



Presbyterian Press

December 2018

WE ARE BACK ON THE AIR! Broadcast live on WPDX radio, 104.9 FM

A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg WV



Workshop Will be right after church on December 2nd and will include lunch and crafts. Please join us in fellowship.



CANTATA

The Christmas Cantata "Touched by a Child, Touched by a King" will be presented on December 16, 2018 during morning worship.

We look forward to sharing this special event with you and your families. Invite your family, neighbors and friends.

It's a great witness to our wonderful Savior and Lord!



Christmas Dinner

We still need volunteers to help prep for the dinner on December 23 from 12-2 after church and we need help to get the food ready on December 25th from 9-? and we need people to help deliver the meals.

Candlelight service will be held at 11:00pm on Christmas Eve December 24th. There will also be communion served.



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Sunday Worship

Church School
9:30 a.m.

Worship
10:45 a.m.

Worship Schedule for December

DECEMBER 2nd: 1st Sunday in Advent (Communion)
SCRIPTURES: Jeremiah 33: 14-16 *Luke 21: 25-36
SERMON TITLE: ðThe Parable of the Islandö
THEME: If you were stuck on a deserted island in the middle of the ocean and you had no hope of rescue, what would you do? Many people in our world feel all alone and isolated, even though they may be in the midst of people. The good news is that no matter where we are, Christ comes to us. We are never in this alone.

DECEMBER 9th: 2nd Sunday in Advent
SCRIPTURES: Malachi 3: 1-4 *Luke 3: 1-6
SERMON TITLE: ðGod Came Downö
THEME: God is so big that we humans cannot begin to take him in. So in Jesus God came down so that we could in him what God is like.

DECEMBER 16th: 3rd Sunday in Advent
Christmas Cantata

DECEMBER 23rd: 4th Sunday in Advent
SCRIPTURES: Micah 5:2-5a *Luke 1:39-55
SERMON TITLE: ðMary's Journeyö
THEME: When Mary find out that she is expecting, she goes on a long journey to her relative Elizabeth's house. It is a long journey and she may have been tempted to give up and quit. But with God's help she persevered and found joy.

DECEMBER 30th: First Sunday after Christmas Day
SCRIPTURES: 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26 *Luke 2:41-52
SERMON TITLE: ðJesus Grows Upö
THEME: It is much simpler for us to love Jesus as a baby. A baby is cute and cuddly. Babies can't yet talk for themselves so we can "translate" for them and say anything we want. But Jesus grew up and we must also grow up and mature as Christians.

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Phone: 304-622-6831
 Fax: 304-623-1611
 Web: www.clarksburgfpc.org

Church Staff

PASTOR

Rev. John F. Koerner
 209 Ohio Avenue
 Nutter Fort, WV 26301
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SESSION

Rebecca Alvaro, Clerk
 Sally Gray, Asst. Clerk

PARISH ASSOCIATE

Rev. Charla Waters Koerner

CHURCH SECRETARY

Terri Harris
TerriHFPCSec@yahoo.com

OFFICE VOLUNTEER

Elsa Davis
Elsadavis59@gmail.com

EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Terra M. Burnett
angeleyes11_77@hotmail.com

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Jeanne Harris
Jagapelove50@gmail.com

ORGANIST

Dr. Mary Kay Devono

CHURCH TREASURERS

Wayne J. Northey / Jenna Bennett
 Chuck Leuliette / Dave Allman

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Isabella Keller



Treasurer's Report

NET CASH FLOW - SEPT	2017	2018
INCOME	\$163,765	\$165,340
EXPENSES	\$155,384	\$152,415
NET INCOME	\$8,381	\$12,925

Activities & Meetings for

DEACON MEETING ó December 11th @ 5:00

SESSION MEETING ó December, 11th @ 5:30

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/WORSHIP COMMITTEE ó Sunday, December 16th

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE MEETING- AFTER CHURCH DECEMBER 23rd

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING- TUESDAY DECEMBER 6th @ 6:00

PRAYER GROUP ó Monday Mornings at 10:00

BIBLE STUDY ó Wednesdays at 6:30

Pastor John's Jottings . . . I'll Be Home For Christmas

One of the most popular songs at Christmas was written by lyricist Kim Gannon and composer Walter Kent. The song, "I'll Be Home for Christmas" was made famous by singer Bing Crosby.

