

December 2016
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The Chimes



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FPC Meetings

- Dec. 5 5:00 PM Gatherers Group Meeting
- 5:30 PM CE/Outreach Team Meeting
- 5:30 PM Facilities Team Meeting
- Dec. 6 6:00 PM Deacons
- Dec. 7 6:00 PM Worship Team Meeting
- Dec. 8 12:00 PM Staff Christmas Luncheon
- 6:00 PM Stephen Ministry Christmas
- Dec. 12 6:30 PM Finance Team Meeting
- Dec. 13 6:00 PM Personnel Team Meeting
- Dec. 17-18 Deacons' Christmas Baskets
- Dec. 19 6:00 PM **Blue Christmas Service**
- Dec. 20 6:30 PM PM Session
- Dec. 23 **OFFICE CLOSED**
- Dec. 24 6:30 PM **PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC**
- 7:00 PM **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**
- Dec. 25 **10:30 AM CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**
- Dec. 26 **OFFICE CLOSED**
- Dec. 30 **OFFICE CLOSED**
- Jan. 2 **OFFICE CLOSED**

POST IT NOW! Classifieds

PRIMETIMER LEADER
A new leader for Primetimers with lots of fresh ideas and fun new places to visit. This is a great opportunity for someone who is a planner & organizer. Let the office know if you are willing to take on this fun & exciting job for the church.

VAN DRIVER
We are in need of a Sunday morning van driver. If you are interested please see Pastor Ann, Judy Iverson, or Sheila in the office.



DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27 Kelly/Retreat 8:30 AM Choir Practice 9:15 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Coffee Hour 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Volleyball 5:30 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>28 5:00 PM Gatherers Meeting 5:30 PM CE/Outreach Team Meeting 5:30 PM Facilities Meeting</p>	<p>29 12:30 PM Fold Chimes 12:30 PM Knit Wifs 1:00 PM PDG</p>	<p>30 7:00 PM Spirit & Truth Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>1 2:00 PM Lydie Circle</p>	<p>2 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>3 7:30 AM Men's Group/Charlotte's 8:00 AM Golden K/Bread/Kitchen 9:30 AM Hanging of the Greens preparations 5:00 PM Casual Contemporary Worship 5:00 PM Hanging of the Greens-Saturday service 6:00 PM College Age Bible Study</p>
<p>4 HANGING OF THE GREENS 8:30 AM Choir Practice 9:15 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Hanging of the Greens Brunch 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Volleyball 5:30 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>5 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM Golden K Christmas-gym 6:30 PM Finance Team Meeting</p>	<p>6 12:30 PM Knit Wifs 1:00 PM PDG 6:00 PM Deacons</p>	<p>7 6:00 PM Worship Team Meeting 7:00 PM Spirit & Truth Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>8 9:30 AM Rachel Circle 12:00 PM Staff Christmas Luncheon/Rich's Deluxe 6:00 PM Stephen Ministry Christmas/Deluxe</p>	<p>9 Christmas Basket set up 11:30 AM Primetimers</p>	<p>10 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Women's Circle Bazaar 5:00 PM Casual Contemporary Worship 6:00 PM Movie Night/Grrinch</p>
<p>11 8:30 AM Choir Practice 8:45 AM Youth meet at church 9:15 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:00 AM Special Meeting of the Session 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Volleyball 5:30 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>12 Connie/Vacation 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM</p>	<p>13 10:00 AM Ruth Circle/Lounge 1:00 PM PDG 6:00 PM Personnel Team Meeting</p>	<p>14 Connie/Vacation 5:00 PM Deacons/Box set up 7:00 PM Spirit & Truth Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>17 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Deacon's Christmas Baskets 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Youth Christmas/Gift exchange 5:00 PM Casual Contemporary Worship</p>
<p>18 Blood Pressure checks Kelly Day Off 8:30 AM Choir Practice 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Deacon's Christmas Baskets 9:15 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Coffee Hour 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Volleyball</p>	<p>19 6:00 PM Blue Christmas Service</p>	<p>20 12:30 PM Knit Wifs 1:00 PM PDG 6:30 PM Session</p>	<p>21 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Spirit & Truth Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>24 NO SPIRIT & TRUTH SERVICE 6:30 PM Pre-Worship music 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service</p>
<p>25 Special WORSHIP SCHEDULE 10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>26 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>27 12:30 PM Knit Wifs 1:00 PM PDG</p>	<p>28 7:00 PM Spirit & Truth Practice 7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>31 5:00 PM Casual Contemporary Worship</p>

