



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.

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January 6, 2019

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Epiphany Sunday

January 6, 2019

10:00 A.M.

Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S GRACE

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *We Three Kings of Orient Are* Raymond Haan

INTROIT *Break Forth Oh Beauteous Heavenly Light* Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) [verses from Psalm 72]

L: Bless the Lord God, the God of Israel—

P: the only one who does wondrous things!

L: Bless God's glorious name forever;

P: let his glory fill all the earth!

*HYMN *What Star Is This with Beams So Bright* #152

CALL TO CONFESSION (Leader) [based on Psalm 103]

The Psalmist reminds us that “the Lord is compassionate and merciful, very patient, and full of faithful love. God doesn't deal with us according to our sin or repay us according to our wrongdoing.” It is to this God we open our hearts today, admitting our need of God's renewing grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Are we silent, O God, when we could be sharing the good news of your love for us? Forgive us! Are we still, O Lord, when we could be serving others with your grace for all? Forgive us! Are we cynical, O God, even though you have shown us the depth of your love and the breadth of your grace? Forgive us! Cleanse and renew us that we may be your glad and faithful witnesses! 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 Psalm 103]

L: "As far as east is from west...

P: that's how far God has removed our sin from us"!

L: Praise God for such compassion and mercy!

P: Praise God for the Lord's faithful love and unfailing grace!

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.

A MOMENT WITH OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES

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

Astorga

OFFERING

Offertory

Born 'Neath a Star

Grey

*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

WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Unison)

How, O Lord, can we live faithfully unless we understand your Word? How can we understand your Word without the help of your Spirit? Come in power among us so we may understand and live to your glory! Receive our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 3:8-12

(CEB, below)

8 God gave his grace to me, the least of all God's people, to preach the good news about the immeasurable riches of Christ to the Gentiles. 9 God sent me to reveal the secret plan[a] that had been hidden since the beginning of time by God, who created everything. 10 God's purpose is now to show the rulers and powers in the heavens the many different varieties of his wisdom through the church. 11 This was consistent with the plan he had from the beginning of time that he accomplished through Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 In Christ we have bold and confident access to God through faith in him.

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

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12

(CEB, below)

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. 2 They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. 4 He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote: 6 You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah, because from you will come one who governs, who will shepherd my people Israel." 7 Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." 9 When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. 11 They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

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

SERMON

Beam Us In!

Rev. Rebecca Taylor

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Sentences of Scripture (adapted from 1 Corinthians 12:4–7, 27)

Pastor: Friends, there are different gifts,

People: but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

Pastor: There are different ways of serving God,

People: but it is the same Lord who is served.

Pastor: God works through different people in different ways,

People: but it is the same God whose will is brought about through them all.

Pastor: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

People: to use for the common good.

Pastor: Together we are the body of Christ,

People: and individually members of him.

Pastor: The Church is the body of Christ. Christ gives to the Church all the gifts necessary to be his body. We strive to demonstrate these gifts in our life as a community in the world. We believe that we are called to be a community of faith, of hope, of love, and of witness. In the power of the Spirit, we are drawn by Christ into the activity of God in our midst and in the world.

Constitutional Questions of Incoming Ruling Elders

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

I do.

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

Will you be a faithful Ruling Elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will**

Constitutional Questions of the Congregation

Do we, the members of the church, accept Laurence Dyke, Victoria Eggleston, James Eggleston, Joanna Elletson, Jennifer Rossey, Lynn Sears, and Carol Swanson as Ruling Elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Laying on of Hands and Prayer

Charge from Scripture

Extending the Right Hand of Fellowship

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF FAITH

Invitation

Words from Scripture concerning the meal

(I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Receiving the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Please hold the elements until all have been served, so we can eat/drink together. The small cup in the center of the bread tray contains gluten-free bread.

*HYMN

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

#509

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Nunc Dimitus

Luvaas

POSTLUDE

Festive Trumpet Tune

David German

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 ***

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Questions for Reflection

How may I live in the power of the Holy Spirit this day? What in my life is like chaff that the Holy Spirit burns away in order for me to live as a free and faithful child of God?

Household Prayer: Morning

Loving God, we begin this new day in the sure knowledge that you have claimed us as your children. In all that we do, keep us mindful of actions that are pleasing in your sight. In all that we say, make us attentive to the witness we give to your love. Let our lives be an example to all whom we encounter, living as daughters and sons of God who follow in the path of Jesus, our Lord and our brother. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

As evening comes and we end the labors of this day, we thank you, Lord Jesus, that you have been our companion. If we have disregarded your fellowship, forgive us. Where we have strayed from your path, correct us. Let us rest this evening as children of God, sheltered in the love of those who belong to your holy family of grace. 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.

THE TEXTS IN BOLD will be used in worship next Sunday; please read them during the week and pray that God's spirit will help and guide us all as we encounter God's word!

OUR STAFF

Rev. Rebecca Taylor, Pastor
Debbie Hunter, Interim Director of Music
Hunter Peterson, Interim Musician
Michelle Sandberg, Interim Musician
Lynn Waterfield, Interim Musician
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 Lynn Sears, today's liturgist, Carrie Salapek for providing the Children's Sermon.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bill and Anna Jane Nicodemus by Steve Nicodemus, Martha Leathers, Kimmie, Jesus, Steve, and Natassja.

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 *****

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.

