



the Chimes

December 2017

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

from the Letter Pastor

I love this time of year and the hope that the advent season brings. Like many of you, I often find myself consumed with the chaos of the season. It comes with high expectations for family and friends, pressures to find the perfect gift. Not to mention the significant amount of time and energy it takes to do all the things we hope to do this advent season. I think that's one reason why I like watching the Jim Carrey version of *The Grinch*. There's a scene where Cindy Lou Who is asking the question, "What is Christmas really about? Is it about the presents? Is it about the lights? Is it about all the material things we need?" You and I know that it's not about any of that. It's about the hope in Jesus Christ and the love that we get to share with our family during this time of year.

As I think about my expectations for this advent season I think about filling my life full of the music that reminds me of my faith in Christ. My favorite Christmas hymn is *What Child is This*. I look forward to seeing it every year at Christmas time. Of course there are many wonderful hymns that we get to sing during this time of year and even favorite popular

Christmas songs that we hear on the radio. This for me is a way to refocus my attention on what the meaning of the season is all about. This advent season our church family has many opportunities for members to gather in fellowship and song. I hope you and your family will join us as we celebrate the season of hope as we await the arrival of our newborn King Jesus Christ.



Worship Schedule

- **8:30am** Childcare Begins
- **9:00am** Cambridge Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- **9:00am** Sunday School Classes for Adults & Children
- **10:00am** Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- **10:00am** Children's Music Time
- **10:00am** Fellowship/Fair Trade Marketplace
- **10:30am** Worship Service

*There will be a called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Dec. 10 immediately following worship service.

Music Notes

On November 5th we celebrated All Saints Day where we honored those who have passed away this year. As the names were read, a bell was tolled while we prayed together for all the saints who have gone before us. There are many ways we can honor the loss of friends and loved ones, but making music is one of the most powerful ways. I witnessed this at the West Virginia Symphony concert at Fairmont State University this Fall, where the orchestra performed a tribute to a long time symphony member (violinist), and string teacher in our area, Anne Hamilton. Maestro Grant Cooper and the orchestra opened the concert with the Johann Sebastian Bach's Air from Orchestral Suite No. 3, BWV 1068, followed by a moment of silence. What a beautiful way to honor Anne's memory. Thanks be to God for the glorious gift of music and prayers for all of those who lost loved ones this year.

BELLS AND VOICES TO RING IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

The Fairmont State University Community Chorus, the Cambridge Handbell Choir, and the Children's Choir of the First Presbyterian Church of Fairmont will present a traditional Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 3, 3:00pm at the First Presbyterian Church. The program is free and open to the public. A goodwill offering will be collected.

The service will consist of nine scripture readings that trace the story of the fall of humanity, prophecies of the coming Messiah, and the birth of Jesus. Musical selections will be interspersed throughout the program, including "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," "Joy to the World," "O Come All Ye Faithful," and other well-known Christmas carols.

Readers for the service will include Fairmont State University Interim President Stephen Jones, School of Fine Arts Dean Robert Mild, Fairmont Mayor Tom Mainella, and other community leaders.

"First Presbyterian Church is pleased to be in partnership with Fairmont State University for our sixth consecutive year, as we present a worship service that brings different members of our community together to celebrate the Christmas season," said Reverend Elise Neal, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. "I look forward to hearing the many talented voices and the beautiful ringing of the Cambridge handbells. It will truly put you in the Christmas spirit."

The FSU Community Chorus is directed by Sam Spears, Director of Choral and Vocal Activities at FSU. The Cambridge Handbell Choir is led by John Morrison, Director of Music at First Presbyterian and FSU faculty member. The Children's Choir is directed by Betty Pat Lee. The ensembles will perform both together and separately. John Morrison will accompany the service on First Presbyterian's majestic pipe organ.

The format of the Service of Lessons and Carols dates back to 1880, when it was first instituted at the Cathedral of Truro in England. It became quite popular among Anglican congregations, and it has since been adapted and used by churches around the world. The Fairmont service is modeled somewhat after the very well-known Service of Lessons and Carols presented by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge. The service has been held yearly at King's College since 1918. It is broadcast to millions of people around the world each Christmas Eve.

