

DECEMBER 23, 2018
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:00AM McMILLEN CHAPEL
11:00AM SANCTUARY



First Presbyterian Church

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH
THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

“Calm and Bright” 200 Years of Silent Night

This year is the 200th anniversary of the debut of "Silent Night, Holy Night." This hymn has become the best-loved worship moment of many Christians. Something mystical occurs as we light our candles and sing the hope of "all is calm, all is bright." During Advent, we celebrate the carol's message and highlight its call for our lives. One of the most famous stories about this beloved hymn took place in World War I, when British and German soldiers on the front lines called a truce on Christmas Day. The encampments, from which they were fighting, were so close to each other that they could hear each other in the peaceful quiet of the truce singing "Silent Night" in their own language. This prompted the soldiers to come out and meet on the battlefield, without weapons, and they spent the day playing soccer and exchanging small gifts—whatever they had. Humanity is the holy infant for whom God so desires a heavenly peace. Is it possible to bring calm and bright to our own corners of this world?

† *Those who are able please stand*

| | | | |
|----------------|---------|---|-----------------|
| PRELUDE | 9:00am | Sleepers, Awake! | J. S. Bach |
| | 11:00am | Rise Up, Shepherd | arr. Mark Hayes |
| | | Go Tell It On the Mountain | arr. Mark Hayes |
| | | <i>Piano duets by Chelsea Vaught & Susan Dorion</i> | |

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Silent night, holy night!

All: Wondrous star, lend thy light;

One: With the angels let us sing,

All: “Alleluia” to our King:

One: “Christ the Savior is born!

All: Christ the Savior is born.”

† **HYMN** No. 146 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

† **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES** Scott McMeen & Marj Sapp

Reader 1: We continue this season of waiting by lighting the fourth candle, anticipating the light of the star that shone over Bethlehem for all to see.

Reader 2: Uplifting God, we open ourselves to hear your call today to recognize your love all around us, and also see the potential to add to the love all around us – making our lives, our families, our communities, and our world a brighter place.

All: Fill us with your peace and light, make the world so calm and bright.

†SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymn No. 137

HE CAME DOWN

He came down that we may have peace; joy;
hope;
love; he came down that we may have peace;
joy;
hope;
love;

he came down that we may have peace; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
joy;
hope;
love; Why did he come?

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TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES 11:00am

Children are encouraged to come forward at this time. Parents may accompany their child if they wish. Afterwards, children may join their families in the pews for rest of the service, or meet teachers in the Narthex for Church School in Room 208. Children 5 or younger may go to childcare in Room 101. Ask an usher for assistance.

SPECIAL MUSIC Angels We Have Heard on High
Handbell Sextet

arr. Sandra Eithun

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Micah 5:2-5a, p.865

9:00am Larry Stoneburner

11:00am Shirley Sona

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 2:1-14, p.58

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus Christ.

God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn—

who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair.

Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God.

Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God's desire.

For the coming of that day on this day we work and pray:

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

†HYMN No. 110 Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Please sign and pass the friendship pad to those in your pew.*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| OFFERTORY | 9:00am | Love Has Come | setting by Christopher Uehlein |
| | 11:00am | Gentle Mary Laid Her Child | arr. Sandra Eithun |
| | | <i>Handbell Sextet</i> | |

†CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY (*Sung to the tune of "O Tannenbaum"*)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, in every generation.
Praise God, all creatures here below, who gives to us salvation.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration.

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†PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Abundant God, prophecy says you are coming with the clouds for every eye to see. Until that day, may the tithes and offerings we bring each week do the holy work of making your reign real in this community and in this world in need.
Amen.

†HYMN No. 136 Go Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

†BENEDICTION

All: Go with God into this day. May the Spirit guide your way. Offer love to all you greet. Like Christ, see God in all you meet.

