

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2019

11:00 AM

PRELUDE

SILENT NIGHT
DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR
THE WEST VIRGINIA BRASS QUINTET

ARR. JOHN SCHOOLEY
ARR. GARY SLECHTA

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME , ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS

INTROIT

HE IS BORN
THE JOYBELLS

ARR. CYNTHIA DOBRINSKI

* CALL TO WORSHIP: ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

DALE, SHERI AND GARRETT CORLEY

* HYMN #133

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

"ADESTE FIDELES"

* CALL TO CONFESSION

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

KYRIE ELEISON

KYRIE

"NEW WORLD"

Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.
Christe, Christe eleison. Christe, Christe eleison.
Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.

* WORDS OF ASSURANCE

I CORINTHIANS 15:34

Brothers and sisters, hear these words from the scriptures:

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

* RESPONSE

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY
THE WEST VIRGINIA BRASS QUINTET

ARR. CHARLES EVANS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet one another with signs of peace.)

A MOMENT WITH BEAUREGARD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26

PEW BIBLE, OT, p. 516

ANTHEM

STILL, STILL, STILL
THE JOYBELLS

ARR. SANDRA EITHUN

SERMON

DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE CHRISTMAS STORY REV. DR. JAMES R.M. YOUNG
LUKE 2:1-20

* HYMN #112

ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING

"SUSSEX CAROL"

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

BRING A TORCH, JEANETTE ISABELLA
THE WEST VIRGINIA BRASS QUINTET

ARR. DAVID PORTER

* SONG OF PRAISE & PRESENTATION # 609 PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

“LASST UNS ERFREUEN”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PASTORAL PRAYER CONCLUDING WITH
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.

* HYMN #119

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

“MENDELSSOHN”

* BENEDICTION

* SUNG RESPONSE #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS
(Please join hands as we sing together.)

“DENNIS”

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

DING DONG, MERRILY ON HIGH
THE WEST VIRGINIA BRASS QUINTET

ARR. JOHN RUTTER

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

This Morning’s Worship Leaders

Preacher..... Rev. Dr. James R.M. Young
Liturgist.....Rick Bissell
Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
Director of the JoyBells.....Julie Courtney
Musicians.....The JoyBells and The West Virginia Brass Quintet: Joel Cutter, Trumpet;
.....Adam Loudin, Trumpet; Andrew Scott, Horn; Brian Plitnik, Trombone; John Schooley, Tuba
Sound TechnicianJoe Aurigemma
Ushers.....Kristina Hall and Judy Stern
Advent Candle Lighters.....Dale, Sheri and Garrett Corley

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019: CHRISTMAS EVE

7:45 PM & 11:00 PM - SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT: We will celebrate the birth of Christ with a traditional Christmas Eve service that includes communion, candle lighting and Christmas music. The service will feature special music from the Sanctuary Choir; Brenda Luger, flute; and other First Presbyterian musicians.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Tuesday, December 24, 2019- Office Open until Noon
Wednesday, December 25, 2019- CLOSED
Thursday, December 26, 2019- CLOSED
Friday, December 27, 2019 Office- Open until Noon by Volunteer
Monday, December 30, 2019 Office- Open until Noon by Volunteer
Tuesday, December 31, 2019- CLOSED
Wednesday January 1, 2019- CLOSED

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

MONDAY, DECEMBER (23)
9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

TUESDAY, DECEMBER (24)
9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN UNTIL NOON
7:45 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE
11:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER (25)
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

THURSDAY, DECEMBER (26)
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

FRIDAY, DECEMBER (27)
9:00 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN UNTIL NOON BY VOLUNTEER

SATURDAY, DECEMBER (28)
6:00 PM N.A. GROUP MEETING IN THE HERITAGE ROOM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER (29)
11:00AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY: FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

WORSHIP & MUSIC

RULING ELDERS: DAVID STICKLER & CATHY LEVITAS

FPC SNOW POLICY: Sunday School – The Pastor and the Co-chairs of the Faith Formation and Buildings & Grounds committees will consult by phone and make a decision by 8:00 a.m. If Sunday School is canceled, announcements will be made on radio stations including WCBC 1270 AM (and on their website Snow Watch list) and by e-mail to church members, Facebook, and the church website.