For more information about the service, please contact Sam Spears at 304-367-4118 or Sam.Spears@fairmontstate.edu.

On December 10th, the Chancel Choir will present the Cantata, Invitation to a Miracle by Joseph M. Martin. I invite you to read the following foreword to the Cantata to prepare yourself for the message the choir will be bringing to our worship.

This is a season of miracles and wonders; a time to celebrate the glorious impossible of God's magnificent gift of grace.

Celebrate **FAITH** as Gods speaks His living Word into the darkness and awakens the world to **HIS** promise of grace.

Celebrate **HOPE** as God's glory bursts into the darkness like a thousand stars of light.

Celebrate **PEACE** as God speaks to a young girl who embraces the **DIVINE** with gentle obedience.

Celebrate **LOVE** as we gather to gaze into a humble manger. See heaven's King choose a cradle of compassion rather than a throne of power.

Celebrate **JOY** as the Judean hillsides echo with the voices of angels proclaiming good tidings to simple shepherds.

Celebrate **LIGHT** as a sacred star shines silver promise on golden sand. Walk with the dreamers and seekers to a place of devotion and worship.

Celebrate **LIFE** and walk the path of service. Humble your hearts with thanksgiving, worship, and prayer. Bow, bend, and become.

Let the darkness see and believe.

Let the shadows surrender to light.

Let the miracle begin!

Come celebrate Jesus!

Know the wonder of grace!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

December 3 - WV Brass Quintet during 10:30 am worship

3 pm - Lessons and Carols service featuring the FSU Community Choir, the Cambridge Handbell Choir, and the First Presbyterian Children's Choir

December 10 - The Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata during 10:30 am worship

December 17 - The Children's Christmas Program during 10:30 am worship

Vocal Tapestry concert at 3 pm

December 24 - Christmas Carol Sing during 10:30 am worship

7 pm - Christmas Eve Worship with Chancel Choir and Cambridge Handbells

May you always have a song of joy in your heart throughout this Advent and Christmas season,

John Morrison

Director of Music



News & Correspondence

FLOWERS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

It's time to purchase your poinsettias to decorate the chancel with for Christmas. We are placing a bulk order with Kimes; deadline to order is Sunday, December 10. Each poinsettia will be \$15. Please make all checks payable to First Presbyterian Church. Order forms are enclosed and can be mailed or dropped off to the church or put in the offering plate.

The signup sheet has also been posted for chancel flowers for 2018 on the table by the elevator. Chancel flowers are a great way to honor a family member or recognize a special event.

REPORT FROM SESSION

The First Presbyterian Church Session met on Tuesday, November 28 at 6:30 pm. Pastor Elise opened the meeting with prayer and read Psalm 141. Carolyn shared communications from the Clerk, including updates to the membership list of FPC. Session approved the operating budget for 2018. Jim Delong gave the financial report. Dave Floyd had no report for investments but gave a positive report about the Pledge Drive. Several members will come on to committees for 2018, including Property – Jason Burdette and Eddie Snider; Outreach – Harmony Garletts and Bob Brummage; Christian Discipleship – Erin Hauser and Diane Floyd; Hospitality – Peggy Twyman and Betty Pat Lee; Worship – Pam Pittman and Pam Stalnaker; Administration – Kim Steele and Mike Walker. Clerk of Session will remain Carolyn Crislip-Tacy. Cindy gave the Property update. Several building uses were approved, and Session approved updating the heating system in the main office at FPC. Eric shared from Outreach that Shoes for Kids is underway. Elise shared the Hospitality notes. Leona DeLong's memorial service will be held on December 9th at 11:00 a.m. (10:00 visitation and noon lunch). Pam Stalnaker gave the Worship report. Jason Noland will decorate for Hanging of the Greens. Elise gave her pastor's report. There will be no Session meeting in December. The Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 10th after the morning service. Pastor Elise closed the meeting in prayer.

