

*Morning Worship—December 16, 2018*  
*3rd Sunday of Advent*

*Please sign the Fellowship Pad and pass it to your neighbor. \*Please stand if able. It is our custom to sing, “Amen,” after hymns.*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” arr. C.T. Andrews

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

“Joy” The Reynolds and Jackie Rochford

Leader: Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light it, and the candle of Hope as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God’s promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy. [The Candles of Hope & Peace are lit.] Today we light the third candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: “My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him. From hope and peace grows joy. We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth. [The Joy Candle is lit.] Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ. **Let us pray: Thank you, God, for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** (Insert)

“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

(From Isaiah 12)

Leader: Surely God is my salvation, I will trust, and will not be afraid.

**People: For the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.**

Leader: With joy you will give thanks to the Lord and call on God’s name.

**People: We will sing you our praises, O God, for you have done glorious things.**

**All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, Let us worship God!**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Source Of Salvation, what shall we do? Our lives are unworthy of the goodness you offer. We complain of our condition when our wants go unnoticed. Contentment eludes us, since when we have plenty we still yearn for more. Millions face hunger, while we fret over abundance. Through Christ forgive us, yet grant us no peace until we share our bread with the hungry and our homes with those who lack shelter.

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice...The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything but in everything in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

**People: And God who surpasses all understand, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.” In Christ we are forgiven.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI** (579)

GREATOREX, 1851

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES**

Dr. McDonald

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and Your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what You say to us today. Amen.**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**

(667/703)

Zephaniah 3:14-20

**ANTHEM**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

French Carol

**GOSPEL LESSON**

(726/763)

Luke 3:7-18

**SERMON**

“The Choice Is Yours”

Dr. John McDonald

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Judy Hooker & Dr. and Mrs. Randolph G. Bradshaw

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER (Lord’s Prayer see Aids to Worship pew insert)**

**Invitation**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God creator and ruler of the universe. . . Therefore, we lift our hearts in joyful praise, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name.

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: You are holy O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, you Son, our Lord,...Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer (see pew insert)

**Words of Institution**

**Distribution of the Elements**

**Communion Prayer**

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS**

Offering in Music

“Masters In This Hall”

arr. Lloyd Larson

\*Doxology 591

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

**\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT 9**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE 554**

Let All Things Now Living

**POSTLUDE**

“The First Noel”

arr. Ross J. Root

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASTORAL CONCERNS**— Amy Bracey, Lisa Brown, Charles Cuttle, Lib Cuttle, Matthew Dolianitis, Dianne East, Dianne Hottenstein (S. Mathena), Martha Jo Hodges, Gail Jones, Beth Landfair (John’s mother), Bill Landfair (J. McDonald’s step father), Mary Ann Wiseman Lewis, Jane Marini (B. Fitzgerald’s daughter), Ellen McDonald (John’s wife), Lee Norman, Dana Overstreet (S. Mathena), Freel Shipe (J. McDonald’s father-in-law), Ella Ryan, Sandra Strange, Jim Turner, Tom West

The concerns of those who wish to remain unnamed.

**ON THE MEND**— Joe Alexander, Chlodine Bittner (J. Weller’s grandmother), James Gill Sr. & Jr., Mrs. Helen Harris (Kathleen Harris’ mother), Jay Hayes, Willem van der Griendt, Nultie Wiseman

Our Service Personnel & First Responders.

Our condolences to the family & friends of Linda Terriberly who passed away Friday December 7.

Join us for our Lesson & Carols service Dec. 23rd at 11:00 a.m. Our Christmas Eve Service will be at 5 p.m. Invite your neighbors and friends to these special services.  
The Church Office will be closed 1/2 day Dec. 24th and the rest of the week of Christmas.

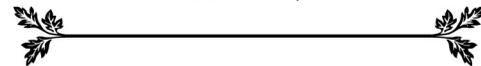
Youth Christmas Party today from 4:30—6 p.m. at the Weller house. All youth are welcome.

Middle & High School students are invited to bring a snack & gift for the gift exchange (\$10 gift).

Birthday Party for Jesus & Nativity Rehearsal is the 23rd.

**SERVING TODAY**

Nursery/Sunday School	K. Clifton & D. Shelton
Children’s Sunday School	K. Dolianitis/M. Sweeney
	The Jones Family
Elders at Front Door	C. B. Strange
Security & Side Door	D. Parris
Visitation	ML Crane
Deacon to Receive Offering	K. Dolianitis
Officers to Count Offering	Beale/Meadema
Church School Superintendent	Gail Davis
Liturgist	Gail Gunn
Time for Young Disciples	Dr. McDonald
Sound System	S. Meadema
Ushers	Team 3
Flower Ministry	Elders
Childcare Specialists	Lea Smith, Kelley Fochler
Saturday Lunch Ministry Dec. 22nd	E. Blount/J. Nostrandt
Saturday Lunch Attendance 12/8	49



**The Staff of First Presbyterian Church**  
 Dr. John McDonald: jmcdonald54@outlook.com  
 Interim Pastor  
 Jackson Weller: Jackson@fpcdanville.com  
 Minister of Youth and Children  
 Heather Perryman: heather@fpcdanville.com  
 Minister of Music  
 Erin Parris: erinbparris@yahoo.com  
 Day School Director  
 Vickie Holman: vickie@fpcdanville.com  
 Administrator  
 James Cannon  
 Custodian  
 Ron Tanner  
 Weekend Custodian

*The Columns of the*  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**  
**CHURCH**

Dec. 16, 2018

*937 Main St., Danville, VA 434.792.7822*  
**TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN**

**THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**  
**MONDAY, December 17**

9:15 a.m. Prayer Group

**TUESDAY, December 18**

5:15 p.m. Handbells  
 7:00 p.m. Session

**WEDNESDAY, December 19**

5:00 p.m. PNC Comm.  
 6:00 p.m. Youth  
 6:00 p.m. WNS

**THURSDAY, December 20**

5:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

**FRIDAY, December 21**

All Day Church Office Closed

**SATURDAY, December 22**

10:45 a.m. Lunch Min. Bible Study  
 11:30 a.m. Lunch Ministry

**SUNDAY, December 23**

Lessons & Carols  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School:  
 See below for Class information  
 11:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary  
 Mid-worship K-2/3-5 SS  
 Noon Fellowship

**Opportunities to Study the Word every Sunday Morning**

**Youth & Adult Sunday School** 9:45 a.m.– 10:40 a.m.

**Youth** (middle & high school) Rm 112 /discussion type class studying scripture lesson used in Sunday’s sermon

**Bible Seekers/Rm 109/** “Feasting on the Word” / discussion type class

**Bible Study Fellowship/Library/ Ligonier Ministry’s** “Tabletalk Magazine” / discussion type class

**Outlook/Rm 322/**“The Present Word” / lecture type class

**The Children’s Extended Time** (mid-worship 11:15-12:00) Deep Blue Cokesbury Curriculum

**K-2 /Rm304/various instructors/Gr 3-5/Rm 306/various instructors**

We provide nursery care from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM and Sunday School for grades K-5 after Time for Young Disciples.

*The flowers today that enhance our worship service are given in loving memory of the deceased members of the Wiseman family by Nultie, Paige and Frank Wiseman.*