



1341 JULIANA STREET
PARKERSBURG, WV 26101

Phone: 304-422-5426

Fax: 304-428-0372

E-mail: office@fpcpbwv.org

Visit us at:

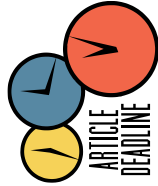
www.fpcpbwv.org

 [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 a.m. in person
& 10:30 a.m. in person
or livestream on Facebook



20th of each month

If you would like to be added to either our email or postal mailing list, please contact the church office to leave your name and preferred contact information: 304-422-5426 or office@fpcpbwv.org.

Dec. 2022
Jan. 2023



Welcome to earth,
thou noble guest,
through whom
the sinful world
is blest!



first things
FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dec. 2022 / Jan. 2023



"Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning." Psalm 30:5b

There is a place for boisterous praise on Christmas Eve. Christ is come, along with family and gifts and time together. But sometimes joy can be hard during the holidays. Joy can seem elusive when grieving a loss, be it the loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of love and relationship, loss of health, loss of a dream, loss of any kind.



Joy, however, is not about denying suffering, but rather it is the embracing of the depths of all of life's emotions that is the very thing that allows us to eventually feel the heights once more. Joy is possible when we understand suffering; it is the school of compassion and love. When we know what weeping all night is like, our empathy for the weeping of the world is

deepened. So if you are grieving this season, acknowledge it and thank it for the work it is doing to carve out the capacity for more love, and eventually, more expression of our joy once again. If you are finding joy to be elusive this holiday season, feel free to pray this prayer and invite God into your night:

*Holy and Comforting One,
we come before You feeling
vulnerable and spent.*

*Our souls weep and we wonder
how we will get through a time
when bells ring and gifts are
exchanged and the word
"merry" surrounds us.*

*We long for the "time before"—
before this sorrow came to dwell.
Help us to trust in Your love.*

*In this season of anticipation,
help us to expect that
as certain as the waves of grief,
are the moments when You will
offer us a little peace.*

*And that it is right and good
to feel all of it.*

*Be with us. Come to us. Live in us,
Emmanuel, God with Us. Amen.*

Season's Blessings,

Pastor Annie



UPCOMING EVENTS



DECEMBER

- * **4th:** PW Christmas Open House - 10:00 & 11:30 a.m. in the Harris Room
- * **5th:** Deacons Meeting/Potluck - 5 p.m. at McGinnis home
- * **11th:** Receive New Members / Dedication of Butterfly / Reception for New Members & Rev. Patricia Jarvis
- * **13th:** PW Christmas Party - Noon in Harris Room (potluck)
- * **17th:** Cookies with Santa - 1-3 p.m. at Friendship Park
- * **18th:** Children's Christmas Program, *The Friendly Beasts* during 10:30 worship
- * **24th:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship - 7 p.m.
- * **25th:** Christmas Day - Brief 10:30 Worship ONLY
Christmas Day Community Dinner: Noon - 2 p.m.
- * **26th:** Office Closed



JANUARY

- * **1st:** New Years Day - 10:30 Worship ONLY - Star Words
- * **2nd:** Office Closed
- * **8th:** Lunch and Q&A with Ed Thompson - Harris Room
- * **29th:** Choose-a-Hymn Sunday

The Gifts of Christmas

Sponsored by the Deacons



The Deacons will collect cards and small gifts for our homebound members and friends **through Friday, December 16.**

They will be delivered before Christmas to bring comfort and cheer to members who need an extra dose of Christmas Spirit.

Address lists (for mailing your own cards) can be found at the collection point in the foyer.

Drop off your cards and gifts at the church **Monday thru Thursday, from 10 - 3**, or on Sundays, **no later than December 16**, so these items of Christmas cheer can be delivered by the Deacons.

SUGGESTED ITEMS

- * Christmas Cards
- * Soft Holiday Candy
- * Lip Balm/Hand Cream
- * Christmas Socks/Winter Wear
- * Small Word Search or Crossword Puzzle Books (*Large Print*)
- * Small Christmas-themed items

If you have questions, contact Tiffany Gibson at 304-488-4088, or Barbara Lucas at 304-580-1274

What is Advent? What makes it the beginning of the church year? ... It is the first gleam of Christmas; it is the promise of his coming; it heralds the entrance of the Divine into human history; it is heaven descending to earth; it is a great event casting its brilliance before it. It is as though a trumpeter had taken his stand upon the turrets of time and announced the coming of the King. "Get ready," he seems to say. "Get ready. He is coming!"

-W.E. Sangster in *Special-Day Sermons*



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Warm & Fuzzy Tree

Leave new winter hats, mittens and scarves on the "Warm & Fuzzy" Tree in the foyer for distribution to the visitors at our Christmas Dinner.

Kitchen Accessories

We are collecting pot holders, dish cloths and dish towels. You may leave them under the Christmas tree in the Harris Room



Christmas Open House Coffee Hour

On **Sunday, December 4**, at 10 a.m. and following 10:30 Worship, one and all are invited to the Holiday Coffee Hour, with special cookies and treats.

