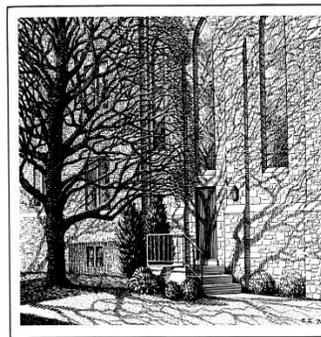


December 1 - 8, 2019



FIRST VIEW: The News @ FPC

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 COMMUNION SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour – Dining Room

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts – Fletcher Room

6:30 p.m. Christian Education Committee

6:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee - Refectory

7:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous – Fletcher Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

7:45 a.m. Men's Breakfast Bible Study – Eat 'n Park, Greensburg

12:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous – Fletcher Room

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting – Assembly Room

6:00 p.m. Mission Committee – Assembly Room

7:00 p.m. Advent Midweek Service - Chapel

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

6:30 p.m. Kirk Ringers - Bell Room

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir - Choir Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

12:00 p.m. Advent Recital & Art Show – Sanctuary/Assembly Room

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour – Dining Room

12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

3:00 p.m. Second Sunday Supper – Dining Room

7:00 p.m. Westmoreland Choral Society Concert - Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS CARDS OF OUR CHURCH NOW AVAILABLE! The Nativity Window at First Presbyterian Church has been a source of inspiration and beauty since its installation in April 1942 as a gift given to the memory of Rebecca Coulter Barclay by Mr. and Mrs. John Barclay, Jr. A 12-pack set of cards featuring the Annunciation, the Birth, the Visit of the Shepherds and the Visit of the Wise Men is available for \$20.00 following worship services and through the church office during the week. Pick up a set or two soon as these are in limited production and make great conversation starters for our church. Glory to the newborn King!

CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE... Please look for your church envelopes in *the Assembly Room*. We encourage members to please pick them up to help the church save on postage expense. They can be found on the tables near the Laird Memorial Library! **DON'T MISS YOUR BOXED SET!!!**

ADVENT FRIDAY RECITAL & ART SHOW SET!

THREE FRIDAYS IN DECEMBER AT 12 NOON

For the Advent season, come and view the installation of seventeen quilts from our own Thea McCurry in the Assembly Room of the church. They are absolutely beautiful and inspiring! Consider spending your lunchtime with us on Fridays, starting on Friday, December 6 with an organ recital by John Salvesson. These will be followed on subsequent Fridays as follows: December 13: Aaron Sproul of St. Bernard in Mt. Lebanon and December 20: Michelle Kardos, Music Director for the Sisters of Charity. The recitals will take place at noon and a take-out meal will be available for purchase for \$10 following the recitals.

LUNCH BUNCH - Something new! The December 10 Lunch Bunch will be traveling to The Frick to see the Katharine Hepburn Exhibition. We will have lunch following our self-tour. Tickets for seniors will be \$13 and purchased at the door. Interested? Be sure to sign up at coffee hour. We will organize car pools to leave from the church at 10:00.

CORNERSTONE GATHERING: ALL ARE INVITED! - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 6 P.M. Cornerstone is a gathering of folks from FPC on a monthly basis for dinner and conversation. We will be returning to Old Grille 66, 991 Old State Route 66, Greensburg. Sign up during coffee hour, call Sandy Beauregard or the church office before December 11. See you there!!!

REDSTONE HIGHLANDS CAROLING PARTY - SUNDAY, DEC. 15 6:00 P.M. Calling all children, parents, families, singles, members and friends of First Presbyterian Church! Come on out Sunday, December 15 to Redstone Highlands and spread a little Christmas cheer! We'll be gathering at 5:45 p.m. to ready ourselves at the Miller Chapel at Redstone for the caroling party at 6:00 p.m. This is always a highlight of the Christmas season for us and for the residents of Redstone!

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25: Celebrate Christ's birth by helping others; this is the true Christmas spirit! We need lots of assistance to make this occasion a special day. **If you would like to help make deliveries, help prepare food, help serve and/or help clean-up, please sign up during coffee hour or call the church office (724.832.0150).** This year we are asking for monetary contributions toward the purchase of the foodstuffs necessary to provide a tasty and nourishing dinner for our take-out and dine-in guests on Christmas Day. So, you may place your contribution in the offering plate on Sunday mornings with a note on the memo line that this is a Christmas Dinner contribution. We will still need people to bake cakes and provide apples and oranges and wrapped hard candy for the table decorations to help create a festive atmosphere for the people who come to the church for dinner. Please sign up at the table during coffee hour.