**** ANNOUNCEMENTS ****

DONATIONS AND GIFTS – The following donations have been received:

- to the Music Fund in honor of the Scotland Bell Choir and Sanctuary Choir members

HELP LEAD OUR MUSIC MINISTRY - First Presbyterian Church of Warren, PA seeks a dynamic, creative leader or leaders for our Music Ministry. Our team leader will chart the musical direction for our church for both worship and special events. We have a Sanctuary Choir and a Scotland Handbell Choir that require music selection, rehearsal and worship service direction as well as accompaniment. Available is a grand piano and a 1956 Casavant Pipe Organ. The organ was built and is regularly serviced by Parsons Pipe Organ Builders of Canada and is renown through the area. For additional information, please contact Lynn Sears, Personnel Chair at (814)730-9479 or thesears4@msn.com. A résumé may be sent to the above email address or to First Presbyterian Church 300 Market St. Warren, PA 16365 Attn: Lynn Sears

THANK YOU! – **Sherran Jones** wishes to thank those who mailed cards to her this holiday season and for their kind and caring thoughts. Know that she appreciated your thoughtfulness. **Becky Swanson** and **Jacqueline Johnson** also wish to extend their thanks and appreciation to all those who send Christmas cards to them. Your thoughtfulness and kindness are greatly appreciated.

This Week's Servers:		Next Week's Servers (January 13, 2019)	
Liturgist	Lynn Sears	Liturgist	Barb Phillips
Children's Sermon	Carrie Salapek	Children's Sermon	Vickie Eggleston
Secure Offering		Secure Offering	
Coffee Hour	Ray & Rene' Pring	Coffee Hour	Barb & Mark Phillips
Flower Delivery	Lisa McPherson	Flower Delivery	Joyce Hill
Attendance December 23	109	Attendance December 24	154

Breaking News! Please take note!

There are several upcoming events that you won't want to miss as they are significant conversations for the present and future of this faithful congregation! Mark your calendar! If you wonder if these gatherings are for you, the answer is "YES!" Now that we know the **who**, here's the **what** and **when** and **where**:

What: Open Conversation about the **Unglued Church Project** – how is it impacting the congregation and interfacing with its mission and ministry? What is next now that the formal process is complete?

When: Saturday, January 19th, 2019 beginning at 9:00 AM

Where: Memorial Parlor

What: **Annual Meeting** which will feature not only reports but also information about upcoming developments and the opportunity to amend the bylaws of the corporation to phase out the Board of Deacons (but not the office of Deacon!)

When: Sunday, January 27th, 2019 at the conclusion of morning worship with the enjoyment of a winter "picnic"

Where: Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall

What: Gathering to Discern & Discuss a **Way Forward** – let's pray, dream and share together in an open and inclusive conversation about how the mission and ministry of this congregation will be carried out/lived into if the current committee structure is shifted, loosened up, or even dismantled

When: Sunday, February 10th, 2019 at the conclusion of morning worship over the table fellowship of a luncheon [childcare will be provided]

Where: Fellowship Hall

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY—6

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD COLLECTION

- 9:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study – Craft Room
- 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship – Sanctuary
- 11:00 A.M. Fellowship Hour – Memorial Parlor
- 11:20 A.M. Mission Team meeting – Conference Room

MONDAY – 7

- 6:00 P.M. Scouting Groups - Downstairs Classrooms
- 6:00 P.M. Troop Committee meeting – Craft Room
- 6:30 P.M. Troop 8 – Scout Room

TUESDAY—8

- 12:00 P.M. AA – Calvin Corner
- 1:30 P.M. Watson Home Communion
- 6:00 P.M. Properties Team – Library
- 6:00 P.M. Worship Team – Craft Room
- 7:00 P.M. AA (Women’s Group) – Calvin Corner

WEDNESDAY—9

- 5:45 P.M. Scotland Bell Rehearsal – Sanctuary
- 7:00 P.M. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Rehearsal Room

THURSDAY – 10

- 4:30 P.M. Sharing Place Meal – Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 P.M. District Scout Committee – Craft Room
- 6:30 P.M. NA – Calvin Corner

FRIDAY—11

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

SATURDAY – 12

- 9:30 A.M. Presbytery Officer Training – Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY—13

- 9:00 A.M. Finance Team – Library
- 9:00 A.M. Adult Sunday School – Craft Room
- 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship – Sanctuary
- 11:00 A.M. Fellowship Hour – Memorial Parlor
- 11:20 A.M. Shepherds/Deacons Team – Craft Room



FPC Bulletins



FPC Newsletter



Donate to FPC, Warren, PA

Notes and Reflections

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:

Concerns:

Our Christian sympathy to Rebecca Taylor upon the death of her uncle, Charles H. Porter, 90, of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, who died Tuesday, January 1, 2019.

Our Christian sympathy to Bob and Lynn Sears and their family upon the death of Bob's uncle, John Gocal who died January 1, 2018 on his 89th birthday.

Prayers for Ralph Wade, Carol Hanna's brother, diagnosed with colon cancer & is back at the Rouse Prayers for Joyce Puleo is undergoing stem cell transplantation through Mid-January 2019 at Hillman's Cancer Center in Pittsburgh

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 Lisa Hochberg

Prayers for Emma and Leila

Prayers for Pat Fankhouser

Prayers for Linda Michael, Kay Dolan's sister, receiving 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 Plumer Presbyterian Church, Oil City, Rev. Vincent Dagadu, Moderator, Upper Northern Presbytery, Ghana.