

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Breakfast: Today, Dec. 20, 9:15 – 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Pre-School - Elementary Sunday School will attend a Birthday Party for Jesus, 10:15-10:45 am, Upper Activity Center. Confirmation Classes will not meet. Adult Sunday School classes will meet at discretion of leader.

Poinsettia Dedications: If you want to request a poinsettia dedication in memory or honor of a loved one, please contact the church office 442-4411 or Amy White-Beard 442-0140 by noon, Wednesday, December 23.

Hat and Mitten Trees: We have two Hat and Mitten Trees, sponsored by Presbyterian Women, one in the Fellowship Hall, one in the Narthex. Please replace decorations on the trees with hats and/or mittens for children and young people elementary age through high school. The hats and mittens will be distributed to schools in the Fayetteville School District to be given to students.

Request for Gifts for new Chancel Organ Console: Our church is addressing the pipe organ's immediate need, which is this: we need to replace the console which no longer does what the organist tries to make it do. Performance problems occur intermittently and without warning. The worse news is that the console could suffer a major breakdown with just as little advance indication. The Session has approved an expenditure of \$30,000 to cover the costs of solving these urgent problems by replacing the two-manual keyboard console with a three-manual keyboard housed in a solid-state electrical unit. Of this amount, \$12, 750 has been paid from existing funds; the rest must be found elsewhere. The church has an organ fund to accommodate donations toward meeting such costs. Contributions are welcome to help defray the immediate expense of providing us with a reliable console. This is the first phase of a long-term program to rebuild and renovate the organ's most crucial elements before age and use catch up with them. Donations designated for the organ fund are welcome in the collection plate, or you may discuss a gift with Barry.

Special Offerings: Thank you for the generous donations totaling \$1,420.00 collected on December 6 for Cooperative Emergency Outreach. CEO helps our neighbors in crises with rent, food, utilities, and prescriptions. Thank you, also, to the Presbyterian Women who participate in Hooks and Needles every Friday at 10:00 am in the Activity Center. Their donation to CEO totaled \$1,230.00 in proceeds from their beautiful knitted, crocheted and stitched handiworks that were on sale at the Alternative Market.

Holiday Office Schedule: Thurs., December 24, the office will close at noon and be closed all day Fri., Dec. 25. From Mon. Dec. 28 - Wed., Dec. 30, the office will be open 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. On Thurs., December 31, the office will close at noon and re-open Mon., January 4.

Prayer Concerns: Mary Margaret Morton, Billy Thompson, Mary Schaller, Eva Stalker, Don Shefte, John Burhorn, Jim Scroggs, Catherine Cross, Rita Davis, Sue Ellen Ward, Rev. Maury Roberts, Marion Orton, Cindy Campbell (Wittry) (death of her uncle), Molly Williams, Margot Grossman (Byron Haines' Niece), Laurie Marshall (death of her mother), LeGene Vaughn (Mary Schlegal's sister-in-law), Chiko Sekiguchi (death of Ted), Becky Purcell (death of her Uncle Sam McCammon), Verne Righter, Pam Jenkins (sister of Laura Winburn's step-mother), Rita Manske (death of her sister Sandra Kretzer), Patsy Brewer (death of Ted), Mary Beth Coldwell (death of her mother Mary Frances Gladney), 2nd Lt. Alec Burner-Abt (Barbara Brown's nephew), Alyce Brown (David Brown's mother), Jane Nelson, Alex Ruth (death of his father), Verne Righter, Barbara George (death of her stepfather), Ronnie Denn, Inez Ballenger, John, Colin, and Bronwyn Dixon (death of Jan), Alvis Houston (Tom Houston's father), Jennifer Cole (daughter of Carole Walter), Randy and Pam Andersen, Cindy Andersen, Emily and Buckley Bridges, Erin and John Wilson, Melissa Wilson (death of Matthew: son, husband, brother and brother-in-law, uncle), Helen Ezell, Laurie Reh (death of her mother), Lene Wells (sister-in-law of Kathy Sprouse), David Dulin and family (friends of Mary Jo Harvey), Connie and Jeff Taylor (daughter and son-in-law of Mary Jo Harvey), Julie Olsen (death of her grandmother), Sue Gohn (death of sister), Norman Koch (father of Janet Clausen)