The song was written from the point of view of a soldier stationed overseas during World War II. He is writing a letter home to his family. You remember the words.

I'll be home for Christmas

You can count on me

Please have snow

And mistletoe

And presents 'neath the tree

Christmas eve will find me

Where the love light gleams

I'll be home for Christmas

If only in my dreams

You don't have to be stationed overseas or be a soldier for this song to pull at you. It uncovers something deep inside of us that longs for the comfort and safety of home. It speaks to our desire to truly belong, to be assured of our place and our value.

Many of us can't go back to the home where we grew up because the people who made it home are no longer living. Yet the desire still pulls at us. Perhaps this explains the reason so many people will visit the church on Christmas Eve. If they can't be physically home, they want to at least be spiritually home.

Indeed this is fitting. St. Augustine prayed, "Our hearts are restless, O God, until they rest in thee." For much of the year, we modern people are so busy going and doing and striving. Our busyness may keep us from examining what it is that we really crave down deep inside. But for most people there is a pause at Christmas. For some of us the pause does not get there until Christmas Eve, or maybe even later. But when we do pause, we become aware of our aching need and longing to spiritually be at home with God. Nowhere else can we be as sure that we belong, that we are loved unconditionally, that we are of infinite value and importance.

If you haven't been to church for awhile, I hope that we will see you here at "home" for Christmas. Come as you are and invite everyone you meet to come with you! Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 11:00 p.m.

I'll be home for Christmas and I will see you there. Yes?!

Hope and Confidence,

Pastor John

Wednesday Night Bible Class

Join us on Wednesday nights with Pastor John. We gather at 6 for social time, with a lesson beginning at 6:30. Currently we are studying the Book of Acts.

McClelland-Parlor Class invites you to attend Sunday School Class taught by Wayne Northey on Sunday mornings at 9:30. We spend a little time in fellowship with the lesson starting at 9:45 and continuing until 10:30. Currently we are studying the synoptic gospels.

Monday Morning Prayer Group

We invite you to join us at 10:00 to a relaxed and friendly meeting to lift up the prayers and praises of our church and our members, their families and friends, our community, and ourselves.

First Presbyterian Church

Session Highlights Tuesday, November 13, 2018 5:30 p.m.

-The session has decided to engage Rev. Bruce Steven to do some church coaching with us in regards to the goals set during our last meeting. We are obligated for any particular time frame. We will try this a couple of months and see where we are.

-Jeff announced that we already have one work camp for next summer.

-We have formed a new communications committee and a new visitation committee.

-We received a suggestion that we make a place for prayer requests in our Little Library box in the green space. The session and deacons agree that this is a good suggestions and we will do so.

-We will be doing annual reviews with our church staff this next month.

-Our annual Stewardship Dedication Sunday will be Nov. 18th. Special thanks to Byron for the stewardship letter.

-Front wooden doors of the church have been given another clear coat and had brass kick plates installed. We may need to do some refurbishing of the doors next summer.

-Bryon Delawder will be our commissioner to Presbytery on Nov. 15th.

-New officers will be installed on Jan. 6th.

-We have been agreed to host Presbytery work day again, Feb. 2. Robin Ray from Bridgeport will be in charge. We are just providing a gathering spot.

-Scottish Heritage Society would meet here in December, the date has not yet been set.

-Amy Strange has agreed to head up our Christmas dinner delivery mission. The session is very appreciative of her and of all those who volunteer for this great ministry!

-For next year, the session will be studying a book entitled, "Canoeing the Mountains" by Tod Bolsinger. The church will purchase the books, session members can reimburse the church \$20 if they chose.

Pastor's Report:

hospital visits: 3 **Other significant Pastoral visits:** 18

Funerals: 10-25-18 Carol Ann Soles - internment Grafton National Cemetery

Sacrament of Communion: Was celebrated on Oct. 7 and served to _____ people.

Home communion was served in October with the help of elder Connie Leuliette to 10 people.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund 2018

August	8	8	\$	508.00	\$	508.00
September	7	7	\$	443.25	\$	443.25
October	8	8	\$	520.00	\$	520.00
TOTALS	112	112	\$	7314.83	\$	7314.83

Pastorø Emergency Fund

For many years First Church-Clarksburg has provided its pastors a separate fund for assisting needy members of the community with food, utility and clothing assistance. This worthy extension of our ministry continues with Pastor John determining how best to disburse available funds. Approved requests are forwarded to the church treasurer and checks are disbursed directly to the utility company, grocery store, etc.

