

***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 15, 2019 10:30 A.M.**

THE PRELUDE

*“Christmas Medley”*

arr. Julie Christofferson  
Brass Ensemble

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.)

CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

LaGrasso Family

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

SUNG RESPONSE

*(tune Hymn #115 Away in a Manger)*

**A candle is burning, a candle of JOY,**

**a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.**

**Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow**

**as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow**

THE PROPHECY

Isaiah 40: 1-5

Joan Fraser, Narrator

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."

HYMN #133 (Hymnal)\*

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

**THE ANNUNCIATION**

**Luke 1: 26-33**

The Chorale

*"The Angel Gabriel"* Basque Carol, arr. Theron Kirk

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD** **Luke 2: 1-7**

Bell Choir

*"Around the Manger"*

arr. Linda R. Lambs

The Chorale

*"Dost thou in a manger lie?"*

Gilbert M. Martin

**THE ANGELS**

**Luke 2: 8-14**

Congregation—Hymn #113 *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

Children's Choir

*"The Purest Rose"*

written by Jo D. Andrews,  
arr. George Andrews

**THE SHEPHERDS**

**Luke 2: 15-20**

The Chorale and Children's Choir

*"While by my Sheep"*

arr. Hugo Jungst

Bell Choir

*"Come, All Ye Shepherds"*

arr. Robert J. Ward

**THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Offertory

*"There's a Song in the Air"*

Michael R. Keller

Sung Response\*

Advent Doxology

(tune Hymn #385)

*All praise to you eternal Son, whose Advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit evermore.*

Prayer of Dedication\*

**THE MAGI**

**Matthew 2: 1-6**

Congregation—Hymn #150

*"As with Gladness Men of Old"*

Brass Ensemble

*"We Three Kings"*

arr. Mike Story

**THE STAR**  
Children's Choir

**Matthew 2: 7-12**  
*"Christmas Star"*

lyrics by Leslie Bricusse and  
John Williams, arr. Tom Fettke  
Kola Owolabi

The Chorale

*"Star Carol"*

**THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD** John 1: 1-5, 14, 16  
Children's Choir and The Chorale

*"Angels from the Realm of Glory"* arr. Will Todd  
Organist, Dr. Gaylord French

HYMN #134 (Hymnal)\*

*"Joy to the World"*

BENEDICTION\*

POSTLUDE

*"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"* arr. Paul Clark  
Brass Ensemble

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

## **CHOIRS**

**Bell Choir**

**George Andrews, Director**

Caren Anuszewski, Daune Arsnow, Dina Ellsworth, Henry Holland, Sandra Holland, Debbie Konrad, Leah Moy, Carlene Reyes, Roger Suttmeier, Mary Ellen Szczepanik, Robin Toplin, Penny Weniger and Patricia Willard

**Brass Ensemble**

**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, Dani Franke, Corbin Kasziba, Coleman Kasziba, Genny Kasziba, Morgan Pease, Grace Taylor and James Taylor

**The Chorale**

**Donovan Klotzbeacher, Director**

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

## **Special Thanks to the Following**

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

### **A Congregational Meeting**

has been called by the Session immediately following the  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service next Sunday, December 22, 2019,  
for the sole purpose of electing church officers.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**Friends**, as we prepare to worship the Lord together, please be mindful of our neighbors and choir offerings by settling down prior to the start of our Prelude. Thanks very much for your thoughtfulness.

**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 one of our 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”.

**Children are welcome in worship!** Worship materials for children 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. Children are also invited to come forward for the children’s message, and nursery care is available throughout the service. Find the way to worship that works best for your family!

**Hearing devices** are available for your convenience in the Narthex.

**Large print bulletins and hymnals** are available in the Narthex.

**Coffee Hour** today is our Annual Christmas Luncheon. Please join us!

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

**Greeters** are Jack Britton and Heidi Knowlton.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Church members with special prayer concerns:** Betty Borgeson; Bill Chermak; Margie Conley; Helen Dickerson; Dina Ellsworth; Paul Furchak; Sally Giovanos; Mark Hughes and his family due to the passing of his father, John; Harry Kleinkauf; Beatrice Mabutho; Charlie Patterson, Jr.; Ken Rossman; Wilma Shimer; and Elliott Wilson.

