

JANUARY 1, 2017



*First Presbyterian Church of West Chester*

**Welcome** to First Presbyterian Church. As a community of faith, we strive to “above all, love.” As we worship God together, we pray that you will experience Christ’s presence in our midst, and that he will sustain you in the week ahead. A special welcome goes out to you if you are visiting. If you are with us for the first time, stop by the Welcome Center in the foyer to find out about the many opportunities available to you in the life of our congregation. We hope you will worship with us again next Sunday.

**We invite you** to sign the Friendship Register, which you will find at the center aisle of each pew. As you pass it to others in your pew, note who is sitting near you, so you may greet them by name.

- Please note that hearing aids and large print bulletins are available from the ushers.
- Maps showing available parking are in the racks in the Fellowship Hall.
- Our Nursery is open at both the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. services and welcomes little ones through age 2. It is located at the bottom of the steps just outside the sanctuary.

Children are always welcome, and encouraged to participate in worship. Children’s Worship Activity Bags are available from the ushers.

**The Mission Statement of First Presbyterian Church**

Called to love God and one another, First Presbyterian Church responds to God’s grace by following Christ with ministries of hospitality, worship, faith development, service and generosity.



Leading Us in Worship Today:

Greg Stovell, Pastor  
Caroline Cupp, Associate Pastor  
Sándor Kádár, Principal Organist  
Kira Boros, Soprano

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME**

**CHIMES** – A call to stillness

*Use these moments prior to the Prelude to greet one another briefly. At the ringing of the chimes, please seek the presence of God in stillness and quiet. Please silence cell phones.*

*\* Indicates that all who are able are invited to stand.*

**PRELUDE** Improvisation on *Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord* Sándor Kádár

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**We will be glad and rejoice in it.**

This is the year that the Lord has begun.

**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed,  
for his compassions never fail.

**They are new every morning.**

**Great is your faithfulness.**

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him,  
to those who seek him.

**Let us worship God!**

**\*HYMN #707** “Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord” Hall

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

O God, you are slow to anger and swift to have mercy;  
Forgive us when we treat time as a commodity or an enemy,  
when we abuse your gift of time.

In our fastness and our slowness,  
help us to keep pace with you.

Free us to live in your time, a new time,  
in which there is a time for everything under heaven,  
and slow is not too slow, and fast is not too fast.

Transform us into people who see time as a gift and a friend,  
who live as if we have time,  
because we know that your time will never cease.

Through Jesus we pray, Amen.

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*RESPONSE** God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

“O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;  
O tidings of comfort and joy!”

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**WELCOME AND MINISTRY UPDATES**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

***GIVE THANKS TO GOD***

**THE OFFERING**

Offertory "Night of Silence" Daniel Kantor

*"Cold are the people, Winter of life, We tremble in shadows this cold endless night, Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, Flowers that will echo the sunrise, Fire of hope is our only warmth, Weary, its flame will be dying soon.*

*Voice in the distance, call in the night, On wind you enfold us you speak of the light, Gentle on the ear you whisper softly, Rumors of a dawn so embracing, Breathless love awaits darkened souls, Soon will we know of the morning.*

*Spirit among us, Shine like the star, Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar, Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely, Rising in the warmth of your Son's love, Star unknowing of night and day, Spirit we wait for your loving Son."*

Kira Boros, soprano

\*Offertory Response, #606, The Doxology 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 #839 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!" Assurance

***PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD***

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:12-23 New Testament Page 2

SERMON "Ok. Now what?" Dr. Greg Stovell

**PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR** (unison)

In the year ahead, Lord of New Beginnings, stretch our souls and move us into new awareness of the human family, their needs and their longings.

Make these into our needs, our longings so we move more confidently from our small selves to a deeper sense of community where our resolutions reflect our interdependence.

Help us recognize the possibilities you have offered to us as a people, so we can commit to practice the Hope that happens when we gather gratefully in your Name and we hold up to you this fragile, precious world. Grant us all the grace in this year ahead to sow the seeds of justice and to gather peace in our day.

Amen.

***GO IN GOD'S NAME***

\*HYMN #840 "It Is Well with My Soul" Ville Du Havre

\*BLESSING

\*RESPONSE (unison) "Let There Be Peace on Earth" Sy Miller and Bill Jackson

Let There Be Peace on Earth and let it begin with me.  
Let There Be Peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be!  
With God as our Father, children all are we.  
Let me walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.  
With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me!

ORGAN POSTLUDE Sortie in E-flat Major Louis Lefébure-Wély  
France, 1817- 1869

\* \* \*

Ushers

9:00 a.m. – Art Massey, Head Usher;

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***CHRISTIAN EDUCATION***

• **Position Opening:** We're looking for a part-time Children's Ministry Assistant to coordinate our Sunday morning activities (Sunday School, JAM, and children in worship) for children 3 years old through Grade 5, with the goal of nurturing the development of Christian faith and practice in children involved in these activities. For a full position description go to <https://goo.gl/6W1wfU>. Interested candidates can email their resume to Pastor Steve Clark ([sclark@firstpreswc.com](mailto:sclark@firstpreswc.com)).

***CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND MEMBERSHIP***

• **The Bridge is STILL OUT:** Enjoy the holidays, and join us once again for dinner and fellowship when The Bridge re-opens Wednesday, January 11.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **Pub Theology meets again this week!** Gathering is 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 3 at Ryan's Pub, 124 W Gay St, West Chester. Join us for conversation, food, and drink as together we ponder issues of life, both profound and funny. And bring a friend! *Stop by the table in Fellowship Hall to get a coaster and/or postcard to share with others.*

### SERVICE AND OUTREACH

• **First Pres will participate in the annual MLK Day of Service**, organized by St. Paul's Baptist Church partnering with other local churches and organizations. January 16 will be an exciting morning of service on projects in the community followed by a luncheon and time for reflection at St. Paul's. Over 400 volunteers participate in this effort. View the projects and register at [stpaulsbaptist.org](http://stpaulsbaptist.org) starting January 1 or contact Reid Willis (610-291-5867), Caroline Cupp, or Steve Clark with questions.

• **The Barn at Spring Brook Farm is Looking for Volunteers!** For ten years, the Barn at Spring Brook Farm has provided animal-assisted activities to children with disabilities. Join a number of First Pres members in becoming a one-on-one volunteer and help guide a child once per week for twelve weeks, beginning in March 2017. No experience is necessary and training is provided. For more information, visit [www.springbrook-farm.org](http://www.springbrook-farm.org) or call 610-793-1037.

### WORSHIP

• **Chancel Flowers** are a beautiful way to honor or memorialize family and friends. Opportunities are available throughout 2017. Please see the sign-up list in Fellowship Hall, or contact the church office at 610-696-0554 to help add color to our Sunday morning worship.

### CAREGIVING

• **Bereavement Support Group coming to First Pres:** Grief is an emotional, physical, cognitive, and spiritual response to a loss. This winter, First Presbyterian will work with Neighborhood Health to offer a support group to adults of all ages who are experiencing the loss of a loved one. Over ten weeks, participants will be invited to come together to discuss the effects of grief in their lives and to share in their journey of healing. Gatherings will be led by a licensed clinical social worker and co-facilitated by clergy; there is no cost to participate. The group is open to church members and the wider community, and will meet on Fridays at First Pres from 12:30-2:00 p.m. starting on January 13. For more information or to register, please call Rev. Caroline Cupp at [ccupp@firstpreswc.com](mailto:ccupp@firstpreswc.com) or 484-459-8220 or call the church office.

• **Winter Parking Assistance is Coming to First Pres:** As anyone at First Pres could tell you, parking in the borough is a constant struggle. For many people, particularly those who are older or who have disabilities, navigating icy and snowy sidewalks is treacherous. In response, First Pres is offering parking assistance from January 8 through the end of March, 2017. Each Sunday, professional drivers will be available between 8:30am and 12:30 p.m. outside the sanctuary to park your car. We are grateful that a generous gift from the Bob Thompson Memorial Fund is enabling us to offer this service free of charge to all participants; gratuities will also be covered. Do not hesitate to reach out to any of the pastors with questions. We are hopeful that parking assistance will enable us to worship together during the snowy winter months!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**SUNDAY** – January 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

9:00am Worship; Radio Broadcast on 1520AM; Live web stream

**MONDAY** – January 2

OFFICE CLOSED

**TUESDAY** – January 3

10:00am Faith Community Nurses' Office Hours ('til 1:00pm)  
5:30pm Men's Ministry Studies - Mars Group  
7:00pm Pub Theology at Ryan's Pub  
7:30pm Men's Ministry Studies

**WEDNESDAY** – January 4

**NO BRIDGE (STARTS AGAIN JANUARY 11)**

9:00am Sew Many Blessings  
12:00pm Bulletin deadline

**THURSDAY** – January 5

6:00pm Mom's Night Out  
7:30pm Chancel Choir

**FRIDAY** – January 6

6:00am Men's Friday Morning Study  
1:00pm Sweet Dreams

**SATURDAY** – January 7

**SUNDAY** – January 8

COMMUNION AT ALL SERVICES

FIRST SUNDAY FPC PARKING ASSISTANCE

8:00am Worship; Communion  
8:30am Sunday Social ('til 10:30am)  
9:00am Worship; Communion; Nursery to age 2; Sunday School for all ages; Confirmation Class; Radio Broadcast on 1520AM; Live web stream  
10:30am Worship; Communion; Nursery to age 2; JAM age 3-Grade 5  
2:30pm Fezziwig's Ball  
4:00pm Youth Fellowship

Office Hours:

Tue - Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*First Pres on Facebook*

*Keep up with your church family at [www.facebook.com/firstpreswc](http://www.facebook.com/firstpreswc)*

# What's Next at First Presbyterian

There are many opportunities here at First Pres to make room for Christ  
in our hearts and in our families:

- **The Bridge** Program is a mid-week family night which includes supper (5:30-6:15 p.m.), programs for handbell and singing choirs (Pre-K through Grade 12), and adult Bible studies. BridgeKidz provides faith-based learning for kids in a fun environment from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. This program begins Wednesday, January 11; you, your family, and your friends are welcome to participate.
- **A Connections Class** will meet on January 15 and 22 at 11:45 a.m. Lunch will be provided. If you are interested in learning more about First Pres or becoming a member, contact Karen Goldstein (610-696-0554 or [kgoldstein@firstpreswc.com](mailto:kgoldstein@firstpreswc.com)) to sign up for the class.
- **Next Sunday, January 8** at 2:30 p.m. Column Classics presents **Fezziwig's Ball**, a fun hour of set dance participation right from the pages of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Dances will be taught by Marcia Sommers, with live musical accompaniment! Refreshments will be served; free and open to the public. 19<sup>th</sup> century English finery is encouraged.
- **Sunday, January 29** at 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. Annual Spaghetti Supper, hosted by our Youth.



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please text your support to 610-347-5509 ( \$\$\$ FPC )