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymn No. 127 Jesus, the Light of the World

The musical score is written on four staves in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light. Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright. O, shine all a - round us by day and by night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

6

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MINISTRIES

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for Church Officers. If you're a member and are interested in serving as an officer, or want to nominate a member, forms are available at the Church Office. Please have submissions in by **January 6, 2019**.

Questions, contact Danielle at dgonzalez@firstpresfortwayne.org.

The Missions Team – Food Bank Collection—We are thankful for your support in the missions of FPC, the leadership of the Missions Team, and Janice Roddy for her organization in providing food to our area food banks: Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, East Wayne Street and St. Patrick's Church. We are grateful to Kroger Grocery Store for providing a discount; this gives us opportunity to purchase food worth \$5,000. Additionally, to Citywide Delivery service for donating their time and truck to pick up food from Kroger and deliver it to FPC for distribution. It takes time and service of many to make this successful each month, and we are blessed with this community of giving. If you are interested in learning more about the Missions Team projects, please contact Bill Patterson, chair, at 260-609-9696 or bpatterson@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Christmas Joy Offering—During the Advent and Christmas season, the Church's response to God's generosity takes on the character of our Savior. Jesus came to lead God's people, pointing to God through love and justice, peace and compassion, forgiveness and humility. The Presbyterian Church (USA) reflects God's gifts to us, through the Christmas Joy Offering, with generous gifts supporting the church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. The Christmas Joy Offering will take place **today, Sunday, December 23**. We invite you to consider making an offering during the 9:00am and 11:00am worship services, or by dropping it off to the attention of the Financial Office. **Checks can be made payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo line: CJO**. Thank you and have a Merry Christmas!

Prayer: Jesus Christ, you are the perfect gift, given to lead us in the ways of redemption and peace. You pointed us to God with your life. We celebrate with the gift of our lives and support our leaders, past, present and future. May those who lead our Church point us always to you, and to your ways of joy, hope, love and peace. Amen.

ADVENT

You're invited to a **Christmas Open House** at the home of Annie and Terry Epling (1927 Inverness Lakes Crossing) today, **December 23, 3:00pm-6:00pm**. Stop by and celebrate the season with finger food and festive fellowship. All are welcome!

Christmas Eve—December 24

4:00pm-Family Christmas Eve Service

9:30pm-Festival Prelude Music

10:00pm-Festival Worship of Nine Lessons & Carols.

December 30—One English Worship Service at **10:00am** in the **Sanctuary**.
Korean Worship Service at **11:00am** in **McMillen Chapel**.

THE CHRISTMAS BANNER

“The true light that enlightens everyone ...,” John 1:9, forms the basis of the banner. Light radiates in all directions from the central figure, the Chi Rho, which is an ancient monogram for the name of Christ. The radiating rays extend beyond the rectangle symbolizing the universality of the life and teachings of Jesus the Christ.

THE ADVENT BANNERS

The Reredos Hangings use simple shapes to symbolize the Mother Mary and the Baby Jesus while contrasting fabrics, denim, silk and gold lame, symbolize the earthly nature combined with the divine nature of the holy family. A gold star is added to the design to celebrate the Epiphany.

The First Advent Banner, the “Rose,” derives its color and design from the “Little Rose of Palestine.” The rose is frequently used as a symbol for Mary. The little rose has five petals, and the five roses symbolize the four Sundays of Advent and Christmas Day.

The Second Advent Banner, the “Dove,” bears, on one side, the descending dove symbolizing the Holy Spirit and bringing to the shepherds the heavenly message of “Peace on Earth,” while the ascending dove symbolizes the striving human spirit expressing “Glory to God” on the other.

The Third Advent Banner, the “Emmanuel,” carries an abstract symbol that attempts to convey, through the motion in shapes and colors, the divine and the earthly, the concept of “Emmanuel — God with us.” The word “Rejoice” emerges from the background symbolizing the inner joy of knowing that God emerges from within.