November Prayer List

The Family of Alma Brown
The Family of Leona DeLong
The Family of Kenneth Walker
Elliot Boram
Jill Diaz
Peggy Eddy
The Fowler Family
Kate Hamrick

Jenny Harney
Allen Henderson
Leonard Hood
Joseph Hutson
Barbra Marker
Damian Peterson
The Ritchie Family
John Satterfield

Willie Siegman
Chris & Joan Krause-Smith
Alisa Smith
Jennie Smith
Paula Spiker
Dorothy Trisel

December 2017

SUNDAY	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
					5:30pm 1 First Friday	Hanging of the Greens 2
9am Cambridge Handbell Rehearsal 9am Children's Activities/Nursery 9am Sunday School 10am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Children's Music Time 10:30am Worship Service feat. WV Brass 3pm FSU Lessons & Carols	4 9am Staff Meeting 10:30am Lunch Bunch Group 10:30am Wesley Lunch 6pm Worship Team	5 8am Fellowship Breakfast @McAteers	6 9am - Food Pantry Work Day 6pm Christian Discipleship 7pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8	9 11am Leona Delong Memorial
9am Cambridge Handbell Rehearsal 9am Children's Activities/Nursery 9am Sunday School 10am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Children's Music Time 10:30am Worship Service & Choir Cantata 11:30am Called Congregational Meeting	11 9am Staff Meeting	12 8am Fellowship Breakfast @McAteers	13 7pm Choir Rehearsal	14 10am - Admin Team Meeting	15 Committee Reports Due	16 9am Shoes for Kids Pick Up
8:30am Cambridge Handbell Rehearsal 9am Children's Activities/Nursery 9am Sunday School 9:30am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10am Children's Music Time 10:30am Worship Service & Children's Christmas Program 3pm Vocal Tapestry Concert	18 9am Staff Meeting	19 8am Fellowship Breakfast @McAteers 6:30pm Session Meeting	20 7pm Choir Rehearsal Chimes Submission Deadline	21	22	23 9am Youth Group @ Clarksburg
10:30am Worship Service 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service	25 Church Office Closed	26 8am Fellowship Breakfast @McAteers Church Office Closed	27	28	29	30
31 Church Office Closed						

Christian Discipleship

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Children's Christmas program will be December 17th during worship, The children will practice on December 10th and 17th at 9 AM.

FIRST FRIDAY

First Friday will be held on December 1 at the Neal House. The kids will have a pajama party. Please call or email the church office if you need directions.

NURTURING FAITH IDEAS

Here you will find weekly suggestions and activities from the Presbytery's Nurture Committee to link worship and home and to nurture faith development in the family. These are intended for all ages and all family types – with children or grandchildren or families with no children.

December 3: Advent begins today. This season of the church year is when we prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus as a baby. This is a busy season with church services, concerts, parties, shopping and getting ready to visit with family members we might not see often. In the busyness of the season, don't forget why we are celebrating. How will you prepare your heart to welcome Jesus into your life once again?

December 10: The text from Mark 1:1-8 introduces us to John the Baptist. John was Jesus' cousin, and his role in the story of Jesus was to prepare people for Jesus. What are ways that you and your family are preparing for Christmas? What are ways that you can help people in your community prepare for Jesus? If your church doesn't already do it, encourage them to go Christmas caroling, to bring some joy into people's lives.

December 17: One of the lectionary passages this morning is 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24. This is a letter to the church at Thessalonica. They are told that they are to rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, and to give thanks in all circumstances. Who and what are you praying for today? What are you thankful for?

December 24: It's Christmas Eve. As you prepare to exchange gifts with family and friends tomorrow, what gift will you bring to Jesus this year?

December 31: The Gospel lesson today is from Luke 2:22-40. We are introduced to two very old people named Anna and Simeon. When Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple for the first time, these two knew immediately that Jesus was the one they had been waiting for all of these years. They knew Jesus was the one who would bring hope and salvation to the people. As a disciple of Jesus, think of ways that you can bring hope to people in the new year.