Pastor's Perspective
From the Desk of Pastor Ann Schwartz



As I write this article two days before Thanksgiving, I am already feeling behind on Christmas preparations. Although I have purchased a few gifts so far, my "to buy" list is still much longer than my "bought" list.

Beginning this new call at First Presbyterian in mid-November may suggest a poor sense of timing on my part, but actually I appreciate the opportunity to be quickly and fully immersed in all things Advent.

So even as I delight in the shopping, wrapping, baking, decorating, card-writing, and celebrating with family that comprise this holiday, I deeply desire quiet moments to be aware of Emmanuel, God with us.

During this season, I am grateful to prepare with you for Christ's coming. I invite you to join me in the intentional work of getting our hearts ready to receive him—with daily readings and prayers from the Advent devotional booklet.

I am trying to learn your names as quickly as possible. If you can wear your name tags or introduce yourself to me on Sunday mornings, that would be most helpful.

I wish each of you a beautiful Advent and Christmas season.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Ann



This Food Pantry is a BLESSING . . . Thanks to you who donate. Many families are being fed. We have found that there are quite a few new families requesting food because, when they get their check and pay their power bill and buy gas to get back and forth to work, they have no money left for food.



Meats & Toiletries such as Bath Soap, Shampoo, Toilet Paper, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, etc. are needed every week. The Deacons wish to thank you for your generosity.

- Dec. 4 Spaghetti Sauce/Fruit/Soups/Toiletries/Meat
Dec. 11 Meats/Boxed Meals w/ Meat/Peanut Butter/Jelly
Dec. 18 Spaghetti Sauce/Fruit/Soups/Toiletries/Meat
Dec. 25 Peanut Butter/Jelly/Soup

Circle Meetings

Thursday, December 1 ~ Lydia Circle will meet at noon at the home of Ellen Gramm, 427 W. Lake Blvd., for the Annual Christmas Potluck.

Thursday, December 8 ~ Rachel Circle will meet in the Lounge at 9:30 AM

Tuesday, December 13 ~ Ruth Circle will meet at 10:00 AM in the church lounge.

Greeters

- Dec. 4 Jay & Lisa Cline
Dec. 11 Bob & Judy Iverson
Dec. 18 John & Carol Douglas
Dec. 24 - 6:30 PM Bob & Margaret Crabb
Dec. 25 - 10:30 AM George & Libby Milner

Flowers to Shut-ins

- Nov. 28-Dec. 2 OPEN
Dec. 5-9 Nancy Boesdorfer
Dec. 12-16 OPEN
Dec. 19-23 Myanne Compton
Dec. 26-30 OPEN

Liturgists

- Dec. 4 OPEN
Dec. 11 OPEN
Dec. 18 OPEN
Dec. 25 OPEN

Cookies

- Dec. 4 Hanging of the Greens "POTLUCK"
Dec. 11 Lisa Cline/Matthew & Kaelyn Miller
Dec. 18 Nancy Boesdorfer & Amy Iverson
Dec. 25 Karen Schildt

Coffee Hour

- Dec. 4 Hanging of the Greens "POTLUCK"
Dec. 11 Myanne Compton & Nancy Grimes
Dec. 18 Nancy Boesdorfer & Mary Thompson
Dec. 25 OPEN

Meals on Wheels

- Dec. 2 Mary Hardy
Dec. 9 Nancy Boesdorfer & Joyce DeBoer
Dec. 16 Dale & Claudia Ferrell
Dec. 23 Mary Thompson
Dec. 30 OPEN

Flowers

- Dec. 4 In Honor of Rosie Newton's birthday
Dec. 11 Roger & Eva Cornwell's anniversary
Dec. 18 OPEN
Dec. 25 In Honor of Lisa Taylor's birthday

Ushers ~ Team #3

Allan Harvey, Captain; Jim Gilliland; Marjorie Gilliland; Joyce Schmitt.



