

December 2017

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 Reverend Jon A. Black, Pastor Emeritus
Arthur Thompson, Organist
Susan Shuey, Choir Director
Avis Allen, Administrative Secretary
Michael Stamey, Sexton

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Pastor's Corner



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New Year... New Word

Dear Members & Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

One of my favorite new experiences since I've become your pastor is the annual tradition of "Star Gifts" here at First Presbyterian Church. Every year we pass out yellow paper stars with a wide variety of challenging and inspiring words. Then throughout the year everyone is encouraged to ponder their word and look for it in everyday life.

Like many of you I have kept my Star Gifts. They're in a little pile inside the middle drawer of my desk right where I can see them whenever I open it. Like many of you I have found my Star Gift in the most unexpected places. In 2016 my word was "Care" which I found sensible for a pastor who is charged to care for his people. But then I had a string of incidents, including a concussion, and found my Star Gift in *your* care for me!

What are some of the unexpected places you've discovered your Star Gifts over the years? This is a fun and thought-provoking way to help us see God's hand at work in our lives and in the world. As we enter the Season of Advent and prepare to celebrate the Birth of our Savior we are reminded that God's hand is indeed at work in our lives and this world. In the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, God is showing us His love and care. He has saved us because He loves us!

Sometimes we get caught up in the work-a-day world and we forget just how truly marvelous God's gift of salvation in Jesus Christ really is. Sometimes we get distracted and our focus shifts. The Star Gifts tradition is just one small way we can redirect our attention and begin to see God at work in new and exciting ways.

This year we will be distributing Star Gifts on Sunday, December 31. We thought this was a great way to begin the New Year - with a new word! If you're travelling for the holidays or just can't be in worship on the 31st, don't worry, there will be a basket of Star Gifts in the Fellowship Hall for you to pick up when you come home.



THINK SOUP FOR SHARE!!

Nature is full of genius,
full of the divinity;
so that not a snowflake
escapes its
fashioning hand.

Henry David Thoreau

Can't make it to church?
Listen to weekly sermons
and keep abreast of all
church events at:
www.firstprescarlisle.org



Wishing you a very Blessed Advent,

Your Pastor,

Tony



On Friday, December 8, our Education Committee will host a Family Night "Meal and Movie" at the church. The menu is yet to be chosen, but the movie will be "The Muppet's Christmas Carol." Please join us for fun and film!

Deacons' Doings

It's shaping up to be another busy, productive month for our Board of Deacons (and friends). Two ministries they'll support in December are:

- ◇ **Salvation Army Bell-Ringing, Dec. 9, 10 AM—9 PM:** They will be ringing kettle bells outside the inside entrance to The Bon-Ton (by JoAnn Fabrics). There are two one-hour time slots unfilled as of this writing: 7-8 PM and 8-9 PM. Contact Anita Ashbaugh (or any deacon) if interested in helping out with this community mission.
- ◇ **Truck Stop Ministry Cookies, Dec. 16-17:** If you would like to help provide a truck-driver a "taste of home" during this Christmas season, consider baking a few extra cookies, then placing them on the church's kitchen counter Saturday or Sunday, Dec. 16 or 17. The Deacons will package them for distribution and deliver them on Monday, Dec. 18.



OUR NEW CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

OK, we've posed for our portraits which were taken by photographer extraordinaire Elizabeth Martin. And before you know it, we'll have our new pictorial directory in hand. Remember — each participant will receive a 5X7 photo to keep! This process does not involve costly photo packages, however, you are invited to make a small donation to defray the cost of printing the directory. In the meantime, beginning Dec. 3, you may pick up a 1-sheet addendum of updates to our current "Our Church Family" booklet.

Advent Devotional Booklet

First Presbyterian has written our own **Advent Devotional Booklet** for your use. Thanks to all 39 contributors! The devotional is posted online at the church website and is available in printed copy in Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to pick one up, just call the church office to receive one by mail.



FAITH CIRCLE

Presbyterian Women will meet at 2 PM, Monday, Nov. 27 and Dec. 18. All women of the church are welcome!

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study group will meet only once in December — on the 12th at 6:30 PM. We continue our study of Romans.

SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING ADVENT

Beginning Sunday, Nov. 26, Sunday school classes (pre-confirmed Youth thru Adults) will combine and be led by Bill Beck & Debby Madden as we study these Advent hymns during the season:

- "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
- "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"
- "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
- "In Bleak Midwinter"

Several musicians will perform these hymns. Come to the sanctuary for a time of music and reflection.

SPACE FOR GOD

The group doesn't meet in December. However, they begin a new book at the January 8th meeting: Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, **Discipleship**. Please consider joining these theology-based discussions on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month (7 PM). If you want to order a book, see Debby.



You Can Support the Community's SPY Kids this Christmas!

The Summer Program for Youth (SPY) Board is asking for donations of new children's' books this Christmas season to be distributed to SPY kids. Find a list of suggested books on the literature table in Fellowship Hall. You may bring books to the church and place them in the box in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, December 10. We will take them across the Square to St. John's Episcopal, where people will prepare and deliver them before Christmas. In addition to the books on the "favorites" list, if you have a favorite, feel free to donate it. The target group is children in grades 1 and 2. Our point of contact is Megan Crum; whisler20@hotmail.com.

	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Gen'l Fund	\$22,023	\$202,282
Invest. Income	\$ 1,451	\$ 12,054
Other	\$ 13	\$ 1,566
Expenses	(\$20,276)	(\$242,433)



Q: WHAT'S FLAT, BLUE & NEEDS \$25.58?
A: WHY, IT'S YOUR 2017 PER CAPITA ENVELOPE!
 First Presbyterian Church pledges a Per Capita (per each member) payment to the Presbytery to support their work, and that of the General Assembly and Synod. If you have not yet provided your 2017 Per Capita payment of \$25.58, please do so. If you have, thank you! No blue envelope is needed. Per Capita payments are distributed by the Presbytery as follows:

General Assembly	\$ 7.50
Synod of the Trinity	\$ 2.30
Presbytery of Carlisle	<u>\$15.78</u>
	<u>\$25.58</u>

2017 Is Coming to a Close!

Need a reminder of your 2017 pledge amount? Want to know how much offering you've given thus far this year? Just call or email the church office to get that information.

UPCOMING BOOK CLUB ACTIVITY

The Book Club will meet at **7 PM, Thursday, Dec. 7**, at the church. First, we'll discuss the books from November's cancelled meeting: A Wrinkle in Time and A Circle of Quiet. Then, we will select our 2018 slate of books. Please bring your suggestions. Read a great book lately? Simply must share it? Send suggestions to Debby, or better yet — see you there!

PRAYER COMMUNITY

The Prayer Community will meet on **Sunday, Dec. 17th**, after worship. You may send prayer requests to any member of the community, the church office, or staff. You are welcome to join in this ministry of care and prayer.



2017 Giving

The last Sunday for your 2017 giving is **December 24**. Monies given on Dec. 31 cannot be deposited in time to count for 2017. Please plan accordingly.

CLIP ----- IT'S POINSETTIA TIME! ----- CLIP

Poinsettias will once again be offered for your purchase this Christmas season. If you wish to buy a poinsettia to adorn the sanctuary, please provide the information below, and return this form to either Mrs. Joan Line, 2070 Ritner Highway, Carlisle, PA 17015; or to the church office. The price is once again **\$9.00**. Make checks payable to "**Flower Fund, First Presbyterian Church.**" **Both orders and payments must be received by Sunday, December 10th.** Flowers will be available on Sunday, **December 17th.**

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

BY: _____

Place a checkmark beside which of the following is/are applicable:

- I will pick up my poinsettia(s) after the Christmas Eve service.
- I will leave my poinsettia(s) to be given to a shut-in.
- I am willing to deliver a poinsettia to a shut-in (Delivery will be on **December 17.**)





PRAYER PARTNERS

On Sunday, Dec. 3, we will exchange Prayer Partners during worship. If you wish to participate, it's as easy as this:

1. Write your name on a slip of paper (will be provided) during the organ preludes.
2. Place it in the offering plate.
3. Select a slip of paper as you depart.

Now you have a partner to pray for during the coming year!

