



# First NEWS

"Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ"

December 2018

## What Gift are You Giving Jesus?

Wow! It's here! Christmas is upon us. Like the rip currents at the beach, we slowly, then forcefully, then expectantly get pulled into the churning tides of the holiday frenzy. First we have to find and unpack the decorations, then ensure that the lights are all working. We plan our schedules as best we can with travel and entertaining. There are all the special events by the community, the clubs and the church.

Then comes the gift getting. Maybe we have been picking up gifts throughout the year and we are already finished with the process. Not!!! More likely, we are making a list that is ever-growing and we are beginning to figure out what to purchase in order to give gifts to those we love and for those for whom we care. We usually give significant energy to our gift giving. We want our gifts to be meaningful, helpful and thoughtful. We want to honor those to whom we give gifts to emphasize our affection and appreciation. We often plan early, shop or order in time for adequate delivery, and we wrap our gifts with great festiveness and care. We want our gifts to be special to those for whom we give.



With all that being said, "What Gift are You Giving Jesus" this year? Do we put the same effort into giving to God this season as we do to our nephews or our former coworkers? Do we leave Jesus as an afterthought in the gifting fervor of the season? Do we leave Jesus until the very end and, in essence, toss Christ out with the shriveled tree the day after Christmas?

This Advent, Christmastide, and Epiphany I would ask you to truly focus on "What Gift You are Giving Jesus" this year. When we think about our gift to Jesus it really comes down to only one possibility . . . , our self! Scripture reminds us that where the treasure is, that is where the heart is also. If we treasure the love of Christ, then we will give the greatest of gifts: our heart.

Here is what that might look like this Advent, Christmastide and Epiphany (36 days):

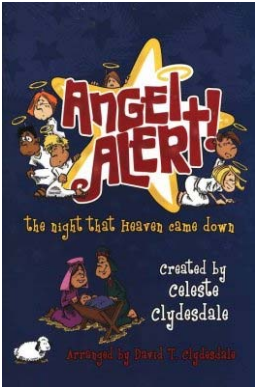
- \* I will participate in a daily discipline to engage in an intentional "random" of kindness (love) toward someone else. I will daily watch for the opportunities for displaying kindness. When is it possible to display kindness? It is always possible to display kindness.
- \* I will focus on positive and affirmative responses to those I live with and love. I will discipline myself that even in the midst of a hectic holiday season, I will be "extraordinarily" patient, understanding and affirmative.
- \* I will gift of my time to organizations that focus on the needs of the poor and lonely during this season.
- \* I will commitment to a daily devotion of Christian study and reflect so as to appreciate the meaning of Emmanuel, "God with Us!"
- \* I will take time for a "simple daily walk" (literally and walk) and, as I walk, I will pray for those I love and pray to be freed from my personal fears and weaknesses.
- \* I will . . .

Give gifts this Advent, Christmastide and Epiphany! And . . . do not forget to give yourself to Christ in simple, profound and meaningful ways. Though he already does, Christ will love you for it!

# WORSHIP

## MUSIC AND ART NOTES

The busiest season has arrived! Elena Mindlina, a Russian-born American soprano, joined Jacob Craig at the piano in the second installment of our First Presbyterian Concert Series. The program included music by Rachmaninov, Sviridov, Fauré, Hahn, Lee Hoiby, and Gershwin. The concert was held on Sunday, December 2 to an audience of over 150. We are so grateful to be able to bring in such incredible talent and look forward to the spring leg of our concert series!



Angel Alert! Our youth have been working hard since October to present their annual Christmas Pageant. Angels are waiting to be told when they get to go to earth and make the grand announcement of Jesus' birth. As they wait for the call they review God's faithfulness through His promises and some of the prophecies of our Savior's birth. There is much worship and celebration as the angels understand the love God has for His people in sending His son to earth. Created and arranged by Celeste and David Clydesdale, this charming musical features a blend of original and traditional material, including "Call His Name Jesus," "O Holy Night," "Glory In the Highest," and more. The performance will take place on Sunday, December 9, at 6 pm in McAfee hall. Refreshments will be served after the performance.