Contribution List

Cakes – 25; Apples and oranges - enough to decorate 10 or more tables; 7 dozen candy canes and other wrapped hard candy; Shopping bags & boxes **Please bring your cakes to the church on Dec. 24 ... all other donations need to be dropped off by noon on Dec. 23. You can also help by signing some Christmas cards during the coffee hour after the service. These cards will be distributed with the dinners on Christmas.**

A GIFT FOR THE KING: NOVEMBER 24 – DECEMBER 31

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At the birth of Jesus Christ, it is said the Magi came bearing gifts for the Christ child. This tradition has contributed to the origins of our current traditions of gift-giving at Christmas time. As children, we experienced great joy in receiving gifts on Christmas morning; as adults, we have grown to experience even greater joy in giving!

During this Holy Season, our Stewardship Committee is asking that you prayerfully consider giving an additional gift to help our church meet the budget. Currently, we are projecting a shortfall for 2019 of over \$75,000. Fortunately, we have worked to stay in our budget, but the difference has come in a shortfall in giving. The results of such a shortfall can be avoided if we all commit together to follow the example of the Magi (the wise men) and offer an additional, over-and-above the pledge giving during the weeks following Christ the King Sunday.

This is a moment of some concern for us all. Providentially, the church does possess reserves that represent some of the legacy of historical generosity of the members who have traveled this way before us. For this heritage we are indeed thankful. But we cannot continue to rely upon this heritage to make up a shortfall; we must, together as a congregation, support the current ministries and programs of our church. Our congregation has certainly been generous in many ways; we need to build on that generosity.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee,
-Martin Ankrum

THE MEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY meets at Eat'n Park on Rt. 30 E. each Wednesday morning at 7:45 a.m. for a time of fellowship, study and, of course, breakfast. We are now studying the Book of Acts under the leadership of Dr. Ankrum.

THE FAITH & FAMILY GROUP meets on the third floor of the CE Wing at 9 a.m. every Sunday during the academic year (Sept. – May) to discuss topics related to our faith and family relationships. The group is composed of young couples, singles and any in the church who are interested in how our faith influences our parenting. This year our topic will be a discussion of the book, *Crazy Busy*, by Kevin De Young, a concept to which all parents can relate!

C.S. LEWIS ON THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9 A.M.

This year, we will be reading about and discussing the faith of a particularly well-known theologian/writer, C.S. Lewis. Dr. Ankrum leads this class which meets in the PW Lounge.

CHRISTMAS EVE @ FPC - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 PM – Children's Service in the Sanctuary

Join us for a simple expression of worship and adoration of the arrival of the Christ Child. God's children of all ages will delight in this worship experience!

9:00 PM – Communion Service in the Memorial Chapel

A service of worship for Christmas Eve in the quiet beauty of our chapel including a brief Christmas Eve homily and the sacrament of Holy Communion celebrated.

11:00 PM – The Fifty-Fifth Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols

Patterned after the well-known service that originated at Kings College Chapel in Cambridge, England, this service takes place in the sanctuary.



**A Report on the Capital Campaign
Pledges totaling \$729,913!
Donations received \$717,308!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

OUR CHILDREN ARE HAVING A GREAT TIME GROWING IN FAITH! To finish our time in November, we'll have a lesson on having an "Attitude of Gratitude." Then we'll start with a series on Christmas!

	Kindergarten – 2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade – 5 th Grade
December 1 "Christmas"	Art (1 st Floor, Room 2)	Science (Storytelling Room – 3 rd Floor)
December 8	Science (Storytelling Room – 3 rd Floor)	Art (1 st Floor, Room 2)

Our kids have been learning in Sunday school what it means to be a steward (to manage something that doesn't belong to you) and how God has called us to do this with what we've been given. Our kids voted to support two organizations with their offerings this year: Wildlife Works and Zachary's Mission! Wildlife Works is located in Youngwood and helps rehabilitate wild animals that have been injured or orphaned. Zachary's Mission helps to provide resources to families with medically fragile children. Bring in your offering during Sunday school each week or put it in a pew envelope and label it "Sunday School offering." Parents, thanks for being the first and foremost example and great support in helping your children learn more about stewardship!

YOUTH & CONFIRMATION!! WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER?

Sunday, December 8 – Second Sunday Supper!!! Join with your friends from church in preparing and serving the monthly dinner on the Second Sunday of the month! We would need your help anytime after worship on Sunday, Dec. 8!

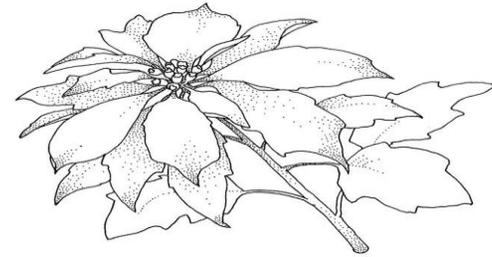
Sunday, December 15 – Christmas Caroling at Redstone!

