

JANUARY 15, 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:

Steve Clark, *Associate Pastor*  
 Anderson Porter, *Parish Associate*  
 Marcia Sommers, *Director of Music and Fine Arts*  
 Sándor Kádár, *Principal Organist*  
 Jane Waddington, *Assistant Organist*

### 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.*

#### ORGAN PRELUDE Three Spirituals For Organ

arr. Robert J. Powell

#### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Come and see!

**We come to see for ourselves who Jesus is.**

Come and see!

**We come with open hearts to experience Christ.**

Come and see!

**We come to deepen our relationship with God.**

Come and see, come and see!

**Lord, let us worship you!**

#### \*HYMN #757 “Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

Kingsfold

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

Dear God, so many voices clamor for our attention that often we lose your word. Forgive us if you have called us to be prophetic witnesses or to use our gifts to serve you, and we have not heard, or have been unwilling to respond. We confess that at times we fail to discern your presence and your call on our lives. Holy Spirit, you empower us to recognize and to respond to the invitation of Jesus to follow him, even when that means traveling on unknown and unfamiliar paths. Do not leave us as we are, but shape us into what you want us to be. Make us restless until we are willing to live out your message of justice, truth, and righteousness. Merciful God, take from us all that hinders our hearing your voice, and fill us anew with the Holy Spirit that we may joyfully respond to Jesus’ call on our lives. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

#### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### \*RESPONSE

Meineke

“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, Amen.”



## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the *Confession of Belhar*

We believe in God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church. We believe the church is one worldwide communion of saints, called from the entire human family. We believe the church is the single community of believers, reconciled with God and with one another. We believe that through the working of God's Spirit, unity is a binding force and also that we must seek this unity, which must become visible to the world. We believe that the sin of division, separation and hatred between people and groups has been conquered by Christ. We commit ourselves to protecting the unity of the church universal. We pledge to make this unity active in all of our words, thoughts and deeds.

## WELCOME AND MINISTRY UPDATES

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 "Just A Closer Walk With Thee" arr. Fred Bock

Jane Waddington, piano

\*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 #451 "Open My Eyes, That I May See" Open My Eyes

### *PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD*

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 11:5-10 New Testament Page 72

SERMON "A Knock at Midnight" Rev. Anderson Porter

### *GO IN GOD'S NAME*

\*HYMN #634 "To God Be the Glory"

### \*BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE Epiphany Alleluia Charles B. Hansen

## 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

SECOND SUNDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY

### *ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME*

### CHIMES – A call to stillness

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ORGAN PRELUDE Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern Dietrich Buxtehude  
*How beautifully shines the morning star* Germany, 1637-1707

### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

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Come and see!

**We come with open hearts to experience Christ.**

Come and see!

**We come to deepen our relationship with God.**

Come and see, come and see!

**Lord, let us worship you!**

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Dear God, so many voices clamor for our attention that often we lose your word. Forgive us if you have called us to be prophetic witnesses or to use our gifts to serve you, and we have not heard, or have been unwilling to respond. We confess that at times we fail to discern your presence and your call on our lives. Holy Spirit, you empower us to recognize and to respond to the invitation of Jesus to follow him, even when that means traveling on unknown and unfamiliar paths. Do not leave us as we are, but shape us into what you want us to be. Make us restless until we are willing to live out your message of justice, truth, and righteousness. Merciful God, take from us all that hinders our hearing your voice, and fill us anew with the Holy Spirit that we may joyfully respond to Jesus' call on our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*As the children are going to their classes, we will sing Hymn #741, "Guide My Feet", v. 1*

*"Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain."*

## WELCOME AND MINISTRY UPDATES

**SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 40:1-11 Old Testament Page 513

**ANTHEM** "Keep Your Lamps" Andre Thomas

*"Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.*

*Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.*

*Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.*

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh."*

The Chancel Choir

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee" arr. Mark L. Williams

*The text of this anthem can be found in Glory to God, #738.*

The Chancel Choir

\*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."

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\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee" arr. Mark L. Williams

*"In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way,  
in peace that only Thou canst give, with Thee, O Master, let me live!"*

**ORGAN POSTLUDE** Improvisation on *To God Be The Glory* Sándor Kádár

\* \* \*

Prayers and sympathy are with Allen and Cynthia Hamilton  
in the death of Cynthia's mother.