Rehearsals are well underway for this year's Christmas cantata entitled Appalachian Winter. The work will feature our Chancel choir, FPC Orchestra, and guest musicians - including a special Bluegrass consort. Composed in the spirit of folk music, the cantata combines traditional sounds with more rustic elements creating a blend that is fresh and pleasing. Popular American carols like Away In a Manger and O Little Town of Bethlehem dance with traditional spirituals such as Children, Go Where I Send Thee and Go, Tell It on the Mountain. Sacred Harp tunes are re-tooled for Advent and stand alongside new versions of Shaker hymns and Appalachian melodies. The Christmas Cantata will be performed during our 9 am and 11 am services on Sunday, December 23.

A graphic with a dark blue background and a starburst. The title 'Christmas Eve Services & Beyond' is written in a yellow, cursive font. Below the title, there is a silhouette of a manger scene with a shepherd and sheep. Text describes special music and performers.

Special music prior to and during each service, including Gretchen Cover, harp, Elena Mindlina, soprano, John Toohey, tenor, and our Children's Cherub Choir, under the direction of Janine Jones. And much more!

### December 24

5:00 PM – Family Candlelight Service (with Lessons in Carols and a Children's Nativity)

7:00 PM – Traditional Candlelight Service

9:00 PM – Candlelight Communion Service

*Glow sticks will be available for younger kids so they safely can participate in the candlelight moments.*

### December 25

10:00 AM - Worship Service with Communion

### December 31

5:00 PM – Chapel Service with Communion

# WORSHIP

**The Acolyte Story:** Have you heard the story of the “how and why” of the acolytes? It began many years ago, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> century when Christians were not allowed to worship freely. These Christians were persecuted for practicing their beliefs, but this did not stop them from gathering. In Rome, one of the places where they worshiped was in the catacombs. They had to be sure the Romans soldiers were not waiting or watching for them in the dark places within the catacombs. It was the job of one of the Christians to go before the rest, with the light of the candle through the dark halls making sure it was safe for all. The candlelight helped the Christians guide their way to their place of worship announcing all was ready for the service to begin. When the worship was over, the candlelight was carried out from the catacombs. The light not only provided light to see their way out but it signified the end of the service and carrying the word out into the community.

From this practical and necessary practice of the early centuries, the tradition of the Acolytes and symbolism was formed and has lived on – the role of the Acolyte is to announce the beginning and the end of the service by lighting the candle at the beginning of the service and extinguishing the candle at the end of the service then carrying the flame out into the community.

The candles we light represent and symbolize Christ.

Have you ever asked yourself why do we light two candles? The left candle portrays “Christ the Divine.” The right candle portrays “Christ the Human.” Therefore the “Divine” is always lit first and distinguished last.

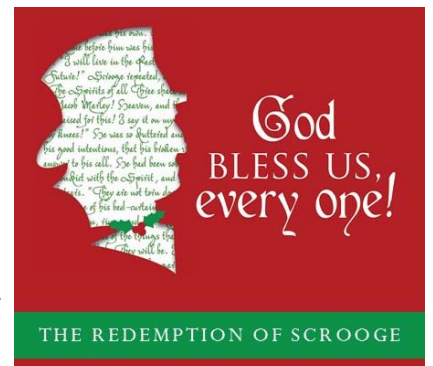
At First Presbyterian Church we continue the tradition of the lighting of the candles by an acolyte on Communion Sunday along with special worship services. We would like to invite new children second grade and older along with our current list of children who have already been Acolytes to a meeting on Sunday, January 13, 2019 between the 9:00 and 11:00 services in McAfee Hall to learn about being an Acolyte. If you have any questions, please contact Susie Stoughton at 772-978-1671.



# DISCIPLESHIP

## ADVENT STUDY

Join us for the Advent Study “The Redemption of Scrooge” that begins on Sunday, December 2, 2018. This class will take place in the Schumann Conferencing Room on the 2nd floor of the Center for Christian Life at 10:00 AM. The pastors will be facilitating the conversation that follows video introduction. Please contact Pastor Michael York at [michaelyork@firstpresvero.org](mailto:michaelyork@firstpresvero.org) to reserve a book.



