

**FIRST**  
Presbyterian  
Church  
Parkersburg, WV



Monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church

Dec. 2021

Jan. 2022



**CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Annie McMillan  
- Pastor

Amy Sinclair  
- Director of Music

Elder Chris Alfred  
- Director of Finance

Judi Echard  
- Office Secretary

Matt Buchanan  
- Sound Technician

Larry Wiseman  
- Sexton

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday-Thursday: 10 - 3



**Special Dates**

- First day of winter - Dec. 21
- Christmas Eve - Dec. 24
- Christmas Day - Dec. 25
- New Year's Eve - Dec. 31
- New Year's Day - Jan. 1
- Epiphany - Jan. 6
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Jan. 17



Matthew 6:33

**God's Messengers**

On Sunday Advent began - that season in the church calendar that leads up to Christmas. Advent is from the Latin *adventus* which means "a coming, approach, arrival." During this season, we prepare for Christ's arrival both as the infant Jesus on Christmas Day and when Christ comes again at the Second Coming.

Advent is therefore known as a season of waiting. We are waiting "for the Christ child to be born anew in our hearts, for God to 'create a new heaven and a new earth' and for Christ to come again and the reign of God come to this world." But waiting doesn't mean sitting back and twiddling our thumbs until things change. In her book *Fearless Living*, Rhonda Britten notes, "when we passively wait, we are living in fear."

It's been quite the year. Actually, it's been quite the few years for First Presbyterian of Parkersburg. And while it might have been tempting to just sit and wait, many of you stepped up so that the church could continue to be active, even if it wasn't as you had imagined. In one of her articles about this worship series, Marcia McFee looks at Britten's quote and writes, "What she is referring to is that when we wait for circumstances outside of ourselves to change in order to feel hope, peace, joy or love or to live our lives fully, we rob ourselves of the chance to have those things right now. Cultivating those things means we accept and claim

our agency to make our lives our own and move freely into the future no matter the circumstances of our lives or the world around us. And when we do that, we are living fully into who God calls us to be because we have the power ... to help shift circumstances rather than live in fear of them. So... the 'waiting' in Advent cannot be a passive waiting ... that believes that God doesn't need us in order to make the world a safer, better place for all people. This is the message that the angels who appear to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the shepherds bring to us in this Advent series. They bring news, yes. But they also invite participation in the story. The message is 'God is doing thus-and-such' and 'you are a part of it.' Get over your fear because God is in need of you. And in order for all this to happen, we are going to need more hope, more peace, more joy, more love and more life all around. God needs you to spread the word."

This is what we are diving into with this year's Advent and Christmas worship series. Join us on Sunday mornings during December and on Christmas Eve as we look for God's messengers and how God might be calling us to spread the message of hope, peace, joy, love, and life.



Blessings and Peace,

*Pastor Annie*



## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

(Unless otherwise noted)

**8:30a** Worship (Chapel)  
**10:00a** Coffee Hour (Harris Room)  
**10:30a** Worship (Sanctuary)

**Wed., Dec. 1**

**2:00p** Staff Meeting  
**7:00p** Small Vocal Group Rehearsal

**Thurs., Dec. 2**

**6:00p** Cub Scout Pack meeting  
**6:00p** Bible Study  
**6:30p** Small Bell Group rehearsal  
**7:15p** Boy Scouts Troop 3

**Sun., Dec. 5** Communion

**10:00a** PW Christmas Open House  
**11:15a** PW Christmas Open House

**Mon., Dec. 6**

**6:00p** Deacons' Meeting  
**7:00p** KOM Knitters' Guild



*'Twas not a palace proud and fair  
 he chose for his first home;  
 No dazzling pile of grandeur rare,  
 with pillar'd hall and dome;  
 Oh no! a stable, rude and poor,  
 received him at his birth;  
 And thus was born, unknown, obscure,  
 the Lord of heaven and earth. ...*

*Come to your Savior's lowly bed,  
 ye vain and proud of heart!  
 And learn with bowed and humbled head  
 the lesson 'twill impart;  
 'Twill teach you not to prize too high  
 the riches vain of earth –  
 But to lay up in God's bright sky  
 treasures of truer worth. ...*

–Rosanna Leprohon (1829-1879)

