Uri; Helen Dickerson’s mother, Martha & brother, Clifford; Judy Duke’s granddaughter, Hannah; Arlene Duran’s cousin, Ed; Gail Geijer’s son, Dan & sister, Jane; Mary Lou Kerr’s co-worker, Joe; Dorothy Klotzbeacher’s ex-husband, Rev. John Maltby & son-in-law, Bob; Karen Lovaglio’s friend, Antwon; Sharon Marshall’s daughter, Lisa & nephew, Jimmy; Karen Moser’s friend, Andrew; Sharon Ramkishun’s niece, Kaitlyn; Carlene Reyes & Caren Anuszewski’s cousin, Danny; Larry & Margo Wegner’s friends, Dahlia & family; Janet Wheeler’s aunt, Linda; Loida Wilson’s cousin, Charo & friend, Kathleen; and Agnes Winchell’s sister, Aniko.

**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 or email Doris Wiegartner at [doriswieg@aol.com](mailto:doriswieg@aol.com). 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.

**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:** Fritz Hager on December 18. **Happy Birthday!**

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Sunday School:** There will be NO Sunday School on December 23 and December 30. We hope to see you at the 5:00 p.m. Bell Service for Children of All Ages on Christmas Eve!

**Youth Group Christmas Party is Today!** Our Christmas Party for Middle and High School Youth Groups is today, December 16, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Middle Schoolers: Bring an appetizer    High Schoolers: Bring a dessert

Everybody: Bring a new t-shirt wrapped for the Gift Swap Game

**Help Make a Christmas Merry!** Our Middle School and High School youth have an opportunity to help a local family in need this Christmas. Please see SignUpGenius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040e4ca5a922aa8-lets> for details. Bring your wrapped gift with the child's age and gender on it to our Youth Group Christmas Party tonight. Thank you so much!

There will be NO Youth Group on December 23 and December 30. We wish everyone a Holiday full of Love and Joy!

**Christmas Wreaths & CDs:** Thank you for supporting our Youth Group with the purchase of Christmas wreaths and/or CDs. If you did not get one but would like one, see Pastor Hannah or Daune Arsnow, we have a few of each left.

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

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### *Annual Christmas Luncheon*

Join us today at 11:30 a.m. following our Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall for our traditional "Chicken Soup and Christmas Cheer" luncheon. Dessert can be dropped off in the kitchen before Worship. We will be singing all our favorite Christmas carols.



## **CPNS**

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The CPNS children and families and a very generous anonymous church member have been busy collecting pennies (change and bills were also collected) to purchase gifts for two families with six children from our Skeet's Food Pantry participants. Each one of our classes wrapped the presents for the children and the teachers talked about giving to others that are not as fortunate so everyone could have a Merry Christmas.

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 parents to do the same with them 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.

This week before we break for our Christmas vacation, the children will hear the Christmas Story in our Sanctuary. We will be using the beautiful nativity pieces donated many years ago by Harriet Perrine. The children love hearing the story about the real meaning of Christmas. We will also have our family Christmas sing-a-long on Wednesday, December 19 at 10:45 a.m. and Thursday, December 20 at 10:45 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. Please join us as we sing together and enjoy Christmas cookies that our CPNS families will be making to share with everyone. We hope you will be able to join us.

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### **DEACONS**

At coffee hour this morning, the Deacons will be selling beautiful candles to benefit the Deacons Benevolence Fund. Candles are \$12.00 each. The Deacons Benevolence Fund provides financial assistance to members of the church and community who are in need of temporary assistance.

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### **MISSIONS, SERVICE & GRANTS**

Celebrate Christmas with CHRISTMAS JOY! The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected and dedicated TODAY, December 16 during Worship. This is the perfect opportunity to give a gift that truly draws us back to the manager and God's perfect gift to us – Jesus Christ. A generous donation given from the heart provides students at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges with much needed financial support. It also provides financial resources to retired church pastors and workers through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.

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### **SENIOR BREAKFAST CLUB**

Please join us for Senior Breakfast Club on Thursday, December 20 at 8:30 a.m. at The Cranbury Inn. This month, Rev. Joanne Petto, will have a Christmas Program.

