

# The Good News

## of First Presbyterian Church for December 2018

Rejoice in the Lord always.  
I will say it again: Rejoice!  
(Philippians 4.4 [NIV])

### Advent and Christmas 2018

*Welcome to First Presbyterian Church for our Advent and Christmas activities. May each of you experience the true meaning of this special season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

You are encouraged to pick up a copy of "Holiday Memories and Traditions," an Advent devotional booklet written by members of First Presbyterian Church. We also have copies of the PCUSA 2018 Advent devotional calendar, "God Lifts the Lowly." These are available at the Welcome Desk and in the church office.

**December 2** 8:30 and 11 a.m.  
~ Services of Worship and Communion  
Message: Rev. T. J. Parlette

**December 9** 8:30 and 11 a.m.  
~ Services of Worship  
Message: Rev. T. J. Parlette

4 p.m.  
~ An evening of Christmas caroling

Join us for a good old-fashioned night of Christmas caroling for all ages. After caroling we'll return to the church to warm up and enjoy fellowship while we enjoy hot chocolate, apple cider, and cookies.

**December 16** 8:30 and 11 a.m.  
~ Services of Lessons and Carols

Worship will be led by the Calvin, Chancel, and Youth Choirs with orchestra, handbells, and organ. The service, including the reading of nine lessons, carols and anthems, is based on the traditional English services of the same name. Join us for this meaningful addition to your Advent worship life!

**December 23** 8:30 and 11 a.m.  
~ Services of Worship  
Message: Rev. T. J. Parlette

**December 24 (Christmas Eve)** 4:00 p.m.  
~ Christmas Eve Worship  
Children's Christmas Program

11:00 p.m.  
~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
Message: Rev. T. J. Parlette

On the eve of Christ's birth, we meet to quietly celebrate the meaning of this event in our lives. Join us for a Christmas Eve service of scripture, song, and candlelight. The candlelight service at 11 p.m. will be preceded by a prelude beginning at 10:30 p.m. Nursery care will be provided at the 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. services only.

**December 25 (Christmas)**

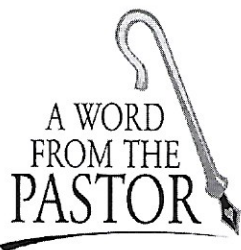
Pause in the midst of your busy day to celebrate with family and friends the birth of our Lord and savior, for unto you was born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ your Lord. No services will be held at the church.

**December 30** 11 a.m. only  
~ Service of Worship  
Message: Rev. Jay Rowland

Welcome to a special service of Christmas carols and liturgy on the first Sunday after Christmas. No Sunday school or choir rehearsals. Child care will be provided.

"Advent" means "coming," and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion. The mythology of our age has to do with flying saucers and invasions from outer space, and that is unimaginable enough. But what is upon us now is even more so — a close encounter not of the third kind but of a different kind altogether. An invasion of holiness. That is what Advent is about.  
~ Frederick Buechner, *The Clown in the Belfry*





by Rev. T. J. Parlette

December 2018

I got a letter from Pakistan a couple of weeks ago. I don't often get word from Pakistan, so I thought I would share it with you. This letter is from an Islamic student named Iqra Shakoor. Iqra is a young woman who attends Forman Christian College in

Pakistan. Our mission committee has been supporting Forman for a number of years by contributing to their scholarship fund and Iqra is someone who has benefitted from that financial aid. One of the reasons I really like Forman is that Christians and Muslims are brought together to study and learn – not only about academics but also about their cultures and religions. Here is what she had to say...

*I belong to Dera Ghazi Khan, which is my home town. It is quite a remote area where education is not a priority, specifically for females. Education is particularly important for me because I grew up in an environment where education of women was not a compulsion. This was always very disturbing for me and motivated me to pursue higher education so I can help eliminate this tradition from the society I belong to.*

*Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) provides an American system of education where students can not only learn and gain knowledge but can also take part in many personal development and social activities which grooms students both academically and socially. The environment here is very diverse with students belonging to all regions, castes and religions. This helps promote a harmonious and tolerant environment.*

*My father is the only earning head of our family and he works as a Govt. employee. I have five siblings and all of them are studying. It was very difficult for my father to afford all of our educational expenses, hence, I applied for financial aid to remove some of the responsibility from my father's head. I am grateful to Forman for providing me with financial aid so I can continue my studies here.*

*I would like to say that Forman has helped me in grooming myself by offering me different avenues for self-development. I am currently pursuing a Masters degree in Chemistry. My hope further goal is to pursue a PhD from abroad and eliminate this narrow minded stereotype that women's education is not necessary.*

This is just one of the ways that the monies you give are used to bring justice and peace all over the world. Thank you for all you do in support of First Presbyterian Church!