WELCOME GUESTS, we pray that our worship together will strengthen and nurture our faith. If you are seeking a church home, please feel free to learn more about First United Presbyterian Church by speaking to a minister, a staff member, or a member of Session.
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP PACKETS are available in the Narthex. These include activity sheets, crayons and bookmarks.
PROFESSIONAL NURSERY CARE is provided in lower level Calvin.
MEMBERSHIP IN FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—All are invited to unite with the church by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of church letter. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the pastors or the church office (442-4411).

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

Worship Services*: Sanctuary: 8:30 am, Communion: 11:00 am
Christmas Breakfast: 9:15 - 10:30 am, Fellowship Hall
Pre-school and Elementary Sunday School,
Birthday Party for Jesus: 10:15-10:45 am, Upper Activity Center
No Confirmation Classes, nor youth Sunday School
Adult Sunday School will meet at leader's discretion
Chinese School Christmas Party: 1:30-4:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
Belonging and Evangelism Committee Mtg., 3:00 pm
UPY Party: 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm,
Home of Kristi Button, 504 N. Sequoyah Dr., Fayetteville
Choir and Adult Handbells Party: 6:30 pm,
Home of Rob and Kristi Button, 504 N. Sequoyah Dr., Fayetteville

WEEK DAY CALENDAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

First School Closed December 21, 2009 - January 4, 2010
Staff Christmas Lunch: 11:00 am, Mermaid's
Boy Scouts: 7:00 pm, Activity Center

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Bulletin Announcements Due for December 27
Men's Breakfast: 6:30 am, Village Inn
FOCUS Assembly: 10:00 am, Calvin 201

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

Office Closes at noon
Christmas Eve Service: 5:30 pm, Sanctuary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day, Office Closed

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

AA Meeting: 6:00 pm, Activity Center

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

Worship Service*: Sanctuary: 8:30 am (communion), 11:00 am

*Indicates professional childcare is provided.

#Indicates reservations are required.

STAFF

Rev. Barry Williams
Interim Pastor

Dr. Todd Prickett
Director of Music

Rev. Lee Power
Parish Assistant

Jeannie Lee
Organist

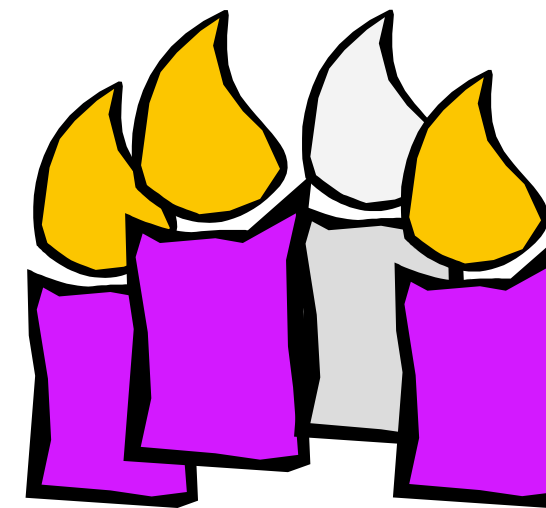
Kristi Button
Director of Christian Education

Melanie Dietzel
Administrative Assistant

Please call the church office, 442-4411, during the week with prayer concerns, joys or hospital information.

