

December 2016

Meeting House News

First Presbyterian Church
On the Square
2A North Hanover Street
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013



The Reverend Anthony D. Lorenz, Pastor
Debby Madden, Director of Educational Ministry
The Rev. Jon A. Black, Pastor Emeritus
Arthur Thompson, Organist
Susan Shuey, Choir Director
Avis Allen, Administrative Secretary
Michael Stamey, Sexton

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December

Pastor's Corner

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**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS**

You are invited to read and listen to daily Advent devotionals provided by the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary community. Go to the site directly at: www.pts.edu/devotional or link to it from our church website (under "Resources") The journey begins Nov. 27!



**SOUP
FOR
S.H.A.R.E.**

Can't make it to church? Listen to weekly sermons and keep abreast of all church news at:

www.firstprescarlisle.org

"Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" (Psalm 27:14)

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

I've spent more time in the waiting rooms of doctor's offices this year than in the past ten years combined. Thankfully, I am completely recovered from my concussion and vision problems. But all that time spent in waiting rooms has made me think. We spend a lot of time waiting in our lives. We wait in traffic, in line at the grocery store, at the doctor's office, for test results, for visitors to arrive, and so much more.

Sometimes I'm good at waiting. And sometimes I get rather impatient. I suspect that is the case with most people. We rarely know how long the wait will be. Why is there only one check-out lane open? Will they offer me that new job? What will the test results say?

As people of faith we are called to wait upon God. The Psalmist writes, "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" But waiting for God, in my experience, isn't any easier than waiting at the doctor's office.

We hear God's promises made to us in scripture. Promises of peace and joy, light and life, a coming kingdom where there is no more pain or suffering. We know God's promises are fulfilled in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we are still waiting, waiting for Jesus to come again and make all things new.

That's what Advent is all about. We remember God's promises, we anticipate Christ's second coming as we celebrate His birth in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago. And if you're a little impatient, then I think you're in good company. Consider the years Abraham and Sarah spent waiting for a child. What about the years Joseph spent in jail before rising through the ranks in Egypt and eventually saving his family from starvation? And think of the prophets who longed for the Messiah to come and save God's people.

So how is your waiting? How will you wait for Christmas this year? Waiting can fill us with anxiety or it can fill us with hope. Waiting can crush us or it can lead us to a bright new horizon. Wait for the LORD, the Psalmist says, for in the LORD are righteousness and strength. And may we be able to declare with the Psalmist, "I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living" (Psalm 27:13).

Yours very truly in Christ,
Pastor Tony Lorenz

MEET OUR NEW CHURCH OFFICERS – CLASS OF 2019

Thanks to the Nominating Comm: Deb Ryerson (ch); Dick Sommers; Lynda Mann; Nancy Jacoby; Melissa Sheperd, Bill Gottlieb
ELDERS:

Barbara Allen

I have been involved with First Church since 1955 when my family moved here from New Jersey. I have two sisters, Judy & Sue, a brother-in-law Steve, two nephews Jon and Charlie, and a niece-in-law Suzanne. I am a retired teacher who lives in a 200 year old house, collects antiques, has been known to read a book or two & enjoys gardening, cross-stitching & teaching Sunday school. I have served as a Deacon & as a member of the Lenten Lunch Committee & the Education Committee. I work at Maranatha, & in my spare time at Samaritan Fellowship & the Bookery. I am a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, AAUW, Newcomers Club, the Friends of Bosler Library Board & two book clubs.

Lynda Mann

I sing in the church choir and have served on the Board of Deacons from 2009 thru 2014. In 2014 I served as moderator. I am employed with the Cumberland County Historical Society as the Programming and Membership Coordinator. My primary role is to plan and implement with staff and volunteers various fundraising activities including special events, bus trips, programs and special holiday events. When I'm not at work I love spending time outdoors. I love hiking, horseback riding, and working in my yard, but most of all I love spending time with my grandchildren and my dog Norman.

Tom Sheperd

I am an active duty Army officer assigned to the War College where I teach multiple courses on strategy, policy and Africa. I also head the College's regional studies program. I am a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the University of Florida & the Army War College. My wife, Melissa, & I, along with our children, Katie, David, & Sarah have been attending First Presbyterian since arriving in Carlisle from Africa in the summer of 2008. I have been a member of this church since 2010.

