

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bradford, Pennsylvania

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of First Church is to **tell**, to **share**, and to **show** the love of God by following Jesus Christ.

Telling by proclaiming God's message in meaningful worship

Sharing by learning and living Christ's teachings

Showing by putting our faith into action

WORSHIP

Sanctuary - 11:00 a.m.

December 2, 2018



God Gathers Us Together

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Wake, Awake”

Charles Callahan

CALL to WORSHIP and LIGHTING of the ADVENT WREATH

Bouquin Family (Jim, Anne & Jennifer)

HYMN #88 (vs 1)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Choir & Congregation

In hope, Israel dreamed of a Messiah so many years ago.

In hope, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem praying for hospitality.

In hope, the wise men followed a star believing that God would guide them along the way.

Like Israel, we sing, “Come, oh come, Emmanuel.”

Like Mary and Joseph, we pray for a world that acts like we belong to one another.

Like the wise men, we travel to this space trusting that God draws near to us — guiding us along the way.

This Sunday, we light the candle of hope because we could not be Advent people without it.

May this candle remind us that God's light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

May this light serve as an invitation to draw near to God—for in the light of this candle we can feel God's warmth, we can see more clearly, and together, we can hope for a better day.

*HYMN #82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

We Encounter God's Grace

*CALL to RECONCILIATION

Melody Pollock

If only our hurtful words, our damaging actions, our foolish choices would just go away. But they don't, and so we offer them, as well as ourselves, to God for forgiveness

and for our healing. Let us pray.

*PRAYER of CONFESSION (said in **unison**)

The chances we have to be more compassionate; the moments to offer hope to a lonely friend; the good fortune we could give to those who have so little. The signs are all around us, Good and Upright God, of how we fail to live as your people.

Do not meditate on our bungling ways, God of steadfast love, but remember the mercy of your heart. That mercy which forgives us; that mercy which makes us whole; and especially, that living mercy who came down one night so long ago, Jesus the Advent of our redemption. Amen.

*ASSURANCE of PARDON (said **responsively**)

Raise your heads, children of God! In the bleak mid-winter of our lives, our redemption draws near. In the springtime of our doubts, the kingdom of God approaches.

Even when we feel most alone, the One who comes to us is the salvation promised so long ago. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

Forgiven and given peace in Christ, may we also share Christ's peace with one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*PASSING of the PEACE and MOMENT of FELLOWSHIP

*RESPONSE (sung in **unison**)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

We Listen for God's Word

TIME with CHILDREN

FIRST SCRIPTURE - Luke 21:25-36 pg 960

ANTHEM **"Will We Know Him?"** Nancy Price & Don Besig

SECOND SCRIPTURE - Jeremiah 33:14-16 pg 724

SERMON

We Respond to God's Love

*HYMN #527 (sing 3 times) **"Eat This Bread"**

*AFFIRMATION of FAITH - Apostles' Creed (said in **unison**)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

"Veni, Emmanuel"

Alec Wyton

*The Doxology (sung in **unison**)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

God Gathers Us Around the Table

THE SACRAMENT of COMMUNION

The Invitation

Response

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Thanksgiving and Prayers of the People

Response

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer (said in **unison**)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

The Supper Shared

God Sends Us into the World

*HYMN #93

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

*BENEDICTION

As a sign of our unity in the body of Christ, please join hands with a neighbor for the benediction.

*POSTLUDE

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Wayne Wold

* Please rise and stand or rise in spirit.

We welcome you to worship today. All people, of every age and background, are welcome here. If you would like to know more about this community of faith, please stay and talk with Rev Katherine Randall or Rev Rob Klouw, or contact us during the week. Welcome packets with information about First Church are available outside the chapel (in the Cleo Rankin Room) and the sanctuary (in the narthex).