Peace, T. J.



## Stewardship Alive!

### Small packages, great things

The motto for Hershey's Kisses used to be "Big things come in small packages!" That also could be a motto for Bethlehem, for Baby Jesus and, indeed, for us. It's an important message to remember when we fear we're too weak to fix the world's problems, too small to fight the gigantic terror that threatens a loved one or too lacking in abilities we see in others.

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah," God declares through the prophet Micah (5:2, NRSV), "from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel." Bethlehem was a mere village. God's ruler for Israel started as an infant. His birthplace was a small stable, not a palace or temple. But size isn't everything. Big — that is, great — things can come in small packages. And thanks to the tiny baby who grew up to share immeasurably huge love with the world, God can do great things through you, too!

~ NewsletterNewsletter - 12/2018

### First Presbyterian Church Financial Statement / October 2018

#### General Operating Budget

Balance (9/30/18)	\$ 38,224.77
Receipts (October)	+ 43,037.53
Disbursements (October)	- 80,802.54
Balance (10/31/18)	\$ 459.76



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The Good News is published the first of each month for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church (FPC). The newsletter tells the story of the church, promotes its programs, and publicizes opportunities to live out one's faith. Deadline for submission of material is the fifteenth of the preceding month.

#### Church Staff

Pastor	Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette
Associate Pastor	Jay P. Rowland
Director of Music	Lee J. Afdahl
Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education	Susanna L. Stone
Office Administrator	Susan K. Kruger
Facility Manager	Harry E. Coleman
Custodian	Tyler Sczurek
Part-time music assistants	Katie Kuisle (Calvin and Cherub Choirs) Janine Yanisch (First Players)
Part-time custodians/security	Vera Brooks, Sally Evans, Tami Rinn, Bob Schalaus
Child Care Workers	Esther Lebron, Margie Schaaf, Brenda Thorson
Newsletter Editor	Carol J. Evans
Parish Associates	Roger Ring, Carol Shaffer, James Walker

Sunday services of worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Education classes: Sundays at 9:40 a.m.

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.;

Friday, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-noon

**The mission of the First Presbyterian Church of Rochester is to reflect God's love for all people by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**



## 2018 Sharing Tree brings Christmas spirit to many



We are again offering you an opportunity to help children, families and those who are homeless in our community during the Christmas season. Through December 2 a Christmas tree in the atrium will be decorated with colored gift tags, each representing a charitable organization in Rochester. This year we are adding a new one, Brighter Tomorrows, to our list.

- 1) **Brighter Tomorrows** (assists families who have encountered a childhood cancer diagnosis)
- 2) **Medcity Foundation** (Kristina Hesby's organization that provides general assistance to blood cancer patients and their families. This includes lodging, food and other financial needs.)
- 3) **Alternative Learning Center Daycare** (gifts for infant children whose high school parents are finishing high school credits at the ALC)
- 4) **Family Promise** (also known as Interfaith Hospitality Network. Family Promise provides assistance for homeless families in the way of housing, meals, daycare, and employment.)

Our church youth group will be wrapping and delivering these gifts. Deadline for returning the gifts is December 9.

Select a gift tag off the tree and purchase the item or items on the tag. As far as wrapping the gift, follow the instructions on the tag. It is important that you attach the tag to the gift when you return it to the church office so we know to which organization the gift should be delivered.

Instead of purchasing a gift there is also the option of purchasing a gift card from one of our local stores. Put the card in an envelope and drop it off in the church office.

Any questions please contact me at [rksaling@msn.com](mailto:rksaling@msn.com).

