

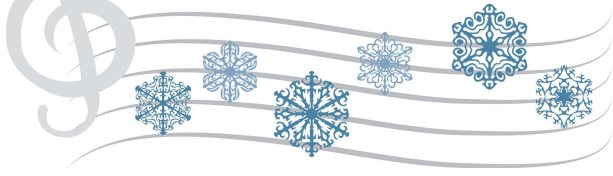


Presbyterian Press

A Publication of the First Presbyterian Church

December 2019

CHRISTMAS CANTATA



It's that time of year and the children's and adult choirs are working hard on their Christmas Cantata, "The Unfriendly Beasts". We encourage all families to set aside December 22nd to come and support them. Invite your families, neighbors and friends. There's nothing like hearing the children sing and seeing the joy on their faces as they await the coming of the baby Jesus. It is not too late to get involved, let me know if you are interested in singing with us or would like to help us the day of the program as the kids perform. O come to the manger and celebrate His birth!

-Jeanne Harris



Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve – Half Day
Wednesday, December 25
Christmas
Wednesday, December 31
New Year's Eve – Half Day

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Sunday Worship

Church School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:45 a.m.

Live on WPDX Radio,
109.4 FM or 750 AM

COFFEE HOUR

We are still looking for volunteers to help with coffee hour on Sundays.

If you are able to help out, please let Kandy Atkinson know. You can leave a message for her at 304-622-0174. Thank you!



Christmas Dinner



Amy Strange is heading up the ministry for the annual Christmas Dinner. She is requesting the following donations / volunteer assistance throughout the month of December:

- December 1st – Christmas Cards
- December 22nd – Christmas Meal for Congregation
Cookies and Baked Goods
- December 24th – Turkeys
Gravy
- December 25th – 9 a.m. - ??? (prepare food)
10 a.m. - ??? (deliver meals)

ADVENT WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 1st

We will have lunch and crafts following the worship service.



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES



College addresses and any donations for the College Care Packages need to be submitted to Terra Burnett by December 1st.

CLARKSBURG CHRISTMAS PARADE

On Friday, December 6th we will be providing hot chocolate during the Christmas Parade. If you'd like to help, please contact Amy Wilson Strange.



After church Sunday, December 22nd the children and youth will help with packaging items for the Community Christmas Dinner

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11pm on Tuesday, December 24th. Pastor Charla Waters Koerner will be preaching the message.



CHRISTMAS MAGNETS

Please see your deacon or visit us in Westminster Hall following church services to purchase your 'KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS' magnet for your vehicles to show Clarksburg your Faith during this Holy Season. The cost is \$4 each. There are only a few remaining!



ADVENT WREATH

We are in need of families/friends to light the Advent Wreath on Dec 8, 15, 22, and 24. If you are interested in doing this, please contact Beckie Alvaro at 304-838-1080.



Food Collection

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOOD BACKPACKS

After the collections finish for the Christmas dinner, we will be collecting items through January for the food backpack program at Nutter Fort Elementary. Items needed include pudding, juice boxes, microwaveable mac-n-cheese and pasta, crackers, ramen noodles, fruit cups, fruit snack, applesauce, etc.

Children receive a backpack of food for weekends and breaks. There are approximately 200 children receiving these backpacks each weekend.

Puzzle!

Unscramble the Christmas-themed words below, writing each extra letter on the blank to the right. Then place those extra letters in the correct spots below to discover what we receive at Christmas.



1. TGLBEHHEME _____
2. NEAGLO _____
3. NRMEDAG _____
4. ODEKSNY _____
5. AMGYR _____
6. OHESJIP _____
7. EFJUUS _____
8. ITEENMSW _____
9. SPHHDSREEO _____
10. EMCFAL _____
11. TLSRA _____
12. CSSNUEO _____
13. HEVSPE _____
14. ENIN _____

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14

Answers: Bethlehem (G), angel (O), manger (D), donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), wise men (T), shepherds (O), camel (F), star (L), census (O), sheep (V), inn (E), God's gift of love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

December 1 1st Sunday in Advent (Communion)

SCRIPTURES: *Isaiah 2:1-5

Matthew 24:36-44

SERMON TITLE: "A Vision of Hope"

THEME: When we are feeling down and defeated, we need a vision of hope to keep going. In spite of all our modern advances and technology, we still don't know how to eliminate war, establish world peace, and live in harmony with one another. Isaiah shows us a vision of hope. He shows us a vision of things that only God can do.