Announcements and Parish Notes

SUNDAY, December 2

1st Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
9:45 a.m. Adult Class
Choir Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service
2:00 p.m. From the Heart

THURSDAY, December 6

11:00 a.m. TOPS
6:00 p.m. From the Heart
8:00 p.m. AA - Candlelight

SATURDAY, December 8

3:00 p.m. Queen B's

SUNDAY, December 9

2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
9:45 a.m. Adult Class
Choir Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service
12:00 noon Pageant Rehearsal
& Pizza Lunch
Deacons' Mtg
2:00 p.m. From the Heart

MONDAY, December 3

8:00 a.m. Men's Group
10:30 a.m. Lectionary Study
6:00 p.m. From the Heart
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
8:00 p.m. AA - 12 Step

WEDNESDAY, December 5

12:00 noon Open Table
6:00 p.m. From the Heart

Coffee hour, sponsored by the Nurture Committee, being held in the library this morning, is hosted by Linda Flynn and Darlene Drehmer.

Sunday School bell ringer this morning is Delaney Bridge.

Ushers in the sanctuary this morning are Jim Bouquin - Captain, Dean Bauer, Anne Bouquin, Creig Carman and Anita Herbert. **Ushering in the chapel** is Blake Nuzzo.

Acolytes today are Levi, Lexa & Ava Wolfgang and Brittany Kline.

Chancel flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Charlene Redington Coburn** by the Family.



**Advent and Christmas Schedule
Draw Near**

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|---|---|
| December 2: First Sunday of Advent: | Draw Near to Hope
<i>(Luke 21:25-36, Jeremiah 33:14-16)</i>
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with Communion |
| December 9: Second Sunday of Advent: | Draw Near to Peace
<i>(Luke 1:68-79, Malachi 3:1-4)</i>
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. |
| December 16: Third Sunday of Advent: | Draw Near to Joy
<i>(Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6)</i>
Worship at 8:30 a.m.
Worship at 11:00 a.m. with Christmas Pageant
Lunch at 12:00 noon |
| December 23: Fourth Sunday of Advent: | Draw Near to Love
<i>(Luke 1:46-55, Micah 5:2-5)</i>
Worship at 11:00 a.m. only |
| December 24: Christmas Eve Worship: | Love Drawn Here
Organ Prelude at 4:45 p.m.
Worship begins at 5:00 p.m., Communion and Candlelight |
| December 30: First Sunday of Christmas | Stories and Music of Christmas
Worship at 11:00 a.m. only |
| January 7: Epiphany: | The Brightness of Dawn
<i>(Matthew 2:1-12, Isaiah 60:1-16)</i>
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with Communion |

In Memoriam
Robert C Smith
August 9, 1925 - November 24, 2018
A member of First Church since November 6, 1957
Ordained Elder - January 23, 1966
Ordained Deacon - February 10, 1963

“A PROGRAM of ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MUSIC” featuring Mr Roland Martin at Harriett B Wick Chapel at UPB on Friday, December 7th, at 12:00 noon ...

On Friday, December 7th, from noon to 1:15 p.m., the Harriett B. Wick Chapel is pleased to present the Ninth Annual Advent and Christmas Organ Recital on the magnificent Sarah B. Dorn Pipe Organ. This year's artist is Mr. Roland Martin, internationally known organist, composer, and conductor from Buffalo, NY. This is a free concert. (See additional information on pgs 8-9 of December issue of [First Church News](#).)

Christmas Pageant rehearsal schedule is as follows ...

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|---------------------------|---|
| December 9 th | |
| 9:30 - 10:30 | Practice in Sanctuary during Sunday School time |
| 12:00 - 2:00 | Pizza Lunch in Auditorium |
| | Practice in Sanctuary following lunch |
| December 16 th | |
| 9:30 - 10:30 | Rehearsal in Sanctuary |
| 11:00 a.m. | Pageant shared in Worship |
| 12:00 p.m. | Free Lunch in the Auditorium |

Christmas Memorials contributions are now being received in the church office. These gifts may be given in memory of or in honor of loved ones. These memorials and/or honorariums may be made by completing and returning the form included with the December issue of [First Church News](#), by phoning the church office (362-5569), and/or sending your check or money to Kenra (church secretary) with a note giving the following information:

- * name(s) for whom the memorial/honorarium is given
- * name(s) of those making the memorial/honorarium

Deadline for submitting Christmas Memorials is Monday, December 17th! A listing of all memorials/honorariums will appear in the Christmas Sunday and Christmas Eve bulletins.