PRAYER WORKS WONDERS!

~~~~~ **ON DECEMBER 17th** ~~~~~

**Birthday Party for Jesus**

Our children and youth will enjoy their annual "Birthday Party for Jesus" following the children's sermon. Toddlers thru high schoolers are invited to attend.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Barb Crum, Lynne Hofferica, and Bob Davis for this event.

**Bell Sunday**

**Unpack your favorite bell to bring to worship on Sunday, Dec. 17th. We will ring bells during the last verse of the final hymn.**



**WE HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU!**

Since Christmas Eve this year is on a Sunday, the Education Committee is deciding if they **should or should not** host a Potluck Dinner following our 5 PM Children & Families Christmas Eve Service.

**By Dec. 10th**, please let Debby know if you **WOULD** attend or **WOULD NOT** attend. Thanks!



**The Christmas Tree reminds us of the Christ; its top pointing to heaven, its lights denoting the Light of the World, and all the presents beneath it reminding us that every good gift comes from above.**

**Thanks  
be to  
God.**

*St. Luke's UCC, Lititz, PA*



*I cannot express in words how much I have appreciated the prayers, cards and support of everyone the last several months of my husband's sickness and since his death. Your concerns and prayers have given me the strength that I have needed each day. Thank you to everyone!*  
**Earlene Heckendorn**

**PLEASE NOTE THESE  
SPECIAL EVENTS  
PLANNED FOR DECEMBER**



**A THEME FOR OUR CHILDREN**

Debby is asking the congregation to bring in a character from the Nativity story each week. You must be willing to leave them at the church during the whole holiday season. During the Children's Time each Sunday morning in December, every child will be allowed to choose a figure and tell us why they chose that one. Please help make this vision a reality by sharing your nativity figures with our littlest ones. Weekly themes are:

- Dec. 3, Angels
- Dec. 10, Mary
- Dec. 17, Joseph
- Dec. 24, Baby Jesus (Christmas Eve service)
- Dec. 31, Wise Men

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**LONGEST NIGHT / BLUE CHRISTMAS**

Once again, we will hold a "Longest Night" service. It has become a valued part of our Advent season. 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. So, we will gather at **6 PM, Wednesday evening, Dec. 20**, for this quiet, reflective service in the midst of the hustle and bustle.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHRISTMAS EVE – CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

On Sunday, Dec. 24, at 5 PM, we will gather for our annual "Children & Families" Christmas Eve worship service.

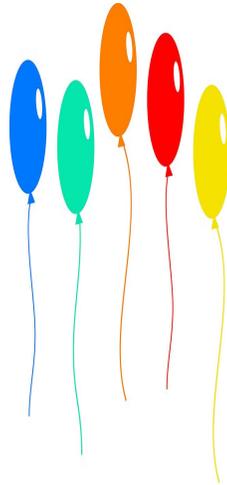
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**CHRISTMAS EVE – CANDELIGHT**

Arrive at 7:30 PM to enjoy special Christmas music. Then at 8 PM, it's a service filled with music, carols, scripture, prayers and proclamations. We will close with our traditional candle-lighting. Make it a tradition!

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2     **Avis Allen**  
       **Steve Walker**
  
- 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    **Bill Beck**  
       **Sarah Martin**  
       **Danielle Weiser**
  
- 23    **Kit Johnston**
  
- 25    **Elizabeth Martin**
  
- 27    **Sam Whitman**
  
- 28    **Jake Hofferica**
  
- 29    **Bill Gottlieb**  
       **Jordan Leiby**
  
- 31    **Madison Ellis**



Happy  
Birthday!!

## DECEMBER WORSHIP HELPERS

### Readers

- Dec. 3:     Michael Gogoj
- Dec. 10:    Carlton Walker
- Dec. 17:    Tom McKinnon
- Dec. 24:    Dick Sommers
- Dec. 31:    Ron Richcreek

### Ushers

- Dec. 3:     Richard/Nancy Tritt; Bruce/Kathy Mulvey
- Dec. 10:    Tom/Suzanne McKinnon; Bruce/Anita Ashbaugh
- Dec. 17:    Steve/Carlton Walker; Bret Thomas; XX
- Dec. 24 (AM) Dennis/Connie Husler; Dan/Bonnie Deardorff
- Dec. 24 (5 PM) TBA
- Dec. 24 (8 PM) Earl/Alice Zimmerman; Barb Allen; Bob Davis
- Dec. 31:    Jerry/Jenneane Light; Dennis/Linda Rydberg

### Counters

- Dec. 3:     Earl/Alice Zimmerman; Charlie Thompson
- Dec. 10:    Dick/Tracy Sommers; Anita Ashbaugh
- Dec. 17:    Bruce/Trudy Bailey; Deb Ryerson
- Dec. 24:    Richard/Nancy Tritt; Terry Shull
- Dec. 31:    Bruce/Trudy Bailey; Mary Jane Blosser

### Fellowship Hosts

- Dec. 3:     XX
- Dec. 10:    XX
- Dec. 17:    Tom/Melissa Sheperd
- Dec. 24:    XX
- Dec. 31:    XX

### Flowers

Nancy Augustine (chair) & Elizabeth Martin

### Service Recorder

Ray Thomas

### Communion—Dec. 3 (Intinction)

Preparers:    Peggy McKeehen; Ellen Darr; Mary Jane Blosser

Servers:     Trudy Bailey; Charlie Thompson; Lynda Mann