Worship – Worship will be canceled only in the most extreme weather conditions. If indicated, the Pastor and the Co-chairs of the Worship & Music and Buildings & Grounds committees will consult and make a decision. If worship is canceled, announcements will be made on radio stations including WCBC 1270 AM (and on their website Snow Watch list) and by e-mail to church members Facebook, and the church website.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME VISITORS: We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at www.fpc-cumberland.org and www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland. Childcare is provided in the nursery. An usher will be glad to direct you there.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: While we do provide a nursery for young children, we also welcome you to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "Young Children in Worship" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship.

THE PRAY-GROUND is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).

FRIENDSHIP PADS: Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the "Welcome to First Presbyterian Church" card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES: (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

WORSHIP BROADCASTS ON YOUTUBE: To view worship services live or to view taped worship services, go to www.youtube.com (First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland Live Stream) or go to our website <http://www.fpc-cumberland.org> and click on "click here to view our worship service" located at the bottom of the home page.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

RULING ELDERS: GARY HENDRICKSON & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of December 15, 2019
Total 2019 Pledges Promised	\$217,442.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 8,592.00
<u>2019 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$205,850.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 200,659.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 200,817.00
Over/(Under)	(157.00)

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

December 16, 2018

92

December 15, 2019

71

PLEDGE CARDS FOR 2020 are available in the back of the sanctuary. Although they were consecrated during worship a few weeks ago, you can make or update your pledge at any time. Envelopes are provided and you can place your pledge in the offering plate, or in the church office. If you need a pledge card mailed to you, please call Brittany Jackson at 301-777-3700.

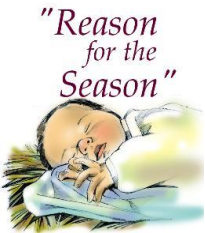
2019 YEAR END GIVING: Thanks for your faithful support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church during 2019. Remember that **year-end contributions must be received by the church no later than Sunday, December 29th** in order to qualify as 2019 contributions for tax purposes.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2020 are now available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you do not see a box with your name on it, please contact the church office.

FAITH FORMATION

RULING ELDERS: JOE WEAVER & ANN KELLERMAYER

LEARNING TREE MITTEN & HAT COLLECTION: The Learning Tree would like to thank everyone for the wonderful donations for our Mitten Tree. We filled a trash bag with warm gear! This has been delivered to City OutReach Church to be distributed to those in need.



An Advent custom in Eastern Europe is for people to take pieces of straw and place it in a feeding trough to prepare the bed for baby Jesus. Each piece of straw represents something good that they do for others, so that by Christmas Eve, Jesus' bed might be filled with straw symbolizing acts of love and kindness. One act could be giving an "alternative" gift to others in need. Our Reason for the Season has several ministries that help neighbors in Cumberland and neighbors across the planet. Please consider prayerfully which one(s) God is nudging you toward, to help fill the manger.

Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) of Pakistan's mission is to improve Pakistan through quality education of Christian and Muslim students. Veda Gill, Executive Director of PEB, visited us last Fall and updated us on PEB's progress. We currently support seven students at Kinnaird Academy in Lahore. A scholarship of approximately \$60/month means that "our" students can continue their education for a better future for themselves and their country. www.friendsofpeb.org.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is helping those who were devastated by Hurricane Dorian when it made landfall in the Bahamas as a Category 5 hurricane on September 1 and stalled over the islands for 24 hours, causing massive damage. PDA is working with partners on the ground in the Bahamas to respond to immediate needs using a solidarity grant. Thus far, this grant has primarily helped evacuees in shelters with emergency needs. They are working with ACT Alliance to plan for long-term recovery support.

The Fuller Center for Housing is an ecumenical Christian, non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Americus, Georgia that builds and repairs homes for low-income families and individuals. It is active in 60 U.S. cities and 16 countries outside the U.S. Members of our church participated in a build in New Bern, NC this Fall and were very impressed with the organization's efficiency, focus, and results. One fund-raiser of Fuller is a cross-country bike ride. Groups have stayed at First Presbyterian during their trek.

Pressley Ridge's Homebuilder's Program is a family preservation program focusing on babies born addicted to substances, keeping newborns with their families, and transitioning them home safely. The Homebuilder's Program teaches parenting and coping skills as well as relapse prevention. It serves two families at a time, offering 40 hours of therapy in one month. It is evidence-based, with 96% of children remaining with their families after 6 months. Three additional programs help children also.