Christmas Party

All ladies are invited to the annual Christmas Party, **Tuesday, December 13, at noon** in the Harris Room. Bring your favorite covered dish and join in the holiday fun!



The Gathering

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

5:30 - 6:30

followed by small groups & fellowship

Sign up in the foyer - menus & suggested sides are listed in advance.



Worship Notes

† **December 18** - Children's Program, *The Friendly Beasts*
During 10:30 Worship



† **Christmas Eve Worship**
Candlelight Service - 7:00 p.m.

† **Christmas Day Worship**
10:30 Worship only (brief service)

† **New Years Day**
10:30 Worship only (Star Words)

Star Words

On **Sunday, January 1**, we begin our third year of observing the tradition of **Star Words**.



During 10:30 Worship that day, we would like to hear from you if you used your Star Word during 2022 to enrich your spiritual walk. If you would like to share a brief account (3 mins.) of how your use of a Star Word during this year was a blessing, contact Kelly Beckett, 304-991-3613, or kellybeckett@gmail.com.



Liturgists in December



4	Justin Bosley
11	Jessica Linville
18	Mikki Bosley
24	Kathy Hinkley

Christmas Eve



7:00 p.m.

Candlelight & Communion



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
10:30 ON SUNDAYS

Nursery & Toddler Room
~ Birth through age 4

Children's Church
~ K - 2nd grade

Kids in grades 3+
~ remain in the Sanctuary
(Kids activity bulletins provided)



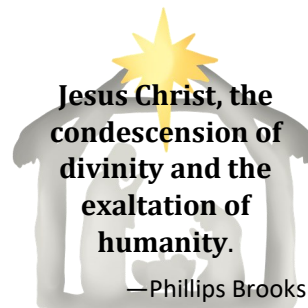
Happy Birthday!

Jim Houck	11th
Connor Buchanan	17th
Cole Dennison	18th
Barbara Farell	21st
Debbie Foley	22nd
Jean Percy	24th
Katie Kaplan	27th
Lucian McMillan	27th
Bob Tebay	30th



Happy Anniversary!

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



Norma J. Smith - November 12



Happy Birthday!

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



Happy Anniversary!

Dave & Becky Bell 1st

Special Dates

- 1st Day of Winter - Dec. 21
- Christmas Eve - Dec. 24
- Christmas Day - Dec. 25
- New Years Eve - Dec. 31
- New Years Day - Jan. 1
- Epiphany - Jan. 6
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Jan. 16



Mission & Outreach Projects

◆ **Saturday, December 17 - Cookies with Santa:**
1- 3 p.m. at Friendship Park



HYGIENE ITEMS NEEDED

(Printed lists available outside the church office)

- ~ Toothbrushes, holders & toothpaste
- ~ Brushes and combs
- ~ Razors & shaving lotion (women & men)
- ~ Plastic bandages
- ~ Hand lotions & sanitizer
- ~ Lip balm
- ~ Shampoo
- ~ Soap / body wash
- ~ Feminine products
- ~ Deodorant
- ~ Wash cloths
- ~ Socks & underwear



(Adults & Children / all sizes)

These items will be used to fill take-home bags for those attending the annual Christmas Dinner.

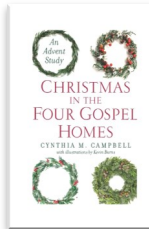
If you have any questions, or would like to help the Mission & Outreach Committee, contact Morgan James at 304-917-1748, or Amy Rogers at 304-481-6340.

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES
Each Sunday of Advent thru Christmas Day



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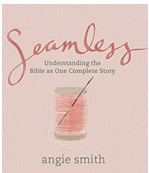
Wednesday evenings at 6:30 with Pastor Annie in Room 123: a book/Bible study based on Cynthia M. Campbell's



Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes
thru Dec. 21

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Wednesday evenings at 6:30 with Amy Rogers in Room 124: a Bible study based on Angie Smith's *Seamless* Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story
thru Jan. 11



CHURCH VOLUNTEERS TO BE RECOGNIZED

As you all know, this church relies heavily on its volunteers to make things happen. We have many people here at First Pres, both members and non-members, who give a lot of their time and talent to us, and yet they go unrecognized.







As a result, the Session has decided to honor and recognize, on a quarterly basis, an outstanding volunteer here at the church. The first recognition period will be the fourth quarter of this year (Oct. - Dec.). The Session asks that at the end of the year you nominate an outstanding volunteer to be selected for recognition. Nomination Forms are available at the church and are due on or before **January 8, 2023**. The Evaluation Committee will then review all forms submitted, and will select and announce the outstanding volunteer for the quarter.



If you have any questions, please contact Gregg Emrick, 304-483-0926, or greggemrick@gmail.com.