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If you cannot serve as scheduled, please find a replacement and give the name to the church secretary as soon as known.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS are needed for much of December. If you can help with this ministry of hospitality, please sign up today.



### **THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS**

**Martin Luther was perhaps the first to use lights on a Christmas tree. Luther put lights on his tree to represent the glory and beauty of the stars above Bethlehem on the night of Christ's birth.**

# December 2017

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Mon                                                                                      | Tue                                              | Wed                                                                                 | Thu                                                                                    | Fri                                 | Sat                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                          |                                                  |                                                                                     |                                                                                        | 1                                   | 2                                                            |
| 3<br>9:15 AM: Prayer<br>9:30: Education Hour<br>10:45: Worship, with Communion<br><br>After: Fellowship                                                                                                                                                               | 4<br>7 PM: Deacons                                                                       | 5<br>9:30 AM:<br>Presbytery meets<br>(Camp Hill) | 6<br>7 PM: Choir                                                                    | 7<br>7 PM: Book Club<br><br>7 PM: Central PA<br>Hospice Tree-Lighting<br>(church yard) | 8<br>Family Night<br>(Meal & Movie) | 9<br>10 AM—9 PM:<br>Deacons' Bell-Ringing                    |
| 10<br>9:15 AM: Prayer<br>9:30: Education Hour<br>10:45: Worship<br><br>After: Fellowship                                                                                                                                                                              | 11                                                                                       | 12<br>6:30 PM: Bible Study                       | 13<br>1:30 PM: Property<br>Committee<br><br>7 PM: Choir                             | 14<br>7:30 AM: Men's<br>Breakfast                                                      | 15<br>Afternoon: Wedding            | 16<br>(Bring cookies to<br>church for Truckstop<br>Ministry) |
| 17<br>9:15 AM: Prayer<br>9:30: Education Hour<br>10:45: Worship;<br>"Bell-Ringing"<br>After: Fellowship<br>After: Prayer Comm<br><br>(Cookies to church<br>for Truckstop Min.)                                                                                        | 18<br>2 PM: Faith Circle<br><br>(Deacons package<br>cookies for Truck-<br>stop Ministry) | 19<br>7 PM: Session                              | 20<br>Noon: Staff luncheon<br><br>6 PM: Longest Night<br>Service<br><br>7 PM: Choir | 21<br>7:30 AM: Men's<br>Breakfast                                                      | 22                                  | 23                                                           |
| 24<br>10:45: Worship<br>After: Fellowship<br><br>5 PM: Family Service<br><br>8 PM: Candlelight<br>Service<br><br>++++++<br>31<br>10:45 AM: Worship;<br>"Star Gifts"<br><br>3-10 PM: First Nite<br>(Fell. Hall)                                                        | 25                                                                                       | 26                                               | 27<br>NO CHOIR                                                                      | 28                                                                                     | 29                                  | 30                                                           |
| <b>~ ~ COMING IN JANUARY ~</b><br><b>Jan. 7                      Baptism Renewal Sunday</b><br><b>Jan. 14                     Officer Installation</b><br><b>Jan. 21                     Communion</b><br><b>                                    Prayer Community</b> |                                                                                          |                                                  |                                                                                     |                                                                                        |                                     |                                                              |