The Interfaith Food Pantry at 301 Cumberland St. was formed in 1975 by the 23 local churches of Interfaith Consortium. It is an all-volunteer emergency food resource for people who live in Cumberland. The pantry provides non-perishable food, and vouchers that can be used in three local markets to purchase perishable foods. Distribution of food is governed by family circumstances, family number and number of times the pantry has been utilized during the current year. Volunteers are always needed and welcome.

Court Appointed Special Advocates believes every abused or neglected child deserves to have a dedicated advocate speaking up for their best interests in court, at school, and in our community. Non-profit CASA trains and supervises community volunteers who ensure each child's needs remain a priority in an over-burdened child welfare system. For these children, CASA means having a home instead of feeling lost, and being a priority instead of feeling invisible. This is another place to volunteer.

Other ministries that our church supports can also be chosen: This Child Here (Ukraine); WACT, and Shanti Nepal; Juna Amagara (Uganda); Q Mt.(Lesotho); Mulanje Hospital (Malawi); Ihanktonwan Learning Camp (SD); Union Rescue Mission; Family Crisis Resource Center; NAILS; Western Maryland Food Bank; Salvation Army; Allegany Health Right; Allegany Law; United Campus Ministries; and the monthly Outreach Dinner

REASON FOR THE SEASON GIVING FORM - 2019

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

Please make your total amount payable to "First Presbyterian Church", and marked "Reason for the Season".

Presbyterian Education Board (PEB), scholarships, Pakistan \$ _____

Hurricane Dorian Disaster Relief, PDA _____

The Fuller Center for Housing _____

Pressley Ridge _____

Interfaith Pantry _____

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) _____

OTHER: _____

(Special Ministries, Nepal, "This Child Here", SD Learning Camp, Food Pantry, etc, . . .)

TOTAL: \$ _____

DECEMBER 22, 2019
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

taking+
faith
home

Advent is the season of love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	God is with us
Monday	Isaiah 7:10-16	A son named Immanuel
Tuesday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Wednesday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh
Thursday	Isaiah 9:2-7	A child is born
Friday	Romans 1:1-17	A salutation
Saturday	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Israel's restoration
Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	The escape to Egypt

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." **Matthew 1:23 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and everlasting God, may the birth of Jesus remind us of your promise of salvation and lead us to trust in you and to serve and love others with thankful hearts. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, may this food give strength to our bodies and faith, hope, and love to our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ fill you with grace and peace. (Romans 1:7)



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DECEMBER 22, 2019
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Light One Candle

taking+
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How would you describe love?
- How has someone shown love to you?
- How does the birth of Jesus show the love of God for all the world?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 1:1-7.

The birth of Jesus is not about the sweet presence of a smiling baby. It is about the work of God to save the world by entering our experience and being with us (Matthew 1:23). Ours is the God who promised this beforehand through the prophets (Romans 1:2), who has come in the flesh in the line of King David (v. 3), who rose from the dead and is recognized as the Son of God (v. 4). We are the beloved of God and named holy (v. 7). With the birth of Jesus comes the fulfillment of God's activity to change the world from darkness and despair to a heralding of good news for all the world. It includes a divine assignment to reach all people with the love of God. That is what Advent, Christmas, and the Christian faith is all about. How is this kind of love more of an action than a feeling?

Pray: Dear God, we thank you for entering our world and our lives with hope and love. Help us to love the world you love in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

"God with us" (Matthew 1:23b) became a reality when a baby, Jesus, was born. The prophet Isaiah told of the Lord sending a sign, a child (Isaiah 7:14). God's saving work came to us through the birth of a child. Around the world there are many organizations and hospitals who help children in need of healthcare and food. Think of ways you can help children in need to know that God is with them through your support and donations.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week we light four candles on the Advent wreath. They are the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Emmanuel means God is with us. God showed love for us by sending Jesus to be with us. During this Advent season we pray for the hope, peace, joy, and love of God through Jesus Christ. **Say:** This is the fourth week of Advent. Advent means "coming." We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. [Light four candles]

Read: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:13).

Respond: Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us love.

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope, peace, joy, and love. May we see with the eyes of faith the work of your kingdom in our lives and world. Amen



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org