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 Fritz Hager at (609)655-2787.

## **SENIOR FELLOWSHIP**

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**Sr. Exercise Schedule:** We will resume class on January 3. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## **SMALL GROUPS**

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**Prayer Shawl Group:** Join us in Room 1 on December 27 at 11:00 a.m. Knit or crochet along with us. We need to prepare an inventory of shawls so they are ready whenever needed by one of our Pastors or one of the Deacons. We'd love to welcome you into our group. While we knit together, we enjoy our fellowship time together – so will you!

**Religions of the World:** Our focus is to increase our knowledge and understanding of the religious faiths in our community. We would like to extend an invitation to all interested church members to visit the Mandir, a Hindu Temple, in Robbinsville on Saturday January 12. The guided tour will begin at 10:30 a.m. and should last 60-90 minutes. Attendance is limited so please RSVP to: Loida Wilson at [loidawilson@comcast.net](mailto:loidawilson@comcast.net) or call her at (609)947-3348. If you need transportation, let us know when you RSVP.

Coming soon! Stay tuned for a learning session and discussion on the history of the Hindu religion to follow in February.

## **STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE**

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Counting Teams: 12/16 (Team #1) – 12/23 (Team #2) – 12/30 (Team #3)

	<b>Month Ended 11/30/18</b>
YTD Offerings	\$339,658
YTD Expenses	\$408,664
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	<b>(\$69,006)</b>
YTD Per Capita	\$3,760 (17% of \$21,978)



## **WORSHIP**

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**We need volunteers to Usher at our Christmas Eve Services!** If you have questions or would like to usher our Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 p.m. or at 9:00 p.m., please contact Heidi Knowlton at (609)480-9176 or email her at [cabotk@comcast.net](mailto:cabotk@comcast.net). There is also a sign-up sheet on the Congregational Life bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

**Flowers:** If anyone wishes to provide flowers for any given Sunday in memory or in honor of a loved one(s), please contact Heidi Knowlton at (609)799-1724 or email her at [cabotk@comcast.net](mailto:cabotk@comcast.net).

**Lay Readers:** The Lay Reader schedule for January through June 2019 is posted in Fellowship Hall. We are looking for, and would welcome, any new Readers to our group. Any questions please contact Joan Fraser.

## **OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR**

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### **December 16 (3rd Sunday of Advent)**

9:15a Sunday School

10:30a Lessons & Carols Service

11:30a Annual Christmas Luncheon (FH)

11:45a Library Cmte (Lib)

5:30p-7:30p Christmas Party: Middle/High School Yth Grps (FH)

### **December 17**

9:00a Bulletin Material Due for 12/23, 12/24 and 12/30

10:45a CPNS Christmas Story (Sanctuary)

7:00p Boy Scout Review Mtg (Lib)

7:30p Brass Choir

8:00p Al-Anon (McK Rm)

### **December 18**

9:30a Staff Mtg

10:45a CPNS Christmas Story (Sanctuary)

12:45p CPNS Christmas Story (Sanctuary)

3:45p Children's Choir

6:00p Session and Deacons Christmas Party (FH/Kit)

7:30p AA (McK Rm)

7:30p Session Mtg (FH)

## **December 19**

9:00a CPNS Set-up for Christmas Prog. (FH/Kit)

10:45a CPNS Christmas Program (FH/Kit)

11:30a-12:30p CPNS Mtg (Lib)

7:30p Mercer Area District Mtg (FH/Kit)

## **December 20**

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

10:45a CPNS Christmas Program (FH/Kit)

2:15a CPNS Christmas Program (FH/Kit)

6:30p-7:30p Wolf Pack (McK Rm/EK)

7:30p The Chorale

## **December 21**

CPNS Closed

9:00a Bulletin Assembly

## **December 22**

## **December 23 (4th Sunday of Advent)**

NO Sunday School

10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour

NO Youth Grp

*Come and Celebrate the Birth of Christ with Us!*



*Monday, December 24, 2018 (Christmas Eve)*

*5:00 p.m. Service of Bells for children of all ages*

*9:00 p.m. Traditional Service with Carols*

*11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service*