Thank you for your generosity,

~ Ruth Saling / Social Concerns Committee

*Here we come a-caroling ...*

## Join us December 9 for an evening of caroling, fellowship, and cookies

On Sunday evening December 9 the Welcoming and Nurturing Committee is planning a good old-fashioned night of Christmas caroling for all ages beginning at the church at 4 p.m. After caroling we'll return to the church to warm up and enjoy fellowship with each other while we enjoy hot chocolate, apple cider, and holiday cookies at their finest. Bake and bring your favorite Christmas cookie recipe to share. Mark your calendar now as you won't want to miss this one.

~ Jane Murl / Welcoming and Nurturing Committee

## Lee Afdahl announces retirement

Lee J. Afdahl, our Director of Music and Organist since 1991, has announced his retirement effective May 31, 2019.

A search committee for his replacement will be formed soon and all the necessary steps will be taken to insure that the Ministry of Music will be in good hands for years to come. The Personnel and Administration Committee will keep the congregation notified of progress in the search. We solicit your prayers and patience in the process.

Lee says, "Thank you for the many blessings and talents shared over the past 28 years. I will continue to lead in the music ministry faithfully through the end of May."

## Handbells in worship celebrate 50 years!

We have celebrated the gift of music as provided by voices and instruments throughout our church's history, but the unique sounds and ministry through bells began at First Presbyterian in 1968. This ministry is not just about music-making as you realize. It's a team effort and bonding that comes through diligent work in many rehearsals on a weekly basis and attending handbell events together.

Through memorial monies and special gifts to the program through the years, our initial set of three octaves of Schulmerich handbells made in Pennsylvania have been expanded to this inventory: five octaves of Schulmerich handbells plus the new large G2, G#2, and A#2, five octaves of Malmark handchimes, new Schulmerich Greig Ashurst design mallets, singing bell sticks, Peery tables and we are on our second set of red table covers, a vastly expanded handbell/handchime music library, gloves, music folders, etc.... all the necessary equipment of the art form.

Presently we loan our equipment to the Rochester Area Handbells, our community's first community handbell ensemble led by **Paul Kingsbury**. We have participated in many handbell festivals in the region and locally have performed in Yulefest concerts with the Rochester Symphony in the early 1990's. A small ensemble has been a wonderful outreach program to the community during holidays past. The children's handbell program has been expanded to include attending Young Ringers' Camp in odd numbered years. We look forward to many more years of music making to the glory of God through the handbell/handchime program of our music ministry.

~ Lee Afdahl / Director of Music



## Help deck the halls with boughs ...

The Advent season is fast approaching. We will be decorating the church for the Advent season on Saturday, December 1 at 9:30 a.m.

There are projects for all ages. Many hands make the project easy, so please mark your calendar and join us on December 1.

~ Bev Lewis / Welcoming and Nurturing Committee



## Christmas Joy Offering to be received December 23

*Every generous act of giving...is from above. (James 1:17)*

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. The offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The goal is to assist church workers in their time of need and students in their time of promise.

**The Assistance Program** provides critical financial support to church workers and their families due either to declining health or a catastrophic event, such as Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

**Presbyterian-related schools and colleges** provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. Many of the students are the first in their families to enroll in higher education. The schools receiving funds are Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, Texas; and Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Students receiving scholarships and support at these schools means they have a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills.

Your offering will be received on December 23 although you can contribute through January by putting your donation in a Sunday offering or mailing it to the church.

~ Sylvia Swede / Mission Committee

## Christmas Eve offering supports Deacons' activities

The offering we receive on Christmas Eve supports the work of the Deacons in the coming year, including flowers for members in the hospital, rides and wheelchair van service to worship and other activities at FPC, parking passes for Mayo parking lots for people visiting members in the hospital, HomeTouch subscription for homebound members, funeral coffees, and food vouchers for assistance requests.

## Celebrate Advent, donate to the Poinsettia Fund

Help celebrate the Advent season with a \$15 donation to the Poinsettia Fund. The plants will decorate the sanctuary in December and then be delivered by the Deacons to our many C.A.R.E. members. To contribute, put your check for \$15 (note for poinsettias on the memo line) in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Thank you!