The rosebud is to the Glory of God and in honor of:  
Rosalie Reagusa, born January 9, 2017, daughter of Chuck and Kelly Reagusa,  
granddaughter of Art and Janet Zadrozny.

The Chancel Flowers are to the Glory of God and are given by:  
Peg Osborne, in honor of Ralph Osborne's birthday and years of service in His Name;  
and

The Barry Family, in celebration of the life of Karen Berry Amaral.

## Ushers

**8:00 a.m.** – Bill Benson, *Head Usher*; Charles Haverstraw

**9:00 a.m.** – Bob Black, *Head Usher*;

**10:30 a.m.** – Ken Tyson, *Head Usher*; Mary Tyson, Dick and Carla Westerman,  
Chris Menan

**Coffee Deacons today:** Bob Graham and George Craven

**Flower Deacons today:** George Craven

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Rev. Caroline Cupp is out on maternity leave until April 2. Rev. Peggy Clark is serving as temporary pastor for caregiving and mission and will be on-site Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. She can be contacted through the church office.*

*Dr. Greg Stovell is on vacation. He will be back in the office January 18.*

## YOUTH

• **Youth Spaghetti Supper** tickets are on sale today! Come to fellowship hall to grab your tickets, or order them on the Church's website under the Sign-up tab. The dinner is January 29, seatings at 4:30 & 6:30 p.m. with entertainment in between. Tickets cost \$12 for adults, \$6 for children (ages 4-8), 3 and under free. We look forward to serving you again this year!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADMINISTRATION

• **Extravagant Generosity:** The Finance & Stewardship Committee is working to wrap up the 2017 Budget for presentation to and approval of Session. If you have not yet pledged for 2017, please prayerfully consider doing so online [www.firstpreswc.com/pledge](http://www.firstpreswc.com/pledge). Thank you to all those who pledged; your gift is very much appreciated.

• **2017 Offering Envelopes:** If you checked that you wanted 2017 offering envelopes on your pledge card, please pick up your set in the red hallway today after services. Please remember to write your name on the exterior of each offering envelope. If you did not request envelopes and would like some please let Gretchen Huebner know at 610-696-0554 ext 122 or [ghuebner@firstpreswc.com](mailto:ghuebner@firstpreswc.com).

• **Never Miss Another Sunday** - First Pres is LIVE each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. on the following:

*Web stream* - links to that Sunday's service, as well as the service bulletin, can be found on the church's website at [www.firstpreswc.com/worship-this-week](http://www.firstpreswc.com/worship-this-week)

*Facebook* - we now broadcast live at [www.facebook.com/firstpreswc](http://www.facebook.com/firstpreswc)

*Radio* - the service is broadcast live on 1520AM *The Voice of Chester County*, over-the-air, if you're within broadcast range, or on their internet feed, wherever you are in the world, at [wche1520.com](http://wche1520.com)

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

• **BridgeKidz kicks off a new season this Wednesday, January 18** with an introduction to spiritual practices! The children will learn about the idea of spiritual practices, how they help us grow closer to God, and get a sneak peek at some of the practices we will be trying in the coming weeks. We hope your children will join us in Room 214b from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. If you are willing to volunteer in future weeks or have any questions, please contact Sara Pantazes at 757-619-1798 or [spantazes@firstpreswc.com](mailto:spantazes@firstpreswc.com).

• **A new book study on Thursday evenings beginning January 26 at 7:00 p.m.** in room 209. We will be studying C.S. Lewis's famous and groundbreaking work "*Mere Christianity*". This is a theological book that was adapted from a series of BBC radio talks made between 1942 and 1944, while Lewis was at Oxford during the Second World War. This is considered a true classic work in the Christian faith and we are excited to be reading it. Men of all ages are very welcome and should you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact Phil Heaver at: [Fivormor59@aol.com](mailto:Fivormor59@aol.com) or at: 610-310-0388. If you have ever had an interest in participating in a men's study, this book is one that we know you will definitely enjoy! We hope you will be able to join us!