Outreach

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

First Presbyterian regularly collects food for our local food pantries. You can bring any shelf stable items to the church at any time; for the month of December we will focus on Holiday Food Donations. Bring in your boxes of stuff, canned yams and cranberry sauce, and any other holiday favorite that your own family enjoys!

SHOES FOR KIDS

Out Shoes for Kids pick up days have been scheduled for December 16 & 17. If you can assist during the pick up times, please contact Ami Starn or the church office.

STREET STORE

The temperatures are falling, and it's time to open our Street Store for its 3rd season of giving. We are accepting winter wear items that will be placed on our fence – free, for anyone who needs them.

Winter wear items (coats, jackets, hats, gloves, scarves) may be dropped off at the church office during business hours (Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm) or brought to the church on Sunday mornings. We ask that bagged items not be left outside: this is how items get ruined. We monitor the weather and put items out on the fence when they won't be ruined by rain (and if things do get wet, we bring them in to dry and place fresh items out).

KIVA

This update on your loan to Komang was written by Kiva's Field Partner.

We'd like to take this opportunity to offer our deepest thanks for your support of NOVICA's artisan loan program on Kiva. Your clicks and loans are having such a positive impact on the lives of talented artisans around the world! Komang has continued to work on repaying the loan, and to date has paid back 39% of the original loan amount. The loan continues to have a positive impact on sales -- since the loan was issued, Komang's sales have increased 11% as compared to the same period last year. You may use the following link to view his sterling silver and gemstone jewelry on the NOVICA website: <https://www.novica.com/kiva/7744/>



FAIR TRADE MARKETPLACE

Be sure to check out our Fair Trade products at the church by the Jefferson Street entrance (in the glass case) and at the Art and Antiques Marketplace downtown! We are always adding new products so be sure to stop by often!



December Narrative Lectionary Text

DEC. 3 - THE FIERY FURNACE, DANIEL

John 18:36-37

Daniel 3:1, 8-30

DEC. 20 - VALLEY OF DRY BONES

John 11:25-26

Ezekiel 37:1-14

DEC. 17 - WORD ACCOMPLISHES GOD'S PURPOSE

John 4:13-14

Isaiah 55:1-11

DEC. 24 - WORD MADE FLESH

Psalm 130:5-8

John 1:1-18

DEC. 31 - A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

Psalm 32:1-2

John 1:19-34

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Linda Stoops

20 Years on Dec. 22

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 3 - Pam Bunner

Dec. 3 - Dave Cooper

Dec. 3 - Tiffany Cooper

Dec. 6 - Jim DeLong

Dec. 17 - Dave Lindsay

Dec. 18 - Amy Koon

Dec. 18 - Lois Laughlin

Dec. 21 - Benita Jernigan

Dec. 21 - Jean Lambert

Dec. 22 - Linda Stoops

Dec. 29 - Steve Thompson

NOVEMBER PLEDGES

November 5	\$2,850.00
November 12	\$13,619.00
November 19	\$2,462.00
November 26	\$641.42
November Total	\$19,572.42
YTD Total	\$140,530.27

2017 TAX DEADLINE

Any contributions for 2017 need to be postmarked or delivered to the church by Dec. 31, 2017 in order to show on your 2017 contribution statement. Gifts given after this date will reflect on your 2018 contribution statement. Thanks to all who support the ministries of First Presbyterian with your generous gifts.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The following gifts have been given during the month of November:

In Memory of Leona DeLong by:

Jean Lambert

Joan Krause Smith

Martha Warren

Steve Thompson

In Honor of our Great Cloud of Witnesses by:

Blake Boggess

*December Ministry
Volunteers*

USHERS

LITURGISTS

Dec. 3 & 10 Amy Turluck
Dec. 17 & 24 Isaiah Garletts





The church with a heart in the heart of the city!

the December 2017 Chimes

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F I R S T P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H



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