~ Judy Felten / Chancel Guild

from the FPC Parish Nursing program

## Healthy eating at the holidays



The holidays are full of delicious but unhealthy foods: casseroles loaded with butter and sugar, pies and cookies, rich holiday meal after holiday meal. What's a health conscious reveler to do?!

- 1) **Everything in moderation** - it wouldn't be a party without that pie, but limiting yourself to one piece is doable. Also limit the Christmas cookies... those things are addictive!
- 2) **Try something new** - it is always fun to try new, healthier spins on old favorites! For example, subbing riced cauliflower in a casserole can really lighten things up.
- 3) **Salad first!** When serving a large meal, offer or eat salad first so you and your guests fill up on vegetables and can enjoy a "taste" of everything else.
- 4) **Drink wisely (and lots of water)** - the holidays are a wonderful time to toast, but do so in moderation! Alcoholic beverages are often invisible calories. Also make sure to stay hydrated. You can put fruit in your water pitcher to "dress it up."
- 5) **Walk it off** - It's easy to spend the holidays eating and watching TV together but try to work off some of that extra food. A family 5K, a walk, playing ball, skiing, or snowshoeing are all ways to build memories and work off some of those holiday pounds.

Wishing you all happy, healthy holidays!

~ Ariel Boswell / FPC Parish Nursing coordinator

### Adult education ~ Sundays / 9:40-10:45 a.m.

Members have asked for in-depth studies and here are several great opportunities covering a wide variety of topics and interests!

<b>Bible Study (South Fireside)</b>	The Kerygma Class continues a study of <i>The Jesus Movement and the World of the Early Church</i> . The class is led by <b>Jane Goodfriend</b> and <b>Ruth Walts</b> .
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<b>Current Issues (Lounge)</b>	<i>Current Events: Clipped from the papers</i> is the theme for the 2018-2019 year. The discussion is led by <b>Al Depman</b> .
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### Bible Study ~ Wednesdays / 6:30-7:30 p.m.

<b>Bible Study (Sheldon Jackson Lounge)</b>	<b>December 5, 12, and 19</b> <i>Half Truths: God helps those who help themselves, and other things the Bible doesn't say.</i> Advent Bible study led by <b>Rev. T. J. Parlette</b> .
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"To you" — to me! to us all! — "is born this day ... a Savior" (Luke 2:11, NRSV). Thank you, Lord!






## Ministry of Music

Lee Afdahl, Director of Music  
Katie Kuisle, Cherub and Calvin Choirs  
Janine Yanisch, First Players

*Music is the universal language by which human feelings are made equally intelligible to all.*  
(Franz von Liszt)

 Singing and ringing schedule for December			
	8:30	11:00	Both
December 2.	Chancel Choir	Cherub Choir	Joyous Praise
December 8.	Orchestra for Lessons and Carols rehearsals at 1 p.m.		
December 9.	Chancel Choir	Calvin Choir	Alleluia Rngrs
December 15.	Rehearsal for Lessons and Carols Orchestra rehearsals at 9:30 a.m. Calvin and Chancel Choirs and handbells join the orchestra from 10 a.m. to noon		
December 16.	<b>Service of Lessons and Carols</b> at both hours with Calvin and Chancel Choirs, Jubilate Deo handbells, orchestra		
December 23.	Chancel Choir		Alleluia Rngrs
December 24.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Christmas Eve</b></p> Services of worship at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. 3 p.m.: All youth and children's choirs and bell choirs warm up 4 p.m.: Service of worship and Children's Pageant with Calvin and Cherub Choirs and Joyous Praise 10 p.m.: Chancel Choir and Jubilate Deo warm up 10:30 p.m.: Prelude with soloists, ensembles, ringers and choir 11 p.m.: Candlelight Service with Chancel Choir and Jubilate Deo		
NO rehearsals on December 26 or 27			
December 30.	One service of worship at 11 a.m. No Sunday School or choir rehearsals		
January 6.	Services of worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.		