• **¡HOLA! Conversational Spanish Class** coming to The Bridge at First Pres! 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays (January 25, February 1, 8, 15, 22) in Herron Lounge. No prior Spanish knowledge required; just come and join the adventure of learning the basics of a new language and how to converse with our Spanish-speaking neighbors (and with our sisters and brothers in our partner church in Guatemala). No book or prep needed, but sign up in Fellowship Hall or online ([www.firstpreswc.com](http://www.firstpreswc.com), click on "Sign Up") so our teachers Andrea Tweedie and Carmelo Ortiz know how much material to prepare. ¡Muchas gracias!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND MEMBERSHIP

*Please note: parent/responsible adult presence required at all family friendly events.*

• **Bridge Dinner this Wednesday** – Join us as we welcome back to Bridge, Sandy Lebold. She and her team will be serving hot dogs, baked beans and tater tots. Salad bar and dessert with dinner. For reservations contact Samantha Myers at [smyers@firstpreswc.com](mailto:smyers@firstpreswc.com) or call the church office to be connected to her voicemail before 12:00 noon on Monday.

• **First Pres Travelers** will be entertained by the musical, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and dining at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre on Thursday, March 2, 2017. Leave West Chester at 10:00 a.m., arrive back home by 5:00 p.m. Total cost for show, dinner, bus, and driver gratuity is \$71.00. Seats are limited. Please send check to Gretchen Huebner at church.

The Pentagon trip is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11. Interested? For more info contact Thom and Irene Clapper, [psuthom@verizon.net](mailto:psuthom@verizon.net), 610-436-5667.

### 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. Tomorrow, Monday 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) or contact Reid Willis (610-291-5867) or Steve Clark with questions.

• **Getsemani Travel Team Sharing** – On January 29, the team that traveled to Getsemani in November will be sharing about their trip. Plan on attending a Lunch & Learn to hear stories about our sister church and learn about the vibrancy of this 13-year ministry. If you cannot make the Lunch & Learn, be sure to come to Fellowship Hall between services to see a beautiful photo gallery from the trip.

• **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

• **It's warm in the Choir Room!** If you haven't jumped in with both feet before, take the plunge now, and join our children as they prepare the delightful musical, *The Tale of Three Trees*. Based on an American folk tale, this story will be presented here for worship on March 5, and at Kendal/Longwood on February 26. In addition, our Youth Singers and Chancel Choir are planning for winter and spring presentations, too. See the schedules in today's calendar, and join us this week!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **Evening Prayer**, offered once a month, is a time of quiet reflection at the end of the weekend, before the busy week begins again. Join us on January 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a reflective time of prayer and meditation.

• **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.

• **Ringling Class:** Marcia and Sandor announce a 6-week class for new ringers on Thursday evenings at 5:45 p.m. Running each week through February 16, this 45-minute weekly session is for those who would like to learn more about handbell ringing, and how to get involved in one of the ringing choirs at FPC. For more information, contact Marcia at the church (msommers@firstpreswc.com), or call 610-696-0554. See you Thursday!

## CAREGIVING

• **Lonely? Experiencing a Difficult Time?** Don't Suffer alone! Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, to care for and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to help you through a crisis or difficult time. Confidentiality is honored. To find out more, talk with Rev. Peggy Clark (818-468-8138 or gclark130@comcast.net) or Mary Pellack (Cell 610-570-0886).

• **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. through March 17. For more information or to register, please contact Rev. Peggy Clark (818-468-8138 or gclark130@comcast.net) or 484-459-8220 or call the church office.

• **Winter Parking Assistance at First Pres is HERE:** 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 through the end of March, 2017. Each Sunday, professional drivers will be available between 8:30 a.m. 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 15

FIRST CREW MISSION TRIP TO LOUISIANA  
 8:00am Worship  
 8:30am Sunday Social ('til 10:30am)  
 9:00am Worship; Nursery to age 2;  
 Sunday School for all  
 ages; Radio Broadcast  
 on 1520AM; Live web  
 stream  
 10:30am Worship; Nursery to age 2;  
 JAM age 3-Grade 5  
 4:00pm Youth Fellowship

#### MONDAY – January 16

OFFICE CLOSED - MLK DAY OF SERVICE  
 FIRST CREW MISSION TRIP TO LOUISIANA  
 6:30pm Finance Committee mtg.  
 7:00pm Service and Outreach  
 Committee  
 8:00pm Trustees

#### TUESDAY – January 17

FIRST CREW MISSION TRIP TO LOUISIANA  
 10:30am Faith Community Nurse  
 Office Hours  
 5:30pm Men's Ministry Studies -  
 Mars Group  
 7:30pm Men's Ministry Studies -  
 Atchinson Group

