



First Presbyterian Church

300 Market Street ☩ Warren, PA 16365-2360

*Following Christ
So All May Thrive*

Office Hours: M, 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.; Tu-F 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Phone: 814-723-9200 ☩ Fax: 814-723-6049 ☩ E-mail: office@presbyterianwarren.com

Rev. Rebecca Taylor: H# 814-313-1136 • C# 814-596-8682 • Email: rebecca@presbyterianwarren.com

Website: www.presbyterianwarren.com

December 16, 2018

CALL TO CONFESSION (Leader)

[based on John 1]

In the busyness of our lives, we know that we are people who do not always recognize or welcome the true light that has come into the world. Knowing this about ourselves and knowing that we need this light in order to walk faithfully as God's children in the world, let us confess our sin before God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Have we praised you enough, O God, for your goodness toward us? If we have failed to honor you with our gratitude and love, forgive us! Help us not lose sight of the amazing gift your grace is! By your Holy Spirit, free us to respond in faith and trust! Hear us as we ask for your mercy in Jesus' name. Amen.

TIME FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

WORDS ASSURING US OF GOD'S GRACE (Responsive):

[based on John 1]

L: The light of God's love in Jesus Christ shines in our lives yet today!

P: Jesus, God's only Son, is full of grace and truth!

L: And from this fullness we receive grace upon grace!

P: In this grace we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

*RESPONSE

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

#582

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also, with you.

Please welcome your neighbors, sharing the peace of Christ with them.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

A MOMENT WITH OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

Holy God, by your Word stir us from doubt to faith, from despair to trust, and from fearfulness to confidence! Shape us by your Spirit as we hope in you, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Zephaniah 3:14-17

(CEB, below)

14 Rejoice, Daughter Zion! Shout, Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem. 15 The Lord has removed your judgment; he has turned away your enemy. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you will no longer fear evil. 16 On that day, it will be said to Jerusalem: Don't fear, Zion. Don't let your hands fall. 17 The Lord your God is in your midst—a warrior bringing victory. He will create calm with his love; he will rejoice over you with singing.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. † **People: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

We Three Kings

John Hopkins/Cynthia Dobrinski

Scotland Bell Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:15-18

(CEB, below)

15 The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. 16 John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out." 18 With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. † **People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

What a Difference!

Rev. Rebecca Taylor

SPECIAL MUSIC

Good News

Jay Althouse

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(traditional, page 35)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Amen

Dietsch

OFFERING

Offertory *Go Tell It on the Mountain* arr. Kern

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

WORDS AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

(from A Declaration of Faith)

To the world in its rebellion and alienation God promised blessing and restoration. The Lord chose Abraham and his descendants as bearers of that promise for all peoples. They had done nothing more than others to deserve the Lord's favor, but God loved them and made them his own.

Though we are unworthy, the Lord has made us his own in Christ. God has chosen us as his servants for the sake of the world and destined us to be his daughters and sons, giving us love and life, calling us to worship and honor him.

*HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* #132

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming* Michael Praetorius

POSTLUDE *Angels We Have Heard on High* arr. Carl Seal

L = Leader

P = People

*indicates that one is invited to stand in body or spirit

Hymnal: # indicates the hymn number in *Glory to God*

Bibles: NIV — *The Holy Bible: New International Version (pew racks)*; CEB — *The Common English Bible*

*** THE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE NEXT WEEK ***
Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Questions for Reflection

Where do you see the light of Christ magnified in your person, your life, and the ways of your family and community? Notice in the coming week one time each day when the light of Christ is made present for you by others.

Household Prayer: Morning

Thank you, good and gracious God, for the morning light, for another day in which to live out what it means that you have magnified my soul and the souls of those around me in this world. Teach me the meaning of “Let it be.” Show me how to trust; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Good and gracious God, we give you thanks that you have made incarnate in your world the breath of life, the life of hope. Keep us safe throughout the night that in the morning we may again rejoice and live in peace with all creation; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Taken from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2*. © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

OUR STAFF

Rev. Rebecca Taylor, Pastor
Barry Dietsch, Director of Music
Heather Dietsch, Organist
John Lasher, Percussion

Marilyn Dunkle, Office Manager
Betsy Griffin, Financial Secretary
Kyle Brecht, Property Manager
Ben Check, Night Custodian
Jen Neall, Worship Child Care
Terri Shaw, Worship Infant Care

***** OUR WORSHIP SERVICE *****

IF YOU ARE NEW TO OUR CHURCH, and are interested in uniting with this congregation, please speak to Pastor Rebecca or one of our Elders. We would love to have you as a member of our church family. Visitors are encouraged to fill out the pink visitor card found in the pew rack.

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS, BULLETINS, Children's Activity Bulletins, and hearing assist radios are available from the ushers.

THE PRAYER REQUEST FORM is located on the lecterns at the back of the sanctuary. Please fill in your concerns prior to worship.