This year, we can't provide transportation to this event, but just bring your parents with you! They'll have fun too! Help us lead in song and good cheer with the residents and friends at Redstone Highlands in Greensburg. **Please come to Redstone by 6:00 p.m.**

CONFIRMATION CLASS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8: 12:30 - 2:30 P.M.

This will be our third class and we have a new teacher!!! Come and meet with Rev. Ankrum, our confirmation teacher. He's really more fun than you would think for someone over 30 ... Please note the change of time for this class.

Christmas Poinsettia



twistynoodle.com

Christmas Poinsettias For the Sanctuary!

Prepaid Orders Due: Sunday, December 8, 2019

If you wish to place one or more plants in the Sanctuary for Christmas week services, including the Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons & Carols, please return this form to the church office with \$8 for each plant desired. You may, if you wish, place your poinsettias "In Memory Of" and/or "In Honor Of" loved ones. Deadline for orders is **Sunday, December 8, 2019.**

Poinsettias may be picked up following the
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

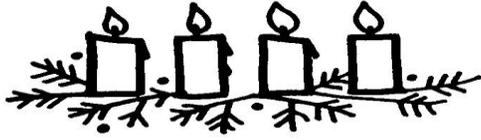
Name

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ poinsettias.

"In Memory of"

"In Honor of"

ADVENT 2019



Sundays in Advent:

- December 1 – 10:00 a.m.** *“A Culmination”*
Communion Service
Dr. Martin Ankrum preaching
- December 8 – 10:00 a.m.** *“We Might Have Hope”*
Dr. Martin Ankrum preaching
- December 15 - 10:00 a.m.** *“Patience is a Virtue – Really!”*
Dr. Martin Ankrum preaching
- December 22 – 10:00 a.m.** *“Forethought”*
Dr. Martin Ankrum preaching

Wednesdays in Advent – A Chapel Service – 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a brief half-hour worship service for the Wednesdays of Advent in our Memorial Chapel. We will hear the Advent & Incarnation story in song presented by a small choir led by Marc Tourné, Bridget Deveney & John Salvesson. Take some time for meditation during this busy Advent season on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 11 & 18 at 7 p.m.

2019 Advent Devotional – “What God Has Done”

Each Advent season, Dr. Ankrum produces a daily devotional to assist the congregation in our observation of this holy time. The devotional will be mailed in mid-November. If you don't receive one by the start of Advent, please ask an usher in worship for one or call the church office. This year, the devotional will focus upon Paul's Epistle to the Romans, a powerful and inspiring book of the New Testament.

STIRRED HEARTS: ORGAN & THE ARTS The Blossoms in the Desert Lenten organ and artists series held at noon on Fridays in Lent has certainly "stirred my heart" as did the one during Advent. The period during which the organist plays allows time for meditation and reflection following with lunch and lively conversation while we admire the artwork. I think the artist says it best in her notes "My favorite seasons are seasons of anticipation -when the air smells of guarded hope and warm light begins to illuminate the clouds.... Yearning...for an awakening." My only disappointment is that more do not attend.

Barbara Ferrier

SPECIAL TRIP TO BYHAM THEATER C.S. LEWIS'S "THE GREAT DIVORCE" SATURDAY, FEB. 15, 2020 – 4 P.M.

If are interested in attending this spectacular theatrical adaption of Lewis's great work, *The Great Divorce*, please call the church office or contact Julie Ankrum. Ticket prices are about \$50 a piece (there may be a discount given the size of the group.) However, we would need to know of your intention to attend soon. Thank you!

BEAR-Y CHRISTMAS –Bears will be available Sundays, November 24 and December 1. Please come to coffee hour to choose your bear. You will need to bring your bear to the table to receive pertinent information to help you make your gift selection. Please make sure you sign the bear out so we know who has what child. We have 65 children to provide for. The amount you spend is entirely up to you. Gifts must be returned, **unwrapped**, and in a gift bag no later than Sunday, December 8. Please staple your card on to your gift bag when returning your gift and place under the Christmas tree. Thank you for your support in making a difference. Contact Deane Markle with any questions or call the church office and speak with Kim Stoner.

A large, elegant, cursive script word "Thanks" in black ink.

THANK YOU!!! First Presbyterian Church Family – Geoff, Lyanna, and I want to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the wonderful reception and love gift that you sent us off with to our new church home. We will always be grateful for the time spent in ministry with you, whether it was on a mission trip, singing in the choir, or socializing at a church event. Our prayer is that you will continue to fulfill God's call to each one of us in this world: to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. With love and gratitude, Rev. Niki Atkinson (on behalf of Dr. Geoff and Lyanna Atkinson too!)

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP!!! Last Sunday afternoon, about twenty of the members of our congregation worked artfully and dutifully to decorate our lovely Sanctuary and Assembly Room for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We greatly appreciate their efforts and their work! Thanks again for a job well done!