**Family and Friends of Church Members for whom prayers are asked:** CPNS teacher, Gretchen's husband, Chip; Helen Dickerson's mother, Martha & brother, Clifford; Joan & Gordon Fraser's daughter, Fiona and son Iain; Gail Geijer's son, Dan & sister, Jane; Gay Ingegneri's husband, Tom; Ed Kietlinski's sister, Joanna; Dorothy Klotzbeacher's ex-husband, Rev. Maltby; Rev. Joanne Petto's friend, Steve & family; Senior Fellowship member, Ruth; Sharon Ramkishun's niece, Kaity; Art & Gloria Jean Ryba's cousin, Layla; Audrey & George Smith's brother-in-law, Bob; Joan Smith's brother, Jim; Bonnie Wagman's son-in-law, Paul; Doris Wiegartner's nephew, Gary; Loida Wilson's mother, Loli; 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](mailto: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 fill out and 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!**

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

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**Annual Christmas Luncheon:** Please join us after Worship TODAY for our Annual Christmas Luncheon!

Congregational Life is welcoming new members to the team. This is an exciting group of people who would love to have you join in on the fun. There are several events that the Congregational Life Committee puts on each year including today's Annual Christmas Luncheon. Our group is well organized so the learning curve for new members is very fast. Many hands make for light work and of course easy high fives!! Please join us as we help strengthen our Faith through Fellowship!! Please contact our Sharon in the church office, Matt Curran or Vicki Waciega to be a part of the fun. Thank you.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY**

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**Youth Group:** Join us tonight, Sunday, December 15 for our Annual Christmas Party (5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)! Bring a \$10 gift for a rumpus round of White Elephant.

**Giving Tree!** There is still time to donate to make Christmas memorable at UrbanPromise Trenton. There are 17 gift tags left on the giving tree in the Narthex. To donate, take a tag off the tree and add your monetary donation to the UrbanPromise stocking on the tree. Checks can be made out to the First Presbyterian Church with "UrbanPromise Giving Tree" in the memo line. Thank you for having Big Dreams for the children and youth at UrbanPromise this Christmas! (If you have already taken a tag, please drop off your donation before Christmas. Thank you!)

**Daily Devotion 2020:** All are invited to join Pastor Hannah and the Book Group in reading *The Courage to See: Daily Inspiration from Great Literature*, a daily devotional by Greg Garrett and Sabrina Fountain. This simple devotional celebrates the beauty of literature and its ability to illuminate elements of the Divine, present all around us. **Copies will be available for \$12 in the church office.**

## **DEACONS**

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**Candles for Sale!** During coffee hour TODAY and next Sunday, December 22, the Deacons will be selling candles for \$5 each. The proceeds from their sale will benefit the Deacons Benevolence Fund.

**Coffee Hour Host(s) Needed:** Anyone who signs up for Coffee Hour will have a Deacon helper if they want a Deacon helper. There are two sign-up lists; the first is to sign-up to be a Coffee Hour Host. The second is to volunteer to bring a plate of cookies or crackers or the like to help the host. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Jost at [ruthjost@comcast.net](mailto:ruthjost@comcast.net).

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## **MISSIONS, SERVICE & GRANTS**

**Skeet's Pantry Christmas Wishes:** All of our Skeet's Pantry volunteers send very warm wishes to all our generous and kind donors. You have made it possible to brighten the tables of many families over the years, and it is deeply appreciated. Now, we need your help to put food on tables around our community for Christmas. We especially need:

**Cereal (Family Size Is Best); Peanut Butter; Jelly; Spaghetti Sauce**

Please be sure that "use by" dates are current. And if you'd like to make a monetary donation, just make checks out to First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury with "Skeet's Pantry" on the memo line. May you and yours enjoy all the blessings of this wonderful Christmas Season. Thanks so much!

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## **OTHER NEWS**

**Cross Pendant:** The beautiful cross which hangs in our Sanctuary is available as a pendant. The pendant is an exact molded replica of this cross, and measures 1 1/4" long, and is available in any metal of your choosing. It is only available by custom order directly by you from the Jewelry Design Gallery, which is located inside ShopRite on Rte. 130 in Hightstown where any of the salespersons can help you with your order, or by calling them at (609)371-1800. It will take 2-3 weeks to create your piece. The price for a silver cross is \$59, plus tax, and in gold the price is \$350, plus tax. You can also customize the finish to be shiny or antiqued. When you call, just identify yourself as a member of the Cranbury Presbyterian Church, as this cross is only available to us.

If you have any questions, need help, or would like to see the pendant, see or call Joan Smith at (609)655-1905, or email at [joankeenesmith@gmail.com](mailto:joankeenesmith@gmail.com).

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## **OUTREACH**

**Do you have a church name badge?** Many of you already have a name badge. If you already have one, please remember to wear it. You might consider leaving it

in a place in your home where you will see it when you are getting ready for church. If you don't have a name badge and would like one, please email Audrey Smith at [aud123abc@aol.com](mailto:aud123abc@aol.com).