Richard Sommers

I have worshipped at First Church since moving here from Illinois in 1970. Its history - so central to our community, so significant to our country - appeals to me as a historian. Along with many other members who love our church's history, I have enjoyed contributing to its 250th and 275th anniversaries. After serving 43+ years at the Army Heritage & Education Center, I retired as its Senior Historian in 2014. I still teach one course at the Army War College. Writing & speaking on the Civil War keep Tracy & I well occupied even in "retirement." A special highlight at First Church came on June 25, 2011, when she & I were married here. I have served on Session, 1983-85 & 2005-10, & as Clerk, 2006-10. I look forward to again serving Christ's Church through First Church.

Charles Thompson

I am a Carlisle native & lifelong member of First Presbyterian. How exotic! By day, I am a reporter for The Patriot-News/PennLive.com, covering state government & other things as needed. I am married to Beth, who is a devout member of St. Pat's but an honorary Presbyterian, & father to Andrew and Sarah. I am a bit of a news junkie, root endlessly for the Buffalo Bills, & with my family am a big fan of Ocean City, NJ. At our church, I served a term as an elder, & currently sing in the choir. My brother Art is our organist.

DEACONS:**Ellen Darr**

I am a retired Speech and Language Therapist from the Capitol Area Intermediate Unit. My husband Dick (who grew up in Carlisle) & I live on Graham Street in a home we built on the old Lamberton School site. We have one living son Russell, who lives in northern New York with his wife Jan and our grandchildren: Adam, 24; Aaron, 22; & Hannah, 20. Our oldest son's widow, Sherry, lives in Bangor, PA with our grandson Elliot, 20. I have previously served a term as Deacon from 2007 to 2010, & look forward to serving this next term. I am very involved in genealogy research right now, as well as spending as much time as possible with Dick & our family and friends.

Terry Shull

My husband Jeff & I moved to Carlisle from Yardley, PA, with our four sons in 1998. After visiting several churches, we joined First Presbyterian. My hobbies include sports, reading, spending time with our boys and three dogs. I work at LeTort Elementary School. I look forward to serving as a Deacon.

Susan Shuey

I was a member of Paxton PC for 40+ years, & recently transferred membership to First Presbyterian. I retired this past June after teaching HS choral music for 29 years. I have sung for many years in several area choral groups, including Cantate Carlisle. I'm married to David & have a son, Nathan, a Naval Aviator. We live on a small farm in Newville, & have two horses. I now know why people say they are busier in retirement than when they working... I have a lot to catch up on!

Alice Zimmerman

My husband Earl & I became members of First Church in 2015. I was born and raised in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and after traveling while my husband pursued a military career, we settled in Carlisle in 1995. I have served as a Deacon several times in a previous church. We have one son, Thomas, who also resides in Carlisle, & one grandson, Zachary.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We will adorn our beautiful sanctuary with Christmas poinsettias again this year. If you wish to purchase one (or more), you may use this slip (which will also be included in several worship bulletins) to order yours "in memory of" or "in honor of". A bulletin insert with your dedications will be included in the Dec. 18th worship bulletin. Cost is still **\$9.00**. Please make checks payable to "**Flower Committee, First Presbyterian Church**". Orders and payments must be received **no later than Sunday, Dec. 11th**. Flowers will be in the sanctuary Dec. 18th.

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

BY: _____

Give orders & payments to the church office or mail to Mrs. Joan Line, 2070 Ritner Hwy, Carlisle, PA 17015.
Check one: ☐ I will pick up my flower(s) after the service on Christmas Eve.
☐ I will leave it to be given to a shut-in. ☐ I am willing to deliver one to a shut-in.

Speaking of Flowers...

URGENT PLEA – YOU ARE NEEDED!