# HOSPITALITY

## Wear Me!

As a friendly reminder, we encourage our members and regularly attending guests to wear your name badges any time you're on campus or attending an FPC function. It's extremely beneficial for many reasons! If you do not have a name badge, kindly stop by or call the church office. We place an order once a month (typically the last week of the month) and will gladly get you one.



	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
December 2, 2018 <b>"Preparation of the Heart"</b> Rev. Dr. Tim Womack Luke 21:25-36	<b>30</b> 10:00AM Worship - Sanctuary 10:20AM IRE Van Pick-Up 12:00PM Youth Group	<b>31</b> 12:00PM Office Closes 5:00PM New Year's Eve Svc 7:00PM AA	<b>Jan 1</b> HAPPY NEW YEAR! Office Closed				<b>1</b> 9:00AM Christmas Tree Lane
December 9, 2018 <b>"Bypassing Roadblocks"</b> Rev. Dr. Tim Womack Luke 3:1-6							
December 16, 2018 <b>"Change of Heart "</b> Rev. Dr. Tim Womack Luke 3:7-18	<b>2</b> 8:00AM Worship - Chapel 9:00AM Worship - Sanctuary 10:00AM Wholeness & Healing 10:00AM Adult Sunday School 10:20AM IRE Van Pick-Up 10:30AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 11:00AM Worship - Sanctuary 12:00PM Wholeness & Healing	<b>3</b> 7:30AM Preschool 10:45AM Regency Bible Study 1:00PM PW Meeting 7:00PM AA	<b>4</b> 7:30AM Preschool 7:30AM Men's Breakfast - C.J. Cannon's 10:30AM Handbell Choir 10:30AM Dr. Tim's Bible Study 4:30PM Deacon Mtg 6:30PM AI-Anon	<b>5</b> 7:30AM Preschool 9:00AM Pastor Michael's Book Study 12:00PM Overeaters Anonymous 2:00PM Quilting/Sewing/Crafts 3:30PM Quest Kids Club 5:00PM Wednesday Dinner 6:00PM AI-Anon 6:35PM Chancel Choir 6:35PM Disciples Bible Study	<b>6</b> 7:30AM Preschool 9:00AM Preschool Chapel 10:00AM Silver Tones 10:30AM Palm Garden 6:00PM Legacy Dinner	<b>7</b> 7:30AM Preschool 12:00PM AI-Anon 4:30PM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 6:00PM AA (Magnolia Group)	<b>8</b> 9:00AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 10:00AM FPC Quilt Group 12:30PM Mended Hearts
December 23, 2018 <b>"Appalachian Winter - A Cantata for Christmas"</b> Rev. C. Michael York Luke 1:39-55							
December 30, 2018 - 10:00Am Service <b>"New Clothes "</b> Rev. Dr. Tim Womack Colossians 3:12-17	<b>9</b> 8:00AM Worship - Chapel 9:00AM Worship - Sanctuary 10:00AM Adult Sunday School 10:20AM IRE Van Pick-Up 10:30AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 11:00AM Worship - Sanctuary 12:00PM Youth Group	<b>10</b> 7:30AM Preschool 10:45AM Regency Bible Study 11:00AM Ruth Circle 1:00PM Grace Circle 2:00PM Friends After Diagnosis 3:00PM