WE WELCOME AND THANK Colleen Vignere, today's liturgist, Barry Dietsch for providing the Children's Sermon, and Ray and Rene' Pring and Mallory Warmath for lighting the Advent candle this morning.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL are given to the Glory of God and in memory of her mother, Eunice Martin, by Mark, Barb, and Aaron.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE is an ancient tradition of acknowledging the unique fellowship we have in Christ Jesus. Please take this opportunity to share the peace of Christ by whatever means you and the one you are greeting are most comfortable; a handshake, a hug, or a simple verbal greeting.

A MOMENT WITH OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES — From babes in arms to elementary school age children, we welcome the children forward to the chancel at this time. Parents should feel welcome to accompany younger children. After sharing and a closing prayer, children age 5 and younger may go upstairs for childcare or return to their seats with their parents.

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP — Our church welcomes children and families in worship. Nursery care is available on the second floor for infants and very young children. Elementary aged children are encouraged to be part of the service and are welcome to use the worship kits and books located in the back of the sanctuary. Silent pagers are available from the nursery and Terri will be happy to arrange notification of your child's needs.

***** EVENTS *****

CHRISTMAS CANTATA — This year's Christmas Cantata "Ceremony of Candles" by Joseph Martin will be presented Sunday, December 23. Soloists, ensembles, and choral music will be featured as the choir shares with you this very beautiful and meaningful musical setting of the story of the birth of Jesus. Following the service, Rebecca will host an Open House at the manse from 11:30 until 3:30 P.M.

HOLIDAY HOT MEALS – A sign up sheet is available in the Third Avenue hallway for those wishing to donate cookies or volunteer time to prepare and deliver Christmas meals. Over 300 meals were cooked and delivered at Thanksgiving.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – The Adult Sunday School Class meets at 9:00 A.M. in the Craft Room. All are welcome! The study is from the Book of Genesis.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- December 16 – Special Luncheon in honor of Barry, Heather, & Natalie Dietsch in Fellowship Hall.
Open House at the manse from 11:30 until 3:30 P.M.
- December 23 – Christmas Cantata “Ceremony of Candles” & Open House at the manse from 11:30 until 3:30 P.M.
- December 24 – 5:30 PM Children’s Service & 8 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Service
- December 25 – 6:30 – 11:30 A.M. – Holiday Hot Meals at First Lutheran Church
- December 30 – 10 AM Service of Lessons & Carols at First Lutheran Church

***** ANNOUNCEMENTS *****

DONATIONS AND GIFTS – The following donations or gifts have been received:

- to the General Memorial Fund in memory of Ann Zetterlind

Card Shower

We are organizing a card shower to remember our members who have trouble getting out and about during the Christmas season. You are encouraged to remember these people with a card if you are able.

MR DENNIS BONACE
10 E 3RD AVE
WARREN PA 16365-2614

RON & JUNE CARLSON
ROUSE SUITES #128
615 ROUSE AVENUE
YOUNGSVILLE PA 16371

MRS COLEEN CHRISTY
2159 MOHAWK AVE
WARREN PA 16365-3415

HARRY & MARY CONARRO JR
406 LIBERTY STREET
WARREN PA 16365-1727

MRS LOUISE CROZIER
304 JACKSON AVE
WARREN PA 16365-2642

MRS MARTY HOLTZ
CAMBRIDGE WARREN
706 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE W
WARREN PA 16365

GEORGE & CONNIE JOHNSON
6 WOODLAWN DRIVE
WARREN PA 16365-1235

MRS JACQUELINE JOHNSON
150 BUENA VISTA BLVD
WARREN PA 16365-3428

MRS BONNY JONES
ROUSE HOME #814A
701 ROUSE AVENUE
YOUNGSVILLE PA 16371

MS MARTHA JONES
701 ROUSE AVENUE
ROUSE HOME ROOM #602
YOUNGSVILLE PA 16371

MS SHERRAN JONES
101 LANSING ST
N WARREN PA 16365-4605

MRS KATHERINE JUDSON
6 YUCHA DR
YOUNGSVILLE PA 16371

MRS SALLY KASPER
615 ROUSE AVENUE
ROUSE SUITES APT 111
YOUNGSVILLE PA 16371

DR LARRY KRESPAN
109 ALEXANDER ST
WARREN PA 16365-1404

MRS MARGUERITE LASHER
CAMBRIDGE WARREN
706 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE ROOM #134
WARREN PA 16365