**Tues., Dec. 7**

**7:30p** Cub Scouts Roundtable

**Wed., Dec. 8**

**6:00p** Bible Study  
**7:00p** Small Vocal Group Rehearsal

**Thurs., Dec. 9**

**6:30p** Small Bell Group rehearsal  
**7:15p** Boy Scouts Troop 3

**Tues., Dec. 14**

**12:00p** PW Circles Christmas Party  
**4:30p** Worship & Celeb. Comm.  
**6:00p** Session

**Wed., Dec. 15**

**6:00a** Bright Beginnings Childcare  
**5:00p** Financial Mgmt.  
**6:00p** Bible Study  
**7:00p** Small Vocal Group Rehearsal

**Thurs., Dec. 16**

**6:00p** Cub Scout Pack meeting  
**6:30p** Small Bell Group rehearsal  
**7:15p** Boy Scouts Troop 3

**Sun., Dec. 19**

Christmas Joy Offering

**Wed., Dec. 22**

Wood Co. Schools Christmas break  
 (thru 1/2)  
**6:00p** Bible Study  
**7:00p** Small Vocal Group Rehearsal

**Thurs., Dec. 23**

**6:30p** Small Bell Group rehearsal  
**7:15p** Boy Scouts Troop 3

**Fri., Dec. 24** Christmas Eve

**6:45p** Special Prelude Music  
**7:00p** Christmas Eve Worship  
 Communion

**Sat., Dec. 25** Christmas Day

**12:00p** Christmas Day Dinner

**Sun., Dec. 26**

**8:30a** NO 8:30 Worship

**Mon., Dec. 27**

Church office closed

**Tues., Dec. 28**

**12:30p** PW Board

**Thurs., Dec. 30**

**7:15p** Boy Scouts Troop 3

## DECEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

Jim Houck	11th
Connor Buchanan	17th
Cole Dennison	18th
Barbara Farell	21st
Debbie Foley	22nd
Jean Percy	24th
Bob Tebay	30th

Norm & Judy Smith	22nd
Lloyd & Sandy Cowell	27th

## DECEMBER LITURGISTS

5 - Morgan James  
 12 - Lori Rings  
 19 - Kathy Hinkley  
 24 - Kelly Beckett  
 26 - Melanie Thompson

December 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



with communion  
 and candlelight

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Special Music Begins at 6:45  
 Worship Begins at 7:00

# JANUARY

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

(Unless otherwise noted)

8:30a Worship (Chapel)  
10:00a Coffee Hour (Harris Room)  
10:30a Worship (Sanctuary)

Sat., Jan. 1 **New Year's Day**

Sun., Jan. 2 **Epiphany Sunday**

8:30a **NO** 8:30 Worship

Mon., Jan. 3

**Church office closed**

6:00p **Deacons' Meeting**

7:00p KOM Knitters' Guild

Tues., Jan. 4

7:30p Cub Scouts Roundtable

Wed., Jan. 5

4:45p **Staff Meeting**

7:00p Small Vocal Group Rehearsal

Thurs., Jan. 6

6:00p Cub Scout Pack meeting

6:30p Small Bell Group rehearsal

7:15p Boy Scouts Troop 3

Sun., Jan. 9 **Baptism of the Lord**

*Communion*

Tues., Jan. 11

10:30a **Miriam/Priscilla Circles**

7:00p **Facilities Management**

Wed., Jan. 12

7:00p Small Vocal Group Rehearsal

Thurs., Jan. 13

6:30p Small Bell Group rehearsal

7:15p Boy Scouts Troop 3

Mon., Jan. 17 **MLK, Jr. Day**

No School

Tues., Jan. 18

5:00p **Worship & Celeb. Comm.**

Wed., Jan. 19

5:00p **Financial Mgmt.**

7:00p Small Vocal Group Rehearsal

Thurs., Jan. 20

6:00p Cub Scout Pack meeting

6:30p Small Bell Group rehearsal

7:15p Boy Scouts Troop 3

Fri., Jan. 21 No School

Tues., Jan. 25

12:30p **PW Board**

6:00p **Session**

Wed., Jan. 26

7:00p Small Vocal Group Rehearsal

Thurs., Jan. 27

6:30p Small Bell Group rehearsal

7:15p Boy Scouts Troop 3

## STAR WORDS EPIPHANY SUNDAY



**JANUARY 2 - 10:30 A.M.**

This will be our second year to observe the tradition of Star Words, beginning on Epiphany Sunday. During 10:30 Worship on January 2, we would like to hear from you if you used your Star Word during 2021 to enrich your spiritual walk. If you would like to share a brief account (3 mins.) of how you used your Star Word during this year, contact **Kelly Beckett, 304-991-3613**.

## JANUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Yvonne White	1st
Justin Bosley	13th
Mary Stoneking	15th
David Gibson	16th
Mike Bosley	17th
Amy Leach	20th
Norm Smith	22nd
Kathy Hinkley	24th
Cynthia Essenmacher	26th
Nancy Brooks	27th
Carolyn Miller	28th
Katie Buchanan	30th
Phil Essenmacher	30th
Connor Smith	31st



Dave & Becky Bell



1st

## NURSING HOME RESIDENT

**The Willows**

Mary Anne Danser

January 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## Deacons Christmas Project

To provide small gifts to our Care Family members and friends, take a snowflake from the **Christmas "Flock Tree"** in the foyer, purchase the items indicated, and return them to the basket.



There is also a collection point to drop off Christmas cards for these members. Printed address lists are available in the foyer. You may mail your own cards if you prefer.

Drop off your cards and gifts at the church **Monday thru Thursday, 10 - 3**, or on Sundays, **by December 13** so these items of Christmas cheer can be delivered by the Deacons to those who cannot attend worship.

## FIRST

### Presbyterian Church

1341 Juliana Street  
Parkersburg, WV 26101



Phone: 304-422-5426

Fax: 304-428-0372

E-mail: [office@fpcpbwv.org](mailto:office@fpcpbwv.org)

Visit us at:

[www.fpcpbwv.org](http://www.fpcpbwv.org)



[Facebook.com/fpcpbwv](https://www.facebook.com/fpcpbwv)

WE ARE A NURTURING, VIBRANT  
CONGREGATION, REACHING OUT  
TO THE COMMUNITY AND

STANDING AS A BEACON  
OF CHRIST'S LOVE  
AND PROMISE.

#### Sunday Worship:

8:30 & 10:30 a.m., In person,  
livestream on Facebook, or  
turn to 1710 AM Radio at 10:30  
from church parking lot



*"What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man,  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him:  
give my heart."*

- Christina Rossetti

NEWS ARTICLE DEADLINES

15TH DAY OF EACH MONTH



**"HE WILL REIGN...  
AND OF HIS  
KINGDOM  
THERE WILL BE  
NO END!"**

**LUKE 1:33, NRSV**

## 32nd Annual Christmas Day Dinner

Work has begun for our community Christmas Dinner,  
and we can use your help with the following:



\***Volunteer:** Hands-on workers are crucial to this event. If you can help with food prep, set up, clean up, meal delivery, serving food, greeting guests, PLEASE VOLUNTEER! It takes a lot of folks to make this outreach a success.

\***Donate Cookies & Pies:** **Cookies**, because they freeze well, can be delivered to the church Mon.-Thurs., 10 - 3. To drop off, first call the church office (304-422-5426) and deliver at the **front** entrance, or bring them when you come to church on any Sunday. To save us valuable prep time, place your cookies in small zipper bags [4 per bag] before delivering.

**Pies** can be delivered **Wednesday, December 22, and Thursday, December 23, 10 - 3,**

(If you can donate baked goods, please sign up in the foyer **NOW** so we can plan for last-minute purchases.)

\***Loan Us Your Electric Roasters** for serving. They will be returned to you after Christmas. (Please clearly mark your names on them.)

To see all the ways you can help, check the signup sheet in the foyer. Let us know of a particular job that interests you. We will call you to schedule times, etc.

If you can't help with physical tasks, and don't like to bake, cash donations are welcome. Make checks payable to the church, with a notation "Christmas Dinner."



If you have questions, call the church office, **304-422-5426**, or contact Joe & Debbie Foley at [dopplerdeb50@gmail.com](mailto:dopplerdeb50@gmail.com), or Melanie Thompson at [mel85speech@gmail.com](mailto:mel85speech@gmail.com).

**Thank you for your help with this vital community outreach!**