We trust that you agree that the beautiful flowers you see each Sunday at worship are an enhancement to our worship experience. To that end, the Flower Committee is seeking people willing to serve on the committee for one month a year. Each new person will be paired with a long-time committee member to guide them in putting service flowers in containers and seeing that they are used to the best of our ability (e.g., to homebound members, those celebrating a special occasion; or just a flower lover). **Please contact Joan Line if you can help.**



HANGING OF THE GREENS

On **Sunday, Nov. 27**, we will decorate our church for the Advent/Christmas season. This year, our Parish Life Committee will host an Advent Luncheon — a Simple Meal of homemade soups, breads & beverages. Please bring a favorite dessert. A sign-up sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall. Our children will enjoy a fun craft time, and we will conclude our fellowship time with a time of prayer.

Make this part of your holiday tradition!

End of Year Giving

All gifts for 2016 much be received by **Sunday, Dec. 25th** in order to be credited for 2016. Gifts received after that date will count for 2017. Perhaps this year has brought unexpected gains and an opportunity to consider an additional year-end contribution which will benefit this year's mission and ministry. Your generosity through 2016 is appreciated as we continue to serve our Lord through this congregation. Thank You. (Finance Committee)

PER CAPITA

If you have not already paid your 2016 per capita, please consider paying it before Dec. 31. The amount is \$25.20 per member. You may use the blue envelope included in your envelopes box and available in the pew racks.

Q: How important is per capita?

A: Per capita is as important as being Presbyterian. It is how Presbyterians:

- * mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future;
- * are trained to become better elders and ministers;
- * discern God's call in their lives;
- * participate in the life of the wider church;
- * participate in the life of the Church universal as we commit ourselves to work and live in fellowship with all persons in every nation.

Every church is apportioned a share of expenses of the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly for ecclesiastical purposes. Based on church membership, it is a "regular expense" payable by each church.

Thank you!

Deacons' Fundraisers & Events

NOTE CARDS & STICKY CLEANERS: You can purchase these fundraiser items at the table in Fellowship Hall after worship.

SOUP MIX: With a nip in the air, it's a great time to make a pot of soup! The Deacons are offering bean soup mix. Pick one up in Fellowship Hall, on the kitchen counter.

SERVICE PROJECT: On **Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 AM—9 PM**, the Deacons (and Friends) will ring The Salvation Army bells at the Point Mall—the mall entrance to the Bon-Ton.

Christmas Fellowship Night**When:** Friday, Dec. 16, 6 PM**What:** A simple meal, followed by a movie, games & ornament-making.**Where:** Fellowship Hall**ALL ARE INVITED!****CHRISTMAS EVE AT FIRST CHURCH****5 PM:** Families/Children's Service, led by Debby Madden. The theme is "On the Road to Bethlehem". Come celebrate the journey made by Mary and Joseph, and perhaps meet some new people along the way.**8 PM:** Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols**"BLUE CHRISTMAS"**
("The Longest Night")

For many, the Christmas season is a time of peace and joy, but others do not experience Christmas that way. For some, celebrating at all is a real struggle as they deal with the pain of losing a loved one, being out of work, or simply being alone at Christmas. The Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service is designed to give a voice to these feelings which are usually suppressed, and to speak a word of hope to all those who long for peace and joy in their lives.

At 6 PM, **Wednesday, December 21st**, we will gather in the sanctuary to remember and pray and hope. This will be a quiet and contemplative service. No offering will be received and there will be a time of fellowship afterwards.

Advent Prayer Partners: Given the hustle & bustle of the Christmas season, time of focus are welcomed! To that end, you are invited to fill out an "Advent Prayer Partner" slip in worship on Nov. 27, and pick up one as you leave, then pray for your partner throughout the season.



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the Warren Lloyd family. Warren joined the Church Triumphant on Monday, Nov. 21st. Our prayers are with Lois and her family.

FINANCE COMMITTEE NOTES

	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Gen'l Fund Support	\$20,784	\$207,002
Investment Income	\$ 156	\$ 15,156
Other	\$ 266	\$ 764
Expenses	(\$24,708)	(\$230,675)

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

On Sunday, Dec. 18, the annual Christmas Joy special offering will be received. For 80+ years, this offering has supported the work of those who have devoted their lives to the mission of the PC (USA), through the *Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions* and to *Presbyterian-affiliated Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges*. More info will be provided in a future bulletin.