JACK & DELORES LEE
ROUSE SUITES APT 96
615 ROUSE AVENUE
YOUNGSVILLE PA 16371

LUCINDA LOBDELL
768 CABLE HOLLOW ROAD
RUSSELL PA 16345

MRS PATTY LUNDAHL
C/O HIGGINS
1019 CONEWANGO AVENUE
WARREN PA 16365-1484

KATHLEEN MAHAFFY
CAMBRIDGE WARREN #201
706 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE W
WARREN PA 16365

DEANE & CAROL PASSMORE
942 E 5TH AVE EXT
WARREN PA 16365-8403

MR NORMAN PERSCHKE
3140 COBHAM PARK RD
WARREN PA 16365-4420

MRS JAN SCOTT
8 DITMAR STREET
N WARREN PA 16365

MR ANDY SLOCUM
3104 COBHAM PARK
WARREN PA 16365

MRS BETTY STEKLACIC
673 BEECH ST
WARREN PA 16365-3642

MR LARRY STEWART
560 EAST THIRD STREET
SOILDERS AND SAILORS HOME
ERIE PA 16512

MRS BECKY SWANSON
ROUSE SUITES APT 128
615 ROUSE AVENUE
YOUNGSVILLE PA 16371

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY—16

9:00 A.M. THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Adult Bible Study – Craft Room
10:00 A.M. Morning Worship – Sanctuary
11:00 A.M. Luncheon – Fellowship Hall

MONDAY – 17

6:00 P.M. Troop 8 Christmas party – Fellowship Hall
6:00 P.M. Scouting Groups – Downstairs Classrooms
6:30 P.M. Troop 8 – Scout Room
6:30 P.M. Little Bach/Jr. Philomel – Memorial Parlor

TUESDAY—18

9:00 A.M. Staff Meeting – Minister’s Study
12:00 P.M. AA—Calvin Corner
7:00 P.M. AA (Women’s Group) – Calvin Corner

WEDNESDAY—19

12:00 P.M. Kiwanis Christmas Party – Fellowship Hall
5:45 P.M. Scotland Bell Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
7:00 P.M. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Rehearsal Room

THURSDAY – 20

12:00 P.M. Advent Service – First United Methodist Church
4:30 P.M. Sharing Place Meal – Fellowship Hall
6:30 P.M. Session Meeting – Craft Room
6:30 P.M. NA – Calvin Corner

FRIDAY—21

9:30 A.M. Story Time – Second Floor
6:00 P.M. AA (Men’s Group) - Calvin Corner

SATURDAY – 22

1:00 P.M. Choir Cantata Rehearsal

SUNDAY—23

9:00 A.M. FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Adult Bible Study – Craft Room
10:00 A.M. Christmas Cantata presented at Morning Worship – Sanctuary
11:30 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. - Christmas Open House - Manse



FPC Bulletins



FPC Newsletter



Donate to FPC, Warren, PA

Notes and Reflections

***** JOYS AND CONCERNS *****

Ushers have word of encouragement cards. If you would like to write a word of encouragement to any of the people mentioned, or others on your mind, please raise your hand and indicate how many cards you would like. Fill them out and drop them in the offering plate and we will ensure they are delivered during the week.

Joys:

Congratulations to Zora King; she's a great grandma again! Jolie Rae Johnson was born to Ryan and Kelly Johnson of Folcroft, PA on December 7, 2018.

Prayers of thanksgiving for Frodo, as he continues to heal.

Maxx Davis has safely arrived in Germany.

Concerns:

Prayers for Joyce Puleo, who will begin stem cell transplantation at Hillman's Cancer Center in Pittsburgh starting December 18 through Mid-January 2019.

Prayers for Sean Duckett

Prayers for June Carlson recovering from hip surgery at the Rouse Home, Room 705B

Prayers for Calvin Leonard

Prayers of healing for Betty Jane Berdine

Prayers for John Gocal (Bob Sears's uncle), recent cancer surgery and rehabbing at St. Mary's Asbury.

Prayers for Bob Matteo who is recovering from open heart surgery.

Prayers for Lisa Hochberg

Prayers for Emma and Leila

Prayers for Pat Fankhouser

Prayers for Linda Michael, Kay Dolan's sister, preparing for cancer treatments

Prayers for Ed Seebeck, who has health concerns.

Prayers for Connie Bartholomew Waxman who is battling cancer

Prayers for Rev. George Johnson

Prayers for Seth

Pray for healing and strength for Katie Rodgers, a teacher at WAEC, who is battling cancer

Prayers for Coleen Christy

Prayers for Andy Slocum

Prayers for Larry Krespan

Courage, strength, and faith to all those affected by violent crimes.

Those serving in our military, people struggling with addiction, & those in jail

Let us pray for all the downtrodden and those facing famine and hunger in remote and desolate places. Let the Light of the Lord shine on all peoples in all nations.

***** PRESBYTERY JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS *****

Joys and Concerns:

We acknowledge and pray for the churches and ministerial staff that constitute the Lake Erie Presbytery. This week we pray for the Conneaut Lake Presbyterian Church, Sam Heagy, preaching, and Rev. Jim McCormack, Honorably Retired.