Communion Servers Needed

There is a saying in the Presbyterian Church: "Once an elder, always an elder." So even if you are not currently serving on the Session, you are encouraged to serve Communion once or twice a year on the first Sunday of the month.



Remember in Prayer

This Week's Prayer Needs: Bob Fox; Ryan Quick (Milners' friend); Eleanor Fleming; Lois Stevenson; Slick Keith; Bob Kesler; Lisa Stewart (Virginia Stewart's daughter-in-law); Curt Palmer (Jennifer Debenham's friend); Jennifer Debenham; John Homann (Deborah Huckelby's nephew); J.D. Conyon (Eva Cornwell's nephew); Shannon Bishop (Sheila's cousin-hospice); The family of Charles Robertson; The family of Pastor Doug (wife died).

Ongoing: Diane Bales; Kay Barrett (Ruth Pancoast's sister-cancer); Mary Carter (friend of the Milners); Richard Chapman (friend of Jim Gilliland); Roy Christison; Pastor Trent Cloin (bladder cancer - Lisa Cline); Carlene Coddington (friend of Muriel Mullins); Bob Crabb; Wayne Dawes (friend of Lisa & Jay Cline-waiting for heart transplant); Mary Dison; Dr. Robert Elhammer; Dale Ferrell; Ray Griffith; Carol Ingram (cousin of George Milner); Dora Jameson (friend of Libby & George Milner); Mary Jane Johnson (Ruth Pancoast's sister; heart problem & liver transplant); Jane King; Deronda Kimberlin; Pat Kuhs; David & Sue Laker (David is Stephen Laker's brother; caregiver of Sue-Alzheimer's); Robbie Lewis; Jim Meharry (friend of Judy Laker-heart infection/surgery); Roberta McNeill (Janet Martin's mother-in-law/Bob's mother); Monroe Melzer; Bob Miller (friend of Carol McLinden-cancer); Debbie Mullins; Nancy Orlea; Harriet Rauchbach; Catherine Ribbe; Jayne Robinson (Judy Laker's sister); Jake Ruder (brain tumor); Larry Schmitt (Parkinson's); Grover Seitzinger; Harlan Smith (advancing dementia); Wilma Thomas; Barbara Todd (friend of Judy Laker); Julie Tyndall (daughter of Jackie Bean-cancer); Tom Wagner; Gary Waller; Nancy Walser; Nancy & Charles Winchester; Marjorie Young; Military Personnel.

FPC Candidates for the Ministry: Rachel Riggle, M.Div. (Intern at FPC, Columbia, MO); James Potts, M.Div. (CPE Intern).

Seminary Students: Mary Hoss (Johnson University); Joseph Compton (Moody Bible Institute).

Expectant Parents: Sarah & Matt Smiley (due in December); Elizabeth & Jay Tarr (due in February).

Food Pantry

Many area residents continue to face tougher times with the higher price of utilities, and groceries. The number of first-time referrals to our church's food pantry



has been growing over the past three years. Please continue to take note in the worship bulletin each week and in the "Chimes" each month about particular items that are needed and feel free to also bring additional items whenever you can. And during this season of Christmas, please consider giving some extra items as you do your shopping. Thank you for your continued concern, assistance, and care.



Saturday, December 24

6:30 PM

Pre-Worship Music by Organist

So Jung Kwak

7:00 PM

Candlelight Worship with Special Music by the Choir



Happy Birthday!

- Karen Schildt December 2
Rosella Newton December 6
Betty Kilgore December 9
Darren Whitehair December 15
Jerry Prideaux December 20
Paula Priestersbach December 20
Herbert Hales, Jr. December 21
Carly Delzell December 24
Staci Engle December 24
Lisa Taylor December 26
Sarah Smiley December 27
Samantha Wagner December 29
Olivia Edington December 30

Happy Anniversary!

- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Burch Dec. 2
Mr. & Mrs. Harlie Huckleby Dec. 4
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Garrison Dec. 22



The Mouse House

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Christmas items and an abundance of sheet music and hymnals are now displayed in the Mouse House and are ready to be sold. Please stop in. The volunteers are very willing to be of help to you, and we all thank you for your cooperation.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP CONTINUES MEETING THE FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

Saturday, December 3 is the date to remember for this month's men's fellowship group that will be meeting again at Charlotte's near downtown just off of Gilbert on Ann Street. The time is 7:30 AM. Join us for coffee, visiting, and prayer and bring a friend.

Annual Reports

are Due

Monday, January 9.

If you are a Chair, you have a Report due.



Primetimers to have luncheon

The Primetimers will have a Christmas luncheon at 11:30 AM Friday, Dec. 16, at the Red Lobster, Danville. Reservations must be made by Sunday, Dec. 11. Let Judy Iverson or Sheila know if you plan to attend.



Our Worship Schedule Is:

- Casual Contemporary Worship: (Saturday) 5:00 PM
Worship: (Sunday) 9:15 AM
Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Coffee Hour: 10:30 AM
Contemporary Christian Studies: (CCS) 11:00 AM



WINTER Office Hours ~ 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM



From the Desk of the Deacons

At the last Deacons' meeting, we had the fun of assembling care packages for nine college students. The Deacons thank you for providing the delicious goodies, which ranged from cookies to trail mix to popcorn to candy, and thank goodness, even toothbrushes!

The Praise and Thanks Dinner followed the service on Sunday, November 20, and there was an extra reason to be thankful on this Sunday as we welcomed Rev. Ann Schwartz on her first official Sunday in the pulpit as our interim minister. It is such a good feeling to have all of our staff positions filled! Welcome to First Pres, Pastor Ann, and let us know how we can help you become better acquainted with the church, our activities, and each of us.

With Christmas right around the corner, the Deacons and our amazing church family immediately move on to our annual Christmas baskets. This year we have requested 75 families, which is a smaller number than usual but because of that, we have agreed to take a few of the larger families. You will be hearing more about the Christmas baskets in the upcoming weeks, but SAVE Saturday, December 17 on your calendar now. That is the day we will be packing the baskets, I mean BOXES, full of nutritious food, with pickup by the families starting later that morning. This is an activity the whole family can participate in and such a great learning experience for younger children. Please plan to join us! Between now and December 17, the Deacons thank you for whatever you can give to support the Christmas baskets, either food or financially. This year is no different; there are still so many families who need our help. In Christ's Service, Nancy Boesdorfer



The Sunday Morning Prayer List for Worship

It will be time in January to update our on-going and recent prayer lists that are found in the Sunday worship bulletins. During December, if there is a name that you would like to remain on either of these lists, please make note in the Friendship Pad Register when you sign your names each Sunday; or, call the church office. The revised list will be ready sometime in January and then will continue to be updated four times a year. Thank you for your assistance with our prayer list.



Stephen Ministers To Again Offer "Blue Christmas" Worship

This worship event will be Monday evening, December 19, at 6:00 PM in the Chapel. It is designed to minister to anyone who possibly finds the Christmas season to be a time of grief or sadness or remembrance of such times. We forget that the Christmas story in reality is surrounded by great drama and tragedy and yet Jesus was lovingly born into the midst of our human circumstance and situation. Worshipers are invited to come and worship and remember and lean into the feelings that trouble you and receive the love and comfort of our Savior through this gathering of your brothers and sisters in Christ here at FPC.

Stephen Ministry Meeting for December

For the regular monthly meeting of our Stephen Ministers, in observance of the Christmas season we will meet at Rich's Restaurant downtown on Thursday, December 8 for our annual Christmas dinner at 5:00 PM.