## First Players collaborate with **The Notochords jazz band for winter concert**



Janine Yanisch  
First Players  
Director

On December 17 First Players will present its winter concert here at FPC at 7 p.m. Both the Beginning Band and Concert Band will play and be joined by our guests, *The Notochords* jazz band. Come hear great music by great musicians, in a variety of genres! Everyone is invited!

Peace, Janine

## Stewardship 2019 needs you!

### Stewardship 2019

Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.

John Wesley (1703-1791)

For more than 150 years, First Presbyterian Church has been committed to helping all people experience God's love through Jesus Christ.

This commitment has taken many forms, from strong educational and music ministries to aggressive outreach programs benefitting both local needs and missions abroad.

Now it's time to turn our commitment into action! You can lead the way with a generous financial pledge.

**As of November 20 we have received 188 pledges for \$620,416. Although we haven't named a specific goal yet, we estimate this, combined with other projected income, will be about \$75,000 short of what we will need to fund our church's staff and programs in the coming year.**

If you haven't made your commitment yet, please mail it to the church as soon as possible or put it in the offering plate Sunday so we can plan next year's programs based on available resources. Thank you!

*We are excited to announce a new opportunity for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to donate via eGiving, either through the church's website or using your mobile device. Contact the church office for the specific information.*

~ Carol Evans / Stewardship and Finance Committee

## FPC children present Christmas Eve Pageant

As was done last year, this year's FPC Christmas Pageant will take place during the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service. All kids are invited to be a part of the pageant (and any out of town grandkids or relatives are welcome, too!).

**Children need not be regular Sunday School or choir attendees to participate in the pageant; the one requirement is that anyone participating in the Christmas Pageant must attend rehearsal on Sunday, December 23 from 9:40-10:50 a.m.** Any children interested in learning the Christmas Pageant songs are encouraged to attend choir rehearsals for the next few Sundays.

We also need Christmas Pageant volunteers. Please let Susanna know if you are interested in helping assist with the pageant in any way!

### Calling all FPC high school musicians!

We are looking for high school musicians to be part of this year's Christmas Pageant at the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service. During this year's Christmas Pageant, high school musicians will provide musical accompaniment for the carols. Please email Susanna (stone.susanna@fpcrochester.org) if you are interested.

~ Susanna Stone / Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education



## Presbyterian Women support local, national, and international projects

This year's rummage sale receipts and pledges provided \$9,534 for local, national, and international projects. Many thanks to organizers **Judy Kruesel, Sally Brooks, and Jan Hosier** and the men and women who helped make the sales successful and the women who contributed pledges to PW in 2018.

### Local

- ▶ \$400 for **Channel One** for backpacks of food for low income students. The students take these home for the weekend.
- ▶ \$400 for **LINK** (Living Independently with Knowledge) which serves homeless teens.
- ▶ \$400 for **Hawthorne Helps Mini-Store** where students from 35 different countries, many living below the poverty level, may shop for necessities twice a month. These students are learning English and other life skills so they can improve their lives. The most requested item is toilet paper!
- ▶ \$400 for **Community Food Response** for plastic containers.
- ▶ \$400 for **Civic League Day Nursery** to provide financial aid for those who can't afford daycare.
- ▶ \$400 for **Mission 21**, which provides resources and restoration services to victims of human trafficking under the age of 18. They would like to hire a part-time mental health consultant as they grow their program.
- ▶ \$200 for the **Pastoral Assistance Fund** that is used to buy gift cards that the pastors can use to help people in need.

### National

- ▶ \$400 for **water filters**. The filters provide families with safe water in communities struggling with lead and other contaminants in their water supplies.
- ▶ \$1000 to **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** for hurricane relief.
- ▶ \$500 to **Su Casa de Esperanza**, a Presbyterian border ministry whose mission is to improve the quality of life of children through a faith-based family education program.
- ▶ \$400 for **urban farms**. More than 23 million Americans live in food deserts, where fresh, affordable food is nearly impossible to find. Urban farms supply nutritious produce where it's most needed, while providing employment and educational opportunities that nurture communities. Some of our members who attended the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville, KY in August saw one of these gardens.

### International

- ▶ \$300 to **HOP (Haiti Orphanage Partners)** for a month's supply of food.
- ▶ \$450 to **Haiti Education Foundation** to provide for the education of six students. PW also provides for the education of two students in Niger through the Remember Niger Coalition.