The Fourth Advent Banner, the “Shepherds,” utilizes ordinary fabrics and earthy colors to emphasize the first announcement of the birth of Jesus to humble shepherds in their natural environment. The use of bells reflects the importance of the lowly sheep.

FELLOWSHIP

T.O.W.N (Together on Wednesday Night) is for everyone, young and old. T.O.W.N. programs typically include dinner, fellowship, and an adult program. The program can be speakers, book studies, music, discussions about current Theater performances, or Bible studies that are topical or seasonal. T.O.W.N. also sponsors activities or family events. The meal is served at **5:30pm** a donation of \$5 is suggested. The program starts at **6:00pm** and are about an hour in length.

January’s T.O.W.N. Schedule:

- 16** – Chili Cook-off and we will assemble Presbyterian Disaster Assistance clean out buckets.
- 23** –A discussion about The Christians, a powerful play running January 3 through 19, in the First Presbyterian Theatre. See the Religious Arts page in this bulletin for more details.
- 30** –FaithNet Presentation - A mental health outreach program of NAMI – the National Alliance on Mental Illness. This organization encourages communities of all faith traditions to be welcoming and supportive of people who struggle with the effects of mental illness.

CHILDCARE AND CHURCH SCHOOL

Childcare is in **Room 101** and is available from **8:45am to 12:15pm**. **Room 105** is available for those who need a **Quiet Room** to attend to your baby/young child.

10:00am—Adult Education: Wired Word in the **Parlor**. Each week we will discuss a current event and analyze it in a biblical context.

10:00am—Youth Bible Study (6th grade through 12 grade) – **Room 209**. The study is an overview of the Bible, from creation to the formation of the church.

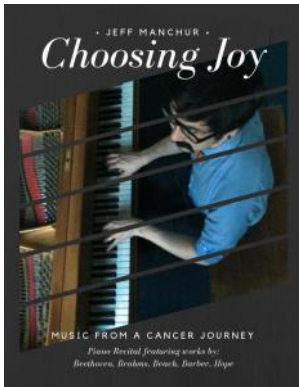
11:15am—Children Church School (Kindergarten through 5th grade) – Room 208. No Class on the First Sunday of the Month.

RELIGIOUS ARTS



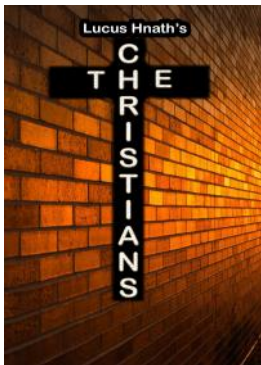
Parish Art Show 2018 and Gallery's 50th Anniversary—Now thru January 19, 2019. You will be amazed at the sometimes hidden talents of our members and staff! Gallery hours are 9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday; 8:30am-12:30pm Sunday.

Choosing Joy — January 20, 2019 at 2:00pm in the Sanctuary. Dr. Jeff Manchur is a pianist based in Maumee, Ohio. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska in



Lincoln and Bowling Green State University. He is currently an adjunct faculty member at Bowling Green State University. In 2016, his wife Kimberly was diagnosed with breast cancer. The next year was full of doctor visits, surgeries and treatments, stress, despair and hopelessness, love, charity and gratitude. Throughout this time, “Choosing Joy” was a mantra for Kimberly, and today she is a survivor. Their journey inspired the creation of this program, which features pieces that speak of the struggle they endured and the faith, love and victory that helped them through. The program will feature standard and newer classical music and pieces by three American composers. Each

piece can be associated in some way with their cancer journey. Don't miss out on this unique program! Learn more at: jeff.manchur.com. Free will offering.



The Christians—January 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13*, 18, 19, 2019**

Don't miss this thought-provoking play about belief and community. This play will be a topic of discussion at our T.O.W.N. program on Wednesday night, **January 23**, so be sure to attend a performance before the program. For more details on T.O.W.N., see the announcement pages. Call 260-426-7421 ext. 121, or go online at firstpresbyteriantheater.com to purchase your tickets.