December 8 2nd Sunday in Advent

SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 11:1-10

*Romans 15:4-13

SERMON TITLE: "People of the Book"

THEME: Paul writes, "Whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction so that we could have hope through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures." We will take this opportunity to look at the role that scripture plays in our lives and in the life of the church.

December 15 3rd Sunday in Advent

SCRIPTURES: *Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-11

SERMON TITLE: "A Song of Hope"

THEME: Our passage from Isaiah is about the songs of joy that God's people will be singing when he brings Israelite captives and refugees home from foreign countries. It is an appropriate theme for Advent, for the remembering of Jesus the Christ coming to bring us home to God. The songs we sing at Advent and Christmas are songs full of both hope and joy.

December 22nd 4th Sunday in Advent

Christmas Cantata

December 24th Christmas Eve Service (11 p.m.)

Pastor Charla Preaching

December 29th First Sunday after Christmas Day

SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 63:7-9

*Matthew 2:13-23

SERMON TITLE: "Gift Return?"

THEME: Christmas Day has passed and many experience a tremendous let down. We had such hope that this year, Christmas would live up to the all the hype about joy and singing and love and peace. But now the everyday has returned and we have to live in the real world. We find hope in the message that Jesus too had to live in the real world. He could barely walk when his family was forced to flee to Egypt because Herod was killing all the babies. Whatever we are enduring in this life, Jesus has been through this too. Whatever we are enduring, Jesus has promised to walk through it with us. God has not promised us freedom from suffering, but rather the ability to endure and to find hope, joy, love, and peace even in the midst of suffering.

Office Hours

Monday-Friday

9:00am to 2:00 pm

Phone: 304-622-6831

Fax: 304-622-6831

www.clarksburgfpc.org

Church Staff

PASTOR

Rev. John F. Koerner

209 Ohio Avenue

Nutter Fort, WV 26301

Phone: 304-534-2324

johnkoerner75@yahoo.com

SESSION

Rebecca Alvaro, Clerk

Connie Leuliette, Asst.

Clerk

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Koerner

Rev. James A. Harris

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Dr. Mary Kay Devono

CHURCH TREASURERS

Wayne Northey

Jenna Bennett

Chuck Leuliette

Dave Allman

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Ashleigh Burnett

ODDS AND ENDS FROM THE CHURCH TREASURER

Pastor's 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 Pastor's Emergency Fund, you are welcomed to include your check in the offering plate. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and mark "Pastor's 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, 2019 but dropped in the offering plate during January of 2020 is deductible only on the donor's 2020 federal tax return. Exception: a check mailed and postmarked in 2019 may be deducted in 2019 even though the church may not receive it until 2020. 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 2019 ; \$30.00 for 2020) for every member on the active role the prior year.

Approximately 65% stays in WV Presbytery to cover such things as office expenses and programming committee expenses. Approximately 10% is forwarded to the Synod of the Trinity and the remainder 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, it would be welcomed. 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 Pastor's 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 5 hours per week as our custodian and he has been doing a nice job. Please let Lance know of your appreciation.

2019 Financial Picture Looking Favorable With two months remaining in the calendar year, the church's financial picture suggests we will "break even" or end slightly on the positive side. Thank you for your commitment to God's work.

TREASURERS REPORT



Net Cash Flow-October	2018	2019
Income	\$165,340	\$155,447
Expenses	\$152,415	\$143,880
Net Income	\$ 12,925	\$ 11,567



PASTOR JOHN'S JOTTINGS

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:20-21)

The four weeks leading up to Christmas Day are known in the church as Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. It is a time to get ready to receive the wonderful gift that God is about to give us.

Admittedly, most of us are not that fond of waiting. We don't like being in the waiting room at the doctor's office. We don't like waiting for the results of the medical test to come back. We don't like waiting to see if we got the new job or the big promotion. Waiting can be difficult.

However, waiting is a part of life and it is a part of a Christian's life. Have you ever wondered why God delayed telling Joseph about Mary's pregnancy? Likely their parents had arranged for Joseph and Mary to get married when they were still children. That was the way it was done in those days. Then when they were old enough to get married, they still had to go through a year of being engaged before the actual marriage.