- ▶ \$500 to **NOROC**, which facilitates the spiritual, social, physical, and emotional development of Romanian children who have been abandoned, abused, or orphaned. One of our former associate pastors, **Richard Schempp**, and his wife are currently mission workers for NOROC.
- ▶ \$400 for **Small Change 4 Big Change in Guatemala**. The object of this project is to give people the education and tools to be able to be self-sustaining and move up to better paying positions. They need financial aid right now for water filters for each family and educational needs. Tuition, school supplies, and uniforms needed in order to attend the high school/vocational program in Guatemala.
- ▶ \$684 through **Presbyterian Mission Agency** to provide six families of chickens and three pairs of goats to improve the food security and livelihoods of farmers and families.
- ▶ \$700 for **latrines**. In many countries, rural areas lack access to basic sanitation. For women, in particular, latrines promote dignity and safety, minimizing the risk of assault. They also improve hygiene and health for whole communities, reducing the risk of disease.
- ▶ \$400 for the **Menstrual Hygiene Management** project in **Dogondoutchi, Niger**, begun by PCUSA co-worker Jim McGill, to keep girls in school. Niger has the highest fertility rate in the world which creates a high population growth that is a recipe for poverty. This can be reduced by educating girls and keeping them in school.

*Traveling? The Hawthorne Helps Mini-Store can use the sample shampoos and soaps you get in places you visit.*

*~ Sylvia Swede / Presbyterian Women facilitator*



**Susanna Stone**  
Coordinator of Youth  
& Christian Education

### Happy December from the youth group!

The Youth Group had another busy month, even with taking a week off for Thanksgiving. This month the youth enjoyed some fun and games, including their favorites, Telestrations and Sardines. We took time to read Bible passages about giving thanks to others and made cards to give thanks to some of those who have given their time and efforts to support the Youth Group and the church. We began work on our holiday service projects by wrapping gifts for the children from Brighter Tomorrows and prepared college care packages to send out to FPC college students.

December promises to be another busy month for the Youth Group. We will decorate cookies for Bear Creek Services, practice for the Christmas Pageant, hold our traditional White Elephant Christmas party, enjoy some fun and games, and take the time to continue growing in fellowship with God and each other.

**Note: Due to winter break, there will be no youth activities on December 26 and January 2. Youth activities resume on January 9.**





## News from Presbyterian Women

✱ Sylvia Swede, facilitator

Circles continue in December. New members are always welcome. Join us for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. The 2018-2019 Horizons Bible study is

*God's Promise: I Am with You.*

**Esther Circle:** December 17 at 12 p.m. in the lounge for a Potluck Holiday Party. Hostesses: **Alice Kerr, Elizabeth Remfert, and Susie McClocklin.**

**Priscilla Circle:** December 19 at 10 a.m. in the social hall for a Christmas Brunch. Hostesses: **Connie Polk and Shelley Steger.** Project: Mission and Social Concerns Projects.

**Ruth Circle:** December 15 at 10 a.m. in the lounge. Devotions: **Marion Pitts.** Program: **Mary Huie** (lesson #4 in the Bible Study *God's Promise: I Am with You.* A Christmas party and lunch will follow the meeting. Please watch for further details.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. the lounge. Join us Thursday, December 13 for knitting, crocheting and fellowship! Please contact **Elizabeth Remfert** or **Susie McClocklin** if you or someone you know would find comfort from a prayer shawl.

## Calling all crafters!

The Crafters Group will meet Wednesday, December 19 at 3 p.m. in the social hall. Come join us as we make cards for the C. A. R. E. members of the congregation. All supplies will be provided. ~ *Mary Huie (282-9712) / Crafters coordinator*

*Tell us what you think!*

## Have coffee with Christian Education

What do you think about Christian Education here at FPC? Do you want to learn more about the Christian Education programming at FPC? Do you have any ideas to share with the FPC Christian Education Committee? Come share your thoughts, opinions, and ideas with members of the Christian Education Committee during Coffee with CE on **Sunday, December 16 from 9:45-10:30** in the social hall. Grab some coffee and donuts and look for our table in the social hall!

