

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.

AN ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD
4TH Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018 10:30 A.M.

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE

Noel for flute stops

Louis Claude D’aquin
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**
(Luke 1:68-69) The Chorale

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

John Ryba & Sharon Marshall

L: Isaiah spoke to a people called chosen, to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope. Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth, to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy. Mary went to a place called Bethlehem, to a stable called a nursery, with a light of love.

L: As we light our fourth Advent candle,

P: we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.

L: Come now, O Child of Mary.

P: Come now, O Prince of Love.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE

HYMN #134 (Hymnal)*

“Joy to the World”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)* Mary Speer
Living God, You call us to wake from our sleep: to open our eyes to the goodness of your reign, the injustice of our world, and the gap in between. You call us to follow in the path of your love. Forgive us, O God, when we choose the easy way. Forgive us, O God, when we choose the selfish way, the fast way, the successful way, the nice way, the friendly way, the comfortable way. Convict us, awaken us, empower us, and enliven us to follow the Way of justice and love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS*
HYMN #581 (Hymnal)* “Gloria Patri”
THE PEACE*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Pastor Hannah

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:39–45 Mary Speer
Pew Bible pg. 57

ANTHEM “Here comes the light!” Joseph Graham
The Chorale

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:46-56 Pew Bible pg. 57

SERMON “A Trimester” Rev. Hannah Lovaglio

THE RESPONSE

HYMN #100 (Hymnal)* “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH Emily Ellsworth

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

Noel en musette

Louis Claude D'aquin
Organ

Hymn #606 (Hymnal)*

"Doxology"

Prayer of Dedication*

HYMN #145 (Hymnal)*

"What Child Is This"

RESPONSE*

Choral Amen

The Chorale

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE*

Basse et Dessus de Trompette

Jean Francois D'andrieu
Organ

***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 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 hosted by The Chorale.

Head Ushers are Pat Bohrs and Ginny Swanagan.

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 Daune Arsnow at deersnow@verizon.net. 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!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Book Club! Join us on Monday, January 28 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 1. We will be reading *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. Pastor Hannah Lovaglio will be our discussion leader.

CPNS

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, filled with all the love, peace, hope, and joy of the season. One of the greatest joys at CPNS is being able to tell the Christmas story to the children and share the real meaning of Christmas with them. We use a beautiful nativity set donated many years ago by Harriet Perrine. The children come to the beautifully decorated Sanctuary and we show Mary and Joseph riding on the donkey to Bethlehem and baby Jesus born in a stable filled with animals. The shepherds come to share their joy and the three wise men come with their gifts, all to celebrate the miracle of Jesus being born into the world. The look on the children's faces shows the joy and wonder of this miracle. We are so blessed to share this message as one of the few Christian preschools in this area.

CPNS will be closed for the Christmas Vacation from Friday, December 21 and will return on Wednesday, January 2. This will give everyone time to spend with family and friends.

Beginning on Monday, January 7, registration for the 2019-2020 school year will begin with our existing students. Alumni, church members and members of the Cranbury First Aid Squad and Fire Department will have priority to register beginning Monday, January 14. Our Open House for the 2019-2020 school year will take place on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by the general public registration on February 1. Please let your friends and neighbors know about CPNS. We want everyone to take advantage of giving their children a developmentally appropriate academic, Christian preschool experience. Happy and a Healthy New Year to all!

OUTREACH

Have you noticed the wonderful banners flying from the poles alongside the street in front of church? They proclaim the Advent message to our community. Thanks to George and Margie Conley, Brenda and John Kirkenir, and Ruth and Andy Jost for hanging them.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

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

SMALL GROUPS

Prayer Shawl Group: Join us in Room 1 on December 27, January 10 and January 24 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 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

Pledge Envelopes: Your 2019 pledge envelopes are available to pick up in Room 1.

Counting Teams: 12/23 (Team #2) – 12/30 (Team #3) – 1/6 (Team #4)

Month Ended 11/30/18

YTD Offerings	\$339,658
YTD Expenses	\$408,664
YTD Net Income/(Loss)	(\$69,006)
YTD Per Capita	\$3,760 (17% of \$21,978)

WORSHIP

We need volunteers to Usher! If you have questions or would like to usher, please contact Heidi Knowlton at (609)480-9176 or email her at 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.

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

December 23(4th Sunday of Advent)

NO Sunday School
10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour
NO Youth Group

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

CPNS/Church Office Closed
5:00p Bell Service for Children of All Ages (Sanctuary)
9:00p Family Service (Sanctuary)
11:00p Candlelight Communion Service (Sanctuary)

December 25 (Christmas)

CPNS/Church Office Closed

December 26

CPNS/Church Office Closed

December 27

CPNS Closed/Church Office Closed
11:00a Prayer Shawl Group (Rm 1)

December 28

CPNS Closed/Church Office Closed
3:00p Gross/Johnson Wedding Rehearsal

December 29

3:00p Wedding: Gross/Johnson

December 30

NO Sunday School
10:30a Worship followed by coffee hour
NO Youth Group