Christmas Joy Offerings will be received in the church office during the month of December. These offerings are used to lift up those PC (USA) ministers, other church workers, and their families in need, as well as racial ethnic schools and colleges. Please use the designated envelope mailed with the December issue of First Church News for your donation to this special offering.

Needed for Salvation Army Christmas Boxes ... First Church has once again committed to assisting the Salvation Army with their Christmas boxes by providing boxes of “mac & cheese”. Your donations of mac & cheese may be left in Kenra’s (church secretary) office. **Deadline** for these donations is Thursday, December 13th.

The Children & Youth Christmas Pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 16, at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. All children and youth are invited and encouraged to be a part of this very special service and presentation of the Lord’s birth. Please note rehearsal schedule dates and times. If you would like to help in classrooms or with costumes, please contact Shelley Harvey or Marsha Abrams. If you have questions, please talk with Rev Katherine Randall.

An ALL Church “Christmas Lunch” will be held on Sunday, December 16th, in the church auditorium immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service and Children/Youth Christmas Pageant. All members and friends of First Church are invited to attend this free lunch. On the menu will be sloppy joes, mac-n-cheese, chips, raw veggies with dip, ice cream sandwiches, and beverages.

Deadline for the January issue of First Church News is Tuesday, December 18th. All articles for publication should be submitted to Kenra by this date.

Lighting the Luminary ... The Neel Family (Jim, Doreen, Noah, Madison & Preston) will once again oversee the lighting of the luminary which will again be placed (weather permitting) along the church walkways on Christmas Eve. If you are interested in helping, please talk with Jim or Doreen.

The Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service will be held on Monday, December 24th, beginning at **5:00 p.m.** (please note new time). Special organ music will be played beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Presbyterian Women will not meet during the month of December. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15th, at 10:30 a.m.

There will be NO Dine-Out Night in December.

UNICEF collection boxes should be returned to the church as soon as possible. Please give them to Kenra in the church office.

Snacks for the Sunday School program are needed. Please bring items (individual bags of pretzels, gold fish, trail mix, or fresh fruit) or 8 oz bottles of water or 60% sugar free Capri Sun juice boxes with no artificial sweeteners to the Christian Education office or church office.

Cards and notes of caring ... Please continue to send notes and cards to Myra Barnes. Myra is now living at Parkside North East - Apt #118 - 2 Gibson St - North East, PA 16428

Celebrating 100th Birthday ... Please send birthday greetings to First Church member Jayne Weaver who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on December 21st. Jayne’s address is 2300 Dulaney Valley Rd - Timonium, MD 21093.

Prayers Needed ...

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| * Dick Miller | * Ann Miller | * Nancy Engstrom |
| * Dave Swaney | * Maverick Smith | * Tammy Stoddard |
| * Kim Proper | * Pat Geary | * Robert Carman |
| * Bailey Fedak | * Hannah Hooten | * Myra Barnes |
| * Mia Huber | * Ryan Baxter | * Brian Moore |
| * Lori Goodnoe, daughter of Fran Goodrich | | |
| * Family of Dr Robert & Kathlyn Smith | | |
| * Barbara Graybill, sister-in-law of Don & Patty Graybill | | |
| * Alyssa Silvis, daughter of Martha Crissman | | |
| * Bob Smith uncle of Kancie Orris | | |
| * Gretchen Tucker, daughter of Barb Sue | | |
| * Caroll Miser, son-in-law of Kay DeCorte | | |
| * Selene Colella, daughter of Vinny & Mary Colella | | |
| * Jessika & Matthew (niece of Doreen Neel and her friend) | | |
| * Mark & Mary Anne Anderson, bother & sister-in-law of Dave Anderson | | |