~ *Susanna Sone / Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education*

## Annual Reports due January 14

Each year our church activities are summarized in the "Annual Reports to the Congregation." This year these reports must be available to the congregation on January 20, the Sunday prior to the annual meeting on January 27. If you are responsible for writing a report on some facet of our church life, please note they are due **Monday, January 14.** The best ones are sent (prior to the deadline) to Carol via e-mail (fpc\_carol@hotmail.com) or as a Word attachment to an e-mail! Thank you for your help!

## Church Family News

### Anniversaries

*Congratulations* to **Richard and Janice Bennett** who will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary December 1.

*Congratulations* to **Don and Barbara Cain** who will celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary December 6.

*Congratulations* to **Robert and Susan McClocklin** who will celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary December 17.

### Birthdays

*Happy Birthday* to **Lynn Postier**, who will celebrate her 91st birthday December 23.

### Death

We extend our condolences to **Mary Ellen Brown and Melissa, Jason, Jacob, and Marilyn Wobig** on the death of Mary Ellen's husband and Melissa's father, **Bruce Brown**, October 19.

## Your Church Library:

## Featured Books for December

Come visit your church library! There are at least twelve new books available for Advent/Christmas this year, along with a number of new books added this time last year. There's a variety of genres available – poetry, novel, non-fiction, etc. – and there's sure to be something special to help you spiritually prepare for Christmas. Here are two we're highlighting:

### *Blue Christmas -*

### *Devotions of Light in a Season of Darkness* by Todd Outcalt

Not all Christmases are white; some are "blue," author Todd Outcalt writes. For many people, this time of year magnifies loneliness, anxiety, grief, and even despair. While celebrations and gatherings of friends and family abound, those who are hurting feel conflicted and even alienated. *Blue Christmas* is a devotional book for the 28 days of Advent and Christmas Day. Each devotion includes a scripture selection, meditation, prayer, and suggested Advent action. In these honest devotions, readers are led to name their reality, sit with difficult experiences, and acknowledge losses, bringing all into the light of God's love, trusting Jesus' promise "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

### *Songs for the Waiting:*

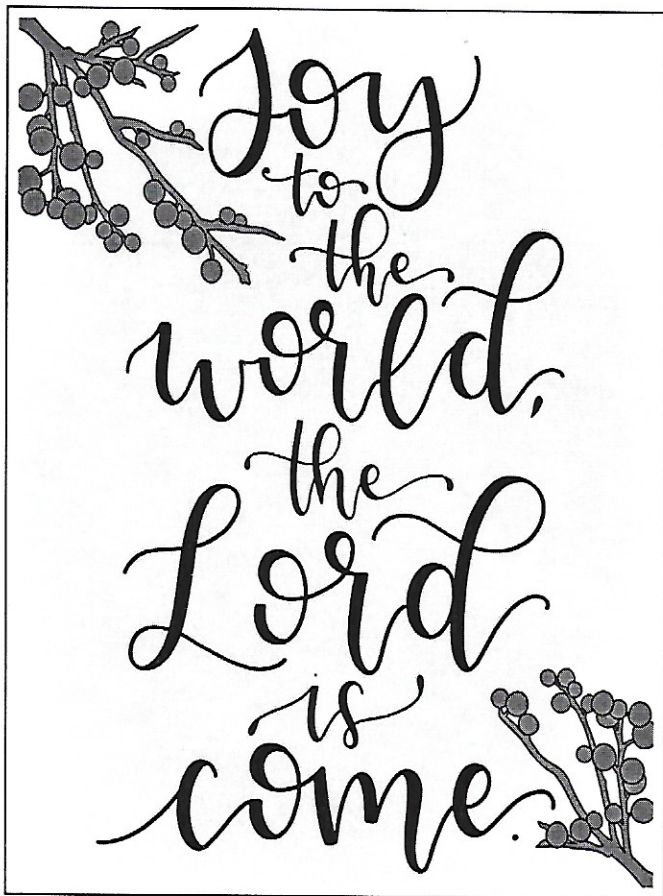
### *Devotions Inspired by the Hymns of Advent* by Magrey R. Devega

Our hymnal *Glory to God* has twenty-five Advent hymns. While some are familiar, others may not be. Using Advent hymns and the powerful words of Scripture as a guide, *Songs for the Waiting* takes readers into the spirit of anticipation and preparation central to Advent.