If you wish to contribute to the Pastorø Emergency Fund, you are welcomed to include your check in the offering plate. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and mark "Pastorø Fund" in the note section.

Year-End Contributions

Federal tax regulations specify that "...ordinarily, a contribution is made at the time delivery is effected." This means a check dated December 31, 2018 but dropped in the offering plate during January of 2019 is deductible only on the donor's 2018 federal tax return. Exception: a check mailed and postmarked in 2018 may be deducted in 2018 even though the church may not receive it until 2019.

In order to comply with these rules, the church office will "close" 2018 contributions at midnight, December 31, 2018 unless subsequently received in the mail with a 2018 postmark. Your understanding is appreciated.

What is Per Capita?

Per capita is a way for each Presbyterian to share in the administrative expenses of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. We send WV Presbytery the per capita (\$29.50 for 2018) for every member on the active role the prior year (159 as of December 31, 2017).

Approximately 65% (\$19.47) stays in WV Presbytery to cover such things as office expenses and programming committee expenses. Approximately 10% (\$2.30) is forwarded to the Synod of the Trinity and the remainder (\$7.73) goes to General Assembly.

Generally roughly one-quarter of our members send the church an extra amount specifically identified for per capita. If you are willing and financially able, an extra \$29.50 would help. Thank you.

One Check (if you prefer)

Members are reminded that payments to the church may be combined on one check. For instance, you may consolidate your pledge with a gift to the Christmas Joy Offering or the Pastorø Emergency Fund. Or two weekly pledges may be included on one check. Simply indicate how much is to go to each fund.

Donor Statements

Donations to the church are recorded continuously and are easy to retrieve. If you wish to have a printed copy of your year-to-date contributions or wish to know where you stand on your pledge, please contact church treasurer Wayne Northey or the church office.

Thank you Lance

Lance Kuhens has been hired to work approximately 4 hours per week as our custodian and he has been doing a nice job. Please let Lance know of your appreciation.



Volunteer Schedule

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

December - 2 Terra Burnett
 December - 9 Terra Burnett
 December -16 Terra Burnett
 December -23 Terra Burnett
 December -30 Terra Burnett

WORSHIP LEADERS

December - 2 Dick Ogden
 December - 9 Andrea Myerburg
 December -16 Cantata
 December -23
 December -30 Suzi Heiger

DEACON GREETERS

December - 2 Karen Nickerson
 December - 9 Karen Tyson
 December -16 Ginger Delawder
 December -23 Judith McQuaid
 December -30 Harriett Northey

ACOLYTES

December - 2 Amelia Harris and
 Kierra Harris
 December - 9 Bradley Burnett
 and Quentin Harris
 December -16 Hannah Burnett and
 Gia Corsini
 December -23 Bradley Burnett and
 Anthony Corsini
 December -30 Ashleigh Burnett and
 Hannah Burnett



Reredos Flowers

Dates available:

*December 2nd, 9th, 23rd, 30th
 January 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th*



2 - Lynn Sherlock
 2 - Kathy Langley
 3 - Bill Davisson
 4 - Eric Leuliette
 4 - Rev. Bruce Macbeth
 9 - Bill Pulling
 9 - Edna Merriott
 12 - Bob Hardman
 12 - Susie Saunders
 13 - Brayden Mann
 13 - David Nuzum
 15 - Kathryn Lawrence
 19 - Melissa Phillips
 22 - Steve Goff
 25 - Noelle Woodburn
 27 - Dan Johnson
 29 - Lewis A. Clark
 31 - Jared Nuzum
 31 - Kandy Atkinson



In Special Care Facilities:

Robertta Davis
 Marj Faris
 Carrie Waters
 Sara Graham



*IN OUR THOUGHTS
 & PRAYERS...*

ADKINS, Charles
 FOWLER, Angie
 HEGER, Suzi
 HOLT, Jack
 HOOD, Robbie
 KESLING, Lee
 KUHENS, Eric
 MCCAMMON, Kyle
 MORGAN, Misty & Todd
 MUMMERT, George
 OLDAKER, Kenneth
 OLDAKER, Wilma
 SHIFFRA, Donna
 SHIFFRA, Everett
 SMITH, Donna
 STROMBERG, Rosemary