Trustees' Mtg 7:00PM AA	<b>11</b> 7:30AM Preschool 7:30AM Men's Breakfast - C.J. Cannon's 10:30AM Dr. Tim's Bible Study 11:00AM Ruth Circle 1:30PM Mission Team 4:00PM Discipleship Team 6:30PM AI-Anon	<b>12</b> 7:30AM Preschool 9:00AM Pastor Michael's Book Study 12:00PM Overeaters Anonymous 2:00PM Quilting/Sewing/Crafts 3:30PM Quest Kids Club 5:00PM Wednesday Dinner 6:00PM AI-Anon 6:35PM Chancel Choir 6:35PM Disciples Bible Study	<b>13</b> 7:30AM Preschool 9:00AM Preschool Chapel 10:00AM Silver Tones 10:00AM Finance Committee 10:30AM Fellowship Team 11:30AM Staff Christmas Lunch 6:30PM Naomi Circle 7:00PM Silver Tones Concert	<b>14</b> 7:30AM Preschool 12:00PM AI-Anon 6:00PM AA (Magnolia Group)	<b>15</b> 10:00AM Friends After Diagnosis 7:00PM Youth Lock-in
<b>WORSHIP TIMES</b> 8:00 a.m. - Worship in the Chapel w/Communion  9:00 & 10:00 a.m. - Worship in the Sanctuary	<b>16</b> 8:00AM Worship - Chapel 9:00AM Worship - Sanctuary 10:00AM New Member Mtg 10:00AM Adult Sunday School 10:20AM IRE Van Pick-Up 11:00AM Worship - Sanctuary 12:00PM New Member Mtg	<b>17</b> 7:30AM Preschool 10:45AM Regency Bible Study 7:00PM AA	<b>18</b> 7:30AM Preschool 7:30AM Men's Breakfast - C.J. Cannon's 10:30AM Dr. Tim's Bible Study 5:00PM Meet n Greet Dinner 6:30PM AI-Anon	<b>19</b> 7:30AM Preschool 9:00AM Pastor Michael's Book Study 12:00PM Overeaters Anonymous 2:00PM Quilting/Sewing/Crafts 3:30PM Quest Kids Club 5:00PM Wednesday Dinner 6:30PM AI-Anon 6:35PM Chancel Choir	<b>20</b> 7:30AM Preschool 10:00AM SilverTones 10:30AM Grace Rehab 6:50PM Session Meeting 7:00PM Bingham Small Group	<b>21</b> 7:30AM Preschool 8:00AM Preschool Christmas Program 12:00PM AI-Anon 6:00PM AA (Magnolia Group)	<b>22</b> 9:00AM Cantata Rehearsal
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 9:10 a.m. - Children's Sunday School (concurrent with Worship), held in the Children's Wing of the Center for Christian Life	<b>23</b> CANTATA 8:00AM Worship - Chapel 9:00AM Worship - Sanctuary 10:00AM Adult Sunday School 10:20AM IRE Van Pick-Up 11:00AM Worship - Sanctuary 12:00PM Youth Group	<b>24</b> 12:00PM Office Closes 2:00PM Friends After Diagnosis 5:00PM Family Christmas Eve 7:00PM Traditional Christmas Eve 9:00PM Communion Christmas Eve	<b>25</b> Office Closed <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b> 10:00AM Worship - Sanctuary 6:30PM AI-Anon	<b>26</b> 12:00PM Overeaters Anonymous 2:00PM Quilting/Sewing/Crafts 6:00PM AI-Anon 6:35PM Chancel Choir	<b>27</b> 11:00AM Heritage Committee 4:00PM Worship Talent Team	<b>28</b> 12:00PM AI-Anon 6:00PM AA (Magnolia Group)	<b>29</b>