Matthew tells us the story from Joseph's perspective. Joseph had known for all of his growing up years that he was going to marry Mary. At any time along the way, God could have told Joseph about what was coming. But it was not until Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant from other sources that God acted. Mary's pregnancy was a crisis point for Joseph. He had to decide what to do. He could have publicly denounced her and turned her over to the law, which might well have resulted in her being stoned to death. Instead he decided to quietly divorce her. Only then did God reveal his plan. He wanted Joseph to go ahead and marry Mary and raise the baby as his own. The angel explained that Mary was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit, she had not committed adultery. It was all part of the plan.

Joseph's story reminds us that God always goes before us setting things in place for his plan. When we are in the waiting rooms of life, things often feel out of control. These are crisis of faith times for us. While things may be out of our control, they are not out of God's control. Our job in those times is to not panic and think that we have to solve everything ourselves. Our job is to remain focused on God and trust that God will provide the answers when the time is right. Our job is to accept God's peace and stay faithful while we wait.

When God does reveal his answer to us, our faithful response is to obey. God told Joseph to go ahead and marry Mary, and Joseph did.

I'm reminded of the story from the December issue of Dynamic Preaching of the sky diving instructor. He told his students that when it was their turn, they were to roll out of the door, grab onto the bar, and then wait for his signal to let go. He said, “When I tap you on the helmet, it is time to let go. And when I do, that is **not** the time to start a conversation with me. I don't want this to be like: ‘Who me?’ ‘Yes, you.’ ‘Let go?’ ‘Yes!’ ‘Now?’ ‘Yes, now!’”

When in the waiting room of life, our job is to trust God and stay faithful. When God reveals his plan, our job is let go of our other plans and obey.

Hope and Confidence,

John

First Presbyterian Church

Session Highlights

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 5:30 p.m.

- Approved engaging in a Facebook program with John Fong. The program is free for the first month.
- Amy Strange and other volunteers will be serving a free meal on Wednesday nights.
- Annual staff reviews will take place on December 3rd.
- Invited Lou Ortenzio from the Mission to give short presentation during worship this Sunday.
- Approved giving \$500.00 to the Clarksburg Mission.
- Budget committee meeting after church on December 8th.
- Approved motion to give away piano in McClelland II.
- Beckie Alvaro will be our commissioner to Presbytery on November 21, 2019 at Teays Valley Presbyterian Church.
- A.E.D. Automatic Emergency Defibrillator has arrived and been installed. It will be dedicated in memory of Walt Bomhoff an upcoming Sunday. Lynn Sherlock will be doing a short training service so that people will feel comfortable using it if it is needed. We will also pay the \$35 fee for anyone who would like to take the four hour course and be certified in CPR.
- We have approved hosting a Presbytery work day on February 1st.

Pastor's Report:

hospital visits: 1 **Other significant Pastoral visits:** 25

Funerals: 11-10-19 Marjorie Faris, burial at Bridgeport Cemetery.

Baptisms: 10-20-19 Alexandria James Mitchell, (d.o.b. 10-16-18)
daughter of Robbie and Sarah Mitchell.

10-27-19 Hunter Matthew Merriott (d.o.b. 7-7-19)
son of Edna Merriott.

11-17-19 Molly Paige Hugus, (d.o.b. 5-21-09)
daughter of April Nicole (Dean) Leuliette and David Lee Hugus II.

Weddings: 10-26-19 Curtis Sherman McGriff & Dianne Marie Keller were united in marriage in the church sanctuary.

Sacrament of Communion: Was celebrated on November 3 and served to 56 people.