#### WEDNESDAY – January 18

FIRST CREW MISSION TRIP TO LOUISIANA  
**The Bridge**  
 9:00am Sew Many Blessings  
 12:00pm Bulletin deadline  
 5:30pm Bridge Dinner (til 6:15)  
 Cherub Choir  
 6:00pm Celebration Singers  
 6:30pm BridgeKidz  
 6:45pm Youth Singers/Ringers  
 7:30pm Chancel Ringers

#### THURSDAY – January 19

FIRST CREW MISSION TRIP TO LOUISIANA  
 5:45pm Ringers Intro Class  
 6:30pm JuBella Ringers  
 7:00pm At A Loss Bereavement  
 Group  
 7:30pm Chancel Choir;  
 Youth Bible Study (off site)

#### FRIDAY – January 20

FIRST CREW MISSION TRIP TO LOUISIANA  
 6:30am Men's Friday Morning Study  
 12:30pm FPC Bereavement Group  
 1:00pm Sweet Dreams

#### SATURDAY – January 21

FIRST CREW MISSION TRIP TO LOUISIANA

#### SUNDAY – January 22

8:00am Worship  
 8:30am Sunday Social ('til 10:30am)  
 9:00am Worship; Nursery to age 2;  
 Sunday School for all  
 ages; Confirmation Class;  
 Radio Broadcast on  
 1520AM; Live web stream  
 10:30am Worship; Nursery to age 2;  
 JAM age 3-Grade 5  
 4:00pm Youth Fellowship  
 5:00pm Congregational Study  
 Team mtg.  
 6:00pm Evening Prayer Worship

#### 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)



*Please pray for...*

Mission Co-workers

**Jeff and Christi Boyd**

and the people of Central Africa

[pcusa.org/jeff-and-christi-boyd](http://pcusa.org/jeff-and-christi-boyd)

[jeff.boyd@pcusa.org](mailto:jeff.boyd@pcusa.org)

[christi.boyd@pcusa.org](mailto:christi.boyd@pcusa.org)

c/o Africa Office

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

100 Witherspoon Street

Louisville, KY 40202-1396



As regional liaison for Central Africa, Jeff Boyd facilitates support for the relationships, programs and activities of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, and Equatorial Guinea. He also resources PC(USA) mission personnel and helps connect partner churches with PC(USA) congregations that want to be involved in ministry in the region.

Besides the Congo, Christi works in three other French-speaking African countries, Madagascar, Niger, and Rwanda, and one non-French-speaking country, South Sudan. She accompanies global partners as they seek to remedy the marginalization of women and children in their communities, and engages with Presbyterian constituencies in the U.S. that wish to come alongside and promote those efforts.

In the Congolese village of Zapo-Zapo, parents proudly send their children to a new Presbyterian school complex that was built thanks to joint Presbyterian efforts brought together with the help of Jeff Boyd. A new Presbyterian education initiative in Congo began when Jeff connected the national leadership of the Presbyterian Community in Congo (CPC) with a couple from First Presbyterian Church in Evanston, Illinois, who were doing volunteer mission work in Congo. The couple facilitated a participatory process for the Congolese partners to identify and strategize around priority areas for its educational ministries. Presbyterian churches across the United States soon joined in to support the resulting Congo Education Excellence Program, which rallies to ensure quality education for Congo's future generations. The Congo Education Excellence Program is a major focus of the Congo Mission Network.

Christi fosters relationships that are aimed at helping women like Julienne, a Presbyterian evangelist from the West-Kasai Province in Congo. After the death of her husband Julienne found compassion and solidarity from the CPC Department for Women and Families. Following traditional widowhood rites, her in-laws had dispossessed Julienne of her home, her farm, and her children. With support from the Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering, the CPC is offering hope in such times of mourning and striving to curb harmful cultural practices. The CPC wants legal recognition for traditional marriages and official registration of childbirths. Across the African continent the well-being of women and children is compromised—and authentic Christian witness undermined—by customs that send people into poverty and deprive them of their rightful opportunities. Christi helps bring together U.S. Presbyterians and African partners in order to maximize their collective mission impact. She works where African women's and children's interests meet Presbyterian World Mission's critical global initiatives of poverty alleviation, evangelism, and reconciliation.

130 West Miner Street, West Chester, Pennsylvania 19382

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