**OTHER SUNDAY HAPPENINGS**  
 1st Sunday of each month we serve Communion. (at 9 & 11 am services) It is also the Sunday we hold our "Wholeness & Healing Gathering" in the Chapel after the 10 a.m. service has concluded.  
 The 2nd Sunday of each month we collect a "2¢ a meal" offering—which is an ohms offering rooted in the tradition of placing a few cents in a jar or can at every meal as an expression of thanks for everything we have received. The offering raises awareness and funds for the fight against hunger.  
 The 3rd Sunday is "Membership Sunday," or "Joining Sunday," where members of the Session and other church leaders meet with those who desire to join the church. This gathering is held in the Chapel after the 10 a.m. worship service.  
 For additional information, please visit the church website: [www.firstpresvero.org](http://www.firstpresvero.org).

- Monthly Ministry, Committee or Talent Team Meetings:**
- Deacons - 1st Tuesday; 4:30pm; Earnshaw Rm
  - Discipleship - 2nd Tuesday; 4pm; Baines Room
  - Fellowship - 2nd Thursday; 11:30am; Baines Rm
  - Finance & Policy - 1st Thursday; 3pm; Earnshaw Rm
  - Heritage - 4th Thursday; 10am - Baines Rm
  - Hospitality - 1st Monday; 3pm; Heritage Rm
  - Missions - 2nd Tuesday; 1:30pm; Earnshaw
  - Personnel - Tuesday prior to Trustees Mtg; 3:30pm; Baines Rm, as needed
  - PW Team - 1st Monday; 1pm; Adult Activities Rm
  - Session - 3rd Thursday; 6:50pm; Earnshaw Rm
  - Trustees - Monday of the full week prior to Session; 3pm; Earnshaw Rm
  - Worship - 4th Thursday; 4pm; Earnshaw Rm
- Subject to change, at the discretion of each committee/ ministry team, as needed.

# FELLOWSHIP

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

FLOY TURNER SHARES HER REMARKABLE LIFE AT THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ANNUAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, JAN. 5

Our own Floy Turner will share experiences and insights from her extraordinary career in law enforcement when the PW holds its Annual Meeting on Saturday, Jan. 5th, at 12:00 noon in McAfee Hall. This complimentary luncheon meeting will include the installation of PW officers for 2019. PW Co-Chairs Deb Alich and Susie Nystrom encourage all ladies of the church to attend.

For our guest speaker, who joined First Presbyterian in 2017, pursuing a lifelong commitment to law enforcement is truly doing God's work. As a Florida State Trooper and later special agent for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Floy was involved in complex investigations of serial homicide, kidnapping, missing children, child homicide, and human trafficking cases. She established a Child Abduction Response Team (CART) for South Florida and a tri-county CART in the St. Augustine area. A trainer and educator, Floy helped develop human trafficking curriculum for Florida police officers, consulted in the development/implementation of various police training initiatives, and served as the Amber Alert Liaison for the Eastern U.S. and Caribbean. In 2004 Floy Turner was named "State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" at Florida Missing Children's Day.

Over the years Floy also has served on numerous task forces relating to the welfare of children and human trafficking, and in 2010 was appointed by Governor Crist to the Florida Statewide Task Force on Human Trafficking. Floy was selected by the Organization of American States to conduct human trafficking training for government officials throughout the Caribbean and South America, and from 2016 to present, consults with the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children as an international trainer.

Floy's law enforcement work has given her material for three books, "Behind Her Miami Badge," "Behind Her Special Agent Badge," and "Behind Her Criminal Investigator's Badge."

Prior to Floy's talk, we'll enjoy delicious fare prepared by PW volunteers. On the menu are tasty homemade soups, assorted salads, choice of breads, and tempting desserts. While the luncheon is complimentary, kindly call the church office at 772-562-9088 to reserve a place so that we know how many to expect. We look forward to greeting you on the 5th!

### SAVE THE DATE

There's a 2nd noteworthy event coming up in January. On Saturday, Jan. 19th, the Presbyterian Women will gather with the Presbyterian Men for a Joint Luncheon celebrating the key roles these two groups play in the life of the church. Set that date aside . . . and look for details in next month's "First News."

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## MEET & GREET DINNER

Meet 'n Greet for the month of December will be DINNER and held on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 5 P.M. at Bistro Fourchette, 1309 19th Place Vero Beach, FL 32960 [Entrance @ 14th Ave in Seminole Courtyard] (Between 19th Place & 20th Street). Come celebrate Christmas and experience great food in a private atmosphere; RSVP by December 11 to Deb Alich, 772-999-3644 or daalich@comcast.net, or by calling the church office.

