

The Presbyterian Press

A Publication of the First Presbyterian Church

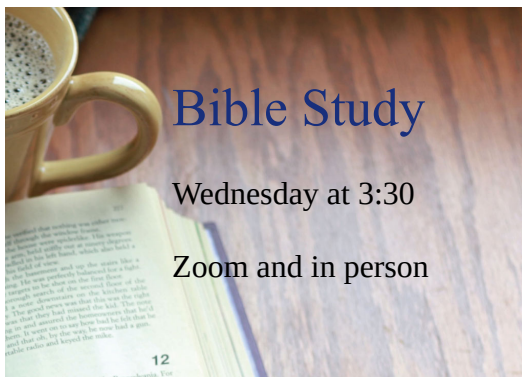
December 2021

What's Coming Up



Winter clothing donations
Winterfest Open House
First Day of Winter (brrr)
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
New Year's Eve

All month
December 4
December 21
Friday, December 24
Saturday, December 25
Friday, December 31



Bible Study

Wednesday at 3:30

Zoom and in person



Monday Prayer Group

10 AM Zoom & in person



New
Baby

Congratulations to Kris and Meghan Burgess on the birth of their daughter, Piper Marie. Piper was born on November 12. She was 7lbs, 10 oz. and 19.5 inches. Proud grandparents are Elsa and Guy Davis. Big sister Addie is also doing well. Praise God!

Congratulations to Isabella and Rebecca Rinehart upon their graduation from the Mountaineer Challenge Academy. They are the granddaughters of Dottie Rinehart





DECEMBER SERMONS AND SCRIPTURES

Advent families

Nov. 28- Burnett Family
Dec. 5- Woodburn Family
Dec. 12- Harris Family
Dec. 19- Morrison Family
Dec. 24-

Dec. 5 2nd Sunday in Advent (Communion)

Scriptures: Malachi 3:1-4
* Luke 3:3-11

Sermon Title: "O God, Help!"

Theme: God is coming to help us. That is the message that runs through our scriptures for this Sunday. In the midst of our failures and our desperation, comes the message that Jesus is coming to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. God is not loving us from a distance. God comes to intervene and to work in our circumstances. Jesus is "God with us!"

Dec. 12 3rd Sunday in Advent

Scriptures: Zephaniah 3:14-20
*Philippians

Sermon Title: "The God of Peace"

Theme: Paul writes that, ". . . the peace of God . . . will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." We all long for peace, especially so at Christmas time. What makes for peace? What breaks your peace?

Dec. 19 4th Sunday in Advent

Scriptures: Micah 5:2-5a
* Luke 1:239-45

Sermon Title: "Is God Disappointed in Us?"

Theme: It is true that God wants more for us and may be disappointed for us. But God is not disappointed in us. In Jesus Christ, God came to live among us. In Christ there is no condemnation.

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Service (Holy Communion)

Pastor Charla preaching 12:30 p.m.
Rev. James A. Harris preaching? 11 p.m.

Dec. 26 1st Sunday after Christmas

Scriptures: Isaiah 61:10-62:3
* Luke 2:41-52

Sermon Title: "Misplaced"

Theme: Joseph and Mary misplaced 12 year-old Jesus and had to go back for him. That must have been embarrassing for them. Also it had to be a great relief to find him and restore him to the family. Many families today have misplaced Jesus in their marriages and in their homes. As a result there is a growing emptiness in their lives. The time to seek Jesus is now. For he has promised that those who seek him, will find him.

John's Jottings



In December our hearts turn to Christmas. It is a special time of year. At Christmas time, people are more generous, kinder, and more open to the workings of God. At Christmas time, the world moves just a little bit closer to realizing the dream of God's kingdom among us.

There is a wonderful story told by Lee Barry that fits this time of year.

A certain young couple began their marriage full of hope and anticipation. They were happy, with good jobs, a nice home, and a loving relationship. In time, they celebrated the birth of their first child. Life seemed rich and complete. They were a beautiful family.

Then the unthinkable happened. The beautiful baby who had filled their own lives with so much joy died. Their lives, once so joyful and rich, became empty and pain-filled.

It all seemed so hopeless until a simple knock on their door changed their lives forever. There at the door stood a Native man holding a small baby. He reached forward, handing the child to the couple. "Here, this baby is for you," he said and then he left. It was an unspeakable gift. A young Native mother had given her own baby to fill the lives of the grieving couple. Native people in that part of the world call it custom adoption. ("Dynamic Preaching Magazine", December 2021, pg. 75).

I first read this story with mixed feelings. It is a heart warming story. But I couldn't help but think that a young mother giving up her baby to another couple, just because they were hurting, is completely outside our culture norms. What mother would be willing to do something like that?

That is when it struck me that God did the same thing for us with his son, Jesus. Jesus was and is God's gift to us because we were hurting and lost. On one level, it still doesn't seem possible. But scripture confirms that is exactly what God did that first Christmas. He gave baby Jesus into our keeping so that our lives might be full and complete.

Thank you God!

Hope and Confidence and Peace,

Pastor John





First Presbyterian Church

Session Highlights

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 5:30 p.m.

- Treasurer's report was received showing a positive balance of \$17,531.04 above budget. A big thank you to all of you for your generous support of the work of Jesus Christ!
- Work camps committee is still looking for a new coordinator of work camps.
- Children of the church will lead worship on the first Sunday of Advent, November 28th.