*Sunday Matinee curtain at 2:00pm

**Thursday preview—all tickets \$12

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 West Wayne Street
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802
Contact us by phone at 260-426-7421
Office Hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm M-F;
8:30am - 12:30pm Sunday

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

If you or a loved one is having surgery or is admitted to the hospital, please notify the Church Office or a pastor so we can provide care as you prefer: hold you in prayer or pay a visit — if desired.

MISSION CO-WORKERS SPONSORED:

Mr. Mark Hare and Ms. Jenny Bent, Haiti and the Dominican Republic
Presbyterian Mission Co-Workers in the Middle East
Rev. John McCall, Presbyterian Church of Taiwan
Rev. Leonel Pech, Amistad Cristiana, Fort Wayne, Indiana

PASTORS

Rev. Dr. Anne Bain Epling, Ext. 107
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WORSHIP MUSIC

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Kathryn A. Miller, Ext. 137
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Visit our **website**: www.firstpresfortwayne.org
Watch the livestream of our worship services each Sunday
by going to our Webpage or Facebook page.

For sermons, go to the **Resources** link, select **Sermons**

Like us on **Facebook**: www.facebook.com/firstpresfortwayne

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

4th Sunday of Advent

- 8:45am Childcare, 101
- 9:00am English Worship, CH
- 10:00am Handbell Choir Warm-up, SC
- Korean Group Choir Practice, 201
- Korean Christmas Group Fellowship, FH
- Church School, Youth & Adults, 209, PR
- 10:20am Korean Group Prayer Meeting, CL
- 11:00am English Worship, SC
- Korean Group Children's Worship, CL
- Korean Group Worship, CH
- 11:15am Church School (K-5th), 208
- 12:00pm Hospitality Time, MH
- 1:00pm Korean Group Choir Practice, 201
- Korean Group Chapel Choir Practice, CH
- 3:00pm Christmas Open House at the Epling's, OS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

Day School Closed All Day

- 12:00pm Church Office Closes
- 4:00pm Family Christmas Eve Service
- 9:30pm Festival Prelude Music
- 10:00pm Festival Worship of Nine Lessons & Carols.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Prayer Day: John McCall, Mission in Taiwan

Christmas Day—Campus Closed

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Prayer Day: Presbyterian workers in the Middle East

- 6:30pm Theatre Rehearsal, TH

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

- 9:00am Day School Music Class, MR
- 6:30pm Theatre Rehearsal, TH

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 9:00am Chancel Guild, SC, CH
- 6:30pm Theatre Rehearsal, TH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 7:00am KLM Prayer Meeting, CH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 8:45am Childcare, 101
- 10:00am English Worship, SC
- Korean Group Choir Practice, 201
- Korean Christmas Group Fellowship, FH
- 10:20am Korean Group Prayer Meeting, CL
- 11:00am Korean Group Children's Worship, CL
- Korean Group Worship, CH
- Hospitality Time, MH
- 1:00pm Korean Group Choir Practice, 201
- Korean Group Chapel Choir Practice, CH
- Theatre Tech Rehearsal, TH

CH - Chapel
 CL - Chapel Lounge
 CN - Chapel Narthex
 CR - Conference Room
 CY - Courtyard
 FH - Fellowship Hall

FO - Front Office
 GL - Gallery
 K2 - Kitchen, 2nd floor
 LB - Library
 LE - Lobby Elevator
 LK - Lower-level Kitchen

LN - Lobby North
 MF - McKay Foyer
 MH - McKay Hall
 MK - Main Kitchen
 MR - Music Room
 NX - Narthex, SC

OS - Offsite
 PG - Playground
 PO - Pastor's Office
 PR - Parlor
 SB - Sanctuary Balcony
 SC - Sanctuary

SDR - Small Dining Room
 SMO - Stephen Ministry Office
 SR - Session Room
 TH - Theater
 YL - Youth Lounge(209, 212)