## Wednesday Night Dinners

12/5 - Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes & gravy, glazed carrots, rolls, salad bar and birthday cake

12/12 - Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Garlic Knots, Salad Bar and Pumpkin Strudel Pie

12/19 - Sausage, biscuits & gravy, baked French toast, bacon, fresh fruit, OJ and "Not Yo' Mamma's Banana Pudding"

12/26 - No Dinner

*Don't forget to RSVP online or by calling the church office!*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY DECEMBER!

2 Jonathan Miller

3 Dick Bruns

3 Marilyn Marion

4 Paul Johnson

4 Michael Tittle

5 Nick Snyder

6 Carol Christiansen

6 David Lockwood

7 Janet Swanson

7 Jeff Austin

7 Jeff Davis

7 Lisa Barnes, Esq

8 Robert McCullough, Sr.

8 Steve Harrison

8 Bertie Centerbar

8 Nancy Jones

9 Gail Jackson

9 Janie Divers

10 Carol Billett

11 Joe Thompson

11 Danielle Thomas

12 Jennifer Craig

13 Betty Ruth Williams

13 Dick Schroeder

14 Jack Gasche

14 Lisa Hanlin

14 Hannah Horowitz

15 Ardelle Fish

15 Alan Hager

15 Jenny Hancock

15 Paul Harmon

16 Barbara Address

16 Anna Wolfe

16 Nicole Barley

17 Ken Burgess

17 Bruce Hawley

18 Phillip TenEyck

19 Suzanne Berran

19 Tootsie Schroeder

22 Doug Traill

22 Haileigh M. Diaz

23 Beti Goodell

23 Esten Peirce

24 Bob Berran

24 George Smith

24 Holly Newman

25 Jillian Lombardo

26 Heidi Vaughn

27 Mary Ellen Mitchell

27 Phyllis McKallip

27 Liz Sherman

28 William Heeren

29 Georgina DeLillo

29 Bruce Address

29 Kay Hazel



## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

**Rev. Dr. G. Timothy Womack**, Senior Pastor

**Rev. C. Michael York**, Associate Pastor

**Rev. Graham Bingham**, Min. of Congregational Care

**Jacob Craig**, Director of Music and Arts

**Jacob Strang**, Youth Director

### ELDERS

#### Class of 2018

Charles Harvin, \*Robert C. "Smitty" Smith, \*Will Kirk, Anne Malsbary, Sam Murdough

#### Class of 2019

\*Hilary Dobson, Carol Goodfellow, Terry Long, \*Bob Satola, \*Bob Stuart

#### Class of 2020

Carol Campbell, \*Steve Harrison, Steve Nystrom, Noel Thompson

\*indicates Elder/Trustee

**Clerk of Session** - Connie Herr

**Treasurer** - Scott Westermann

**Director of Development** - Allan Bixby

### Trustees-at-Large

2018 - Phil Schwin; 2019 - Carol Beaty; 2020 - John Reed

### BOARD OF DEACONS

#### Class of 2018

Sue Broadhurst, Karen Deigl, Beth Dingee, James Ewing, Michael Goodfellow, Bob Martin, Sandy Thiel, Emily Zeigler

#### Class of 2019

Nancy Allerman, Karen Boylan, Glenn Conn, Kenneth Foster, Rod Keefer, \*Susan Long, Rebecca Palmer, Gloria Raines

#### Class of 2020

Peter Coe, Churchill Cooke, Maggie Fleming, Sally Lowndes, Barb Schwin, Susie Stoughton

\*indicates Moderator

## Contact Us

(772) 562-9088

### First Presbyterian Church

520 Royal Palm Blvd  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Visit us on the web at [www.firstpresvero.org](http://www.firstpresvero.org)

Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FirstPresVero](http://www.facebook.com/FirstPresVero)

## ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

You can give an offering online through the church website or using your smartphone! To give online from our website, visit [www.firstpresvero.org/give-online/](http://www.firstpresvero.org/give-online/)

You'll see a screen as depicted by the image shown here. Simply click the "GIVE ONLINE" button and you'll be directed to our secure online giving portal.

You can also use your smartphone for mobile giving. Simply text the phrase

**Firstpresvero**

To the number **73256** and follow the prompts!