Memorials

Gabriel Zamora: Linda Curtis.
Audrey Oswald: Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Laker; Ruth Circle.



Advent Worship and Devotional Books Now Available

Thank you so much for those in the congregation who contributed daily devotionals for Advent, 2016 and as always to Office Manager Sheila Smiley for getting all the material together and printed. Copies of "Advent and Christmas, 2016" are now available at the church office. The booklets contain Advent devotional materials as well as the church Advent calendar. Copies are also in the sanctuary for Sunday worship and may be taken after Christmas Eve. Theme for this year is "Waiting on the Light." Copies are also being delivered to our homebound and nursing home members.



General Fund		
Income & Expense MTD – October 2016		
Beginning Balance:	\$19844.22	\$19844.22
*Current Income:	\$15044.18	
**Fund Transfers: (Endowment Fund)	\$15000.00	
Total Income & Transfer:		<u>\$30044.18</u>
Total General fund checking		<u>\$49888.40</u>
Total General fund Expenses(\$44490.00)		<u>(\$44490.00)</u>
Total Restricted fund Expense (\$180.00)		(\$180.00)
Balance Forward:	\$5218.40	\$5218.40

*Current Income refers to money received during the month from pledges, loose offering, rents, income from outside trusts and misc. donations.
**Fund Transfers refers to budgeted money from the Endowment from earnings and allowable principal. This money is transferred only as needed, approximately quarterly during the year.



Personnel Ministry Team Want to Say "Thank You" to Church Staff

Our Personnel Team again wants to give the opportunity to the church membership to help say a special "thank you" to all the staff who serve First Presbyterian Church so faithfully during the year. Church members can contribute to this thank you - to be divided among the staff -by either bringing or mailing their donations to the church office or by placing them in the offering plate marked "staff Christmas" no later than Monday, December 5. The gifts will be handed out to the staff at its Staff Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 8.

Pre-Hanging of the Greens

On Saturday, December 3, 9:30 AM, you are invited to meet at the church to join the Worship and Christian Education/Outreach Ministry Teams to bring out from storage and sort the decorations in preparation for Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, December 4 after worship.

Hanging of the Greens

Saturday and Sunday, December 3/4 this year is the weekend we will celebrate Hanging of the Greens during both worship services. Holy Communion will be observed. Following worship at 5:00 PM Saturday evening, we will decorate the chapel, and after 9:15 AM Sunday morning, we will decorate the sanctuary, lounge, and library in preparation for the rest of Advent.

Following the decorating on Sunday morning, we will move to the gym for a potluck luncheon including leftovers from the Praise and Thanks Dinner as well as any favorite dishes members would like to bring to share. This will be a fun time for all ages and with a special surprise guest from "up North!"



Session highlights for November 2016

Session meeting on November 15, 2016 opened at 6:35 PM with the lighting of the Christ candle and prayer. A quorum was declared. The Rev. Ann Schwartz served as Moderator.

Clerk's report was approved. There were minutes from the previous session meeting.

Treasurer's report and Finance Team report was given by Jim Anderson. He reported that the Stewardship Campaign is going well in the number of pledge cards and money received. He and Jerry Prideaux also presented an Internal Audit done on First Presbyterian Church. Jerry and Bob Boesdorfer were the Audit Committee members and were assisted by Accounts Manager Paula Spriestersbach. The audit presented guidelines for cash, donation records, equipment records, building records, insurance policies and much more. Jim Anderson reported that some of church procedures have already been updated because of the audit, and some others will be changed in the future. The Session accepted the audit.

Devotional. Judy Iverson presented a Devotional "His heart ministries" by Pastor Jeff Schreve. It was based on Psalm 50.

Team reports. The monthly reports from the various ministry teams were accepted. Highlights that were discussed or approved by Session include:

- **Worship Team** – Lisa Taylor reported that the Contemporary Service budget line items are being incorporated into the Worship and Music line items. Session approved this proposal. Servers are needed for the monthly communion offering. She said the bread and wine can be brought down to the servers if they have difficulty climbing the stairs to the communion table.