## **SENIOR BREAKFAST CLUB**

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Join us for Senior Breakfast on Thursday, December 19 at 8:30 a.m. at the Cranbury Inn. The program will be “Christmas Traditions” presented by Harry Bohrs.

Senior Breakfast Club is open to all who wish to hear these events at our Thursday, once-a-month breakfast 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 let the Cranbury Inn know the number of guests that will attend. The cost of breakfast is \$8 payable at the Inn. Please contact Fritz Hager at (609)655-2787 for more information.

## **SENIOR FELLOWSHIP**

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Senior Exercise Schedule: See you in January!

Sr. Fellowship is open to all people age 55 and older in the towns around our church. Our goal is to allow seniors to form bonds with other local seniors and give them opportunities for social interaction, education and enjoyment. If you would like to join us on the planning committee for 2020, please contact Connie Bauder.

I encourage all the seniors in our congregation to attend our programs and share their experiences with others in our group. Some people in our group have very little interaction with others and they love to have new people to talk to. This could be your mission.

## **SMALL GROUPS**

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Prayer Shawl Group: Our Prayer Shawl Group has been busy knitting shawls and praying that each will bring comfort to its recipient. The original prayer shawl pattern calls for 555 yards of sport weight yarn or 2 skeins 11-16 ounces. We generally use No. 10 or 11 needles. If you wish to donate the yarn for a shawl, needles, or if you are cleaning out the cupboards and have extra yarn (we can make stripes or borders with more than one color), please consider giving it to our group.



**Book Club:** Our Book Group is reading *Waking Up White*, by Debby Irving, to be discussed at book group on **January 27** (7:30 to 9 p.m.). Join us in the church library!

## **STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE**

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**Counting Teams:** 12/15(Team #1) – 12/22(Team #2) – 12/29(Team #3)

We are nearing the home stretch. There are only a few more weeks left in the year and soon Session will be making decisions regarding next year's budget. As we near year-end, we urge you to keep our church "top-of-mind" for year-end gifts. In addition, please remember to turn in your pledge for next year. If you cannot locate your pledge card that was mailed in October, you will find one in the pew.

**P.S. - Thinking about a year-end offering to help our budget?** Try a gift of appreciated stock (or shares of a mutual fund). Gifting securities that have appreciated in value has tax benefits. By doing so, you may avoid paying taxes on the capital gains that have accumulated and the market value of the securities when received will be reported as part of your annual offering. Instructions to make a transfer of securities can be downloaded from our church website, or you can contact Ken Gordon at [stewardshipandfinance@cranburypres.org](mailto:stewardshipandfinance@cranburypres.org).

## **WORSHIP**

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**We would love for you to join our Ushering Team!** If you have questions or would like to usher, please contact Heidi Knowlton at (609)480-9176 or email her at [cabotk@comcast.net](mailto:cabotk@comcast.net). There also is 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).

# BLUE CHRISTMAS

When Christmas Hurts

*A Service of Comfort & Hope*  
Saturday, December 21  
5:00 PM

with words, carols, candle-lighting  
and prayer, we will acknowledge our  
losses and heartaches even as we  
give thanks to God for the gifts of  
hope, grace, and love

## **OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR**

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### **December 15 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent)**

- 9:15a Sunday School (all areas)
- 10:30a Lessons & Carols Worship Service
- 11:30a Annual Christmas Luncheon
- 11:45a Library Committee (Lib.)
- 3:30p-5p Boy Scouts (FH)
- 5:30p-7:30p Youth Group Christmas Party(FH)

**December 16**

Christmas Poinsettia set-up (Sanctuary)

9:00a Bulletin Material Due for 12/22, 12/24 and 12/29

9:00a-11:30a CPNS Christmas Stories (Sanct)

7:30p Brass Choir

8:00p Al-Anon (McK Rm)

**December 17**

9:00a-11:30a CPNS Christmas Stories (Sanctuary)

9:30a Staff Meeting

3:45p Children's Choir

7:30p AA (McK Rm)

7:30p Session Meeting (Lib)

**December 18**

8:30a CPNS Set-up for Christmas Programs (FH)

10:45a CPNS Christmas Programs (FH)

7:00p Bell Choir

**December 19**

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

8:30a CPNS Set-up for Christmas Programs (FH)

10:45a CPNS Christmas Programs (FH)

1p Turkey pick-up (VAN)

1p Skeet's Food Pantry Packing (FH)

7:30p The Chorale

**December 20**

CPNS Closed

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

8:30a Bulletin Assembly

**December 21**

5:00p Blue Christmas Service

**December 22 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent/Christmas Joy Offering)**

NO Sunday School

10:30a Worship followed by Congregational Mtg to Elect Church Officers & coffee hour (Joy Offering Collected)