~ *Jay Rowland / Associate Pastor*








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## December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>Sunday morning schedule 12/2-23</b> Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday school / all ages at 9:40 a.m. Cherub Choir at 10:20 a.m. Calvin Choir at 9:40 a.m.		<b>Wednesday youth schedule 12/5-19</b> 4:15 p.m. Alleluia Ringers (grades 2-5) 5:00 p.m. Youth Choir (grades 6-12) 5:45 p.m. Middle/High School youth 7:00 p.m. J Praise bells (intergenerational)		<b>1</b> 9:30 AM Advent Decorating Party
<b>2</b> Communion Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Jovous Praise rings (both) 8:30 AM Chancel Choir sings 9:30 AM Blood Pressure/Parish Nursing 11:00 AM Cherub Choir sings	<b>3</b> FPC@Community Food Response	<b>4</b> Most committees meet/ check w/lead elder 9:30 AM Staff meeting 11:00 AM Grief Support Grp 7:00 PM Deacons/south fireside	<b>5</b> Wednesday activities as usual FPC@Friendship Place 1:00 PM Charter House worship and communion 6:30 PM Advent Bible study w/TJParlette	<b>6</b> 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<b>7</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">             Be the reason someone smiles today.           </div>	<b>8</b> 1:00 PM Orchestra rehearses for L&C
<b>9</b> Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Alleluia Rngs rings (both) 8:30 AM Chancel Choir sings 11:00 AM Calvin Choir sings 4:00 PM Christmas Caroling (W&N)	<b>10</b> Sharing Tree/deadline for returning gifts to church	<b>11</b> 9:30 AM Staff meeting 1:30 PM Kitchen Guild	<b>12</b> Wednesday activities as usual FPC@Friendship Place 6:30 PM Advent Bible study w/TJParlette	<b>13</b> 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group 6:15 PM JubilateDeo Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<b>14</b> NO Sitter Service in December	<b>15</b> Newsletter items due 9:30 AM Orchestra for L&C 10:00 AM Chancel/Yth/Calvin rehearse L&C 10:00 AM Ruth Circle/lounge
<b>16</b> <b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b> Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Jubilate Deo (both) Chancel/Youth/Calvin sing (both) Orchestra (both) 9:45 AM Coffee with CE	<b>17</b> 1:00 PM Esther Circle/lounge 6:00 PM First Players rehearse w/Notochords for concert 7:00 PM First Players Winter Concert w/Notochords	<b>18</b> 9:30 AM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Session/Fireside Rm	<b>19</b> Wednesday activities as usual FPC@Friendship Place 10:00 AM Priscilla Circle brunch 3:00 PM Crafters Group/SHall 6:30 PM Advent Bible study w/TJParlette	<b>20</b> 6:30 PM Chancel Choir, JDeo HB Christmas Party	<b>21</b> Winter begins	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Joy Offering Worship (8:30 & 11 a.m.) Alleluia Rngs rings (both) 8:30 AM Chancel Choir sings 9:40 AM Rehearse for Children's Christmas Pageant	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 4:00 PM Children's Pageant 4:00 PM Calvin/Cherub/Joyous Praise 11:00 PM Candlelight Worship 11:00 PM Chancel Chr/Jubilate Deo	<b>25</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> <b>Merry Christmas!</b> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> <b>Church closed</b> </div>	<b>26</b> NO Wednesday activities	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">             No school / Winter break (12/24/18-1/1/19)           </div>						
<b>30</b> Worship 11 a.m. only! NO choir rehearsals NO Sunday school	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">             No school / Winter bre...           </div>	<b>Christmas Eve Schedule</b> <b>Worship at 4 p.m.</b> Children's Pageant Calvin and Cherub Choirs sing Joyous Praise rings		<b>Worship at 11 p.m.</b> Jubilate Deo rings Chancel Choir sings		