Home communion was served in October to 5 people and in November to 6 people with the help of Elder Connie Leuliette.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund 2019

MONTH	REQUESTS	COMPLETED	AMT PLEDGED	AMT DISBURSED
January	6	6	\$ 395.53	\$ 395.53
February	5	5	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
March	3	3	\$ 220.00	\$ 220.00
April	4	4	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
May	10	10	\$ 788.74	\$ 788.74
June	9	9	\$ 1,109.27	\$ 1,109.27
July	18	16	\$ 1,449.29	\$ 1,349.29
August	8	7	\$ 738.24	\$ 646.13
September	9	9	\$ 835.77	\$ 835.77
October	4	4	\$ 460.93	\$ 460.93
November	3	3	\$ 257.00	\$ 257.00
TOTALS	88	87	\$ 8,073.04	\$ 7,980.93



Children's Moments

- December 1st – Terra Burnett
- December 8th – Terra Burnett
- December 15th – Pam Mitchell
- December 22nd – Terra Burnett
- December 29th – Terra Burnett

Worship Leaders

- December 1st – Dick Ogden
- December 8th – Ginger Delawder
- December 15th – Connie Leuliette
- December 22nd – Suzi Heger
- December 29th – William Mick

Deacon Greeters

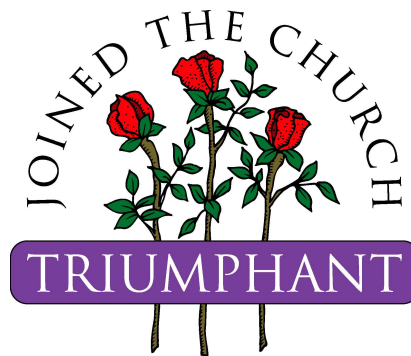
- December 1st – Dottie Rinehart
- December 8th – Andrea Myerburg
- December 15th – Jeanne Lynch
- December 22nd – Karen Tyson
- December 24th – Judy McQuaid
- December 29th – Harriett Northey

Acolytes

- December 1st – Hannah Burnett, Gia Corsini, and Molly Hugus
- December 8th – Bradley Burnett and Anderson Mitchell
- December 15th – Amelia Harris and Kierra Harris
- December 22nd – Hannah Burnett, Gia Corsini, and Molly Hugus
- December 29th – Bradley Burnett and Anthony Corsini

- 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 - 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

- Charles Adkins
- Sarah Arnold
- Eddie Cox
- Jeremy F Cox
- Debbie Cunningham
- Angie Fowler
- Yvonne Gump
- Derek Hardman
- Bob & Janice Hardman
- Jack Holt
- Robbie Hood
- Eric Kuhens
- Doug Linton
- Doug Maatman
- Nora McClean
- Jim McQuaid
- John Michome
- Jillian Mick
- Nickolas Nardone
- Kenneth Oldaker
- Wilma Oldaker
- Susan Orr (Carole's Sister)
- Amy Pack
- Delores Preston
- Joey Rogers
- Susie Saunders
- Everett Shiffra
- Melanie Simmons
- Bonnie Smith
- Chuck Smith
- Donna Smith
- Karen Tyson
- John Wamsley
- Jennifer Wetzal



**Marjorie "Marj" Faris
November 22, 1928 - November 5, 2019**

Reredos Flowers



Dates Available:

January 12, 19, 26

December 2019






First Presbyterian Church

175 W. Main St.
Clarksburg, WV 26301

Broadcast Live on WPDJ radio,
104.9 FM and 750 AM



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Lunch and Advent Workshop Property Committee Meeting After Church 1st Sunday of Advent	2 Prayer Group 10:00	3	4 Bible Study 6:30	5	6 AA Meeting Noon Clarksburg Christmas Parade 6:00	7
8 Budget Committee Meeting After Church 2nd Sunday of Advent	9 Prayer Group 10:00	10 Deacon Meeting 4:30 Session Meeting 5:30	11 Bible Study 6:30	12	13 AA Meeting Noon	14
15 A.E.D. Training After Church 3rd Sunday of Advent	16 Prayer Group 10:00	17	18 Bible Study 6:30	19 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	20 AA Meeting Noon	21 Worship & CE Meeting 9:30 Christmas Cantata Practice 10:00
22 Congregation Christmas Dinner <i>Christmas Joy Offering</i> 4th Sunday of Advent 	23	24 Candlelight Service 11 pm Church Office Closes Early – Half Day Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas Dinner Outreach 8am-noon Church Office Closed Christmas Day 	26	27 AA Meeting Noon	28
29 Communication Committee Meeting After Church 1st Sunday of Christmas	30	31  Church Office Closes Early – Half Day New Year's Eve	1	2	3	4
5	6	Notes We are looking for volunteers to cook for the Christmas Dinner Outreach on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and to serve Dinner on Christmas Day. Please let Pastor John or Amy Wilson strange know if you can help.				