- **The Communications Team** – Diana Szaras reported that the Team recommends it being merged with the Christian Education/Outreach Team. The Team also proposes contracting with Josh Compton and Anne Binette at \$11 per hour to update and enhance the church website and social media. They also will take a larger role in promoting the church events and activities. The Session passed both of these proposals.
- **Christian Education/Outreach Team** – Karen Schildt reported on the planned activities for the Team.
- **Focus Team** – Bob Iverson opened discussion on the Focus Team report that was submitted to the Session last month. It was noted that some of the proposals in the report are already being acted upon by various Teams. It was determined that the report is too far-reaching for the Session to act on in a regular meeting, which is filled by other items. So, a Special Session meeting has been called for 11 AM Sunday, December 11 in the Chapel to discuss the report and the long range plan. This meeting will be open to any church member who wishes to attend.
- **Facilities Team** – Judy Iverson updated some of the repairs that have been made to the building. A Computer Aided Design (CAD) of the building is being made so we can get a better handle on what is located in each room of the church. This will help for organization of the building and for possible replacement of items if needed in the future.
- **Personnel Team** – Bob Iverson gave the report. Personnel approved the Covenant Interim Pastor contract as submitted by the search team.

Session dismissed the Interim Pastor Search Committee with thanks since Pastor Ann Schwartz has been hired as the Covenant Interim Pastor.

The Session meeting was concluded with prayers. The next regular Session meeting will be Tuesday, December 20, 2016. Session was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully,
Bob Iverson, Vice Clerk of Session



MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

The Meaning of Advent

The church seasons - Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Eastertide, and Pentecost - either end or begin with special festival days such as Easter, Christmas, or Pentecost. The church year is actually a mini-biography of the life and work of Jesus Christ as the church annually reminds itself that God broke into human history and really did become flesh and dwell for awhile among us (John 1:14). Advent is a good example. Although it marks the beginning of the church year, it did not become a regular part of the church calendar until the 4th century. Christians began to reflect upon some words of a very famous theologian, Augustine, who wrote: "If our Savior had not been born, he could neither have suffered and died for our sins, nor sent his Holy Spirit."

So in order to coincide with the already existing celebrations of Easter and Pentecost, which were set to replace ancient Hebrew festivals, the season of Advent was set in early winter as a 40-day period prior to celebrating Christ's birth. The inexact calculations of a 3rd century bishop who set December 25 as the date of Christ's birth were already accepted as well by about 336 AD. An Advent sermon is preserved from the end of the 4th century by the Bishop of Turin, and in the 7th Century, the Western Church limited the Advent season to the four weeks prior to Christmas Day. By the 9th and 10th centuries, Advent was broadened to include remembrance of the Christians' expectation of Jesus' second advent or return.

Today, Advent is really a time for personal reflection and repentance. Our lives can be changed, our hearts warmed, our character transformed. It is a time of spiritual renewal for the Christian to deepen his or her commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to live in constant hope and expectation of His return, just as the Israelites lived in constant expectation for the Messiah's first advent.

Obviously, this is best done through regular worship, Bible study, daily prayer, and devotional time with families and fellow Christians. A meaningful Advent will certainly lead to a more meaningful Christmas, especially with all the "business" associated with our American celebrations of the Christmas holiday. You might also notice that the word Advent helps to spell ADVENTure, which the dictionary defines as an exciting undertaking or suspenseful experience. Life's adventures produce both well-being and pain, joy and sadness, laughter and tears, goodwill and anger.

God assures us that he understands our hurts and needs, for he has experienced them directly in Jesus Christ. What a wonderful truth to be reminded of at Christmas. So remember during Advent this year why Christ came and was born, and that until he returns, God's presence with us is fulfilled through Christ by his words and sending of the Holy Spirit: "Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age" - Matthew 28:20.

Have a happy Advent season!