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

On Sunday, Nov. 13th, we welcomed the following people into membership at First Presbyterian Church:

— **James & Helen Thompson.** James & Helen have been married 57 years and are parents of member Samantha Gilbert. They reside in Middletown, PA. James spent 47 years in the security and life safety industry. His hobby is writing. Helen is a retired RN. Both have been active in community & church activities. Helen's hobbies include sewing and reading.

— **Bret Thomas & Delaney Sandberg.** Bret & Delaney moved here from NJ and will soon graduate from Shippensburg University (Bret, Dec '16; Delaney, May '17). They are engaged to be married. Both cite the friendly, welcoming congregation as a reason to become members. They are passionate about community service and mission work.

- * **Rita Beck.** Rita comes to us from Big Spring PC, Newville, where she supported her husband Bill as he pastored there for 30+ years. Rita retired in 2013 from her career as an elementary school teacher. She and Bill have one son and two
- * grandsons (4 & 6 years old). Rita's hobbies include camping, caring for grandsons and parents, and knitting & cross-stitching.

**ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT PROJECT SHARE**

Did you know that when you shop on Amazon.com, you can designate Project SHARE (and other charitable organizations) to receive .5% of the price of your eligible purchases? Just go to smile.amazon.com.

**ADULT/YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS DURING ADVENT**

The book Names for the Messiah—An Advent Study by Walter Brueggemann will be used in Sunday School during Advent by our Adults and Youth. The class is led by Pastor Tony and Debby. In a study of Isaiah 9:6 we learn that a divine utterance is given to us using four royal titles —Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. Using this study guide, we will ponder each title and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title. To purchase a book (cost \$7), see Debby. Hope to see you there!

December Birthdays

- 2 Avis Allen
- 4 Janet Clark
Dave Landis
- 8 James Dukes
- 9 Arlene Guerriero
- 15 Kathryn Yeager
- 16 Allison Whitman
- 17 Barb Crum
Tommy Dennison
Richard Tritt
- 19 Lois Lloyd
- 20 Danielle Weiser
Sarah Martin
- 23 Kit Johnston
- 25 Elizabeth Martin
- 27 Sam Whitman
- 28 Jake Hofferica
- 29 Bill Gottlieb
- 31 Madison Ellis



TRUCKSTOP COOKIE MINISTRY

The Deacons invite you to bake some extra Christmas cookies this year to donate to our local truck stops. The Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry reports that in the past two years, 13,000 small bags of cookies have been shared with truckers who are on the road during the holiday season (1,200 of those came from First Church!). So, please place your homemade cookies on the kitchen counter in Fellowship Hall on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 17 & 18. The Deacons will package them after worship on the 18th along with a special note in the spirit of holiday hospitality and concern. *Thank You!*



December Worship Helpers

READERS

Dec. 4: Barb Allen
Dec. 11: Peg Owen
Dec. 18: Dennis Rydberg
Dec. 24 (8 PM): Kara Fetter
Dec. 25: Richard Sommers

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

Nov. 27: Rick & Beth Pitzer
Dec. 4: Bret Thomas & Delaney Sandberg
Dec. 11: Frank & Susan Meehan
Dec. 18: Earl & Alice Zimmerman

USHERS

Dec. 4: Shepherd Family
Dec. 11: Bruce & Anita Ashbaugh; Dick & Ellen Darr
Dec. 18: **XX XX XX XX**
Dec. 24 (5 PM): Heather Thompson Family
Dec. 24 (8 PM): Joe & Molly Shane; Nancy Jacoby; Deb Ryerson
Dec. 25: Jerry & Jenneane Light; Fred Seltzer; Charlie Thompson

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Dec. 4: Frank & Susan Meehan
Dec. 11: Bob & Judie read
Dec. 18: Vicki McLaughlin

COUNTERS

Dec. 4: JJ Patterson; Ron Richcreek; Peg Owen
Dec. 11: Mike Gogoj; Lynne Hofferica
Dec. 18: Richard & Nancy Tritt; Elizabeth Martin
Dec. 25: Jim, Barb & Megan Crum

FLOWERS: Mary Jane Blosser (chair); Barb Rebert; Liz Valle

SERVICE RECORDER: Ray Thomas

COMMUNION PREPARERS & SERVERS (Dec. 25, Intinction):

Servers: Pastor Tony; Joe Shane; Trudy Bailey; JJ Patterson
Preparers: Peggy McKeehen & Peg Owen

If you cannot serve as scheduled, please find a substitute and notify the office so that proper info is provided in the worship bulletin.