First United
Presbyterian Church
Fayetteville, Arkansas

*Called to be a **light on the hill,**
we boldly proclaim and serve Christ,
the hope of our changing world.*



LOVE

*First United Presbyterian Church
is a faithful, dynamic congregation
visibly demonstrating a deep commitment
to proclaim Jesus Christ,
as we lovingly grow in discipleship
and eagerly engage in service to others*

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 20, 2009**

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 20, 2009

GATHERING

PRELUDE *Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine* Gilbert Martin

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

LIFE AND WORK OF GOD'S PEOPLE

STRIKING OF THE BELL AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(11:00am)

ACOLYTES: Katherine Boushelle and Tyler Davis

*INTROIT FOR CHOIR AND CONGREGATION

(11:00 AM) *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (verses 1 and 2)* PH 2

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Before the majesty of God, we gather to worship;
In quiet expectation, we come to hear God's promises.
***This is where we belong; here we are warmly greeted.
Surely God will feed our deepest hunger***
Before the mercy of God, we lift our hearts;
In humble imagination, we welcome a new visitation.
***This day God is present with us; we feel it.
Surely God is preparing for us a time of joy.***

*ADVENT CHORALE (11:00 AM) Todd Prickett

*The first singing of Chorale will be by choir only,
then we will repeat Chorale with both congregation and choir.*

***Be joyful in the Word of life!
Rejoice, the Lord is Light!
For our dark world a Babe was born,
that blessed Christmas night.***

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

THE CANDLE OF LOVE

(8:30 AM) *Ted and Leslie Belden, Randy and Melissa Werner, Hayden*
(11:00 AM) *Bo Morton, Katie*

Loving God, we open ourselves to you
this Christmas season. As these candles are lit,
light our lives with your imagination.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained,
but must be shared. Magnify your love within us.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

*HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* PH 8

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Great God, we behold the gift of the child yet again,
yet we are also mindful of how we have failed to receive
the fullness of that gift. The story of this day points us
to your glory, yet we struggle daily to join in the angels' song.
We are distracted and confused,
so focused on things that matter little
that we have overlooked the good news of great joy.
Tell us again that the Savior is born.
Tell us again that we are forgiven.
Tell us again that life can be abundant
in faith and hope and love, not because of who we are,
but because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ.
(Silent Confession)***

*KYRIE

***Lord, have mercy, upon us.
Christ, have mercy, upon us.
Lord, have mercy, upon us.***

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends believe the good news of the gospel.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI PH 579

THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 7:10-16

ANTHEM (11:00 AM) *In the Bleak Mid-winter* Harold Darke

SECOND LESSON Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON *The Christmas Story and Our Story* Rev. Barry Williams

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from "A Declaration of Faith"

God sent the promised Deliverer to his people.
***Jesus, the long expected Savior,
came into the world as a child, descended from David,
conceived by the holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin.
He lived as a Jew among Jews.
He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom
of justice and peace on earth.***

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child,
yet born of God's power as was no other child.

***In the person and work of Jesus,
God himself and a human life are united but not confused,
distinguished but not separated.***

***The coming of Jesus was itself
the coming of God's promised rule.
Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
He brings about the relationship between
God and humanity that God always intended.***

Jesus is Lord!
***He has been Lord from the beginning.
He will be Lord at the end.
Even now he is Lord.***

*HYMN (11:00 AM) *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* PH 48

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (11:00 AM)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS
AND RECEIVING OF JOY OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Greensleeves* Guitar Ensemble
Rob Button, Roger Haak
Michael Heath, Richard Lee
Don Steinkraus

*DOXOLOGY PH 592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:30 AM)

SENDING

*HYMN *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* PH 38

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge
That God is always coming into the world.
***We will seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger,
But in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts.***
May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others;
May the peace of the season pervade all that you do.
***We will welcome the challenge of discipleship.
We will offer ourselves as God's ministers.
We will go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.***
Amen.
Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (11:00 AM)
(CHOIR AND CONGREGATION)
As with Gladness Men of Old (verses 1, 4) PH 63

POSTLUDE *A Joyous Noel* David Paxton

*Please stand as you are able.

Please register your attendance on the Friendship pad.