Purple – The Liturgical Color for Advent

Liturgical churches display the color purple during Advent. In ancient times, purple dye was expensive and used almost exclusively by kings, other royalty, and persons of wealth. Purple reminds us of Christ, who is our King, worthy of our obedience, loyalty, and love. It also speaks of our need for penitence as we prepare to celebrate Christmas again.

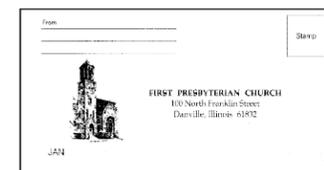


Home Communion to be Delivered

Pastor Ann plans to deliver communion to our homebound and nursing home church members during December. If you know of someone you would like to be on this special visiting list, please contact the church office.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

All those that already have an envelope number will receive Weekly Offering Envelopes for the year 2017.



If you do not receive Offering Envelopes, but still want them, please contact Paula in the Office.

Cookie Walk

The **BAZAAR/COOKIE WALK** is coming! The date is Saturday, December 10, from 9 AM to 1 PM. Buy by the dozen, your choice. Also included will be yearly favorites of breads, cakes, pies, candy, etc. For those looking for gifts there will a large selection of gift baskets, along with new craft items, books, puzzles and gently used white elephant items. **We are also looking for donations of the above items.** We ask each cookie baker to bake six dozen cookies (1 or 2 kinds) and contact Judy Iverson at 260-2684 to let her know what cookies you are baking so that we will have a large variety. We also need donations of jellies, relishes, snacks, etc. and craft items. If you donate a craft item, please price the item. **Deliver your cookies/items to the church the week of December 5-9.**

HOLIDAY Bazaar

Presbyterian Youth Fellowship Event Calendar for December

December 4, 10:30 AM – Hanging of the Greens Potluck with Santa. **5:30 PM** – Youth meet for Bible study

December 10, 6:00 PM – Movie Night – The Grinch – please wear a Christmas sweater or dress like the people from Whoville.

December 11, 8:45 AM – Youth/College Age meet at church to help with children's sermon.

December 14, 5:00 PM – Youth/College Age meet at church to help with Deacons' Christmas boxes.

December 17, 3:00 – 5:00 PM – meet at Lincoln Lanes for Youth Christmas party gift exchange.

December 18 – No Youth/College Age

December 25 – No Youth/College Age

Children's Ministries to Again Have Love Bucks for November/December - *Let the church help your children or grandchildren with their Christmas gift-giving for their families, teachers, etc. while encouraging church participation at the same time!* During November and Advent, our children's ministry activities will be sponsoring "Love Bucks," which will be given to each child any time they are in worship, Sunday School, the Nursery, Shining Stars, attending or helping with other church events, etc. During this same period, we will be asking church members to bring extra goodies, gifts, etc. to supply a "Love Bucks Store" of sorts, and on the Sundays of December 11 and 18 the store will be open for children to shop for gifts with their Love Bucks to give to parents, siblings, grandparents, teachers, etc. Our youth will be on hand to manage the store and staff the gift-wrapping department. For more information, you may contact Youth Director Kelly Whitehair or check the church calendar or website for church activities at which Love Bucks will be available through December 18.



Advent Wreath Readers and Candle Lighters Needed

Please call the church office if you and/or your family or you and your friends are interested in being readers during worship for the Advent Wreath portion of the services during December including Christmas Eve. The devotional material will be provided and readers will also be lighting the appropriate candles on the Advent wreath for each Sunday. Dates for which readers are needed are as follows:

■ **Sunday, November 27 – 9:15 AM (sanctuary)**

Bob & Judy Iverson

■ **Saturday, December 3 – 5:00 PM (chapel)**

Tobi Peck

■ **Sunday, December 4 – 9:15 AM (sanctuary)**

■ **Saturday, December 10 – 5:00 PM (chapel)**

■ **Sunday, December 11 – 9:15 AM (sanctuary)**

Rosie Newton & daughters

■ **Saturday, December 17 – 5:00 PM (chapel)**

■ **Sunday, December 18 – 9:15 AM (sanctuary)**

■ **Saturday, December 24 – 7:00 PM in Sanctuary**