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED IN 2016!

Unpack your favorite bell for "bell-ringing"

Sunday. Details will follow!



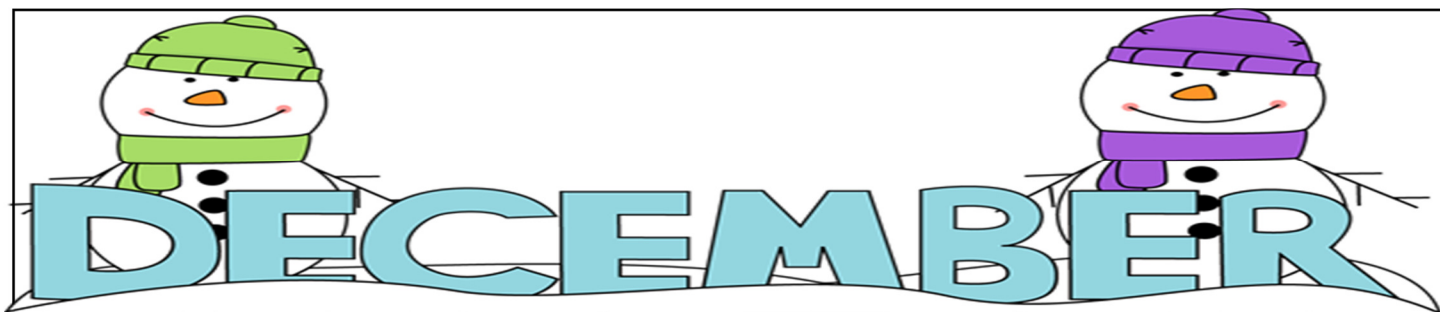
FELLOWSHIP HALL USAGE IN DECEMBER

Dec 8: Hospice Tree-Lighting
Dec. 16: Christmas Fellowship
Dec. 31: First Night Carlisle

RINGING THE KETTLE BELLS

Even if you aren't scheduled to be a Salvation Army bell-ringer on Saturday, Dec. 3 (10 AM—9 PM), the Deacons invite you to stop by to support First Church's efforts to support this worthy charity. Hope to see you at the inside mall entrance to The Bon-Ton.





Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 7 PM: Book Club	2	3 10 AM-9 PM: Bell-ringing for Salva- tion Army (inside mall entrance to Bon- Ton)
4 (Advent 2) 9:15 AM: Prayer 9:30: Educ. Hr 10:45: Worship; ~Fellowship Hr	5 7 PM: Deacons	6 9:30 AM: Carlisle Presbytery meets (Silver Spring)	7 6 PM: Worship Committee 7 PM: Choir	8 7-9 PM: Hospice Tree-lighting on church lawn (Fell. Hall used)	9	10
11 (Advent 3) 9:15 AM: Prayer 9:30: Educ. Hr 10:45: Worship, includes "Peace Rose"	12 7 PM: Session (note date/time change)	13 6:30 PM: Bible Study	14 10:30 AM: Bible Study 1:30 PM: Property Comte 7 PM: Choir	15 7:30 AM: Men's Breakfast (Fairgrounds Diner)	16 6 PM: Christmas Fellowship Night (Fell. Hall) <i>Deadline for items for January newsletter</i>	17
18 (Advent 4) 9:15 AM: Prayer 9:30: Educ Hr 10:45: Worship; Children's Church ("Birthday Party for Jesus") ~ Fellowship Hr	19 2:30 PM: Faith Circle 4 PM: Prayer Community 7 PM: Cantate Carlisle Board Mtg	20	21 Noon: Staff Christmas luncheon 6 PM: Longest Night Service (sanctuary) 7 PM: Choir	22	23	24 5 PM: Children & Family Service 8 PM: Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
25 (He is Born!) 10:45: Worship, with Communion 	26 ~ Office Closed ~ NO MEETINGS THIS WEEK	27	28	29	30	31 Fell. Hall used by First Night Carlisle