JANUARY 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Years Day 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship Star Words 	2 Office Closed 6:00 PM Deacons Mtg. 6:00 PM KOM Knitters	3 	4 5:30 PM The Gathering 6:30 PM Bible Study / Seamless - Rm. 124	5 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.
8 Baptism of the Lord 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Lunch / Q&A with Ed Thompson	9 5:00 PM Financial Mgmt.	10 10:30 AM Miriam/Priscilla Circles 6:00 PM Session meets	11 3:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM The Gathering 6:30 PM Bible Study / Seamless - Rm. 124	12 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.
15 Cents-Ability Offering 8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Hour <i>10:15 - Coffee with the Pastor</i> 10:30 AM Worship	16 MLK, Jr. Day 6:00 PM Mission Committee 	17 5:00 PM Worship & Celebration Comm. 5:30 PM Founders' Trust 7:00 PM Facilities Mgmt.	18 5:30 PM The Gathering	19 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:15 PM Boy Scouts 	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.
22 8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Hour <i>10:15 - Coffee with the Pastor</i> 10:30 AM Worship	23 7:00 PM Parkersburg Pride Mtg. 	24 12:00 PM PW Board Meeting	25 5:30 PM The Gathering	26 OFFICE CLOSED 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.
29 Choose-a-Hymn Sunday 8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Hour <i>10:15 - Coffee with the Pastor</i> 10:30 AM Worship			<p>“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”</p> <p>—Martin Luther King Jr.</p> 			

Story stones



Share the good news of Jesus' birth in a creative way.



What you need:

- Newspaper
- Bible
- Smooth, clean stones
- Pencil
- Oil paint pens
- Adult help



What you do:

1. In a well-ventilated area, cover a work surface with newspaper.
2. Read Luke 2:1-20 and choose key people and places to draw.
3. In pencil, sketch one drawing on each stone.
4. Follow directions on paint pens to fill drawings with color. Let dry.
5. Hide stones for younger siblings to find, set out a new stone each day or order them in a row and tell the Nativity story.



Christian Symbol



CANDLE—The candle symbolizes Jesus being the light of the world (John 8:12), as well as his call for Christians to be lights (Matthew 5:14). Candles play a prominent role in the Christmas season. Each candle on an Advent wreath has a special meaning. Many churches have a candlelight worship service on Christmas Eve, often at midnight.



"I just checked Santa's portal. As of this date, we're still on the good boys and girls list."

33rd Annual Christmas Day Dinner

We can use your help!

★ **VOLUNTEER:** Hands-on workers are crucial to this event. If you can help with food prep, setup, cleanup, meal delivery, serving or 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, call the church office (304-422-5426) and deliver at the **front** entrance, or bring them to church any Sunday. To save valuable prep time, place your cookies in small zipper bags [4 per bag] before delivering.

Pies can be delivered **Wednesday, December 21**, and **Thursday, December 22, 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.)

For more ways to help, check the signup sheet in the foyer. Let us know of a particular job that interests you and someone 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 Chris Alfred at finance@fpcburgwv.org



Thank you for your help!

December 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>All history is incomprehensible without Christ. —Ernest Renan</p>				<p>1 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>2 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>3 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.</p>
<p>4 Communion 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Bell Rehearsal 10:00 AM PW Open House 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM PW Open House</p>	<p>5 5:00 PM Deacons / Potluck & Meeting at Becky McGinnis home 6:00 PM KOM Knitters</p>	 <p>6</p>	<p>7 5:30 PM The Gathering 6:30 PM Book Study / 4 Gospel Homes - Rm. 123 6:30 PM Bible Study / Seamless - Rm. 124</p>	<p>8 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9 OFFICE CLOSED <i>Poinsettias Delivered</i></p>	<p>10 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg. 6:00 PM Parkersburg Pride</p>
<p>11 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Bell Rehearsal 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Dedication of Butterfly / Reception for new members & Rev. P. Jarvis</p>	<p>12 5:00 PM Financial Mgmt.</p> 	<p>13 12:00 PM PW Christmas Party 6:00 PM Session meets</p>	<p>14 3:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM The Gathering 6:30 PM Book Study / 4 Gospel Homes - Rm. 123 6:30 PM Bible Study / Seamless - Rm. 124</p>	<p>15 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>16 OFFICE CLOSED</p> 	<p>17 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg. 100: PM Cookies with Santa at Fellowship Park</p>
<p>18 Cents-Ability Offering CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING 8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:15 - Coffee with the Pastor 10:30 AM Worship Children's Program <i>The Friendly Beasts</i></p>	<p>19 6:00 PM Mission Committee</p>	<p>20 5:00 PM Worship & Celebration Comm.</p>	<p>21 First day of Winter 5:30 PM The Gathering 6:30 PM Book Study / 4 Gospel Homes - Rm. 123 6:30 PM Bible Study / Seamless - Rm. 124</p>	<p>22 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p> 	<p>23 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve 12:00 PM HA Mtg. 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship <i>Communion</i></p> 
<p>25 Christmas Day 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Christmas Day Dinner</p> 	<p>26 Office Closed 7:00 PM Parkersburg Pride Mtg.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 5:30 PM The Gathering 6:30 PM Bible Study / Seamless - Rm. 124</p>	<p>29 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 New Years Eve 12:00 PM HA Mtg.</p>