- Like last year we will get families to light the advent candles and do the children's time.
- Christmas Eve services will be 12:30 in the afternoon and 11 p.m. Holy Communion will be served at both services.
- The CE committee reported approving one college scholarship for \$1,000.00.
- Jeep and Janet Wilson have graciously volunteered to organize the serving of hot chocolate for the Christmas Parade on Dec. 3rd.
- We will have an open house from 2-3 in the afternoon at the church during the city's Winter Fest celebration on Dec. 4th.
- The Personnel Committee reports that annual reviews have been completed with all of the church staff.
- Tiles in lower hallway are breaking and coming unglued. Jeff Mitchell is gathering estimates on new flooring.
- The property committee is also working on several other items including new heat tapes for down spouts on Second Street side, new doors on Second Street side, repairing damage to walls in McClelland two.
- The Youth Group is helping with putting together hygiene kits for distribution to the schools.
- The Laundromat ministry is seeing a rise in the number of people coming for this service.
- Jeanne Harris was given permission to use Westminster Hall for her family Thanksgiving dinner. She will not be doing any cooking here, just serving the meal.
- Approved Pastor's vacation dates Dec. 27 through Jan 1st. Jan. 1 is the Sunday.

Pastor's Report:

Hospital visits: 0 **Other significant Pastoral visits:** 20 most by phone

Weddings 11-6-21 Michael Patrick Hunt Jr. and Cassandra Alexis Todd

No baptisms or Funerals

Sacrament of Communion: Was celebrated on November 7 and served to 29 people.

Home communion was served to 5 people with the help of elder Connie Leuliette.

Session Highlights (cont)

Pastor's Discretionary Fund 2021 -

MONTH	REQUESTS	COMPLETED	AMT PLEDGED	AMT DISBURSED
August	17	17	\$1700.00	\$1,700.00
September	8	8	\$814.55	\$814.55
October	4	4	\$350.00	\$350.00
			Total	\$5532.20

Treasurer's Report

	Jan to Oct'21	Budget	% of Budget
Total Expense	\$140,577.63	\$174,779.00	80.40%
Net Ordinary I/C	\$17,531.04	-\$5,579.00	-314.20%
Net Income	\$17,531.04	-\$5,579.00	-314.20%

Join us for a Merry Little Christmas dinner following the worship service on December 19. We'll have good things to eat and enjoy the season together as a church family.

Please RSVP by December 5 by calling the church office at 304-622-6831 or returning this slip in the offering plate. Let's share the joy of Christmas together.

Name: _____

Number of people: _____



Kathy Langley	December 2
Lynn Sherlock	December 2
Bill Davisson	December 3
Eric Leuliette	December 4
Rev. Bruce Macbeth	December 4
Edna Merriott	December 9
Robert Hardman	December 12
Susie Saunders	December 12
David Nuzum	December 13
Steve Goff	December 22
Noelle Woodburn	December 25
Daniel Johnson	December 27
Lewis Clark	December 29
Kandy Atkinson	December 31
Jared Nuzum	December 31



OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
 Phone: 304-622-6831
 Fax: 304-622-6831
www.clarksburfpc.org

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Rev. John F. Koerner
 209 Ohio Ave.
 Nutter Fort, WV 26301
 Phone: 304-534-2324
johnkoerner75@yahoo.com

PARISH ASSOCIATES

Rev. Charla Waters Koerner
 Rev. James A. Harris

SESSION

Jenna Bennett, Clerk
 Ginger Delawder, Asst. Clerk

OFFICE VOLUNTEER

Elsa Davis
Elsadavis59@gmail.com

EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Terra M. Burnett
angeleyes11_77@hotmail.com

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Jeanne Harris
 Phone: 304-669-9191
Jagapelove50@gmail.com

ORGANIST

Dr. Mary Kay Devono

CHURCH TREASURERS

Wayne Northy Jenna Bennett
 Chuck Leuliette Dave Allman

Nursery Attendant

Ashleigh Burnett

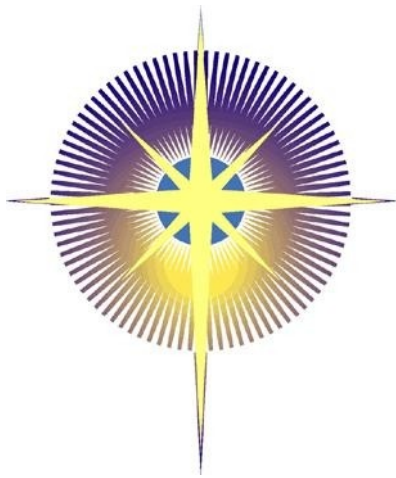
Church Secretary

Cathy Libert
CburgFPCSecretary@yahoo.com

VOLUNTEERS FOR DECEMBER

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

December 5-Woodburn family
December 12-Harris family
December 19-Morrison family
December 24-
December 26-Terra Burnett



WORSHIP LEADERS

December 5- Bryon Delawder
December 12- Jeanne Harris
December 19- Jeff Mitchell
December 24- James Harris
December 26- Dick Ogden

DEACON GREETERS

December 5- Amy Strange
December 12- Kandy Atkinson
December 19- Pam Mitchell
December 24-
December 26- Amy Strange



ACOLYTES

December 5- Hannah Burnett and Noelle Woodburn
December 12- Amelia and Kierra Harris
December 19- Bradley and Hannah Burnett
December 24- Bradley and Hannah Burnett
December 26- Bradley and Hannah Burnett